



The Gainesville Iguana

*A progressive newsletter
and events calendar*

November/December 2020

Vol. 34, Issue 11/12

NOW WHAT?

AN OPEN LETTER TO JOE BIDEN FROM MICHAEL MOORE

Dear President-Elect Biden:

First of all, congratulations! YOU did it. WE did it! You stopped the madness. A grateful nation – and myself – are in a state of joy, hope and relief. Thank you for that! We are all eager to join with you to repair the damage done to our country – and to eliminate that about our society and our politics which gave us Donald Trump in the first place.

Mr. President-Elect, I first met you at the Democratic National Convention in Boston in 2004. It was clear to me from our talk that day that you were not the politician I remembered from the 1990s. On that day in Boston, we were by then over a year into the Iraq War, a war you voted for. My *Fahrenheit 9/11* had just come out and you wanted to let me know that you were aware of the folly you had been sucked into. It seemed to me that you were doing a lot of soul searching and you wanted to hear my thoughts. To be honest,

I was distracted by how perfect your teeth were, and I wondered, could you really be from the working class? By the end of our talk I was convinced there was something that was quite real and very good about you, though perhaps somewhat buried inside. Would it ever come out so the public could see it? As I reflect today on it – and you – I am sincerely hoping that you will indeed govern as a president who’s from the working class. You – one of us – in the White House. That’s how it should feel. Your actions, if bold, and brave, will make that true.

You are also our second Catholic president. I believe you are a person of faith. You and I were taught the same lessons in Catholic school: to love our neighbor, even our enemy; to create a world where everyone regardless of status or station has a seat at the table, and everyone gets a slice of the pie; a world where “the rich man will have a harder time getting into heaven than a camel will have getting through the eye of the needle.” We were taught that we will be judged by how we treat the least amongst us. Do I have that right? Are these not the moral, foundational principles of the coming Biden presidency?

I was so moved by your victory speech Saturday night when you told the immigrants and the children of immigrants

that the Dreamers no longer had to live in fear. That Muslims were once again welcomed into our country. That the world could breathe a sigh of relief because we were going to let the planet Earth itself breathe and have some relief. And you told the teachers of America that starting

See MICHAEL MOORE p.4

Local elections offer hope and heartache

by James Thompson

With heavy focus on Trump’s defeat and control of the Senate in the balance as of this writing, let’s not forget that all politics are local. And local politics can be just as joyous and gut-wrenching as anything the nation has to offer.

Hope for a better Alachua County and Gainesville metro area springs higher from the successful passing of all eleven progressive local ballot items by public referendum. And we have excellent new County Commissioners in Anna Prizzia and Mary Alford. The bad news is Dr. Kayser Enneking bravely, but

See ELECTIONS, p.20

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Civic Media Center update

by JoJo Sacks

As we swing into November and December, we want to express gratitude for the amazing organizers in town that have been keeping up the good fight! We are in increasingly unprecedented times, and they have been holding it down.

At the CMC, we have been busy with online programming and fundraising. In October, we celebrated our 27th anniversary with a great panel discussion about mutual aid, its origins, and the ways in which local folks have been redistributing resources to those in need. The CMC Virtual Book Club read Dr. Paul Ortiz's book, *An African American and Latinx History of the United States*. Recently, we hosted a "Know Your Rights" training for activists with the National Law-

yers Guild. In addition, we continue to be the staging area for the twice a week free food distribution by the Free Grocery Store, which takes food right to the doorsteps of people in need.

We are looking forward to more online events soon, helping us raise money to keep the CMC alive. We will host a CMC volunteer meeting on Thursday, Nov. 19 at 5:30pm on Zoom – come plug in if you are interested in helping support the CMC as we remain closed during the pandemic. Stay tuned on our Facebook page for updates.

You can donate to the 501(c)3 non profit CMC on Paypal at paypal.me/cmc4ever, or mail a check to 433 S. Main Street. Email coordinators@civicmedia-center.org with any questions! 🐾

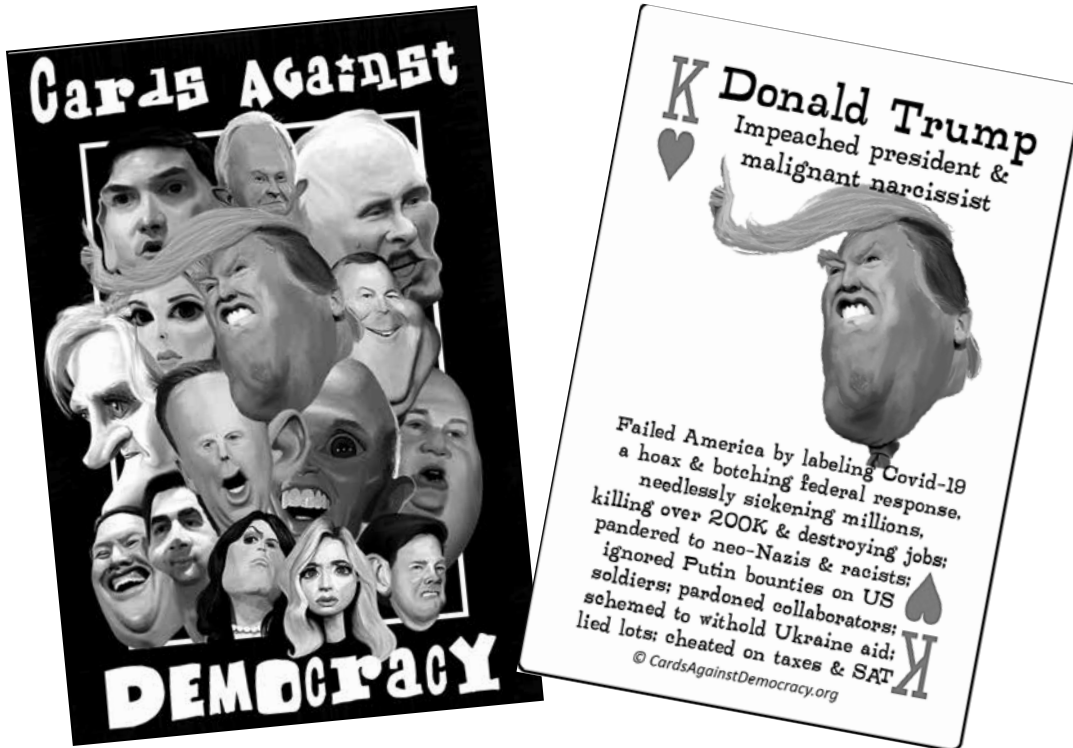
*They call me
the 'Radical Left.'*

I believe:

*in full LGBTQ rights,
Black lives matter,
we should protect the planet,
everyone deserves healthcare,
the world is bigger than
America,
diversity makes us better.*

*Guess humanity looks radical to
inhumane people.*

– John Pavlovitz



In the midst of overwhelming corruption and unethical behaviors it is easy to get lost and discouraged. It is difficult to know what to do to affect meaningful change for good. The path of self-education and enlightenment can be challenging. Along the way it is important to stop, take a breath and not get too bogged down. Therefore, we have presented these cards to be informative with a comical face in the hopes of strengthening each other with a laugh as we move forward. Please share your knowledge, vote, write editorials, and communicate. We can make this world better for all.

Go to CardsAgainstDemocracy.org to order our first deck of collectible cards. You'll get a deck of playing cards featuring 54 individual characters with a historically accurate note relevant to the role each person has played during their time in office or related to the Trump administration. The decks are \$10 each plus shipping, bulk deals available. No shipping cost within Gainesville city limits. They make great and unique gifts.

From the publisher

We're moving on ...

Jimmy Cliff's "Sitting here in limbo" comes to my mind. We had the election we'd been waiting for. Four years of the not normal, the not even imaginable, taking place every day.

Looking back, it is like the progress we'd made as a society was being taken away; the hard-fought-for rights, the long-struggled-for environmental regulations, even the trust we had in governmental functioning in the public interest seemed to – was – being taken away by an occupying force. Was there anger, even hate, for the perpetrators of these actions?

Yes, damn right.

So we fought back as we could, with humor and satire, with organizing, with embraced ideals that another way might be possible. Even prior to the 2016 election, in the campaign of Bernie Sanders, we could see better policies we could work toward; climate crisis, income inequity, institutional racism being addressed as well as desires for Medicare for All and tuition relief. Topics already in people's minds were inflamed by the events taking place, most notably the maltreatment of people of color by police, and then all that the Covid-19 virus showed us, who was suffering the most, who was willing to take it seriously and listen to science, and who wasn't.

Trump's utter incompetence in leadership was simply glaring for all who had a mind to look, to see. As the election approached, so many notable people and organizations came out to support Joe Biden. And while he was not their first choice candidate, the idealistic progressive left that backed Bernie Sanders organized, and backed Joe as well.

We made it through to the point of voting, and many thought we'd see a major repudiation, even a landslide. But no, instead we learned over 70 million Americans were fine with Trump, giving him a pass on all we were appalled by. Astonishing.

But thankfully, due to a ton of organizing, Joe Biden prevailed in both popular vote and in the Electoral College. Disappointingly, because enough Republicans came out to reject Trump but not their party, the Senate did not swing Democratic, and the Democratic House lost seats.

So the limbo continues: Trumpian claims of fraud, of crooked vote counting, and Trump not willing to concede. Look, Biden won despite the repeal of the Voting Rights Act, overt sabotage of the Postal Service at a time when vote by mail became important due to Covid-19, the purging of voter eligibility lists, and an ongoing pattern of closing polling locations especially in minority areas. These claims of fraud pale in comparison to these suppression of votes by the Republicans.

Actually, the response to the above voter suppression was quite effective. People learned from the long lines in the primaries to cast their ballot by mail. Because of Covid-19 many more resources were put toward vote by mail, which meant it was handled better.

Roadblocks to pre-election counting of mailed-in votes provided the drama of those urban Democratic vote totals coming in late. They were visibly and heroically counted under pressure, and secured the winning margin with Electoral College wins, as well as about 5 million in the popular vote.

Borrowing from a cartoon image I saw, it is like we have just extracted ourselves from a pit of mud we'd tumbled into and gotten up on solid ground, but are looking up at a hill in front of us that we'll need to reascend. Maybe we can go up a new path and get to a better place, partly due to changes brought by Covid-19, and partly by embracing science and new ideas. But it will be a hard climb.

So here we are. As of this writing, Trump is not giving up. And all those people who voted for him, those who were out with guns, who were revved up with fears of some imaginary antifa uprising, what will they do? The toxic spew they feed on from the internet will continue. January 20 is a long way away. We are a long way from normal. Huge election in Georgia January 5. And still, Covid lurks. Stay safe out there. 🐸



Joe Courter

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

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From MICHAEL MOORE, p.1

January 20th, “one of your own will be living in the White House.” That just felt instantly good.

So if I may, I’d like to suggest a few things that might make your presidency one of the best this country has ever had. You and I may have our political differences (you like Amtrak trains, I’d like to ride a bullet train from New York to LA in 10 hours!), but I know that you and I – and tens of millions of others – all want and believe in the same basic things:

- Health Care is a human right and every American must be covered;
- Everyone must be paid a living wage and all of us must work to eliminate poverty and rebuild our broken middle class;
- The massive and growing gulf between the ultra rich and everyone else must be narrowed – and the wealthy must go back to paying the taxes they should pay;
- Women must be paid the same as men, and no man or government has the right to tell them what they can do or not do with their bodies.

So here’s my two cents:

1. You are right to make containing Covid-19 Job #1. Had Trump won, I’m guessing up to a million people in the next year or so would have died from him ignoring this virus. Yesterday you named your Covid task force of doctors and scientists and you are putting them to work. We don’t have a second to lose. Thank you for this.

2. As soon as you can, please provide much more unemployment relief for the jobless, stimulus checks for all, help for small businesses, and the creation of jobs we desperately need.

3. Millions have lost their health insurance because our system ties one’s health coverage to their employer. What happens when the employer, like now, is suddenly gone, or the boss wakes up one morning and decides these employees’ health benefits are too costly and must be cut? BOOM! Millions of families suddenly have no health insurance. This is nuts.

You MUST create a health system like every other industrial democracy – one backed by the government, not by the whims of the boss where you work or the pandemic that has shut him or her down. This is just plain common sense.

4. I see various people trying to take credit for your victory – and using their

personal agendas to push you away from the progressive Left and toward the cowardly center which believes that the best way to beat Republicans is to just be a more easily-digestible version of Republicans. They think because Trump got 70 million votes the Democrats should reject Black Lives Matter, AOC, and anything that vaguely sounds like socialism – at a time when the majority of our citizens under the age of 35, according to most polls, prefer the idea of democratic socialism over the greed of modern-day capitalism.

Why risk losing them? We need to listen to and understand why they feel this way. They’ve been saddled with crushing student debt and we’ve handed them a planet in the middle of its 6th extinction event as their future. You and Barack introduced them to the benefits of democratic socialism by letting them stay on their parents health insurance until they’re 26! The result: They just set a record by coming out and voting for you in the largest youth numbers ever.

But you know all this. And you also know how you won these razor-thin victories in the final five states as we nervously watched the final ballots come in from Black Philly, Black Detroit, Black Atlanta, Black Flint. Out west, it was Latinx and Navajo voters who delivered Nevada and Arizona to you. In your speech on Saturday you acknowledged it. And never in our history have I heard a President-elect single out the Black community and thank them “for having my back. And I promise you, I will have your back!” Black and brown and indigenous peoples, plus a landslide of women and young adult voters made this happen. Wow. I absolutely know you’ll keep that promise.

5. Please do not make the same mistake an otherwise well-meaning President Obama made in his first two years. He wanted everyone to get along. He was willing to compromise on anything. Kumbaya. The Republicans had already decided they were going to block EVERYTHING Obama proposed and that’s exactly what they did for eight long years with a discipline and a ruthlessness we should probably envy.

Don’t let this happen to you. Charge in on January 20th like FDR on steroids. You have no choice. People are dying! You need to sign executive orders and cajole, demand and shame Congress into action. And GO BIG! Eliminate the Electoral College through the National Popular Vote Act! DONE! Ratify the Equal Rights

Amendment for women! Just one more state needed! DONE! Send in the Army Corps of Engineers to Flint to replace the poisoned water pipes! DONE!!

And none of the above needs a single vote of the United States Senate! In fact, this past summer, your “Biden-Bernie” unity joint task force identified a whopping 277 policies and decisions of Trump’s that you have the legal authority to immediately reverse by executive order or presidential policy decision. Find that big fat black marker of his and do it! (See *The American Prospect*: <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1141>)

But, yes, we also desperately need those two Georgia Senate seats to get the Biden/Harris years off to a blazing start. So let’s make that happen! All hands on deck between now and January 5th! We will all do whatever is needed.

Friends of mine on the Left who are more cynical than I am are probably wondering why I’m sending you this letter. Haha! Well, because I saw you kiss the head of that young grieving man at the Parkland, Florida memorial for the shooting victims of Stoneman Douglas High School. (See video at <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1142>)

And because I saw you in New Hampshire this year while we were there working for Bernie, and you were doing a campaign stop and there was a restless five-year boy in the front row. His parents were trying to get him to settle down. You stopped and spoke to the boy. “Hey buddy,” you said in a kind but parental way, “if you can hang on and be a good boy for just a little bit, I’ll buy ya an ice cream!” The boy quieted down, you wrapped up and afterward you went over to the boy and his parents and you gave the kid five bucks so his mom and dad could go get him an ice cream cone. And I thought to myself, this is the weirdest thing I’ve ever seen – and then I started to cry because I wanted so much for that piece of America to come back – goofy, kind, and focusing on what’s truly important: a goddamned ice cream cone!

I think that’s why you won. People saw what I saw with you there in New Hampshire and back in Boston on that day 16 years ago – they knew that maybe, just maybe, their lives might just get a bit better – hopefully a LOT better – with you in the White House. Maybe less of them will die from the virus, this preventable horror. Trump, of whom we knew many despicable things and thought we’d already seen how low the bar could pos-

sibly go for one human being – but we never considered him under the moniker of mass killer, terrorist or superspreader. Then you, Joe, came along and offered us a respite, a break from the insanity – “Mr. Biden, we’ll be happy if you just give us four years of ‘Not Trump!’”

But I think you can give us much more than that. What could our lives be like in four years or eight years (with a Democratic Senate to boot)?

How ‘bout no one ever goes bankrupt again because they got sick? How ‘bout no one is sitting in a prison cell for possessing marijuana or actual drugs? How ‘bout every child gets to go to a great school and every neighborhood has an expanded free library open seven days a week? How ‘bout paid family medical leave so you can take care of your elderly parents and not lose your job? How ‘bout my bullet train! You and we can make all this happen. It’s not rocket science. 30+ other countries al-

ready do it. (See my film *Where to Invade Next* available at <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1143>). They’re happier. Why not us? Our founders promised it to us in their second sentence: “the pursuit of Happiness.” They said that’s what America would be – and it’s been a rare day when we’ve actually had a glimpse of it.

Joe, you’re the guy to fulfill the promise. I’ll help. So will my neighbors on the floor where I live. As will the woman who delivers my mail, the workers who stock the shelves of my neighborhood market, the nurse who just wrote me in tears because yesterday she watched her 22nd patient die, alone, no family allowed, from Covid. Not to mention the millions upon millions of Americans who are ready to be foot soldiers in your army of justice, equality and love. We’re all in! We don’t want to go back to the old “normal.” We want a new normal!

We want ice cream.

All my best, Michael Moore

P.S. You know why I think you can and will do this? You picked Kamala Harris to run with you! Ranked as the most liberal senator in the U.S. Senate. A woman. A Black woman! I saw the first debate, the one where she challenged you and threw shade on your younger self. Most people (including me), if that had happened to us, we probably wouldn’t have gotten over it. You did. I’m guessing your conscience whispered to you, “well, dang, maybe she has a point.” You hold no grudges. You are a forgiving soul. But then you didn’t just forgive her – you put her on the Big Ticket! Who would do that? You did! That’s why my cautious, hopeful bet is on the good hands we’re now in – both your hands, Kamala’s hands, and the hands of the mass millions who voted for you and will continue to rise up and fight for this new, better, post-Trump, post-pandemic America. ✨

United Faculty of Florida opposes spring in-person classes

by Ashley Nguyen

On Oct. 30, the University of Florida announced that in-person classes for Spring 2021 will return to pre-pandemic levels of registration. This announcement has brought forth trepidation, especially from members of the UF faculty, student body, and Gainesville community.

Not only do in-person classes endanger members of the community who belong to high-risk categories (as delineated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), this reckless policy will inevitably lead to dire consequences to workers, staff, and community members who make the everyday processes of the University function smoothly.

In response to this policy announcement, the United Faculty of Florida at the University of Florida (UFF-UF) has taken several steps to fight against UF’s Spring 2021 reopening plans. We hosted a news conference, helped collect more than 3,000 petition signatures, and staged a protest outside the residence of President Kent Fuchs.

UFF-UF has also recently filed a chapter grievance against UF’s Spring 2021 Face-to-Face Teaching Mandate, as well as its rejection of COVID-19 ADA accommodation requests from faculty/graduate assistants. The University of Florida has egregiously violated its contractual responsibility to provide safe working conditions for its faculty. If UF wants to keep its status as

a top public school, then Fuchs, the Board of Trustees is bound by responsibility to make a fair and reasonable attempt to accommodate faculty members who request remote work for health reasons.

Individual faculty members have submitted requests for accommodations under the American Disabilities Act (ADA), applying for approval to teach remotely in Spring 2021.

According to UF’s Office for Accessibility & Gender Equity, “... 181 faculty applications have been reviewed in consultation with the medical advisory committee, and all received an accommodation of some type: 58 received remote teaching accommodations, and 123 faculty will receive enhanced classroom safeguards, in keeping with the university’s preparations for the spring semester.”

Given that only 58 faculty were granted accommodations to teach remotely in Spring 2021, this means that 68 percent of Requests for Accommodations under the ADA were denied by the University in the middle of the unprecedented COVID-19 Pandemic.

A significant number of faculty who have been denied accommodations to teach remotely are part of high-risk groups that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) deems susceptible to the worst impacts of COVID-19. Several of these faculty have compromised immune

systems, are primary caretakers, or reside with members of the community that are categorically at-risk.

The situation in Gainesville, especially surrounding the University, appears to be bleak. Students, night in and night out, continue to drunkenly wander through Midtown bars – completely maskless. Video montages from student journalists have depicted barcrawlers admitting that they “are young and immune” to COVID. These will be the students that occupy classrooms in January. These will be the students that will put valuable workers and faculty at (mortal) risk.

Thus far, UF has ham-fistedly hobbled its way through a series of policy decisions that have not guaranteed the safety of its students, workers, or members of the Gainesville community. In times where institutions do not pay attention to the needs of the community, it is necessary that we band together in solidarity.

Join Young Democratic Socialists of Gainesville, United Faculty of Florida – UF, UF Workers for a Safe Reopening, and other community groups as we protest UF’s reopening plans for Spring 2021.

We will be gathering on Thursday, Nov. 19 at 4:30 pm in front of Tigert Hall to hear testimonies from people who will bear the brunt of UF’s mistake. ✨

It's time to re-radicalize the abortion movement

This article originally appeared in *JewishCurrents.org* on Oct. 7.

by Jenny Brown

The Supreme Court gave us abortion rights, and it can take them away.

This is the fallacy at the heart of the uproar following the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. It's true that the situation is dire. Donald Trump's nominee, Judge Amy Coney Barrett, will likely join five other anti-abortion ideologues on the Court in permitting states to restrict or ban abortion. Ten states already have laws triggering a ban if the Court permits it.

But we shouldn't despair. The real power lies with the people, not the Court. The Women's Liberation Movement raised consciousness, raised hell, and raised the banner for "Free Abortion on Demand" when abortion was illegal in all 50 states and considered criminal by the vast majority of the population.

It was their organizing, not a wise and sympathetic bench, that led to the legalization of abortion nationally in 1973 with *Roe v. Wade*. We can start winning again if we rebuild our movement around the radical principles that forced the court to legalize abortion in the first place.

To do that, we must first understand how the movement's tactics have changed since *Roe* was decided.

Justice Ginsburg herself was famously critical of *Roe* precisely because she believed the decision foreclosed state and national legislative fights, and demobilized the movement that was igniting them.

By 1973, the movement had already been diverted into less radical channels, but the Supreme Court decision likely pushed it further in this direction, as liberals seized on the Court's legal arguments, replacing the bolder arguments that built the movement – such as free abortion on demand – with conservative reasoning such as "it's our constitutional right," and "abortion is a private decision between patient and doctor."

With this turn, abortion also became siloed from other, more radical feminist demands, such as rearranging the economy to value care work and wealth redistribution. For the last several decades, our movement has been dedicated almost exclusively to "saving *Roe*," even though we've endured severely restricted abortion access since 1977, when the Court

allowed Medicaid to stop paying for abortion with the infamous Hyde Amendment.

Since then, the Court has allowed so many additional restrictions that legal abortion has been placed out of reach for millions. With *Roe*'s final demise on the horizon, it's time to leave behind the apologetic language and methods of the post-*Roe* abortion movement, and to return to the radical strategies that gained us the most ground.

The Court based *Roe* in a right to privacy implied by the Bill of Rights and the Fourteenth Amendment, following its 1965 *Griswold v. Connecticut* decision legalizing contraception for married women.

After *Roe*, this reasoning – and the general understanding of abortion as an issue of privacy – came to define the abortion movement. (As groups strove for respectability, they also started to avoid the A-word, replacing it with "choice.")

But the '60s mass movement to repeal abortion laws relied on the opposite approach: taking abortion out of the private realm and making it public. The Women's Liberation Movement wielded the slogan "The personal is political" to express the idea that personal and secret pain, for which women blamed themselves, had its roots in social structures and could be acted on in the public arena.

In February 1969, after a year of consciousness-raising, during which they shared stories about their illegal abortions, women's liberationists broke taboos when they disrupted a New York state legislative hearing on abortion reform. They loudly testified from the floor about their own experiences, to the shock of the liberals on the panel, who went into private session and locked the activists out.

A month later, the same group, Redstockings, held the first ever speak-out on abortion in a Greenwich Village church. Women's fury and suffering burst into public view as feminists marched, picketed, and testified in public depositions about how they had been harmed by the law.

By 1970, the legislature yielded to this firestorm, passing a sweeping legalization of abortion on demand in New York in the first two trimesters. The law became the model for *Roe*. Despite the now-dominant language of personal privacy, bold recent projects like Shout Your Abortion have taken our testimonies public again.

Expanding these efforts will be essential to rebuilding our strength.

In the wake of *Roe*, pro-choice groups also departed from the original abortion movement by emphasizing that abortion is a matter "between a woman and her doctor."

Ginsburg considered this focus on "a doctor's freedom to practice his profession as he thinks best" to be a flaw of the *Roe* decision, noting that the appeal to medical authority wasn't "woman-centered," but rather designed to reassure skeptics that women wouldn't be making the decision to get an abortion alone.

For the movement, meanwhile, the requirement that a doctor must perform the abortion represented a significant compromise, which drove up the price of the procedure and gave unnecessary power to doctors.

Women's liberationists were justly skeptical of medical authority. They organized self-help classes and even designed and built equipment to do menstrual extraction, a procedure that can end a very early pregnancy. It was feminist laywomen in the abortion underground who advocated the vacuum aspiration abortion method – which has become the gold standard – while most doctors were still using the more painful and hazardous dilation and curettage method.

In Chicago, a collective of trained laywomen called Jane performed 11,000 safe, illegal abortions before 1973. When police raided one of Jane's secret pop-up clinics in 1972, they kept looking around the apartment in vain for a male doctor.

Now, doctor requirements have become an obstacle to freeing up pill abortions, which account for a third of abortions in the US. Special FDA restrictions confine abortion pills to clinics; you can't get them at a retail pharmacy, even though some experts suggest they could be safely provided over-the-counter.

Shedding the doctor-centric rhetoric will put us in a better position to organize for the elimination of these unnecessary restrictions, which would make abortion cheaper and more accessible; in the meantime, we can strengthen existing underground efforts to provide pill abortions to those unable to access them, and circulate information about how to use them safely.

In another damaging concession, over the last several decades, pro-choice leaders

have chosen to emphasize the most tragic cases in which abortions are necessary. This returns us to the timid strategy the abortion *reform* movement employed in the '50s and early '60s.

Before the Women's Liberation Movement burst on the scene, the doctors, lawyers, and clergy that led the reform movement focused on loosening laws in cases they assumed would be perceived as the most sympathetic and blameless: rape, health emergencies, fetal deformity.

By contrast, the Women's Liberation Movement specifically argued for repeal of *all* abortion laws. Abortion pioneer Lucinda Cisler argued in 1970 that it was the movement's demand for repeal rather than reform that made it wildly popular:

Part of the reason the reform movement was very small was that it appealed mostly to altruism and very little to people's self-interest: the circumstances covered by "reform" are tragic but they affect very few women's lives, whereas repeal is compelling because most women know the fear of unwanted pregnancy and in fact get abortions for that reason.

Today, Planned Parenthood advertisements and state campaigns against restrictions are devoted to rape cases; cases where cancer treatments have to stop during pregnancy; and non-viable fetuses late in a pregnancy, when abortion is prohibited under *Roe*.

But 30 percent of women get abortions – as do other people who don't identify as women – and very few fall into these rarified categories.

To change course, we should take a cue from Ireland. For years, Irish abortion campaigners were stuck in a similar rut, trying to get abortions for suicidal teenagers and others who might die without them. It was only when they started to raise the demand for "Free Safe Legal" abortion that their campaign took off; their organizing efforts led to the repeal of the country's abortion ban in 2018.

A post-*Roe* legal environment will leave us with 21 states banning or severely restricting abortion, with 13 states and DC protecting it.

Clearly, federal legislative action will be needed to make abortion available

nationwide, and a Medicare for All system will be required to make that right universally accessible. But the Supreme Court could still rule any such law unconstitutional, allowing states to opt out.

Ultimately, the legitimacy of the Court itself, which has always functioned as an undemocratic restraint on our legislature, must be challenged.

In two previous national crises – when it defended the expansion of slavery and blocked efforts to end the Great Depression – the other branches successfully employed political attacks to override it. When it comes to that fight, our success will ultimately depend on how well we've built a movement base to force the political changes we need.

Jenny Brown is an organizer with National Women's Liberation and author of BIRTH STRIKE: The Hidden Fight Over Women's Work and Without Apology: The Abortion Struggle Now. Her work has appeared in Labor Notes, New Labor Forum, and Jacobin. She is also editor emeritus and cofounder of The Gainesville Iguana. ✨



The Gainesville Free Grocery Store is a mutual aid project hosted by the Civic Media Center.

We aim to provide healthy and accessible food to our community and to support food justice in the greater Gainesville area.

For more info:

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Affordable care (ObamaCare) at risk

by Diane Dimperio

Insurance companies are not established to help people. Most are for-profit businesses with stockholders expecting a return on investment which creates pressure to spend less than they earn. Insurance is a risky business and successful companies have learned how to manage their operation to meet statutory requirements while generating a profit.

The majority of people with health insurance are enrolled through an employer, which offers several advantages. Employers have competent professionals negotiating comprehensive plans, the employer pays a large portion of the premium and negotiates out-of-pocket costs for employees. The larger the number of employees the more favorable terms the employer is able to negotiate.

The Bad Ol' Days

Before the Affordable Care Act (ObamaCare) was passed, insurance companies used a variety of strategies to control spending. They limited what they would spend on anyone in a year and over their lifetime. This meant if you had serious health problems, you may have run out of insurance coverage and then were expected to pay all the costs yourself. Policies had limits on which and how many services they covered. For example, some plans did not cover mental health, some plans did not cover pregnancy, and many had limits on the prescription medicine they would provide.

People who worked for themselves or for an employer who did not offer insurance were on their own. They could go to a broker who offered preset plans for which the buyer paid 100 percent of the premium. These plans typically excluded coverage of services related to preexisting conditions, and some people with preexisting conditions such as diabetes were not even able to purchase a policy.

The consumer had to decide on the plan they would purchase. The phrase you “don’t need to buy more than you need” was used to lull consumers into a comfort zone when making a decision on what plan to purchase. Of course, the whole concept of insurance is preparing for the unknown, so no one knows what they will need. There are only three ways to reduce the cost of insurance: reduce the cost of healthcare, include many low risk individuals in the plan, and reduce the type and amount of services the plan covers. Use of the third strategy was used to make plans in the individual market affordable.

Post ACA

The ACA improved the quality of insurance coverage. Plans had to include essential benefits such as hospital care and women’s health, and were prohibited from setting annual and lifetime limits or charging people with preexisting conditions higher premiums.

The ACA required that preventive services, like cancer screening, be provided without a copay and allowed parents to retain children on their policy until age 26.

The ACA established the “Market Place,” which provides online access to adults, who have low and moderate incomes, to affordable insurance. The cost of the monthly premium is adjusted based on family income, so adults with lower incomes pay less. Nationally there are over 11 million people who are enrolled in Market Place plans.

The original blueprint of the ACA included enrollment of very low-income adults in Medicaid, which offers a rich benefit package and has no premiums nor co-pays. This component was made optional by the Supreme Court, but 38 states and the District of Columbia participate, and about 12 million are enrolled.



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Florida has not yet agreed to expand Medicaid even though there are about 1.5 million uninsured adults who would benefit.

California v. Texas, a lawsuit attempting to abolish the ACA, was argued in front of the Supreme Court of the US (SCOTUS) on November 10. Eighteen states, including Florida, under the leadership of Texas, originally filed a lawsuit against the United States.

Since the current administration supports the demise of the ACA, the State of California and 16 additional states, along with the U.S. House of Representatives, defended the ACA. Although, the comments made by justices during the argument suggest optimism, experienced SCOTUS watchers warn it is dangerous to speculate on the final judgement, which may not be announced until June 2021.

One possible outcome of the lawsuit is that restrictions placed on ACA benefits would be limited to the participating states. The Florida Health Justice Project is encouraging Florida's Attorney General (AG) Moody to pull Florida out of the case. Two other states have already dropped out. This would offer the possibility of protecting Florida from losing ACA benefits.

Abolishing the ACA in Florida would mean 2 million people currently enrolled in the Market Place would lose insurance, 8.4 million people with pre-existing conditions could face higher premiums and 860,000 newly uninsured due to pandemic job losses would not be able to participate in Market Place insurance.

Loss of the ACA would be devastating to Florida. It would cause a major disruption in the healthcare arena, reduce the economic contribution of the federal funds flowing into the state and severely limit access to vital health services.

Contact AG Moody or your legislative representative to encourage Florida to withdraw from California v. Texas. Uninsured adults should go to HealthCare.gov and begin the enrollment process. Anyone needing help may call Covering Florida at 877-813-9115 and talk with a navigator or check out the website www.coveringflorida.org for more information. ✂

Covering Florida Navigators

Covering Florida Navigators deliver free outreach and enrollment services to any Floridian that needs to enroll in health care coverage in the Federal Health Insurance Marketplace. They assist consumers with telephone, in-person, and online enrollment services and provide public education and outreach activities at locations throughout the state. Navigators are trained and certified to provide free and unbiased help to consumers as they shop for health coverage options through the Marketplace, including completing eligibility and enrollment forms.

Covering Florida Navigators provide assistance in all of Florida's 67 counties, and offers confidential one-on-one customer service.

The Eighth Open Enrollment Season for the Affordable Care Act Marketplace opened on Nov. 1 to allow qualified Florida consumers to obtain Health Care Coverage starting Jan. 1. This annual opportunity for Floridians will be available for six weeks, through Dec. 15.

Florida Covering Kids & Families at the University of South Florida partners with organizations collectively referred to as the "COVERING FLORIDA" consortium, to provide Navigator services across the state of Florida.

Suwanee River AHEC is providing services to our local consumers in 12 counties that include Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Marion, Putnam, Suwannee, and Union.

Four local navigators are available to help. For questions or to make an appointment call Suwanee River AHEC at 386-230-9400 or visit www.coveringflorida.org. Virtual and telephone appointments are available.

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Introducing U.S. Congresswoman Cori Bush



Cori Bush is the member-elect of the U.S. House of Representatives from Missouri's 1st district. This is the victory speech she gave on Nov. 3.

I was running ... I was that person running for my life across a parking lot, running from an abuser. I remember hearing bullets whizz past my head and at that moment I wondered: "How do I make it out of this life?"

I was uninsured. I've been that uninsured person, hoping my healthcare provider wouldn't embarrass me by asking me if I had insurance. I wondered: "How will I bear it?"

I was a single parent. I've been that single parent struggling paycheck to paycheck, sitting outside the payday loan office, wondering "how much more will I have to sacrifice?"

I was that Covid patient. I've been

that Covid patient gasping for breath, wondering, "How long will it be until I can breathe freely again?"

I'm still that same person. I'm proud to stand before you today knowing it was this person, with these experiences, that moved the voters of St. Louis to do something historic. St. Louis: my city, my home, my community. We have been surviving and grinding and just scraping by for so long, and now this is our moment to finally, finally start living and growing and thriving.

So, as the first Black woman, nurse, and single mother to have the honor to represent Missouri in the United States Congress, let me just say this: To the Black women. The Black girls. The nurses. The single mothers. The essential workers. This. Is. OUR. Moment.

Six years ago, St. Louis captured the eyes and ears of the entire world during the Ferguson uprising. We could not stand the injustice any longer, so – in the tradition of every one of our ancestors who fought for a better world – we organized for Michael Brown, Jr. We organized for 400 days, side by side, arm in arm, St. Louis strong.

And now in the face of a global pandemic and relentless attacks on our right to vote, we organized all the way to the ballot box. We mailed in our ballots, we voted absentee, we reached our families, friends, neighbors, and peers – and we showed up ... St. Louis strong.

For years, we've lived under leadership that shut us out of our own government. For years, we've been left out in the cold: protesting in the streets, sleeping in our cars or tents, working three part-time jobs just to pay the bills. And today, today, we, all of us, are headed to Congress – St. Louis strong!

My message today is to every Black, Brown, immigrant, queer, and trans person, and to every person locked out of opportunities to thrive because of oppressive systems; I'm here to serve you. To every person who knows what it's like to give a loved one that "just make it home safely, baby" talk: I love you.

To every parent facing a choice between putting food on the table and keeping a roof over their head; I'm here to serve you. To every precious child in our failing foster system: I love you.

To every teacher doing the impossible to teach through this pandemic; I'm here to serve you. To every student struggling to the finish line: I love you.

To every differently abled person denied equal access: I love you.

To every person living unhoused on the streets: I love you.

To every family that's lost someone to gun violence: I love you.

To every person who's lost a job, or a home, or healthcare, or hope: I love you.

It is the greatest honor of my life to accept the responsibility to serve every single person across Missouri's first congressional district, as your first-ever Black congresswoman-elect. This is our moment.

Tonight, we the people are victorious. We, we the people are going to Congress. Because we the people have committed to a vision of America that works for all of us. An America that treats every person with respect. That recognizes healthcare as a human right. That believes every person deserves food to eat, a home to live in, and a dignified life. Our America will be led not by the small-mindedness of a powerful few, but the imagination of a mass movement that includes all of us. That is the America we are fighting for.

Everything I do begins with those who have the least, who've suffered the worst, and who have the greatest to offer. Why? Because I myself have lived paycheck to paycheck. I struggled for years under the burden of student debt. I've been evicted by landlords. I've worried about how I was going to put food on the table for my two kids. I've been underinsured and uninsured. And for every one of those stories that I can tell you about my life, I know there are thousands more in our community. And those are the stories that I am carrying with me and will uplift in the People's House as your congresswoman.

It is my job now to serve you – not just lead, not just demand, but serve you.

This moment is brought to us by us – by our movement for social, racial and economic justice. Now, our movement is going to Congress. And we will meet the challenges of this moment as a movement: side by side, arm in arm, and with our fists in the air – ready to serve each other until every single one of us is free. ✨

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And the good news is ...

New Mexico first state to elect all women of color to House delegation

New Mexico will become the first state to be entirely represented by women of color in the House of Representatives when the new Congress is sworn in in 2021.

In NM-1, Democratic incumbent Rep. Deb Haaland of the Pueblo of Laguna was easily re-elected.

In NM-2, Republican Yvette Herrell of the Cherokee Nation defeated Democratic incumbent Rep. Xochitl Torres Small in a rematch of their 2018 matchup.

And in NM-3, Democrat Teresa Leger Fernandez won election to the opening previously filled by Rep. Ben Ray Luján, who vacated the seat for a successful Senate run this November. 🌿

— from *Now This News*

The sheriff fired her because she's a lesbian. Now she's the new sheriff.

Charmaine McGuffey is going to be the new sheriff for Hamilton County, Ohio. She defeated Republican Bruce Hoffbauer with 52 percent of the vote.

McGuffey made headlines when she announced her decision to run for sheriff. She challenged her former boss, Jim Neil, in the Democratic primary. Neil fired her, McGuffey alleged, because she's an out lesbian.

McGuffey easily defeated him with approximately 70 percent of the vote, getting sweet revenge.

Both McGuffey and Hoffbauer were life-long experienced law enforcement candidates. McGuffey promised "responsibility" and "accountability" with people of color if she won the election. Hoffbauer claimed he would have "removed" himself "and been the law enforcement executive" if he saw people kneeling during protests or events. 🌿

— from *LGBTQ Nation*

Floridians vote to increase state's minimum wage to \$15 per hour

Florida voters approved boosting the state's minimum wage to \$15 an hour. The measure passed with 60 percent of the vote, making it more popular than either presidential candidate.

Florida becomes the eighth state nationally and the first in the South to adopt a \$15-per-hour minimum wage. It will be phased in over the next six years.

The person responsible for the amendment is John Morgan. He's a trial attorney who spent \$6 million of his own money to get the measure on the ballot and defend it against legal challenges. "The working poor in Florida won in a very, very big and forever way," said Morgan. 🌿

— from *All Things Considered, NPR*

McBride becomes first transgender state senator in U.S. history

Sarah McBride won her Delaware state Senate race, poising her to become the first and only openly transgender state senator in the U.S. and the country's highest-ranking transgender official.

"I hope tonight shows an LGBTQ kid that our democracy is big enough for them, too," McBride tweeted after the election was called. "As Delaware continues to face the Covid crisis, it's time to get to work to invest in the policies that will make a difference for working families."

She easily defeated Republican Steve Washington to represent Delaware's 1st Senate District. Incumbent Democrat Harris McDowell, who did not seek re-election after 44 years, had endorsed McBride.

"I've spent my life fighting for people to have dignity, peace of mind, and a fair shot at staying afloat and getting ahead," McBride said. 🌿

— from *NBC News*

Jones and Torres become the first openly gay Black members of Congress

Mondaire Jones and Ritchie Torres made history Tuesday night as the first two openly gay Black members of Congress. Jones, 33, was elected as the representative to New York's 17th congressional district. Torres, 32, was elected to represent New York's 15th District. Torres identifies as Afro-Latino.

Both candidates' historic wins have been anticipated since they won their Democratic primary races last June, riding an insurgent wave of Progressive Democratic candidates. In a conversation with Jamilah King on the *Mother Jones* Podcast in early September, Jones said that he's already on group texts with Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. 🌿

— from *Mother Jones*

Five states considered new marijuana reforms. Weed won in all of them.

There was at least one clear winner on Election Day: legal weed.

Across the country, five states voted on marijuana reforms. Cannabis advocates saw victories in all five states, bringing the number of states with medical marijuana laws on the books to 36, and bringing the number of states that have passed recreational cannabis to 15.

"With the passage of these initiatives, one-third of the population now lives in jurisdictions that have legalized cannabis for adult use, and 70 percent of all states have embraced cannabis for medical use," Steve Hawkins, executive director of the Marijuana Policy Project, an advocacy group, said in a statement. "The federal government is out of step with a clear national trend toward legalization."

The states with the cannabis reforms are: New Jersey, Arizona, Montana, Mississippi, and South Dakota. 🌿

— from *Mother Jones*

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David Barsamian (left) of Alternative Radio with Howard Zinn

Long live Zinn

Alternative Radio's Anti-Zinnophobia Campaign

by David Barsamian

“Our children are instructed from propaganda tracts, like those of Howard Zinn, that try to make students ashamed of their own history.”
– Donald Trump

vs.

“History is important. If you don't know history it is as if you were born yesterday. And if you were born yesterday, anybody up there in a position of power can tell you anything, and you have no way of checking up on it.”
– Howard Zinn

Be not afraid of radical historian Howard Zinn
(www.alternativeradio.org/speaker/howard-zinn/).

If you are fearful of his work, we recommend exposure therapy. See below for Alternative Radio materials featuring Howard Zinn.

Howard Zinn – A Q&A in Albuquerque
(www.alternativeradio.org/products/zinh047/)

Howard Zinn on History –
www.alternativeradio.org/products/book-zinh009/

Howard Zinn on Race –
www.alternativeradio.org/products/book-zinh006ab/

Howard Zinn on War –
www.alternativeradio.org/products/book-zinh004/

A People's History of the United States, 1492-Present --
www.alternativeradio.org/products/book-zinh003ab/

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Learn Your Part. Do Your Part

He can stay, he can go. He can be impeached, or voted out in 2020. But removing Trump will not remove the infrastructure of an entire party that embraced him; the dark money that funded him; the online radicalization that drummed his army; nor the racism he amplified and reanimated.

– Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez



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Editors' picks: News that didn't fit

- ✚ **#CountOnUs: Youth Organizers Have a Plan to Mobilize If Trump Tries to Steal the Election**
by Jessica Corbett / *Common Dreams* / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1127>
Leaders of Dream Defenders, March for Our Lives, Sunrise Movement, and United We Dream PAC have come together with a new mobilization effort.
- ✚ **'Every. Single. One.': Ocasio-Cortez Notes Every Democrat Who Backed Medicare for All Won Reelection in 2020**
by Jon Queally / *Common Dreams* / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1136>
Highlighting an interesting—and to many, instructive—electoral trend that others have spotted, Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez pointed out that every single congressional member this year who ran for reelection while supporting Medicare for All won (or was on their way to winning) their respective race.
- ✚ **Finding joy in 2020? It's not such an absurd idea, really**
by The Conversation / *AlterNet* / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1134>
As a scholar who has investigated the role of joy in day-to-day life, I believe that joy is an incredibly powerful companion during suffering.
- ✚ **Grassroots Organizing Defeated Trump. Now We Must Out-Organize Trumpism.**
by Caitlin Breedlove / *Truthout* / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1131>
The work in front of us is nothing short of imagining and fashioning a new future for this country, and it is going to take all of us who are ready to come along.
- ✚ **Noam Chomsky on the President, the Pandemic, and the Upcoming Election**
by David Barsamian / *Literary Hub* / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1126>
Investigative journalist David Barsamian interviews Noam Chomsky (the eight most cited person in history!) on the polarization of our country, the pandemic, social media censorship, the Republican machine, the increasing threat of nuclear war, our environmental catastrophe, and his dogs.
- ✚ **Number of Seized Migrant Children That Cannot Be Reunited With Parents Now 666**
by Brett Wilkins / *Common Dreams* / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1133>
Steven Herzog, the lawyer leading the effort to locate the children's relatives and reunite the families, says that 666 children, not 545 as earlier reported, — about 20 percent of whom were under the age of 5 when they were ripped away from their parents — remain separated.
- ✚ **One Third of Biden's Pentagon Transition Team Hails From Organizations Financed by the Weapons Industry**
by Sarah Lazare / *In These Times* / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1132>
In July 2019, Joe Biden declared in a foreign policy speech, "It's past time to end the Forever Wars, which have cost us untold blood and treasure." But the president-elect — who as vice president oversaw wars in Yemen, Libya, Afghanistan and more — is already embracing personnel with strong ties to the military apparatus driving this endless combat.
- ✚ **There Was Actually a Lot of Good News for the Left on Election Day**
by Liza Featherstone / *Jacobin* / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1135>
Don't let any gloom of Tuesday's national elections obscure the remarkable results in lower-level races across the country. Dozens of socialists were elected to legislatures, while minimum-wage hikes, rent controls, and taxes on the rich to fund schools all won voter backing, even in very red places.
- ✚ **UF Study reveals gender bias in TA evaluations**
by Alisson Clark / *UF News* / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1129>
A college class had two teaching assistants: one male and one female. At the end of the semester, the students scored the male TA higher on course evaluations, while the female TA got five times as many negative reviews. There's just one problem: They were the same person.
- ✚ **When Centrists Lose, Corporate Media Blame the Left**
by Julie Hollar / *FAIR* / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1130>
Joe Biden hadn't even been declared the victor of the 2020 election before establishment Democrats, in the face of poorer-than-expected results in House and Senate races, began pointing fingers at the left—with corporate media giving them a major assist.
- ✚ **Which countries are responsible for all that ocean plastic?**
by Joseph Winters / *Grist* / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1137>
China and Japan are among the "many, many countries" flooding U.S. beaches with plastic waste, said President Trump. But according to a new study, the United States is actually a much bigger part of the global plastics problem. In 2016, the U.S. produced more plastic waste than any other country on Earth, and if you take into account illegal dumping, littering, and scrap plastic exports, the country could take the bronze medal for its contributions to marine plastic pollution — lagging only behind India and Indonesia. ✚

In memoriam:



David Chalmers, photo courtesy of the Chalmers family.



Harold Stahmer, photo courtesy of the Stahmer family.

Rest in power: David Chalmers, Hal Stahmer

October saw the passing of two men who made a great impact on both the UF community and the world. Both David Chalmers and Hal Stahmer led long, accomplished lives, each with strong ties to and inspiration from the struggle for the mid-twentieth-century civil rights movement. They wove that into their academic lives as nationally honored professors of history and religion, respectively, as well as in their lives outside the university in their longtime presence in Gainesville. They led full and rich lives that impacted countless people. Condolences to their life partners Jean Chalmers and Paula Stahmer, and their families and friends. The links to their obituaries/tributes from their families are at: <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1138> (David Chalmers) and <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1139> (Hal Stahmer).

Scott Camil remembers Chalmers, Stahmer

I started UF in January of 1971 after graduating from Miami Dade with an AA degree in Pre-Law.

That month Jane Fonda came and spoke at UF. She was looking for patriotic veterans who served in Vietnam. She said that we needed to tell the American people the truth about the conduct of U.S. troops in Vietnam, and what was being done in their names with their money.

Jane's talk got me involved in the Winter Soldier Investigation, which got me involved with Vietnam Veterans Against the War.

Before this, I was a very serious student and my grades were really important to me. Professors were like gods, they had enormous power. I was asked to speak about the war, and I was encouraged by many of my professors.

One of them was Dr. David Chalmers who said that it was more important for me to speak out against the war than come to class. His words were very empowering

to me. I will never forget David's encouragement and how that changed my path.

I became a leader in Vietnam Veterans Against the War and worked hard to educate the public about the true nature of the Vietnam War. As a result, I missed classes.

The U.S. government was upset to find Vietnam Veterans leading anti-war marches, and it sicced the FBI on us. The FBI came after me. One of the first things they did was try to get me kicked out of UF.

They met with Dr. Harold Stahmer who at the time was an Assistant Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Stahmer told the FBI that until they convicted me of a crime, I would remain a student.

These two friends were responsible for encouraging me to speak out against the war and allowing me to remain a student. Without their encouragement and support, my life would be totally different.

I thank and salute Hal and David for helping me get to where I am today. 🐾

'An inspiration to us all': First openly transgender woman to run for Florida Senate dies weeks before election day

A version of this article was originally published by WUFT on Oct. 23. See the original and more at wuft.org.

by Hope Dean, WUFT

Melina Rayna Svanhild Farley-Barratt wasn't supposed to be in Tallahassee that day in March.

Farley-Barratt and the rest of her team at the activist Florida National Organization of Women (NOW) had been trying to block the 2020 Senate Parental Rights bill for months. The group believed the bill could disrupt LGBTQ-friendly sex education in schools and prohibit minors from getting medical or mental help.

Farley-Barratt, NOW's legislative director, would have to drive three hours to Tallahassee to attend the committee meeting. After eight years of having metastasized thyroid cancer, this was no small task.

NOW Secretary Lakey Love tried to talk her out of it. Farley-Barratt decided to make the drive anyway — and by the time the team came cheering out of the meeting, the bill had died.

"[Melina] sat down, and the smile on her face ..." Love said, trailing off. "It was the pure adoration of knowing that she had just saved hundreds of thousands of LGBTQI+ kids across the state."

Seven months later, Farley-Barratt died of cancer on Oct. 13 at age 41. She left behind numerous accomplishments as an activist, politician and humanitarian, including being the first openly transgender woman to run for Florida Senate. She did so in District 5, a massive area that encompasses some or all of Clay, Bradford, Union, Baker, Columbia, Suwannee, Gilchrist, Lafayette, Dixie, Levy and Marion counties.

"Melina was a brave soldier for the marginalized and the oppressed," Love said. "She's just an inspiration to us all."



Melina Rayna Svanhild Farley-Barratt. Photo courtesy of melinarayna.org.

The activist

Florida NOW President Kim Porteous said that since she joined NOW in 2016, Farley-Barratt helped defeat more anti-woman, anti-LGBTQ and anti-transgender bills than she can count.

In every rally and march with a megaphone, in every committee meeting with a microphone, she made issues real with her voice, Porteous said. Even with a throat-based cancer, she spoke until she was hoarse.

While lobbying against the Parents Rights bill, Farley-Barratt spoke in Tallahassee about Leelah Alcorn, an Ohio transgender girl who killed herself by walking into oncoming traffic after her family didn't accept her. To Porteous, it was the best speech she ever gave.

"It was speaking directly against the capitol of folks who were saying that 'We the parents know what's best,'" Porteous said. "And her [rebuttal] was, 'No, that's not true. Because sometimes what parents do amounts to nothing but death.'"

She took the same personal approach when fighting the Vulnerable Child Protection Act, which could have criminalized doctors performing gender-affirming treatments or surgeries on transgender children, or supporting the Human Trafficking bill that promoted sex trafficking education and awareness. It wasn't just the Capitol that Farley-Barratt had to stand against — it was NOW itself.

NOW rejected her proposal to hold a workshop about trans-exclusionary radical feminists, or TERFs, at its 2019 national convention. When Farley-Barratt and Porteous took a closer look, they realized that not a single LGBTQ workshop was provided.

Farley-Barratt took her projector up to

the conference, determined to do it anyway, but was denied again. So Farley-Barratt showed up at the conference another day in a Wonder Woman costume to boost her confidence.

"People who were not as welcoming as they should have been to her all of a sudden realized, 'Wow, look at the Wonder Woman!'" Porteous said. "Wonder Woman united everyone."

Farley-Barratt later drafted a resolution proposing that 15 percent of NOW conference workshops should be LGBTQ-focused, with at least one addressing transgender issues specifically. It passed.

"She went in with grace, like Mary Poppins. A Wonder Woman," Porteous said. "And then she came out with a victory for the future — a future she did not see."

The politician

Farley-Barratt took a risk when she ran for Florida's District 5 Senate seat, her campaign manager Tyler Foerst said.

Not only was she the first transgender woman to run for any Florida Senate seat, she was doing it in a Republican-dominated area against Jennifer Bradley, wife of the current District 5 representative Robert Bradley. Foerst called the pair a "colossal powerhouse" and a "political dynasty."

Bradley posted her condolences on Facebook the day after her death. "While I never had the opportunity to meet Melina, she was known as a passionate advocate for equality and her work was impactful to many," she wrote. "My prayers are with her family and friends during this difficult time."

Farley-Barratt's run was about being seen and allowing the public to see others like her, too. Foerst remembered her saying

something along the lines of "no, you're going to have to recognize me. And if you're going to be an asshole, you're going to have to be an asshole in public, and everybody's going to see it."

Farley-Barratt's name remained on the ballot for the Nov. 3 election. Over 65,000 votes were cast for her, but that only amounted to 25 percent of the votes. Bradley won with 75 percent.

The humanitarian

Farley-Barratt loved activism and politics, and she also loved going out to eat a warm bowl of French onion soup. She always parked crooked, and her car bumper was layered with feminist stickers like a mobile billboard.

She also never came to an event underdressed. She was always "glammed out" in what some may consider old-fashioned clothing, from flippy skirts to quaint hats and fancy heels, Porteous said.

Farley-Barratt rarely let it show that she had cancer, and when she did, she tried to be positive about it. When she showed Porteous a lump of cancer growing on top of her skull in January 2020, all she said was that she was glad her vitals were still stable.

Chloë Goldbach, who met Farley-Barratt in 2016 through the Gainesville-based transgender group TranQuility, said she was confident from the start, but she watched her outgoing nature flourish as the years passed.

"I could tell from the very first moment that she was just somebody who's very, very caring about other people," Goldbach said. "Everyone gravitated toward her since she had an air of authenticity and selflessness."

Elliott Farley, Farley-Barratt's spouse, said she was always easy to approach. She would set up a table at local events in rural areas with a transgender-themed T-shirt or other identifier and let people walk up to ask her questions.

"She lived her life how she wanted, and she did things as she wanted," he said. "Just being around and willing to talk to people has really helped bridge the gap a bit."

Love said the best way to remember Farley-Barratt is to continue her efforts for women and the LGBTQ community.

"If we're honoring her name and her work, then what we're going to do is after the election, we're going to show up," Love said. "And we're going to hold our elected officials accountable... for equity and equality for everyone." ❧

History and the people who make it: Gainesville Women for Equal Rights - Part 4



Jane Hiers [H], Jean Chalmers [C], Cora Roberson [R], and Vivian Filer [F] speak in April 2009 with interviewer Steve Davis [D] about their time working with Gainesville Women for Equal Rights (GWER), one of the first integrated organizations in Gainesville. This is the 63rd in a series of transcript excerpts from the UF Samuel Proctor Oral History Program collection.

We regret to report that Ms. Roberson passed away at her home on September 24; David Chalmers, quoted in earlier GWER excerpts, passed away last month (see pg 16).

Transcript edited by Pierce Butler.

D: What was your proudest moment as a member of GWER?

F: How many do we get? [Laughter]

H: How many moments do we get to count? [Laughter]

F: Yeah, that's right! We each get a different one.

F: Just having people recognize who we were and who we were for — I mean, even the commissioners saying, “Here are those damn women again!” You know? That meant that we were doing something. The achievements of GWER started and really did a lot of the work for integrating this great Gainesville of ours. So, I guess my proudest moment is now. [Laughter]

C: I think my proudest moment was when I admitted to myself and to the members that poverty was our issue. I remember standing up and making a little speech, and it was the first little political speech I ever made in my life. I was really nervous doing it, because I'd been very much a behind-the-scenes kind of person. It all came about with the poor African American woman that I had befriended, and been working with, and she had a slew of babies, and she was washing diapers —

pumping water out of the well and washing diapers in a bucket in Rutledge. Just down the street, there was a washer-dryer. They wouldn't let her in.

I went [and] talked to him about this situation, and he said, “Jean, I'd let any African” — well, “any Negro in if their diapers weren't so dirty! But I can't let her come wash her diapers here because they're just too dirty. She can't wash them.”

I said, “Well, she really doesn't have a place to wash them. All she has is the well.” He said, “Well, somehow, you women — you damn women — are going to have to do something to get running water into all of the Negro houses. Then, maybe, we can be more equal.”

You know, for just a funny little merchant, he opened my eyes. I remember coming back and saying, “We have to fight poverty. We can't deal with racism until we do something about poverty,” and that's where we started with the welfare board, and understanding. That's when we really pushed to get water over to the northeast.

In the northeast part of town, there were privies in the backyard. Water didn't go there. The League of Women Voters was a little bit more conservative, but they joined us in many things, and one of the wonderful things that they joined us on was poverty housing.

Nina Starr went and took pictures of all these dilapidated, terrible, terrible houses, took them up to the city commission with a slideshow, and showed slides of all of these terrible shanties in which African Americans lived, and they were all owned by members of the city commission! [Laughter]

R: I tell you one thing that made me very, very proud, and made me feel like I was more of a part of the community. And especially the Black community — and I got that closer connection — was when we were deputized. We went on Springhill, we went on Sugar Hill, we went on Northeast Gainesville around Duval, and we registered all these people to vote. That did something to me, because I had never heard of anything like that. I didn't know it could be done. But thank God for Alma Bethay.

She let us be deputized, and we could go out and register people that were afraid to

go to the polls. They were afraid, because sometimes they would be threatened, if not by the poll workers, by somebody in the community or on the outside.

Some of them were actually afraid to go; they heard something about what happened in Perry, what happened in Madison, or Levy County, and they were afraid to actually go to the polls.

In some places, I've heard that they would have a big old jar there full of marbles or what-have-you, and to test your intelligence, you had to look at that jar and tell how many marbles were in there. That was a part of the test. And when you couldn't do it, you were “illiterate,” and you couldn't vote.

They had all kind of techniques to keep you from voting. When they would register, the person that was back in the back area, that was a Black person, would see them put their, where you just registered, in the trash can. Those kind of things just really bothered me. I feel that GWER caused a lot of that to be changed, not only in Gainesville, but in the county.

C: Well, Cora, another proud moment for me was when you ran for city commission.

[Vocal outburst of agreement]

C: And did you run for city commission! [Laughter]

H: She was honored by [then Gainesville Mayor] Pegeen Hanrahan a couple of years ago.

R: November the 11 was declared “Cora Roberson Day.” I was proud of that.

F: What year did you run?

R: [19]68.

H: And you didn't lose by that much!

R: Nine hundred and some votes.

C: And you were the first woman. Were you the first African American?

R: No, but really, the first woman to run for city commission.

C: You sure did us proud.

R: Bless you. And you'd almost gotten in trouble; I thought maybe Charlie — that's my husband — would've just thrown me out to the wolves! [Laughter] Because the way this happened, I was working up at Kirby-Smith, and I came home. Was a

car full of Women of Equal Rights waiting for me. When I drove up, the girls jumped out the car, “Hey! Hey!” They asked me, “Cora, don’t you want to run for city commission?” I says, “No, not really!” [Laughter]

H: Joan Henry was one of them.

R: I said, “No.” “Well, we want you to run. And blah-blah-blah-blah-blah,” they just kept saying, “This is the time right now for you to run. And they’ll be closing at five o’clock, so come on, let’s go on down get registered.”

[Laughter] I said, “I don’t mind doing it, because I think there’s a need here.” I said, “But my husband doesn’t get off from work, working at Koppers Company” – because he hadn’t gone to college then – I said, “He’ll be home at five o’clock.”

She said, “That’s too late. You got to get there and register before five o’clock.”

There I was between a rock and a hard place. I said, “I’ll just suffer the consequences. I’ll just go on.”

So I did, I got the children back in the car and went down, and I registered. When I got back home, I think he was there, and I told him what I had done. I told him it was the Women of Equal Rights that thought I did! “Don’t blame me, blame them!” [Laughter] I said, “I didn’t have much time, and I’ll withdraw if you don’t approve of it.”

He said, “No, don’t withdraw. If this is something you want to do, I’ll support you.” That strengthened our relationship wonderful. Not that it was weak, but that just kind of did something to me, that I made a big decision like that without discussing it with him, and he approved it. Then it was run, Bertie, run! Dr. Weber here at the university was my campaign manager. Now, I had a lot of people backing me then.

H: Well, I have to look back on all of these things and say that every day, we were doing things. We walked through a lot of muck, and we fought a lot of battles, and we had a lot of successes, and everything just, every day was a day that felt hopeful and good that we’d done the right thing, we were going in the right direction, and the grace of God and the guardian angels were with us.

R: Do you remember the time we went down to, in Levy County – we went down there to a park. Everybody was surprised when we arrived, an integrated group with all these Black and White children. When our children got in, our

integrated pool emptied on the other side. They took all the White children out of the pool. Mhm.

F: They did that regularly in Gainesville.

R: They took all the White children out of the pool. They couldn’t swim together, but yet, here was Black and White over here, swimming together. So, we ended up just taking our children out and leaving. Yeah. We were insulted, so we left.

C: What a handicap, eh?

H: What freedom now! What freedom now.

F: But the whole system was a handicap.

R: But people just take it for granted.

C: It was a handicap for everyone.

F: It was! The double bathrooms, the double this, and the double that.

R: That’s right, it was really a handicap!

F: It really was. But you know what? The greatest loss of all of this is the human-kind loss. Think of the generations who really were people who would have felt the humanity, humanistic part of each other, had they not been practicing this whole slavery, enslaved people, thing.

Because I know that people haven’t changed. We still are the warm-blooded human beings we always were. Except one ethnicity decided it was better than the other, and therefore lost all that.

Because when I tell my stories, I talk about the human love and warmth that African women brought to nurture European children.

Because, Europeans were a little more stic. So, when I do my stories, I say, “Think about this. This is an African American story. But it’s about an African woman who came to America, who is giving love to the children on the plantation that aren’t hers.”

These are White children. But her children way on the back forty, somewhere over there, that she left this morning, know that she loves them, too. So, when the story says, “Bedtime’s come fu’ little boys. Po’ little lamb.

Too tiahed out to make a noise, Po’ little lamb.

You gwine t’ have to-morrer sho’?

Yes, you tole me dat befo’, Don’t you fool me, chile, no mo’, Po’ little lamb.”

The little White child heard that. When I do this in schools, and White children and Black children are there, they all hear it. Because it’s all full of love.

It’s all Paul Lawrence Dunbar’s work. He wrote it from the words he got from his parents, who were enslaved people. He wrote it as a free man. But he wrote it to tell the story about the nurturing and love.

So, no matter where we go from here, if we stay in contact with what makes us human, which is love and sharing, the rest of it is just happen. Because we already proved we have the mind and the strategies to do it. That’s my prophecy. [Laughter]

See a full video of this interview by searching for “GWER 2009” at [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com). Find 14 related interviews at <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1128/>

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

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From ELECTIONS, p.1

unsuccessfully ran against the incumbent Republican Chuck Clemons for Florida House District 21.

Ballot referendums are the most direct form of democracy and our community did well passing all of them. The two most impactful are the County's anti-sprawl Growth Management Area (GMA) charter amendment, and the City of Gainesville's charter amendment changing the Hogtown Greenway into a more usable recreation and conservation area.

The Greenway item is basically a "right to pave" issue, and it's hard to explain the difference between wise use bike-ped paving and building sprawling streets. Thankfully the voters were smart and Gainesville will have a real greenway like other great cities.

The GMA is a little more complicated. It barely passed, and it sealed a local alliance between property rights libertarians, corporate developers, and proponents of segregated suburban sprawl. This item leaves land use governance in the hands of the County for regional environmental and tax-structure planning, even after a municipality has annexed the land. Say this out loud seven times to put a voter to sleep. And yet, this is without doubt the most important amendment we passed regarding taxing and public school building equity, as well as environmental controls.

The GMA won with support from the City of Gainesville in a 6-0 vote, and a low-budget earned media campaign highlighted by a *Gainesville Sun* endorsement. The money side of the YES campaign on this issue was bundled in with the other ten local items on a winning budget of less than \$5000 from citizen donors. Meanwhile,

more than a dozen developer, real estate, site engineering, and property management corporations shoveled a whopping \$33,000 into the NO campaign. The vote went to recount, and we won.

People power still reigns over money power in Alachua County.

With hope there comes heartache. We failed to put Dr. Kayser Enneking into the seat occupied by corporate-sponsored Republican Chuck Clemons in Florida House District 21. This will have great repercussions across Florida as Clemons will continue to push through anti-worker and anti-environment bills in the House that were written across the street by State Senator Keith Perry (R-District 8).

So why did Enneking lose? Local electioneers mumbled about the Enneking campaign's failure to do walking literature drops and set up physical events, but the UF anesthesiologist was hemmed in by the ethics of her profession here.

It was also hard to distinguish why voters in a conservatively gerrymandered district should abandon Clemons, when his handlers led one of the slickest campaigns in local Republican history. Clemons positioned himself as a country boy working-class advocate and friend of immigrants and the environment in a House District that includes Dixie, Gilchrist, and West Alachua County. Meanwhile, his corporate donors outspent Enneking by the tens of thousands just like they did against Marihelen Wheeler in 2016 and Jason Haessler in 2018.

Despite a well-run campaign for Dr. Enneking, it worked. Clemons' numbers by county vs. Enneking were statistically identical to those against both Wheeler and Haessler. House D21 is a tough nut to crack.

The passing of local charter amendments and the renewal of the One Mill for Schools (a referendum property tax) can easily lure us into the comfort of living on a political "Blue Florida island," but Dr. Kayser Enneking's loss to Rep. Clemons reminds us that right-wing gerrymandering, west county suburban conservatism, and corporate campaign donors put us in the company of all other Floridians.

We need to keep fighting. In the streets, on campaigns, and in the halls of government.

To finish on an upbeat note, Prizzia and Alford easily won their final County Commission races against Newberry Republican Joy Glanzer, and the pro-Trump guns-and-God right winger Raemi Eagle-Glenn, respectively. Glanzer and Eagle-Glenn were defeated by wide double digit margins. This keeps our progressive County Commission on a good track.

We hope the newly elected officers lean into the retiring wisdom of Commissioners Robert "Hutch" Hutchinson and five-term veteran Mike Byerly.

Hutch and Byerly. They possess combined expertise on issues ranging from mental health infrastructure, reining in the Sheriff's budget, and of course the all-important land use and development policies that determine our children's future.

Our County government elections show us the kind of unity – at the movement and issue level locally – that we really need to make the crooked places straight.

James Thompson has worked on numerous local candidate and issue campaigns. His views are his own and not those of the County Charter Review Commission on which he serves. ✨

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Iguana heroes ... Thank you!

Thank you to Stacey Abrams, whose inspiring commitment to getting out the vote saw hers and others' organizations turn Georgia Blue. The Jan. 5 runoff vote in Georgia will be huge in terms of which party has control of the Senate. We will be watching and supporting their efforts. We are grateful to **Stacey Abrams**, yes, but also to:



Tamiaka Atkins
<https://forwardtogether.org/people/tamiaka-atkins/>


Helen Butler
[\(https://www.ncbcp.org/who/affiliates/georgia_coalition/\)](https://www.ncbcp.org/who/affiliates/georgia_coalition/)

Nsé Ufot
[\(https://newgeorgiaproject.org/\)](https://newgeorgiaproject.org/)

Deborah Scott
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Iguana Directory

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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, Brooker, 352-485-1133, <http://acorncclinic.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.arciinst.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.dream.defenders)

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

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

Continued on next page

Continued from preceding page

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 women's 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: emailufhumanistsoncampus@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

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.facebook.com/occupygainesville

Our Revolution North-Central Florida, inspired by Bernie Sanders, bringing progressive voices into the Democratic party, contact@ourrevncfl.com

Our Santa Fe River and Ichetucknee Alliance are two of a number of grassroots environmentalist groups campaigning to protect and restore the rivers and springs. Meets 3rd Weds at 6:30 in Rum Island building, 2070 SW CR 138, Ft White. 386-243-0322, <http://www.oursantaferiver.org/> and <http://www.ichetuckneealliance.org/>

PFLAG (Parents and Families of Lesbians and Gays) meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Fellowship Hall of the United Church of Gainesville (1624 NW 5th Ave.) at 7 pm with a programmed portion and informal meeting with opportunity to talk and peruse their resource library. pflaggainesville.org. Confidential Helpline 352-340-3770 or email info@pflaggainesville.org

Planned Parenthood Clinic Full-service health center for reproductive and sexual health care needs. Offering pregnancy testing and options counseling for \$10 from 10am-noon and 2-5pm. Located at 914 NW 13th St. 352-377-0881

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

Pride Awareness Month is a planning committee for spring's UF Pride events, ufpridemonth@gmail.com

Pride Community Center of North Central Florida Resources for the LGBT+ community, open M-F, 3-7, Sat. noon-4. Located at 3131 NW 13th St., Suite 62. 352-377-8915, www.GainesvillePride.org

Protect Gainesville Citizens Group whose mission is to provide Gainesville residents with accurate and comprehensive 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. facebook: student animal alliance, instagram @ studentanimalallianceUF

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

Student/Farmworker Alliance A network of youth organizing with farmworkers to eliminate sweatshop conditions and modern-day slavery in the fields. On Facebook, search "Gainesville Student/Farmworker Alliance"

Students for Justice in Palestine, a cultural and political organization, sjpuflorida@gmail.com

Sunday Assembly, a secular congregation which celebrates life, meets the third Sunday of each month at 11 am at the Pride Center located in the Liberty Center at 3131 NW 13 St.. There is a talk, music, sing-alongs, discussion, refreshments and fellowship. See <http://SAGainesville.weebly.com/>

UF College Democrats (UFCD) meets Tuesdays at 6:30 in Little Hall 121. 407-580-4543, Facebook.com/UFcollegedems

UF Pride Student Union LGBT+ group open to queer folk of all sorts, including students,

non-students, faculty and staff. www.grove.ufl.edu/~pride

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. <https://www.una-usagainesvillefl.org>

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://vfgainesville.org/>

Wayfaring Painter is a local nonprofit working to engage communities with visual art instruction that promotes openness, problem-solving and visual literacy. Through offering a variety of high quality, accessible classes, at-home kits and workshops, we hope to strengthen and promote individual thought and demonstrate the value of art in community education. <http://wayfaringpainter.org>, or on social media @wayfaringpainter

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/](https://www.instagram.com/womensmarchgnv/); [Twitter.com/WMFL_Gnv/](https://twitter.com/WMFL_Gnv/) and/or email wmw@hearourvoicegnv.org. Together we can do anything... Join Us! We Need You. Let's build this peaceful movement together!

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

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

34th Annual Virtual Winter Solstice Celebration

Saturday, December 19th, 8:00 P.M.

Featuring performances by
Cherokee Peace Chant • John Chambers
Lauren Robinson • Bob McPeck
Bill Hutchinson & Jennifer Johnson
David Beede • Nancy Luca
Cathy Dewitt & Janet Rucker
Other Voices

Bob & Rob's Virtual Adventures
 with readings by our Peace Poetry Contest Winners

Special thanks to our Master of Ceremonies, Musician & Veteran
Bill Hutchinson

\$10-30 Suggested Donation to Benefit

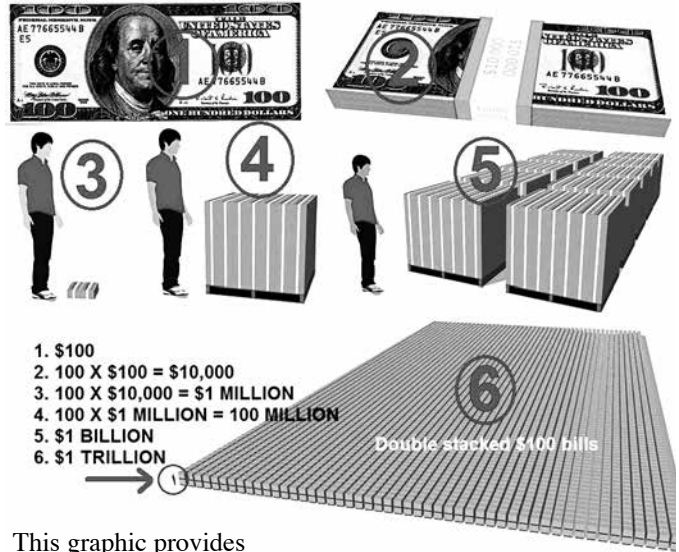
**VETERANS
FOR PEACE**



Tickets available at

www.vfpgainesville.org

Millions vs. billions vs. trillions



This graphic provides perspective as large monetary numbers get tossed around in the news.

We have human beings who are astronomically rich, and they can share the wealth. We have corporations sitting on huge reserves, and they can be taxed. Not just multiple millions, multiple billions.

There are over two thousand billionaires in the world. Amazon's Jeff Bezos has a net worth of \$121.1 billion, Microsoft's Bill Gates has a net worth of \$110.1 billion. For the quarter ending July 31, Walmart's cash on hand was over \$16 billion. Its CEO had a compensation package of over \$22 million for the year.

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) has proposed raising the top marginal tax rate to 70 percent from the current 37 percent for income over \$10 million. This isn't a new idea: the top tax rate was as high as 70 percent as recently as 1980.

There IS money for schools, to pay teachers.

There IS money for healthcare.

It is just not distributed equitably. 🐘

On socialism ...

Socialism is a scare word they have hurled at every advance the people have made in the last 20 years. Socialism is what they called public power. Socialism is what they called Social Security. Socialism is what they called farm price supports. Socialism is what they called bank deposit insurance. Socialism is what they called the growth of free and independent labor organizations. Socialism is their name for almost anything that helps all the people.

— Harry S Truman, 1952



Established 1986

The Gainesville Iguana

Gainesville's progressive newsletter and events calendar

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

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

(352) 378-5655

www.gainesvilleiguana.org

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