



The Gainesville Iguana

A progressive newsletter

March 2021

Vol. 35, Issue 3

Of soil and protest



From enslavement to mass incarceration

Hilda Watts, left, a relative of Lester Watts, pours soil into a glass jar honoring him. Watts was murdered in a 1942 racial killing in Gainesville. The Gainesville Community Remembrance Project Soil Collection Ceremony was held outside the Alachua County Administration Building in on Feb. 20.

As part of the the truth and reconciliation process, the Alachua County Community Remembrance Project, in partnership with the Equal Justice Initiative, collected soil from sites of known lynchings. The soil will be preserved in the EJI museum in Alabama and kept on display in Alachua County as a reminder of the lynchings that occurred there. Photo by Brad McClenny of the Gainesville Sun.

See story on page 2.

City election, Tuesday, March 16: Our recommendations

by Joe Courter

The City of Gainesville is having an election for an at-large seat and a district seat. Early voting begins March 5, election day is March 16.

For the at-large seat, Gail Johnson is seeking re-election and we strongly endorse her bid to stay in office. Gail grew up in Gainesville and graduated from UF. After a brief stay in Brooklyn, NY, she returned home and got involved in our community.

From the City of Gainesville website: "She is on the board of Planned Parenthood of South, East and North Florida, a member of Local Progress, a founding member of the Local Progress Florida Organizing team, a governor at the Library Governing Board and member of the Metropolitan Transportation and Planning Organization. She is the chair of the Race and Equity Subcommittee at the City of Gainesville, and serves on several committees for the National League of Cities, including the Race, Equity and

Leadership Council, Women in Municipal Government and the Black Caucus. She formerly served on the Tourism Development Council.
See ELECTION, p.20

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Of soil and protest: remembering lynching victims

by E. Stanley Richardson
Alachua County Poet Laureate

On Saturday, Feb. 20, at twelve o'clock high noon, the Gainesville Community Remembrance Project held a soil collection ceremony outside on the lawn of the Alachua County Administration Building Headquarters in Gainesville, Florida.

The Soil Collection ceremony is part of the Alachua County Truth and Reconciliation Project to remember Alachua County's lynching victims and other victims of racial terror perpetrated by white mobs.

"The Equal Justice Initiative has partnered with community coalitions across the nation to collect soil from every lynching site as an act of remembrance and commitment to honoring the victims of this horrific era of terror.

The EJI soil collection project is intended to provide opportunities for community members to get closer to the legacy of lynching and to contribute to the effort to build a lasting and more visible memory of our history of racial injustice. These jars of collected soil are on exhibit in the new Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration, as well as in other exhibit spaces, to reflect the history of lynching and our generations' resolve to confront the continuing challenges that racial inequality creates."

Equal Justice Initiative, 2021

The Gainesville Community Remem-

brance Project is a subcommittee of the Alachua County Commission Remembrance Project in partnership with the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI).

About 150 community members, including elected officials, concerned citizens and relatives of the slain, gathered on the grounds in a socially distanced area to pay their tribute. The location was the closest area to the actual lynching site, said guest speakers.

The ceremony began with a musical tribute by Mr. Lanard Perry on trumpet and the pouring of libation by Mr. Nii "Pa Pa" Sowa-La and Ms. Ayoka Sowa-la.

Welcoming remarks were given by The Honorable Charles S. Chestnut of the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners. The Invocation was given by Rev. Gerard Duncan, Sr Pastor of Prayers by Faith Ministries.

Rev. Carl Smart, Assistant County Manager of Alachua County, gave a presentation entitled "Remembering Lynching Victims in Gainesville." The ceremony also included prayers, song and poetry.

Equal Justice Initiative representative Ms. Bre Lamkin traveled from Montgomery, Alabama, and spoke about other important work of EJI is doing throughout the United States, and in particular, to abolish the death penalty and to provide free legal representation to individuals sentenced to death, and children who are given life sentences.

The ceremony concluded with remarks from a relative of Lester Watts. Watts was lynched on March 21, 1942. Watts family members thanked the Gainesville community for remembering and honoring their slain ancestor.

Victims of lynchings in Gainesville were:

Mr. Stephens
Harry Franklin
Alexander Morris
Sandy Hacock
Henry Washington
Christopher Cummings
Eli (last name unknown)
Tony Champion (and his associate, Mr Kelly)
Andrew Ford
Alfred Daniels
Lester Watts

During the commemorative moment community members transferred soil taken from the lynching site into jars labeled with the names of the lynching victims.

A similar ceremony soil collection ceremony was held Feb. 5 in the City of Newberry at the infamous Lynch Hammock fairgrounds, where in 1916, six people were lynched. Another soil collection ceremony is planned for the city of Alachua organized by the Alachua/Newnansville Subcommittee. The ceremony is to take place in the area of Newnansville at a date to be determined.

During the same time as the Gainesville Soil collection ceremony was taking place, members of Goddsville Dream Defenders marched from J. Wayne Reitz Union on the UF campus. The event "Blacked Out History March" was organized by the Gainesville Squad of Dream Defenders," in solidarity with the University of Florida's Black Student Union, BHM Cabinet and community members. The march went through the Pleasant Street community, around NW 6th Street, to show the results of gentrification of the area of a once prosperous African American community.

Through the chanting, the crowd was reminded that every movement has a soundtrack and young people are always at the forefront of the social justice struggle. The two events were indicative of America's ongoing systemic ills.

A video of the Feb. 20 ceremony at the Alachua County Administration Building can be seen on Facebook at <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1183>. 🐊



From the publisher

A toxic harvest

Just as we were getting the Iguana done for the Jan/Feb issue, the nation's Capitol came under attack by a mob of people misled into thinking their side had not won the election because of it being "stolen." I believe we actually got away lucky, it could have been very different.

Suppose there had been fully armed riot police guarding the Capitol and they'd opened fire, killing and wounding dozens of people.

Suppose the invasion had been more "successful" and they had captured Congressional leaders, holding them for ransom or even killing them. Even a physical occupation and stand-off, delaying ratification of the election ... what would we be talking about today?

Instead, committees have formed up and will be tracing what actually happened in an orderly way. As we saw from the impeachment hearing, the trail will not be hard to follow. The constitutional processes worked, just barely.

The impeachment hearings were impressive, some great young members on the House team. The outcome went predictably due to the quality of the Republican senators and their devotion to Trump, but it was a great airing of the record from which further investigations and history can build.

So how'd we get here? Much was made about "the Big Lie," referring to the "Stop the Steal" claims that actually go back to 2016 and Steve Bannon. They did not need to invoke it then. But the idea of creating and using big lies has been present in US politics for much longer. FDR had big lies told about his idea of Social Security. LBJ the same with regard to Medicare. The Right has been lying about progressive social policy changes since well before FDR.

Historian Heather Cox Richardson, whose daily postings on Facebook are required reading for me, addressed this in her Feb. 17 post marking the death of Rush Limbaugh.

The rise of Rush owes much to the elimination of the Fairness Doctrine in 1987 under the Reagan administration's FCC. By the end of the 1980s, Rush was on 650 stations. He caught my ear early on trips up and down I-95 to see family in New Jersey. I listened to him quite a bit, a sort of perverse fascination.

(I also remember another vile right wing propagandist who had a 1987 TV program, Morton Downey, Jr. Ironically, in 1984 he had hosted a radio show in LA, was fired, and was replaced by Limbaugh. Downey's style of bombast and ridicule played to an over the top reactionary live audience to me, then, seemed how authoritarianism could rise. With Trump rallies, we could see it manifest before our eyes.)

Rush on radio was a huge force in the '90s against the Clintons. Social media weaponized this progression, and people could climb into information silos, giving actuality to what Rush used to say; ignore other media and just listen to him. Trump just took the concept and ran with it; thus the "fake news" term could be a blanket condemnation, because there were now other sources to go to: both political Right and Christian Right. The seeds were being sown for what we saw on January 6.

Honor Rush with the flag at half staff? Hell no! Kudos to the Mayor of St. Pete for saying no. Likewise Ag Commissioner Nikki Fried. I trust local leaders would reject this notion, too. Gov. Ron DeSantis's intentional provocation is a tasteless Trumpian tactic, red meat for his base and designed to drive us to distraction. Hopefully in 2022 we can resoundingly reject him at the polls.

Meanwhile, get vacc-ed if you can, keep masking, avoid indoor crowds, and stay positive; we are all in this together. And if that stimulus check comes and you don't need it all, put it to friends and neighbors who do. 🐢



Joe Courter

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The Gainesville Iguana is Alachua County's independent progressive newsletter.

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(or more if you can)

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Gainesville Iguana

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WGOT can only exist with your help

By Chris Lake, WGOT Board Member

We want to thank Gainesville for all the local support from our community (and beyond, thanks to the magic of Al Gore and the internet). Gainesville is truly a unique place and we wholeheartedly thank all of our listeners and supporters who value both the arts and truly independent media.

As mentioned in last month's *Iguana*, WGOT is in desperate need of IT help to install a new server. We've reached a critical stage where we will cease our internet streaming service to the community unless we find a volunteer with the skills to install our new server within the next four weeks.

Sadly, this scenario will limit the ability of our local listeners to access our varied and locally produced radio programming. The east side of Gainesville will be particularly impacted. One option could be to pay a member of our listening audience or

outside source to install the server. However, to say our funds are low in the Covid era due to limited fundraising opportunities would be quite the understatement. If you would like to help either by financially donating to our cause or with technical expertise, then you can reach WGOT through our Facebook page or at wgot.org.

Bad news aside, WGOT is proud to offer a one of a kind listening resource in Gainesville that is free to anyone with an antenna. It's pretty rare in 2021 to receive anything for free, but our dedicated staff of volunteers works tirelessly to manage and run a commercial-free radio station seven days a week, 365 days a year. WGOT is the local home of the *Democracy Now!* news program as well as several other syndicated national news and talk shows.


We also feature locally produced music programs in many genres. Looking for a 90's and 2000's fix? Try *On the Rail* hosted by Debi. Looking to relax with some chill out and ambient music? Then *Sweet Retreat* hosted by Markus is a perfect fit. Speaking of chilling out, H.R. Gertner brings you the mellower side of indie each week on *The Morning Wave*. Do you want to hear the best in local Gainesville music? *Gainesville Grooves* from Gargs has you covered.

And those are just the tip of the iceberg as WGOT has music shows covering almost every conceivable genre including the classics, jazz, and the blues. The best part is each show is curated, hand picked, and hosted by Gainesville DJs eager to share music with the listeners. Suck on that, Spotify! Think of that: real humans playing real music while having fun doing so.

So again, we can't thank Gainesville enough for all the wonderful support through our many years. And we know the best times are ahead for both our community and WGOT 100.1 FM. 🐾



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Say NO to Nestle!



On Feb. 23, the Seven Springs/ Nestle permit was approved by the Suwannee River Water Management District.

Our response? We're getting right to work with our attorneys and experts. The public interest must be protected in this, and all future permitting decisions.

To support the cause, visit the Florida Springs Council website at www.floridaspringscouncil.org. Donate to help us keep fighting.

We'll send you:

- A 3-inch sticker for every \$5 donation,
- A 7-inch vinyl Kayak sticker for every \$30 donation,
- And an insulated stainless steel MightyMug bottle (it won't leak or fall over) for every \$100 donated to the cause.

Also sport the message **Say No to Nestle** and keep fighting. 🐾

Photo courtesy of Amanda Rose.

The future of abortion access: the good and bad

by Jessica Mason Pieklo

This editorial was originally published on Feb. 8 by Rewire News Group. See more at rewirenewsgroup.com.

In July, as this country lurched in fits and starts to address the COVID-19 pandemic that had by then already claimed nearly 150,000 lives, a new possibility for abortion access bubbled up in a Maryland court. U.S. District Judge Theodore Chuang took the first step in deregulating abortion pills.

In response to a request from abortion providers and reproductive justice advocates, Judge Chuang ruled that the Trump administration could not enforce a restriction that prevents patients from accessing medication abortion without an in-person doctor's visit, finding the requirement unduly burdened abortion rights in the middle of a pandemic.

The decision sent immediate shockwaves across the abortion rights landscape.

Abortion rights advocates, who had spent the last 20 years arguing medication abortion was exceptionally safe and overregulated, applauded the decision as a commonsense approach to abortion care generally, let alone in a pandemic.

Activists in the 19 states where anti-choice lawmakers had years earlier banned the use of telehealth for medication abortion were quick to point out that Chuang's decision would do nothing to ease the crisis of access in their states. And because of the unique place abortion rights hold in this country's political landscape, both camps were correct.

The decision promised to change both everything and nothing, at all once.

Mifepristone was first developed in France in 1980, but it took two over two decades and at least one trip to the Supreme Court to even get it approved for use in abortions in this country.

Under George H.W. Bush's presidency, the Food and Drug Administration first banned importing mifepristone to this country for use in abortions. Once it was finally approved, anti-choice advocates in Washington, D.C., layered regulatory burden after regulatory burden on use of the pills. Anti-choice

lawmakers in states across the country followed up by banning the use of telemedicine to distribute the pills.

Anti-choice advocates have fought so hard against the abortion pill because they know it's a game changer.

As if to underscore just how much the anti-choice forces understand what's at stake in the fight over regulating abortion medications, the Trump administration appealed Judge Chuang's decision to the Supreme Court not once, but twice.

In January the conservative justices on the Court voted to reinstate the in-person requirements. The Biden-Harris administration could lift them again. But meanwhile states like Ohio have doubled down on efforts to restrict access to medication abortion, showing that even as this country faces nearly 500,000 COVID-19 deaths, anti-choice conservatives will prioritize attacking abortion access over literally anything else. This has left patients in an increasingly untenable ping-pong match. Abortion remains legal in this country but increasingly out of reach and defined by the happenstance of a ZIP code.

In the backdrop of this legal and legislative fight over medication abortion, a new future for abortion care is taking hold, one in which patients increasingly manage their abortions entirely on their own. To be clear, abortion via herbs has existed as long as people were able to get pregnant. And even a medication abortion done with physician supervision involves the patient managing some aspects of that abortion on their own.

But as the legal and political threats to abortion care reach a fevered pitch in this country, more and more people are choosing to terminate pregnancies on their own, without the supervision of a medical professional. The COVID-19 pandemic only accelerated this reality.

Self-managed abortion is the future of abortion access; neither courts nor legislatures can fully block it. Patients are taking care into their own hands.

That future is not without legal risk, though. While only five states have laws that explicitly make it a crime to self-terminate a pregnancy, that hasn't stopped some prosecutors from trying to use other statutes—like child endangerment and fetal harm law—to jail patients for ending their own pregnancies. Predictably, it is patients of color and low-income patients, who already face heightened surveillance and scrutiny by both health-care providers and law enforcement, bearing the brunt of those prosecutions. Medically, self-terminating a pregnancy via pills remains extremely safe. The legal risks, however, are potentially much greater.

That's why, for our first special edition of 2021, Rewire News Group is diving into medication abortion and self-managed care as the future of abortion access. From COVID-19 to the courts, the legal right to abortion has never been more tenuous. But thanks to the internet and the ingenuity of advocates, abortion pills have never been easier to access.

Abortion is good medicine, and self-managed abortion is the future of access in what's shaping up to be a post-Roe world.

For more on the issue of abortion, check out "Adolescents deserve better: What the Biden-Harris administration and Congress can do to bolster young people's sexual and reproductive health" at <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1169>. 🐢

Celebrating the life of Anne Feeney

Saturday, April 3 at 3pm

Save the date for a virtual remembrance and celebration of the life and work of Anne Feeney. Details to be announced soon.

RSVP to annefeeneymemorial@gmail.com or check the event's Facebook page (<https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1182>) for updates.

Learn more about Anne Feeney's legacy in the *New York Times* at <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1181>, and on page 15 of this issue. 🐢

Working toward food justice in Alachua County

Our demands: value workers, local enterprises, environment over corporate profits

By Dmitry Podobreev, Alachua County Labor Coalition

The Alachua County Labor Coalition has partnered with Working Food, the Agricultural Justice Project, the Farmworker Association of Florida, the Natural Resource Defense Council, and the Gainesville YDSA to work toward food justice. So far, we have worked to get Alachua County and the City of Gainesville to sign on to the Good Food Purchasing Program, which is a certification standard for fair food.

On Dec. 15, the city and county both voted to sign on to the GFPP in a joint meeting. With that success, we focused on seizing a once in a decade opportunity to bring food justice to the University of Florida campus.

For the first time in 12 years, UF is renegotiating their food service contract. Our demands are to make sure the new contract values the workers, local enterprises, and the environment over corporate profits. They include a \$15 minimum wage for all employees, a 20 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in two years, support for local farmers and vendors, protection for farmworkers and supply chain workers, and a third party verification process to ensure these targets are being met. As things are, there is exploitation at every step of bringing food to the university, but these demands can be a serious step forward. UF claims to be a leader in research and education, but now it has the opportunity to be a leader in food justice.

UF's students have voiced their enthusiastic support for food justice in their dining halls, and added another component: the struggle against the prison-industrial complex. The current food service provider, Aramark, operates in over 600 jails and prisons where they exploit prison slave labor. In response to this, the students have organized a boycott of the dining facilities within the Reitz Student Union until the demands of the Food Justice League are met and the next contract is guaranteed to not be granted to any company which plays any part in the prison-industrial complex.

Right now, we are in a critical phase of this fight. The top level priorities of the next contract may be decided before the end of February. We have sent an open letter to the administration and the Invitation to Negotiate committee in charge of setting those priorities. You can read the letter, sign on as a supporter, and automatically resend it at: <https://foodjusticeleague.org/>. You can also find the letter that the student boycotters have written at www.linktr.ee/HOLDUFACCOUNTABLE. 🐾



From the left are ACLC co-chair Sheila Payne, Dr. Paul Ortiz, board member Adolfo Romero, coordinators Cristina Cabada and Dmitry Podobreev at the Food Justice protest in front of UF President Kent Fuch's house on Saturday, Feb. 13. Photo courtesy of the Alachua County Labor Coalition.



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:

Facebook: [freegrocerystore](https://www.facebook.com/freegrocerystore)

Web: <https://www.facebook.com/GNVFSG>

Email: fgsgnv@gmail.com

Leave message: at 352-388-1586

Gainesville Quaker Meeting

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www.gainesvillequakers.org

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The Alachua County Tenants Association: Updates

By Adolfo Romero
Alachua County Labor Coalition

Since the early summer of 2020, the Alachua County Labor Coalition started helping tenants by developing the Alachua County Tenants Association. A group of five has now grown to more than a dozen, volunteering and offering services and resources to alleviate those facing financial and legal hardships.

With the assistance of Socialist Alternative, ACTA has been working closely with Evictions Lab to create a database of evictions in the county.

With the aid of The Southwest Advocacy Group (SWAG), a grassroots organization that both promotes the needs and provides opportunities throughout the neighborhoods of SW Gainesville, funds have been provided and extended to hire Ms. McLinda, an ACTA staff member and community activist.

The group has since created and developed a system that includes weekly mailing of financial flyer resources and free legal resources (Three Rivers Legal Services).

A volunteer accesses the county eviction record and disseminates the data. Weekly evictions range between 12-50 per week. Heat maps through GIS have been used to observe, locate, and understand the development of evictions in the county.

The ACTA team communicates and follows closely with tenants in need. During the weekends, you will see ACTA members knocking on doors and doing needs assessments. They have found neighbors facing a variety of issues such as pest infestations, lack of maintenance, mold, and unfair fines, especially during COVID-19.

There's no justification for finding the same detrimental conditions every three months at different Gainesville locations, yet that's what happens.

During canvassing, staff provided information on the CARES Act in English and Spanish, with other materials included. Staff found, however, that those in need had no access to the technology needed to complete the application process.

We remained persistent and provided individual services to revise the application process and help with any required documentation. The processes seem to take longer than expected for



ACLC coordinator Cristina Cabada Sidawi and Alachua County Tenants Association volunteers Max Nolan, Marcus Milani, Mitch Gallman and Kevin McMahan canvassing Tower Oaks Glen in the SWAG neighborhood.

some of the individuals. Applicants are impatient as they hope to get the money before their rent is due. As of now, ACTA will be working closely with Alachua county to help speed the process and help the community get resources.

Various times our members have reported uninhabitable conditions inside the apartments, such as when one individual could not connect a respirator for his newborn son. The only working outlet was that of the refrigerator. There was no access to a ramp, and he showed us the decrepit conditions of the old wooden rail.

There is a negligence of maintenance by landlords, while unaddressed piles of garbage persist in the neighborhoods. Tenants get agitated and, at times, leave the property rather than fight for their right to stay.

Real stories about landlords giving illegal hefty fines for tenants not paying rent, due to COVID-19, remains a persistent issue. A tenant told us how her family of three was in debt by more than \$4,000 and there was no way she could pay. These are weekly stories happening all around Gainesville.

A constant and unaddressed issue that remains on top of ACTA's list is the high cost of GRU utility bills. On average, the

canvassing team encounters stories of tenants paying between \$350 and \$1,400 each month. Tenants also report surges in utility bills without warning. Some surges are due to old and broken infrastructure that needs repair. The members of ACTA will be hosting an event on Wednesday, Feb. 10 to discuss the high surge of GRU.

One of the Association's goals is to organize a tenant's union across the communities that are most in need. ACTA works to address poor living conditions and holds accountable those landlords who do not respond to the housing problems.

The future of this Association is looking bright, the increase of participation and volunteers is astonishing. The dedication that the members hold and the mission to improve the communities is what makes this association successful.

In December, ACTA hosted an event on Tenant's rights and brought awareness to unfair practices and types of discrimination with the help of Florida Legal Services. In March, ACTA will be hosting a Know-your -Rights webinar and encourages the Gainesville community to participate. For further information or ways in which you can participate with the Alachua County Tenants Association send an email to acta@laborcoalition.org. 🐼

Editors' picks: News that didn't fit

- 🦎 **Conspiracy theories — unmasked! From Winston Churchill to QAnon in a few easy steps**
by Paul Rosenberg / Salon / Feb 20 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1171>
Michael Butter, who teaches American literature and culture, says we live in the golden age of conspiracy-theory studies that attempt to explain the secret forces at work behind the surface of reality.
- 🦎 **Florida Legislature 2021: Top corrections chief says state prison system is in crisis and could collapse**
by Laura Cassels / Florida Phoenix / Feb 22 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1175>
The Florida Department of Corrections Secretary warned lawmakers that the state prison system is woefully understaffed and could erupt in violence as tensions mount. Half of the prisons are already at emergency staffing levels and a surge of new inmates is expected as thousands of court cases resume that were delayed due to coronavirus.
- 🦎 **Florida's 2021 legislative session: A smelly storm of Bad Ideas**
by Diane Roberts / Florida Phoenix / Feb 23 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1170>
OMG. It's one attack (on our fundamental rights) after another. One legal expert called DeSantis' top legislative priorities "hilariously unconstitutional."
- 🦎 **Gov. Ron DeSantis still pushing voter suppression bills despite claim that Florida election was most secure in the nation**
by Zack Linly / The Root / Feb 20 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1172>
Our governor and his party want to get their voter-suppression kink going even more than before. (Warning: raunchy metaphors (that said, theroot.com is a lively and wide-ranging source for African-American news)).
- 🦎 **Parler is now in the hands of a right-wing activist seeking a radical rewrite of the Constitution**
by Alex Kotch / Center for Media and Democracy / Feb 15 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1167>
Mark Meckler, the co-founder of the Tea Party Patriots, is now the CEO of the social media platform Parler. He has a long history of creating organizations to mobilize far-right activists.
- 🦎 **The atrocious prosecution of Julian Assange**
by Eve Ottenberg / CounterPunch / Feb 19 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1168>
Both Biden and Trump support the utterly baseless Espionage Act case against journalist and publisher Julian Assange.
- 🦎 **The "For the People Act" would make the U.S. a democracy.**
by Jon Schwarz / The Intercept / Feb 14 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1178>
The bill is the most crucial legislation considered by Congress in decades and would change the core structure of U.S. politics. The bill will make it easier to vote, make everyone's vote count equally by reducing gerrymandering, and amplify the power of small political donors.
- 🦎 **Verify Road Trip: How a local reporter in Texas gained confidence to cover climate change**
by David Schechter / Moyers on Democracy / Feb. 17 / <https://billmoyers.com/story/verify-road-trip/>
A reporter and a climate-change skeptic travel across Texas to interview scientists and Alaska to witness melting glaciers.
- 🦎 **Why we can't make vaccine doses any faster**
by Isaac Arnsdorf and Ryan Gabrielson / Propublica / Feb 19 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1174>
President Biden has promised enough doses for all American adults by this summer. There's not much even the Defense Production Act can do to deliver doses before then. This article explains why.

Insurrection/impeachment reactions

- 🦎 **Biden nominee Merrick Garland vows to make Capitol riot investigation DOJ's highest priority**
by Jon Skolnik / Salon / Feb 23 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1176>
Garland expressed his intent to follow trails of complicity from bottom to top. "We begin with the people on the ground and we work our way up to those who are involved and further involved," he said.
- 🦎 **If you're a liberal, you should know who Jamie Raskin's father was; it explains a lot**
by Charles Jay / Daily Kos / Feb 15 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1166>
Teach your children well: How Jamie Raskin's dad inspired him for his leadership in the second Trump impeachment trial.
- 🦎 **The legacy of racial hatred in the January 6 insurrection**
by Marcus P. Nevius / JSTOR Daily / Feb 24 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1179>
"What we observed on January 6 was a resurgence of the politics of hatred, borne of the nation's original sin — slavery. The mob's actions serve as a poignant warning that, as yet, we have much with which to reckon."
- 🦎 **Why Merrick Garland is the right man to prosecute the January 6 attack**
by Susie Madrak / Crooks and Liars / Feb 23 / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1177>
One reason is experience: As the top official at the DoJ back in the Clinton administration, Garland led the investigation into Timothy McVeigh, who set off a bomb at the Murrow Federal Building on April 19th, 1995 that killed 168 people. 🦎

And the good news is ...

State will protect Floridians regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation



by Danielle J. Brown

This article was originally published in the Florida Phoenix on Feb. 5. See more at floridaphoenix.com

Earlier this week, the Florida Commission on Human Relations, a state agency responsible for addressing civil rights violations and discrimination, confirmed its responsibility to protect Floridians experiencing discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

And Florida's LGBTQ community is celebrating. Equality Florida, an advocacy group, held a virtual town hall over Facebook live on Friday to declare victory and help others understand the implications.

"No matter where you live, from my hometown in the Panhandle to the Keys," said Nadine Smith, the group's executive director, "if you experience discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, you can file for protec-

tion, for justice — just like anybody else through the civil rights statute."

She said that, although the work isn't done, Florida's LGBTQ community "can take a breath and we can celebrate together."

For years, the state left it to cities and counties to extend protection to the community, and many did not.

Now, the commission's declaration means that all members of Florida's LGBTQ community have a state agency where they can file a complaint if they have been discriminated against.

Joe Saunders, a former Florida House member now the senior political director for Equality Florida, spoke with the Phoenix about the situation in more detail.

"If you experience discrimination in Pensacola — in a restaurant because you and your partner walk in holding hands and you're told your kind isn't wanted there — well, now you can go to the Commission on Human Relations and file a complaint," Saunders said. "Before that, you didn't have a place to go."

Smith had referred to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. In June, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled, in *Bostock v. Clayton County*, that workplace discrimination

based on gender identity and sexual orientation violates that statute's proscription against sex discrimination.

Additionally, last month President Joe Biden signed an executive order broadly protecting Americans from discrimination, "no matter who they are or whom they love," in matters such as housing, education, and job opportunities.

The state commission consequently will accept claims of "sex discrimination based on gender identity or sexual orientation for investigation in employment and public accommodations complaints," according to its declaration.

It also will take cases involving housing discrimination due to "non-conformity with gender stereotypes."

Although the commission has promised to comply with the *Bostock* ruling and Biden's order, the activists don't expect the battle against anti-LGBTQ people to end soon.

"Now we have to defend it," said Saunders told the Phoenix. "We know that there are forces in this state and in the country that want LGBT people to be invisible — that have tried every single maneuver they can to block access to these protections." ❧

EARTH



BOUND

Laurie Wilkins, formerly of Alternatives, has launched a new website for Earth Bound, a non-profit, volunteer-run org that works with indigenous and women's organizations on micro-enterprise, marketing, and sales of products that empower artisans.

Please visit our website to view the traditional folkart of our partners and other fair trade offerings.

www.earthboundinc.org



Veterans for Peace offers college scholarships

Deadline for Applications from Alachua County students/residents: April 23

by Paul Ortiz

Gainesville Veterans for Peace Chapter 14 is excited to announce our 7th annual Peace Scholarship Program for the spring of 2021. We are awarding three college scholarships of \$1,000 each for high school seniors, college students or adults with a commitment to activities including: social justice and peace, Black Lives Matter, conflict resolution and/or nonviolent social change.

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

The majority of Veterans for Peace scholarships awarded thus far have gone to first-generation college students as well as community college students. Students enrolled in vocational, apprenticeship and career training programs are also eligible to apply.

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

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

To be eligible to apply for the Peace Scholarship, the applicant must be a resident of Alachua County and in one of these categories:

- 1) a high school senior planning to enroll in full-time undergraduate study at an accredited two- or four-year college, university or vocational-technical school or apprenticeship program in the United States for the 2021-2022 academic year
- 2) a student currently enrolled in one of the above mentioned programs and in good standing
- 3) an adult student enrolling in higher education who needs financial assistance.

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

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

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

The postmarked deadline for the application is April 23. ☘

Peace Scholarship recipients will be announced during the first week of May.

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

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



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The climate change solution that nobody is talking about

by Sarah Goff, Co-Founder & Executive Director of The Repurpose Project

Overconsumption is destroying the planet. Harvesting, mining, manufacturing, packaging, and shipping ALL have tremendous carbon footprints.

The problems with overconsumption run deeper than just carbon dioxide emissions. The manufacturing process requires material input, and this material input is the limited resources of this planet. This squandering of resources is responsible for much of the deforestation, destructive mining, and habitat loss that are causing an alarming loss of biodiversity. Many of the factories that manufacture material are deliberately placed in low-income areas, disproportionately harming the most vul-

nerable. Consumption and waste don't just result in dumping valuable resources in the landfill. They are causing catastrophic human, animal, and environmental harm.

The climate crisis needs solutions, and The Repurpose Project has a plan to build a revolutionary reuse infrastructure that can compete with new retail in convenience, size, and numbers. When we build a model that showcases what a large-scale circular economy looks like, it can be replicated across the planet. We must address overconsumption, and we cannot do this without an alternative retail system. We need to build a better reuse system, and we are the visionaries who will innovate a reuse retail system that will revolutionize the management of resources.

The Repurpose Project is a magical place. We are a reuse retail store that helps the environment and offers people low-cost supplies. Our little store addresses some big problems: environmental degradation, deforestation, income inequality, human rights abuses, loss of biodiversity, unsustainable resource management, environmental injustice, and the climate crisis. During these highly polarized political times, we are an organization loved by all. Everyone can see the value of reuse, and, of course, everyone loves a great deal.

For 10 years we have done the heavy lifting of building our organization from the ground up, all with almost no funding. We have prided ourselves on being social entrepreneurs. For the sustainability of our organization, we designed a financially independent non-profit, funded with its own revenue stream. We are proud of what we have accomplished, but there is still a frightening volume of reusables being trashed in our community and around the world. We want to do more. We need to do more. We do not have time to wait for someone else to come rescue the planet from overconsumption. We can no longer turn our heads and mutter something like, "if only we had more space we could accept them," when asked to pick up 100 sturdy wooden desks or 30 perfectly good refrigerators. There needs to be more reuse stores. The volume we are asked to accept is truly remarkable.

The lack of reuse infrastructure is shocking. We have a plan to expand, but we need everyone's help for the next step – purchasing a building. We can't do it on our own. The pre-approved bank loan will only cover part of the purchase price. If we raise the rest of the funds for the building now, it will strengthen our organization's financial security for the future. This will free up funds from expensive rent, allowing us to increase wages and expand again soon. A second location will provide another wonderful reuse resource for our community. Our plan going forward is to build the largest, most innovative network of reuse stores in the world. Thank you for your support over the last 10 years! We know you love us, Gainesville, and it wouldn't have been possible without you! Give us the boost we need right now, and we will not disappoint you!

To learn more about our plan for the reuse revolution, find us at www.repurposeproject.org. 🐾

THE REPURPOSE PROJECT

Innovating a reuse economy
that will help our planet & protect our future

please donate now
to help us build a
revolutionary network
of reuse stores

The climate crisis needs solutions. We are the hard-working innovators who can build a revolutionary circular economy model to save our planet from the environmental degradation caused by overconsumption.

We need your help for the next step, purchasing a building. We will not disappoint you! We need your help now.

It's an investment in your future!!

donate today - more details on our website:

www.repurposeproject.org

Problems with Publix: why we're boycotting

by Pierce Butler

A spontaneous boycott of Publix supermarkets has begun, sparked by several missteps linked to the grocery chain:

- A week after Publix donated \$100,000 to the political action committee "Friends of Ron DeSantis," the governor — who has taken major pandemic decision-making away from local health officials and into his own office — declared that Publix would be the only Covid-19 vaccine distribution venue for all of Palm Beach County (where the chain concentrates its stores in affluent, mostly-white neighborhoods).

Safe and affordable housing, renters' rights update

by Jason Fults, Alachua County Labor Coalition

In September, amid the pandemic, the Alachua County Labor Coalition celebrated one of our largest local victories in the history of the organization. A multi-year campaign we dubbed "Safe & Healthy Housing for All" culminated in a 7-0 vote by our City Commission in support of a "Renters Rights and Responsibilities" ordinance.

Thanks to ACLC member advocacy and some stellar work by our Commissioners (particularly Adrian Hayes-Santos and Reina Saco), we overcame fierce, continuous opposition by the local Realtors Association and passed one of the strongest, most comprehensive sets of protections for renters that you are likely to find.


Our victories at the City on this issue include:

- Not only a reduction in the cost of landlord licenses (which we advocated for), but an expansion of the licensing to many more rental properties throughout the city that did not previously have to be licensed. In exchange for those licenses, properties will now be inspected and held to a new, enhanced property maintenance code as well as basic energy and water efficiency standards which will keep renters safe and help them save money on their utility bills. Previously, neither renters nor landlords received anything in exchange for the landlord licensing fee.
- Stronger anti-discrimination protections in housing, specifically around citizenship status and source of income.
- Improved communication requirements for landlords so tenants know more about their rights as a tenant and the condition of the property that they're renting.
- A City-sponsored mediation program to help address the rampant rental deposit theft taking place in this community.

All these changes will, of course, take some time to roll out, but we are very excited and optimistic about what this will mean for working people in this community. Our fight is not over, not by a long shot, and at the onset of 2021 we have begun the push for these same changes countywide.

Moving forward, there will be plenty of opportunities for ACLC members and the community to get involved and we welcome your input on next steps for this campaign and how best to get these changes passed countywide. For now though, THANK YOU again to everyone who supported this epic win through your letters to the editor, social media shares, and calls and emails to our City Commission! 🐾

- Miami Beach Publix deli worker Gerardo Gutierrez, 70, died from Covid-19 in April, after a co-worker tested positive for the coronavirus — but the company prohibited employees from wearing face masks and gloves, according to a lawsuit filed in November by the Gutierrez family.
- Julie Jenkins Fancelli, billionaire daughter of Publix founder George Jenkins, catalyzed rage against the chain by donating \$300,000 for the Jan. 6 Trump rally, which led to the deadly riot attempting to overturn last year's election by storming the national Capitol. She had previously given over \$2,000,000 to Trump's PACs, campaign, and the Republican party. Publix, which has 831 stores in Florida and over 400 elsewhere in the southeast, quickly released a statement that Fancelli does not work or speak for the corporation, but that did little to slow the #BoycottPublix movement springing up across the state. Publix was also found to have donated \$127,000 in 2020 to 43 members of the Republican caucus that voted to overturn the election.
- The company has also faced negative reactions from previous political actions, including donating hundreds of thousands to Adam Putnam's short-lived 2018 gubernatorial campaign after the Republican then-Agriculture Commissioner and self-proclaimed "proud NRA sellout" failed to conduct gun-permit background checks, even after the Parkland shooting massacre; and for refusing to support the Coalition of Immokalee Workers "Fair Food Program" to raise tomato prices by one cent per pound to lift farmworkers' pay, even while 90 percent of growers and other corporate food buyers, including McDonald's, Taco Bell, and Trader Joe's, joined in. 🐾



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In memoriam:

Eden Maria Faelnar, rest in power

by Tim Tia, Jeremiah Tattersall, and Fi Stewart-Taylor

Eden Faelnar, a beloved member of our Gainesville radical community, passed away in Philadelphia on Jan. 12. Eden organized with the IWW and the Alachua County Labor Coalition, including organizing an exceptional May Day with the IWW, and working on ACLC's campaign to end abuse of the OPS, or Other Personnel Services, classification system at the University of Florida.

As an active antifascist, she participated in the protest against Richard Spencer at the University of Florida, and early conversations about how to respond to growing alt-right presence on campus. She was committed to the fight against injustice everywhere, against capitalism, against imperialism, and against Italians. Even more so, she was committed to the fight for justice for colonized peoples, for queer liberation, and for communism.

Despite her serious commitments, Eden is remembered by her friends most of all for her humor. Eden had an infectious laugh, loud and bright, which had a way of filling whatever room she was in. As at least one account attests, you could track her down in a crowded party by getting someone near her to tell a joke. She was quick to laugh, and quick to make her friends laugh with her famous wit.

Her friends also remember her love for music especially her lifelong obsession with jazz and her punk aesthetic. She was a familiar face at local shows, and at Boca Fiesta on burrito Wednesdays. Eden brightened everywhere she went.

Eden is survived by her loving sister, mother, father, and many friends, including the remains of the Gainesville Blood Syndicate (her queer un-criming commie bike gang). The world



Eden Faelnar, 27, was committed to fighting against injustice, and organized with the IWW and the Alachua County Labor Coalition. Photo by Fi Stewart-Taylor.

is a less joyful place without her but for the brief time she was here, she made us all the more complete.

If you are feeling hopeless, please call people like the Alachua County Crisis Center at 352-264-6789 or the Suicide Hotline at 1-800-784-2435. They want to help. Your friends want to help. Your family wants to help. Rest In Power, Comrade Eden. 🐸

Lawrence Ferlinghetti, 'poetry's rock star'

by Fred Kaplan, Slate



Lawrence Ferlinghetti at Caffè Trieste in 2012. Photo by Christopher Michel.

Lawrence Ferlinghetti, who died on Feb. 22 at the age of 101, was one of the key figures in 20th century American culture.

Throughout his life, Ferlinghetti was an activist in political as well as in literary causes. He was as responsible as any single other person for the rise of the Beats, the end of obscenity laws, and, not least, the transformation of San Francisco from a backwater province to a vibrant artistic center. He did all this through the creation and flourishing of City Lights, which remains, after seven decades, one of the country's great literary bookstores and publishing houses.

For more on the life of Lawrence Ferlinghetti, check out "Poetry's Rock Star: Lawrence Ferlinghetti changed American culture forever" at <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1185>. 🐸

"PITY THE NATION"

(After Khalil Gibran)
Pity the nation whose people are sheep
And whose shepherds mislead them
Pity the nation whose leaders are liars
Whose sages are silenced
And whose bigots haunt the airwaves
Pity the nation that raises not its voice
Except to praise conquerors
And acclaim the bully as hero
And aims to rule the world
By force and by torture
Pity the nation that knows
No other language but its own
And no other culture but its own
Pity the nation whose breath is money
And sleeps the sleep of the too well fed
Pity the nation oh pity the people
who allow their rights to erode
and their freedoms to be washed away
My country, tears of thee
Sweet land of liberty!

- Lawrence Ferlinghetti

In memoriam:

Anne Feeney, songwriter, political activist

By Louie Estrada

This obituary was originally published in The Washington Post on Feb. 5. See more at [washingtonpost.com](https://www.washingtonpost.com). For information on an April 3 virtual remembrance, see page 4.

Anne Feeney, a Pittsburgh-based folk singer, songwriter and guitarist who was known for rollicking political anthems that extolled civil rights activism and labor unions while eviscerating corporate greed and forms of oppression, died Feb. 3 at a hospital in Pittsburgh. She was 69.

She had been undergoing physical therapy for a fractured back before she developed coronavirus-related pneumonia, said her daughter, Amy Sue Berlin.

Ms. Feeney, a self-described “hell raiser” with a velvety voice and lush red locks, began a professional recording career in the late 1980s after working as a trial lawyer for more than 10 years. As a musician, she blended elements of Irish, bluegrass, folk and pop music while coupling many of her melodies with political lyrics, sometimes tinged with satire and humor, that were reminiscent of 1960s protest songs.

She released 12 albums, and her biggest hit — “Have You Been to Jail for Justice?” — was also recorded by Peter, Paul and Mary. The song begins:

*Was it Cesar Chavez? Maybe it was Dorothy Day
Some will say Dr. King or Gandhi set them on their way
No matter who your mentors are it's pretty plain to see
That, if you've been to jail for justice, you're in good company.*

In the 2000 documentary “This is What Democracy Looks Like,” she can be seen singing about civil disobedience on a stage with the United Steelworkers at the 1999 World Trade Organization protests in Seattle. As she sings, the video shows police arresting demonstrators.

Her other recordings include original songs like “I Married a Hero,” “Look to the Left” and “War on the Workers,” as well as covers — in some cases with updated lyrics — of union hymns “Dump the Bosses Off Your Back,” “Solidarity Forever” and “The Internationale.”

Ms. Feeney often spent between 200 and 300 days of the year on tour, performing at folk festivals, fairs and concert halls across the country and in Europe. She toured at times with Pete Seeger, Loretta Lynn, John Prine and the Indigo Girls.

As an activist singer, she raised money for union shops and progressive causes, performing at churches, picket lines, and labor and political demonstrations, including the 2004 March for Women's Lives on the National Mall in Washington.

“She would track where workers were on strike. She just wasn't singing about the union movement; she was part of the movement,” said Evan Greer, a musician, songwriter and activist who toured with Ms. Feeney for about nine years until health problems in 2015 prevented her from traveling. “She was always passing the hat at her gigs for one strike fund or another, even when she was scraping by herself.”

Ms. Feeney, who served as president of the Pittsburgh Musicians' Union from 1997 to 1998 and was its first and only woman



Anne Feeney was a folk musician who supported many progressive causes, but chiefly made music on behalf of the union movement. Photo by Bev Grant, New York Times.

elected to that post, took a hiatus from performing in 2010 when she was diagnosed with single cell lung cancer and told she could have only weeks to live. She recovered and continue to tour until the cancer returned in 2015. She then did occasional shows, most recently a virtual online performance in December..

She was born July 1, 1951, in Charleroi, Pa., a blue-collar town on the banks of the Monongahela River, and grew up in the Pittsburgh neighborhood of Brookline. Her father was an engineer at Westinghouse Electric Co., and her mother was a homemaker.

A descendant of Irish immigrants who worked in the coal mines of southwestern Pennsylvania, Ms. Feeney grew up in a home where traditional Irish music and singing were a constant. Years later, she organized and led summer singing tours of Ireland.

Ms. Feeney started playing the guitar in high school and performed publicly for the first time at an antiwar protest in 1969.

While attending the University of Pittsburgh, she joined the antiwar and anti-apartheid group Thinking Students for Peace and was arrested in 1972 while protesting the renomination of President Richard M. Nixon at the Republican National Convention in Miami Beach. She also served on a committee that started the rape crisis center Pittsburgh Action Against Rape.

She graduated from Pitt with a bachelor's degree in 1974 and a law degree four years later. She worked more than 10 years as a trial lawyer but took on only cases she believed in, said her niece, Kimberly Sever. “Anne approached everything she cared about with the same tenacious passion,” Sever said.

Her marriage to Ron Berlin, with whom she had two children, ended in divorce. In 2002, she married Swedish political artist Julie Leonardsson.

In addition to her husband, of Kopparberg, Sweden, and her daughter, Amy Sue Berlin of Austin, survivors include a son, Dan Berlin of Mexico City; and a sister.

“She believed in the power of music to reach and inspire people in a way that you couldn't in an essay or speech,” Greer said. “While she had strongly held political views and worked her whole life for the things she believed in, she always did it with love and joy even as it was backed up with anger at injustice.”

In memoriam:

Maura Kathleen Brady, rest in power

This obituary originally appeared in the Gainesville Sun on Feb. 20. See more at www.gainesville.com.

Maura Kathleen Brady, 56, beloved mother, daughter, sister, aunt, and friend, died suddenly on Feb. 16 from a rare and aggressive form of CLL cancer.

Maura was born on Dec. 7, 1964, in Harrisburg, PA, and was a resident of Gainesville since 1982. She was a graduate of and teacher at the Florida School of Massage, where she was a loving champion of the school, an inspiring teacher, and dear colleague.

She also was a massage therapist, practicing in a breezy, natural-light-filled room of her historic home in the Duck-pond neighborhood.

Maura grew much of her own food, enjoyed kayaking at Ichetucknee Springs and camping. She often was seen biking around Gainesville to her garden, garage sales, the farmers market, and friends' homes. She embodied "live simply so



Maura Kathleen Brady, 1964-2021

others may simply live." She was admired for many reasons including her delicious organic cooking, her ability to find clever uses for tossed-away items, and her zeal for organizing and cleaning.

Maura had an infectious laugh which stayed with anyone within hearing distance long after the final note.

Maura leaves behind her son, Janakai; her mother, Maureen, of Winter Park; her siblings Sheila (Ted) of Rosendale, NY, Ann (Rick) of New Smyrna Beach, Tim of Casselberry, Robin of Silver Spring, MD, Paul and Molly of Gainesville; her nieces Summer and Shaylyn (Claudia); her nephews Max and Aleks; cousins; and hundreds of friends. She was predeceased by her father, Richard, and nephew, Brandon.

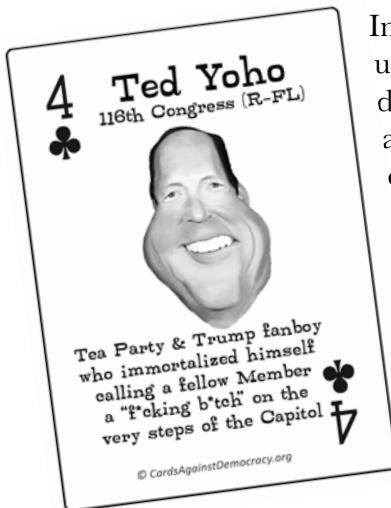
Maura had a natural burial and is interred at the Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery.

Donations in her memory may be made to:

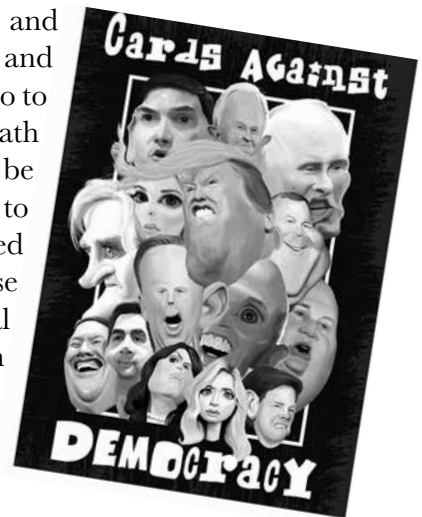
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A celebration of Maura's life will be announced at a later date. 🌻

Cards Against Democracy



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 collectable 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. We will not forget. The decks are \$10 each plus shipping, bulk deals available. Free delivery within Gainesville city limits using PROMO code: **GainesvilleOnlyFreeShip**.

Legislature's anti-protest bill is anti-American

by Patricia Brigham and Peggy A. Quince

This op-ed was originally published on Feb. 16 in the Orlando Sentinel. See more at www.orlandosentinel.com.

Floridians, your First Amendment right to peacefully protest is under attack. Not by extremist groups, but by our very own Florida Legislature. The vehicle is a bill known as HB 1 and its Senate companion, SB 484.

Gov. Ron DeSantis announced plans for this bill following the largely peaceful Black Lives Matter protests, which took place throughout the United States and around the world after the brutal murder of George Floyd last year.

Now the legislation has cynically been rebranded as an attempt to address the insurrection that took place at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6; in fact, it was filed that very night.

HB 1 at its core would dilute the rights that this country and this state were founded upon. This legislation includes enhanced criminal penalties for offenses already codified by law.

Innocent bystanders caught in a protest gone unruly could find themselves arrested and thrown in jail for the night, their bail eliminated before a first court appearance after their arrest. The state could preempt local government authority when law-enforcement budgets are cut, allowing the governor and Cabinet to force local governments to cut other needed local services.

This proposed legislation is completely unnecessary. There are already criminal laws — both state and federal — that address rioting, insurrection, treason, assault, and battery. In fact, if this legislation passes, it would have a chilling effect on exercising one's right to peaceably assemble. Even more alarming is the granting of an affirmative defense to persons who may deliberately injure innocent protesters that peacefully protest when a gathering is designated a "riot" under the vague standards of the legislation.

Since the founding of these United States and the establishment of the state of Florida, we, the people, have enjoyed the right to peaceably assemble and the coordinated right to petition the government for redress of grievances. Article I, section 5 of the Florida Constitution provides: "The people shall have the right to assemble, to instruct their representatives, and to petition for redress of grievances." This right derives from the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

The First Amendment specifically provides that Congress cannot make a law that abridges the right of the people to peacefully assemble. Likewise, no state legislature can deprive the people of this basic and fundamental right. This was made clear by the U.S. Supreme Court in *De Jonge v. Oregon*, 299 U.S. 353 (1937). Writing for a unanimous Court, Chief Justice Charles Hughes said letting states interfere with a group's right to gather and discuss political issues was "repugnant to the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment."

HB 1, like the bill denounced in the *De Jonge* case, would abridge the right of the citizens of the state of Florida to the free exercise of their right to assemble and petition their government.

HB 1, or as its sponsors have named it, "Combating Public Disorder," is not just anti-protest and anti-First Amendment, it is outright anti-American.

We the people have seen the power of the right to assemble from the days of William Penn to the modern civil-rights movements.

Abolitionists took to the streets to raise the nation's awareness of the evils of slavery. Suffragists used the power of protest to redress the grievance of voter disenfranchisement for a large segment of the population — women.

Labor activists, religious organizations, LGBTQ communities, and other groups throughout our nation have gathered, with their collective voices, to call for redress of problems that plague our democracy. As a result, Americans of all racial, ethnic, cultural, and religious backgrounds have peaceably protested and made positive changes. This is the essence of democracy. This is the essence of a government as described by Abraham Lincoln in the Gettysburg Address, "[a] government of the people, by the people, for the people."

The Bill of Rights in the U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Rights in the Florida Constitution form the foundations for this democracy. Each right is a pillar that keeps the house, our democracy, steady. When we tear down one pillar of the house, the foundation begins to shift. The house is then subject to collapse. We must not allow this house, our precious democracy, to fall.

We urge our legislators, both representatives and senators, to reject HB 1 and its Senate companion. By doing so, we preserve the right to peaceably assemble and we preserve a necessary pillar of our democracy.

Patricia Brigham is president of the League of Women Voters of Florida. Justice Peggy A. Quince served on the Florida Supreme Court from 1999 to 2019 and is a current board director of the League of Women Voters of Florida. ✨

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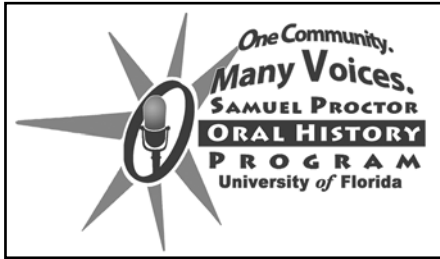
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History and the people who make it: Anita Spring



Dr. Anita Spring [S], former UF Associate Dean, was interviewed by Anna Judge in April 1992. This is the 65th in a series of transcript excerpts from the UF Samuel Proctor Oral History Program collection.

Transcript edited by Pierce Butler; notations in [square brackets] by SPOHP.

S: I always remember doing well in school. I was interested in science. I used to have little nasty experiments in my basement in Philadelphia, blowing up little things. I found science intriguing.

I wanted to be a high school chemistry teacher. By the time I was sixteen and a half, I was already in the university. I always thought I was going to go to Berkeley, and I did. So I majored in chemistry. They had programs [where] you would take your major and earn a teaching certificate. I taught high school at Berkeley High, and I hated it.

One summer—before my senior year—I took a course in anthropology at a community college, and I just fell in love with the subject. So I went to San Francisco State University and started there a master's degree in anthropology.

The professors just loved my work because they said it read like a chemistry project. They were used to fairly sloppy, not very scientific presentations. I had hypotheses and deductions and inductive data usage, and they loved that.

I decided I really wanted to do sociocultural anthropology. I worked on a tri-ethnic study of white, black, and Hispanic [people]. I did the black groups in San Francisco [in] the worst, worst neighborhoods. We were trying to find out the effects of welfare on families and what happened when families were intact versus when there was no male or husband around. This issue is as current in the 1990s as it was when I was doing it around 1965 or 1966.

In the summer of 1965, I had a fellowship from the National Science Foundation. It was field training in cultural anthropology

at the University of Nevada in Reno. I wound up doing my master's thesis on the Washoe, focusing specifically on marriage relations and linguistic categories.

I was pretty interested in medical anthropology and healthcare delivery systems. I had read a book by a man named Victor Turner called *Schism and Continuity in an African Society*. He was at Cornell, and I wanted to study with him. I do not know why at that point I was interested in Africa. But I got the full fellowship, so I went to Cornell.

I kept getting more and more involved in Africa—in health care and rituals and symbols.

I also married in 1969 and had a baby. Then, in 1970, I went off to Zambia to do my field research. I stayed there until 1972, looking at ritual and symbolic systems and traditional and modern health care.

We lived about 600 miles from the capital, Lusaka, in Zambia, and about three miles from the Angolan border. [The Zambians] were very suspicious because there was a war going on in neighboring Angola. They were curious to know [whether] we were spies for the CIA, the Angolan government, [or] the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola], one of the guerrilla movements that subsequently became the legitimate government in Angola. [They wanted to know if] we were spies for the next ethnic group over.

Since my topic was health and traditional ritual, I was able to function pretty well. They had not seen too many white women, and the ones they had seen were missionary nurses. No matter what I told them about what I was doing, they thought perhaps I was a nurse. Nurses are always welcome everywhere in the world because they help people and save people and give them medicine. They thought I was a nurse, so it was okay for me to keep working even though my husband and I were suspected of being spies.

We did not say we were anthropologists, because the British had used social anthropologists to assist them in governing the area. The term anthropologist and even applied anthropology were not particularly well favored. So we became historians. We were essentially doing oral history.

Since I was doing traditional cosmological systems and ritual systems and so forth, that all seemed to fit in. I was also inter-

ested in medical systems and medicinal systems [as well as] how they combined the traditional with what I call the biomedical. I was inducted into quite a number of the spirit possession and cults that people use as a method for curing illness. Also, I was interested in seeing all their traditional medicinal and herbal treatments.

Soon after I got there, a little girl got sick. They took her to a local clinic, and the person at the clinic gave her something. She fainted from it. It is hard to know what he did to her, but she was very sick. So here was my first case. I was going to observe traditional medicine. But they said, "We are not going to let you observe until you give her some medicine as well." Talk about practicing medicine without a license! I am really caught on this one. I had my Merck [medical] manual, and I had lots of medicine. I really thought she had malaria. She was dehydrating fast because some of the traditional practices were to withhold liquids. So I mixed up some electrolytic solution with a little sugar and a little salt and some boiled water. I had malaria tablets, and I brought that over.

Lo and behold, she recovered, which had its very good and very bad points. The good points were that I could now see all the traditional medicine that I wanted. The child had survived, and, of course, that was wonderful. But that also meant that people were asking me continuously for medicines. For the next two years, I had between twenty and thirty people on a daily basis asking me to treat all kinds of things. When I talked to the M.D.s at the mission hospital or the government hospital – their response was to give me incredible amounts of medicines.

So instead of being told, "Do not do this," I was told, "Do it as much as you can." In the dry season there must have been thirty people a day for eye medicine. It did save a lot of people's lives. I only failed once, and that was because they brought a child to me much too late. He died half an hour later. No matter what we could do, there was no way to save him. Most of the other cases I am sure we managed to cure. So that is partly how I got my sample of medical histories.

That was 1972. So I went back to Cornell. They had a budding women's studies program. This was a new thing at the beginning of the 1970s. I did a seminar, won

the competition to teach the first women's studies course on anthropology at Cornell.

I came down here to the University of Florida [in 1973]. I started putting together a whole series of new courses. One of those was human sexuality. At that time, [it was called] Human Sexuality and Society. We were being very conservative. We thought it was a very hot topic and one that the legislature would get on us [about] if we did not approach it as scientifically as possible. Only married people could teach it. Eventually, I built that course up to about 500 a term. I taught it for about eight years.

I also developed a course called the African Experience. That continues to this time. I taught it last fall.

I started a course on human sex roles, cross culturally. At Cornell we called it something like Women's Roles: A Cross-Cultural Perspective. But Dr. [Paul] Doughty, who was chair at the time, changed it to Human Sex Roles: A Cross-Cultural Perspective. He thought a course that had the word sex in it would have a bigger drawing card, and he just changed it without even asking me.

At first I was horrified, but then I realized two things. Number one, he was right. There were always forty-five students in the class. But, number two, because it did not just say "Women: A Cross-Cultural Perspective" but said "Human Sex Roles: A Cross-Cultural Perspective," it had the effect of getting male students into the course, which, of course, is extremely important.

Now I have to change gears and tell you about what I was doing in my own research life.

I spent the 1970s pretty focused on ritual and symbolic systems, medical anthropology, [and] population studies. I went to Zambia in 1977. I did a five-year follow-up study on my dissertation research work that also focused on what women were doing in reproductive health and breastfeeding. This was the time that there was the controversy of Nestle's milk feeding. So it fit in to a worldwide concern with these kinds of things.

In 1979, for the first time, instead of health and rituals and symbols, I was focusing on economic activities and agricultural work. It was a very big career turning point. Two things came to mind. When I had been in Zambia from 1970 to 1972, I had had delegations of women who came to my house, and they said, "You know everything about our medicine, about our

spirit possession rituals, about our health care, etc., but you do not know what it is to be a woman." [My reaction was,] "Excuse me?" They said, "Because to be a woman is to be a farmer."

They said, "You have to learn this." They gave me a hand-held hoe (that is how they cultivated), and seed. They actually took me to the field and showed me how to do it. I was just that ignorant. They gave me two plots. One plot, away from the household area, I was planting groundnuts. I had brought some European-type seeds from the capital, and I planted my seeds there. [Of] all the imported seeds, nothing came up. And all the seeds that they gave me did very well.

I did not find it a particularly wonderful exercise. I did not think farming or anything [like it was interesting]. I was much more interested in the symbols, cosmology, political structure, and all those things.

But by the end of the 1970s, for this paper, I started reviewing all the literature, first on Zambia, on southern Africa, on Africa in general. I started talking about women's work and productivity and constraints [related to] things like land, access to credit, constraints in labor, [and] what happened when people were resettled because of the Kariba Dam in Zambia. [I talked about] how they lost their land. [I also asked] why they had to resort to low-paying pathways,

either beer brewing or prostitution, as opposed to being able to make money and feed their families from agriculture.

I wrote that first paper in 1979, and presented it at African Studies meetings in Los Angeles. I really started thinking about this new subject of women in development and in agriculture.

The next year, 1980, a colleague was putting together a USAID ([United States] Agency for International Development) project that the University of Florida was bidding on to design the National Agricultural University in Cameroon in Dschang.

Anyway, I went over on that design team to look at smallholder agriculture, especially women farmers. When I got back, I had become a fanatic on the subject.

To be continued in the April Iguana. Find a full transcript of this (and later) interviews at <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/> - search for "Anita Spring".

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. 🐢

Saving McCarty Woods Conservation Area

By Allison Wodar and Scott Eisenstark

The McCarty Woods Conservation Area is a 2.9-acre preserve located between Museum Road and McCarty Drive and is a mere stone's throw away from the heart of the UF campus and Reitz Union.

As the name implies, the woods are a conservation area, providing a small respite for nature, and a place where students can just simply exist away from the hustle and bustle of campus. It is also an important habitat for wildlife and provides many environmental benefits to Gainesville.

But this little oasis of nature is under critical threat. The University of Florida recently unveiled its 2020-2030 Campus Development Plan, which lays out a variety of changes and developments around campus.

This includes potentially developing McCarty Woods to make way for academic buildings. The plan leaves only a single acre of the woods untouched to clear over

60 percent of the original area. The one remaining acre feels like a consolation prize for those who value the nature.

However, the proposed changes to the woods do not come without pushback.

A group of students, faculty, and Gainesville residents have organized a campaign to raise awareness and share their disapproval of the proposed changes.

The Save McCarty Woods campaign is organizing protests and outreach events to raise awareness, hoping that the Campus Master Plan will be altered to stop the development of the McCarty Woods Conservation area for now and future use.

We need to act quickly in order to save the woods before it is cut down. We are asking that anyone interested in joining our cause to spread the word and check out Instagram and Facebook @savemccartywoods. This is the best way to keep updated with any events and campaigns we have planned for the future. 🐢

opment Council and the Alachua County League of Cities.

“She is passionate about social justice, food justice, carceral injustice and reproductive justice. She supports efforts in the city for achieving racial and gender equity, both in city government and the community at large.”

She has one opponent who is not campaigning and has said he is not interested in getting votes. We guess he just did not want her to not have an opponent. But please DO vote for Gail if you live in the City of Gainesville.

The District One race features two women with long Gainesville ties and who have been active in advocacy for the Eastside of Gainesville.

Incumbent Gigi Simmons has a long record of involvement even prior to her successful run for Commissioner in 2018, neighborhood organizing in Porters Community and with various other community organizations and efforts.

Challenger Desmon Duncan-Walker and Gigi Simmons share very similar goals for better internet, healthcare, employment and housing opportunities, and better grocery options on the Eastside.

Duncan-Walker came into prominence last year by founding the Gainesville Alliance for Equitable Development, which organized to fight the proposed high-rise student oriented housing slated to be built in the Seminary Lane/NW 5th Avenue area, a historically Black neighborhood.

Simmons has a solid campaign going, getting endorsement from the Central Labor Council, the Human Right Campaign, and the Gainesville Sun. (The Feb. 21 Sun has articles from both candidates.)

But there are a lot folks feeling more needs to be done to stand up to developers and provide a dissident voice on the current Commission, and give real support to actual Eastside programs, and not just lip service. We are fortunate to have a City where two strong women such as these are on the ballot.

She’s definitely an underdog, but if you want to shake things up, vote for Desmon Duncan-Walker.

Additionally, both the League of Women Voters and the Alachua County Labor Coalition had panel discussions with the candidates that are available on their Facebook pages. 🐼

Workers, activists organize to block legislation making it harder to file COVID-exposure lawsuits

By Michael Moline

This article was originally published on Feb. 15 by the Florida Phoenix. See more at floridaphoenix.com.

Progressive organizations are trying to step up the pressure against fast-track legislation that would make it harder to sue businesses and health-care providers accused of exposing employees, customers, and patients to COVID-19.

During a Zoom news conference organized by the Florida Consumer Action Network, workers, labor leaders, and activists argued that legislation being pushed by Republican leaders in the Florida House and Senate is not needed but would harm everyday Floridians.

“We need our legislators to think about their folks back home—the everyday folks and workers that are relying on them to keep them safe,” said Susan McGrath, the network’s executive director.

“Most businesses do the right thing, and that’s great. But we need to not allow the opportunity for a bad actor to be able to hurt everyday working families,” she said.

Asked about the legislature during a news conference, Gov. Ron DeSantis said he worries fear of liability might prevent nursing home managers from relaxing anti-COVID protections to the extend vaccinations allow.

“If they’re scared of getting sued, they’re going to err on the side of restricting the residents more than is necessary,” he said.

The legislation moving through House and Senate committees ahead of the March 2 start date to the 2021 session of the Florida Legislature would erect barriers to the courthouse for plaintiffs claiming they contracted COVID through businesses, individuals, charitable organizations, nonprofits, public or private educational institutions, government entities, and religious institutions.

Separate legislation would cover individual practitioners including doctors and nurses, plus hospitals, nursing homes, abortion clinics, and other medical facilities.

Business interests argue the legislation would head off frivolous claims that

might force business and health institutions to close. Critics argue that few lawsuits have been filed thus far and that in any case the burden of proof for these claims already is high.

Barbara DeVane, representing Florida Now and the Florida Association of Retired Americans, found inclusion of abortion clinics among the protected facilities interesting in light of a separate GOP bill to ban abortions at five months.

“What a bunch of hypocrites in the Capitol — the Republican legislators that say they are anti-abortion, and yet these clinics are on the list,” she said. “Strange, isn’t it?”

Michael Levine, an attorney representing the family Publix worker Gerardo Gutierrez, who died of COVID after the company refused to let him and other employees wear masks at work, also participated in the news conference.

“To this day, Publix has never taken any responsibility for its misguided decision,” he said.

“Our lawsuit is one of the very few that have been filed, and it’s necessary to hold companies who do the wrong thing accountable. That’s what our justice system exists for. Legislation that provides immunity sends the absolute wrong message. All it does is serve to give companies a free pass and incentivize cutting corners when it comes to workplace safety.”

“It’s offensive that lawmakers are thinking not about making front-line workers’ jobs easier and safer, or about finding ways to speed up vaccine distribution, but concentrating instead on how to let the most well-funded and well-connected off the hook for intentionally doing the wrong thing,” said Vicki Gonzalez, a registered nurse and union leader who works at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami. 🐼

Changes and progress very rarely are gifts from above. They come out of struggles from below.

- Noam Chomsky

Hey, Readers!

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

www.gainesvilleiguana.org

Go to our home page and click on the <Donate with PayPal> link to support us via your PayPal account or credit card

We thank you very much!

Alachua County Labor Coalition

The Alachua County Labor Coalition (ACLC) is composed of individuals, unions, and worker-friendly organizations committed to the economic, environmental, civil, and social rights of working people, their families, and communities, and to the ecological systems that sustain us.

Our current projects include a Living Wage Campaign for Alachua County, Safe and Healthy Housing, Evictions Task Force, UF Safe Reopening Survey, Criminal Justice Committee and our Just Health Care Committee.

To learn more about our work, including our accomplishments in 2020, check out our newsletter online at <http://laborcoalition.org/about/newsletter/>. ✨

Iguana Directory

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

Readers: If there is inaccurate information here, please let us know. If you are connected to an organization listed here, please check and update your listing so others can be accurately informed. Readers should confirm times of meetings with individual organizations as they may be cancelled due to the pandemic. Unless otherwise noted, all phone number are in the 352 area code.

Alachua Conservation Trust, Inc. has been protecting North Central Florida's natural, scenic, historic and recreational resources for over 25 years. 373-1078 / www.AlachuaConservationTrust.org

Alachua County Greens is part of a worldwide movement built out of interrelated pillars that support its politics: the peace, civil rights, environmental and labor movements. Meetings are the 1st Sunday of the month @4pm, contact for location: 871-1995 / alachuagreens@gmail.com / <https://gainesvillegreens.webs.com>

Alachua County Labor Coalition organizes to support local labor and advance the Medicare for All and a living wage campaigns. Meets monthly on the 4th Tuesday at 6pm on Zoom. 375-2832 / info@laborcoalition.org / <http://laborcoalition.org/>

Alachua County Organization for Rural Needs Clinic is a not-for-profit in Brookier providing low-cost, high-quality dental care for people with and without health insurance to Alachua, Bradford and Union County residents. The Clinic fulfills its mission with the help of volunteers. 485-2772 / <http://acornclinic.org>

American Civil Liberties Union has no Alachua County chapter. For info on forming a new chapter, or for ACLU info, contact the Northeast Chapter at firstcoastaclu@gmail.com / <http://northeastflorida.aclufl.org>.

American Promise Association is 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. <https://americanpromise.net>

Avian Research and Conservation Institute is a non-profit research group working to stimulate conservation action to save threatened bird species in the southeast. 514-5606 / www.arcinst.org

Black Graduate Student Organization helps UF Black graduate and professional students foster meaningful and lasting relationships that aid in academic achievement and success. bgsoatuf@gmail.com / facebook: UF BGSO

Central Florida Democratic Socialists of America is a chapter of DSA focusing on local social and political activism issues to better our community. Meetings are the 4th Monday of the month on Zoom. centralfidsa@gmail.com / Facebook: North Central Florida DSA

Citizens Climate Lobby builds awareness and lobbies for sensible climate policies. 214-1778 / btancig@gmail.com / https://citizensclimatelobby.org/chapters/FL_Gainesville/

Civic Media Center is an alternative reading room and library of the non-corporate press, and a resource and space for organizing. 433 S Main St., Gainesville / 373-0010 / coordinators@civicmediacenter.org / www.civicmediacenter.org

Coalition of Hispanics Integrating Spanish Speakers through Advocacy and Service is a UF student-run group focusing on immigrant rights and immigrant advocacy. chispasuf@gmail.com / www.chispasuf.org / Facebook: chispasUF

Code Pink: Women for Peace Women-led grassroots peace and social justice movement utilizing creative protest, non-violent direct action and community involvement. Join our

Facebook group at: [Codepinkgainesville](https://www.facebook.com/Codepinkgainesville/) / [CodePink4Peace.org](https://www.facebook.com/CodePink4Peace.org)

The Community Weatherization Coalition, an Alachua County coalition whose mission is to improve home weatherization and energy efficiency for low-income households through education, volunteer work, and community-building, welcomes volunteers. 450-4965 / cwc@communityweatherization.org

Conservation Trust for Florida, Inc. is a Gainesville non-profit land trust working to protect Florida's rural landscapes, wildlife corridors and natural areas. 376-4770 / info@conserveflorida.org / www.conserveflorida.org

Democratic Party of Alachua County meets monthly on the second Wednesday at 6pm on Zoom. 352-373-1730 / www.alachuadems.org

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

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 and surveillance companies. www.divestuf.org, Facebook: @Divest UF

Goddsville Dream Defenders is a socialist, feminist abolitionist organization in Gainesville, organizing to dismantle institutions and be a safe space for people of color. Facebook: Goddsville Dream Defenders

Edible Plant Project is a volunteer-run, non-profit Gainesville collective aiming to create positive alternatives to the unsustainable food system in this county. www.facebook.com/groups/edibleplantproject

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

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Final Friends, run by volunteers, helps families learn how to accomplish legal home funeral care as an alternative to a commercial funeral home. 374-4478 / final.friends.org@gmail.com / www.finalfriends.org

The Fine Print is a quarterly magazine based in Gainesville providing political, social and arts coverage through advocacy journalism. <http://thefineprintmag.org>

Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice provides space for meetings, retreats, workshops, camps, and educational activities that promote peace, human rights and social justice awareness, conflict resolution, self-empowerment programs and environmental discovery and awareness. 352-603-3680 / florida4peace.org.

Florida School of Traditional Midwifery is a clearinghouse for information, activities and educational programs regarding midwifery. 338-0766 / info@midwiferyschool.org www.midwiferyschool.org

Florida Defenders of the Environment works to protect freshwater resources, conserve public lands and provide quality environmental education. 475-1119 / floridadefenders@gmail.com / <https://fladefenders.org>

Florida Prisoner Solidarity is a carceral abolitionist collective with members inside and outside of prisons. Efforts are focused around the needs of all incarcerated individuals, their care networks and the people in community with them. P.O. Box 358439, Gainesville, FL 32635 / 850-895-1505 / flprisonersolidarity@gmail.com / www.flprisonersolidarity.org/ facebook.com/FLAbolition

Gainesville Area AIDS Project is a program of Pride Community Center of North Central Florida that provides toiletries, household cleaners, hot meals, frozen food at no cost to people living with HIV/AIDS. 377-8915 / info@gaaponline.org <https://gainesvillepride.org/gaap/> www.facebook.com/GAAPONLINE/

Gainesville Citizens for Alternatives to Death Penalty works to abolish the death penalty. Join vigils when Florida has an execution. 378-1690 / mark1343@juno.com / 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. GNV4ALL@gmail.com / www.facebook.com/GNV4ALL

Gainesville Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice organizes faith communities to work together for immigrant justice. Meetings are the second Monday of the month on Zoom. Richard@371-6772 / Gainesvilleiaij@gmail.com / www.gainesvilleiaij.blogspot.com

Gainesville National Organization of Women focuses on six issues: reproductive rights; ending sex discrimination / constitutional equality; promoting diversity and ending racism; economic justice; stopping violence against women; lesbian

rights including marriage equality. For NOW meeting info, contact Lisa@450-1912 / info@gainesvilleNOW.org / www.gainesvillenow.org.

Gainesville Peer Respite is a non-profit, non-clinical mental health community providing sanctuary and support to those experiencing emotional distress. A peer support warmline is available along with wellness activities and support groups over Zoom. Warm-Line: 559-4559 / business line: 278-0529 / www.gainesvillerespite.org

Gainesville Quakers work peacefully for social justice and share a way of life, rather than a written set of beliefs. Values include simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality and stewardship. Request info on virtual worship on Zoom using the "contact us" link on website or call 372-1070 / www.GainesvilleQuakers.org

Gainesville Roller Rebels, a women's Flat Track roller derby team, needs skaters and volunteer assistance. join@gainesvilleroollerrebels.com / <https://gainesvilleroollerrebels.com>

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

Grow Radio, a non-profit podcast station provides opportunities for community members to create and manage engaging, educational, locally-generated programming to promote musical/visual arts and humanities for enrichment of Gainesville community. 219-0145 / BRYSON66@gmail.com / <http://growradio.org>.

The Humanist Families of Gainesville aims to raise ethical, secular children in a religious, moral environment. Meetings include children, based on members' interests. Facebook: Humanist Families of Gainesville (leave a message).

Humanist Society of Gainesville are people who believe that the problems of the world can only be solved by responsible human actions based on rational analysis and decision-making free of dogma or the guidance of imaginary supreme beings. They meet to discuss and promote secular, humanist, atheist and agnostic social influences. gainesvillehumanists@gmail.com / www.gainesvillehumanists.org / www.facebook.com/humanistsocietyofgainesville

Ichetucknee Alliance focuses on ensuring the restoration, preservation and protection of the ecosystems along the 5.5-mile length of the Ichetucknee River, including its associated springs. Meetings are on the 4th Tuesday every other month via Zoom. 386-454-0415 / ichetuckneealliance@gmail.com <http://ichetuckneealliance.org/>

Indivisible Gainesville seeks to build an inclusive community fostering diversity and encouraging citizen action, and to educate and inform the people of Florida's 3rd Congressional District in order to increase voter turnout and participation in the civic process. projectmanagement@indivisiblegnv.org <https://indivisiblegnv.org>

Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) Gainesville General Membership Branch Union represents all workers, regardless of industry, trade, job, or employment status. gainesvilleiww@gmail.com / <https://iww.org>

League of Women Voters of Alachua County Nonpartisan grassroots political group of women and men who have fought since 1920 to improve our system of government and impact public policies such as fairness in districting, voting and elections, through citizen education and advocacy. info@lww-alachua.org / <http://www.lwvalachua.org>

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

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

MindFreedom North Florida is a human rights group for psychiatric survivors and mental health consumers, working to educate the public about harmful psychiatric practices and about humane alternatives to those harmful practices. 328-2511 / Facebook: MindFreedom Florida

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America is a grassroots organization working to end gunviolence by electing gun sense candidates, advocating for policies that save lives, and educating parents on responsible gun storage. For events in Alachua County, go to <https://momsdemandaction.org/events/>

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 information. www.facebook.com/MoveToAmendGainesvilleFL/

National Alliance on Mental Illness / Gainesville offers support, education and advocacy for families and loved ones of persons with mental illness and/or brain disorders. 320-0457 (information) / 335-7770 (helpline) / www.namigainesville.org

National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare works to promote and preserve threatened programs for senior citizens and to keep seniors independent and productive. Our.Circle.Of.Care@gmail.com / <http://www.ncpsm.org>

National Lawyers Guild consists of lawyers, law students, legal workers and jailhouse lawyers who use the law to advance social justice, support progressive social movements. gainesvillennlg@gmail.com / www.nlg.org

National Women's Liberation is a feminist group for women who want to fight back against

male supremacy and win more freedoms for women. Inequalities between women and men are political problems requiring a collective solution. 575-0495 / nwl@womensliberation.org / <http://womensliberation.org>

North Central Florida Association for Women In Science is an advocacy organization championing the interest of women in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) across all disciplines and employment sectors. ncfawis@gmail.com / <https://sites.google.com/site/ncfawis>

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 www.facebook.com/OurRevNCFL/

Our Santa Fe River is a non-profit composed of concerned citizens working to protect the waters and lands supporting the aquifer, springs and rivers within the watershed of the Santa Fe River. 386-243-0322 / <https://oursantaferiver.org>

PFLAG Gainesville is a local chapter of Parents and Families of Lesbians and Gays, the nation's foremost family-based organization committed to the civil rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Monthly meetings are the 3rd Tuesday at the Fellowship Hall of the United Church of Gainesville (1624 NW 5th Ave.) at 7 pm. Confidential helpline: 340-3770 / info@pflaggainesville.org / <http://pflaggainesville.org>

Planned Parenthood Clinic at Gainesville Health Center is a full-service health center for reproductive and sexual health care needs. Offering pregnancy testing and options counseling. 914 NW 13th St., Gnv / 377-0881 <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1150>

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

Pride Awareness Month is a planning committee for spring's UF Pride events, to celebrate the history and identities of the LGBTQ+ community through events centering on marginalized sexualities and genders. ufpridemonth@gmail.com / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1152> (Gator Connect)

Pride Community Center of North Central Florida has resources for the LGBTQ+ community, open M-F, 3-7, Sat. noon-4. 3131 NW 13th St., Suite 62, Gnv / 377-8915, www.GainesvillePride.org

ty values every citizen's right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and believes that the best government comes through an open and respectful exchange of ideas. For info on volunteer activities call Fran Rossano @ 475-3012 / <https://www.putnamdems.org/index.php/>

Repurpose Project, a nonprofit junk shop /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. Check website or call for hours. 1920 NE 23rd Ave, Gnv / 363-8902 / info@RepurposeProject.org / www.repurposeproject.org

River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding provides solution-based innovative ways to resolve conflicts, and provides services including mediation, communication skill building and restorative justice. 234-6595 / info@centerforpeacebuilding.org • www.centerforpeacebuilding.org

Rural Women's Health Project is a local health education organization that develops materials promoting health justice for migrant and rural women. Robin or Fran @ 372-1095 / info@rwhp.org / www.rwhp.org

Samuel Proctor Oral History Program focuses on story-telling, social justice research, social movement studies, oral history workshops. <http://oral.history.ufl.edu>

Suwannee-St. Johns Group Sierra Club is a local group within the nation's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization, representing 14 North Central Florida counties. 528-3751 / www.ssjsierra.org

Sister City Program of Gainesville links Gainesville with sister cities in Russia, Israel and Palestine, Iraq, and Haiti. 376-8600 / steve@gnvsistercities.org / <http://www.gnvsistercities.org>

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

Student Animal Alliance UF-based group that promotes animal rights through education, volunteering and social events. <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1149> facebook: student animal alliance/ instagram @studentanimalallianceUF

Student/Farmworker Alliance is a network of youth organizing with farmworkers to eliminate sweatshop conditions and modern-day slavery in the fields. billy@sfalliance.org / brett@sfalliance.org / <http://www.sfalliance.org/> Facebook: Gainesville Student/Farmworker Alliance

Sunday Assembly Gainesville is a secular congregation celebrating life. There is a talk, music, sing-alongs, discussion and fellowship. Meetings and events are on Zoom. / sundayassembly32601@gmail.com <http://SAGainesville.weebly.com/>

UF College Democrats is the official voice of the Democratic party on UF campus. 407-580-4543 / president@ufdemocrats.org /

www.ufcollegedemocrats.org/ Facebook.com/UFcollegedems

UF Pride Student Union is an LGBT+ group open to queer folk of all sorts, including students, non-students, faculty and staff, that educates and provides a safe space for those of marginalized sexualities and gender identities. ufpridesu@gmail.com / www.facebook.com/ufpsu/

United Faculty of Florida, UF chapter is run by and for faculty and 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. 519-4130 / officemanager@uff-uf.org / www.UFF-UF.org

United Nations Assn., Gainesville Chapter works to heighten citizen awareness/knowledge of global problems and the UN's efforts to deal with them. www.una-usagainesvillefl.org/ facebook.com/UNAUSAGainesvilleFChapter/

United Way Information and Referral is a human-staffed computer database for resources and organizations in Alachua County. 332-4636 or simply 211 / uw211help@gmail.com <http://www.unitedwayncfl.org/21>

Veterans for Peace Gainesville Chapter is an anti-war organization that raises awareness of the detriments of militarism and war, as well as seeking peaceful and effective alternatives. 375-2563 / <http://vfp Gainesville.org/> www.facebook.com/VFPchapter14/

Wayfaring Painter is a local nonprofit working to engage communities with visual art instruction that promotes openness, problem-solving and visual literacy through a variety of high quality, accessible classes, at-home kits and workshops. www.facebook.com/wayfaringpainter

WELLS Healing and Research Collective explores and promotes the liberation and wellness of Brown, Trans, and Queer folk. WELLS stands for: wellness, equity, love, liberation and sexuality. www.facebook.com/wellshrcollective/about

WGOT-LP 100.1 FM is a community low-power radio station operating as part of the CMC. info@wgot.org / www.wgot.org

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom has been promoting peace since 1915. Donate or join the at-large Jane Addams Branch. Local info: juned@stevellittler.com / <http://wilpfus.org>

Women's March Gainesville is an extension of the national group, and organizes the yearly Women's March to show our strength, power and courage. www.hearourvoicegnv.org/ <https://m.facebook.com/wmflgnv/> www.facebook.com/groups/wmflgnv/ Instagram.com/womensmarchgnv/ Twitter.com/WMFL_Gnv/

World Socialist Party of the United States 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@wsfus.org. / <http://wsfus.org>. 🐻

Update on the Civic Media Center

by JoJo Sacks

While the Civic Media Center hasn't yet opened up, volunteers have been engaged in significant mutual aid efforts that are helping our community in these difficult times.

Organizers from the Free Grocery Store and Food Not Bombs have used the CMC as a home base for serving hundreds of folks each week. Books to Prisoners has been operational for the past two months, sending books to prisoners throughout Florida and the southeast. Groups like Florida Prisoner Solidarity and Dream

Defenders regularly use the space for staging for actions and protests.

We have been able to do awesome programming online on Zoom. On March 10, the CMC Virtual Book Club will begin meeting, this month reading Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

You can register for the meetings here: <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1186>. You can find information about upcoming events on our Facebook and Instagram pages. Also, sign up for our email newsletter here: <http://eepurl.com/tRrW5>. 🐢



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

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www.gainesvilleiguana.org

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