

The Gainesville Iguana

A progressive newsletter

April 2021

Vol. 35, Issue 4

Elections recap

Desmon Duncan-Walker takes City Commission's District One

by James Thompson

In a historic race for Gainesville's City Commission District One seat, public arts and community history advocate Desmon Duncan-Walker unseated incumbent Gigi Simmons with 52.5 percent of the vote. Commissioner Simmons earned 47.5 percent. In the At-Large Commission seat, incumbent Gail Johnson handily defeated her opponent.

The precinct totals for the Duncan-Walker/Simmons race were not nearly as even keeled as the overall results, as each candidate won by about a 60-40 split in all but one of the nine precincts.

District One is not just a "Black District" like many White progressives from other parts of town imagine. Like all our Gainesville Districts, it weaves into the center of the city up to the university and has pockets of gentrification, almost entirely White neighborhoods, mixed communities, student housing, and of course lots of over-priced multifamily housing.

It's hard to tell how the lopsided precinct victories may reflect this, or if it was simply a result of where the candidates chose to make phone calls and knock on

See ELECTIONS, p.20

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Stop Asian hate!

More than 200 people marched in Gainesville on March 27 in solidarity against Asian violence and in memory of the lives lost in Atlanta during a mass shooting on March 16. Photo courtesy of Anti-Hate Team.

Alachua County folks gather in rage and grief

by Jyoti Parmar

On March 16 a gunman targeted and killed six Asian women in Atlanta – the latest attack on people of Asian and Pacific Islander origins in America.

On March 27 the people of Alachua County gathered in rage and grief to build a unified response to these horrific killings and the escalating violence against Asians and AAPI.

About 200 of us marched from Bo-Didley Plaza to Depot Park and about 400 A/AAPI/BIPOC and allies gathered at the Vigil at Depot Park.

At this event, AAPI shared their testimony of Asian Hate, and BIPOC and allies gave their testimony in the spirit of solidarity.

This was the first large political gathering of AAPI in Alachua County in at least 30 years, and possibly ever (we are researching this).

The purpose of our event on the 27th was to stand together as A/AAPI, to raise our voices and speak out against the violence against A/AAPI fueled by Trump and his right-wing followers who falsely blame the Chinese for Covid-19.

We gathered to educate us all about the history of racial violence and discrimination against AAPI, to put it all in the context of historical racial violence in America, and to stand united with the A/AAPI communities against racism.

Most of all, we came together to honor the dead and to fight for the living.

See HATE, p.2



After the anti-hate march in Gainesville on March 27, about 400 people gathered in a vigil at Depot Park to hear AAPI share their testimony of Asian hate and to demonstrate a unified response to horrific killings and the escalating violence against Asians and AAPI. Photo courtesy of Anti-Hate Team.

From HATE, p. 1

Txong Moua, the march organizer said, “When I decided to help with this event, I knew I wanted to organize a march. It was important to show the Asian presence in this community – although a huge part of me was uncertain about whether I could get Asians of different ethnicities to come together. It’s important now, that we set aside our differences and join in this movement because it affects all of us. This is a defining moment for who we are. I’m sure every Asian American person has experienced some sort of racism or aggression that we’ve had to dismiss or process. We don’t need to comply with stereotypes anymore when our lives are at stake. We demand justice and equality. The increase in anti-Asian attacks since Trump’s presidency and during this pandemic is outrageous. The systemic racism ingrained in us may be difficult to dismantle but with the help of our allies, we can right the wrongs and find the strength we need right now to carry on.”

We, the A/AAPI community are not one community after all – we are many communities. We only become Asian/Pacific Islander in the American context. Before we became American, we were Chinese or Japanese, Korean or Indian or Pakistani or Bangladeshi or Vietnamese or Thai or Indonesian. Before we became “Asians” we were just people – individuals – whole human beings – people dealing with their own “-isms,” but it is only

in the context of being in America that we are now Asians. Asians in America is a racial category – West Asians (people from the middle-east) are classified as white in the racial categories in the U.S., and many of us disagree with it and feel invisible.

The challenge of being Asian/Asian American/Pacific Islander is that we are not any one thing, we have no single shared experience – except in how America perceives us, and how America treats us.

Four of the six Asian women who were killed on the 16th were Koreans – the attacker did not know that and he did not care. To him, they were just Asians – Asian women – whom he was allowed to treat as objects, inconvenient objects he was allowed to eliminate because, apparently, he was having a bad day. While we do not know the women who were killed – we also do not need to have known them directly and personally – we know that their lives mattered and that they were deserving of whole human dignity and to live their lives without fear.

This is certainly not the first incident of anti-Asian hate or mass killing. On Aug. 5, 2012, there was an attack on a Sikh Gurdwara in Wisconsin. Six “Asian” people were killed. There was not the public outcry then as there is now. Then the people murdered were killed because someone was scapegoating Muslims – and in the American context, Sikhs looked like Muslims to the killer. Just as all AAPI look like Chinese to those attacking us now.

When a politician blames immigrants for “taking our jobs,” we are attacked; when Fox news blames “illegals,” we are attacked; when a man wants to eliminate temptation, we are attacked. We, who are not one thing – are attacked for not being that one thing that we have been defined as not being – White.

We are also used to bludgeon other minoritized communities – look at the Asians, they are told – they are doing so well – as if to say there must be something wrong with you if you are not doing as well ... The racism against us is hidden, often hidden even to our own selves – until we look at the long, historical patterns, at policies and systems, and until we communicate across Asian communities and across generations.

My name is Jyoti Parmar and I am the founder of the Anti-Hate team in Florida. I am a first-generation Indian-American woman and I remember the day I became a “person of color.” I remember the day I realized I was losing my ability to be outraged at extreme, casual, racial insults. I claim my right to live without fear, or exploitation, to be able to aspire to and work for my dreams and I claim this right for all ... no, I demand it – for all the people in America, regardless of race, color, creed, or gender. I work to restructure exclusionary systems.

I will not stand down, and I invite you all to join us at the Anti-Hate Team to dismantle hate in all its forms, wherever we may find it. 🐾

From the publisher

Big truths we can't forget

We are here on this planet at an absolutely stunning time of knowledge and awareness. In all the vastness of time past, our present science and technology give us a clear window of understanding into the timescale itself, the mechanics of living organisms, and the components that make up our physical world, that of the other planets and galaxies beyond.



Joe Courter

Never in history have we humans been able to know so much, have the tools and ability to enhance our lives and life experience. Yes, we are making an environmental mess, but damn, what a time to be alive.

That said, as usual, huge amounts of poverty and repression exist throughout the world. We who are immune to the pain and insecurity need to have in our minds these truths as well:

- The wealth, technology, and ability to improve the quality of life of the masses of the planet exist but are bottled up by greed, nationalism, and mistrust. Powerful cliques work to retain their control of the systems of governance and industry. Within this nation over half the economy is wedded to the military. There is always money for weapons in addition to systems and corporate bailouts, but healthcare and education are portrayed as wasteful and too expensive. Versions of this exist around the world, but nowhere are such realities as blatant as here in the USA.
- The roots of the worldwide migration crisis of desperate human beings has links to climate change in some cases for sure, but the impact of wealthy nations through colonialism and its after effects are great. Greater still is specifically by the USA and its export of weapons, the funding of dictators and authoritarian regimes, and direct and indirect war making, leading to massive regional destabilization. Primary cases: Central America and the 2003 Iraq invasion.
- Black Lives Matter is not a hard concept to grasp. It is an acknowledgment that for the past 400+ years Black lives did not matter — Black people could be property, be deprived education, be ghettoized and red-lined, and be subject to prejudice and discrimination. It is three words that say so much.
- Attention all men: Male supremacy is a fact and ingrained in our culture, and in most cultures in the world. Women justifiably fear rape and assault and do not feel safe in many situations. Fashion and appearance expectations place physical and psychological demands on them that men do not face. Please check yourself on judgmental attitudes and how much space you are taking up in conversations. And speak up when buddies make sexist comments.
- Careless and arrogant humans are a virus's best friends. Crowded indoor areas with stagnant air are viral playgrounds. We modern humans who can travel so easily are the viral facilitators of a global pandemic. Modern science has done an amazing job of vaccine production. We'll get through this, it's a damn shame we lost (and are losing) so much time with anti-science behavior and leadership.
- Truth is, the term "mental illness" is pretty much open to interpretation, but there are other maladaptive behaviors that could be considered for inclusion. In a world with so much need and suffering, being a millionaire, a billionaire, or especially a trillionaire who is just sitting on all that wealth or spending it ostentatiously, is not a well-adjusted human. Is that mental illness?
- One final truth, as I said back in the Jan/Feb Publisher note: the Right does not want everyone to vote. Across the country we are seeing restrictions on voting introduced, even in Florida, which at the time touted how well-run the election went, but now is joining the repression chorus. The truth is, most humans have empathy and value helping others. Yes, many can fall into the mental trap of fear and hate, but we good people outnumber them and need to be heard and visible. Do what you can. 🐜

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

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Gainesville Iguana

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Court Services: a program in despair

by Cristina Cabada Sidawi
Alachua County Labor Coalition

The ACLC's Criminal Justice Committee is focused on reforming the Alachua County Court Services into an institution that helps keep people out of jails/prisons. Our committee published a white paper on Court Services with recommendations on how to make it a powerful tool in our criminal justice system, the full version can be found at our website www.laborcoalition.org.

The Alachua County Court Services is a broken system which for years has failed to live up to their goal of reducing incarceration and recidivism. This institution could be a powerful tool for progressive criminal justice reform in Alachua County, but, as it stands, has limited positive impact and often acts as a regressive ingredient in our broken criminal justice system. This is most evident by the shockingly high 78 percent of cases for whom this agency recommended monetary bonds.

Furthermore, poor administration and a seemingly purposeful neglect of best practices has left Alachua County Court Services unable to implement their core missions of supervised release, drug rehabilitation, and decarceration.

If the following reforms are implemented the Alachua County Court Services will become a powerful tool in much needed criminal justice reform:

- Court Services should build relationships with community organizations for support and courtroom advocacy. Community advocacy can influence the court to make more appropriate decisions on release options and sentencing, ultimately reducing incarceration and unnecessary supervision of our community members.

- Never act as advocates for monetary bail, the bail bond industry, or any other court order that makes a defendant's pretrial freedom dependent on their wealth.
- All staff should be fully trained to perform their duties effectively and properly. Staff who demonstrate behavior that goes against their standard operating procedures (SOPS) and training should be retrained accordingly.
- Pretrial defendants should be released with the least restrictive conditions necessary to ensure they return to court when necessary and remain safe and respected.
- Expedite jail releases of pretrial defendants by actively attending Bond Reduction Hearings and presenting release recommendations to defense attorneys for pretrial defendants.
- Stop using the Florida and the Ohio Risk Assessment System and implement and train staff to use a new valid risk/needs assessment tool to determine supervision levels for individuals in all divisions in accordance with their needs.
- Pretrial defendants should be released with the least restrictive conditions necessary to ensure they return to court when necessary and remain safe and respected.
- Advocate wider utilization of diversionary courts and treatment services in order to decrease the jail population and provide community members with help and care as an alternative to incarceration.
- The Work Release program must be recreated into a re-entry program based on the Broward County Model. This would help integrate individuals who have been released from jail back into their community.


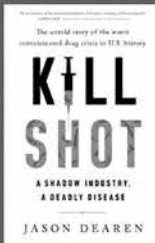
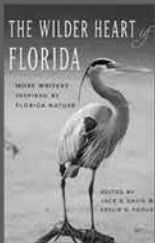
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And the good news is ...

Young climate change advocates bring art to the Florida Capitol

by Danielle J. Brown, Florida Phoenix

Several young advocates gathered outside of the Florida Capitol with boxes full of cardboard tiles Wednesday morning.

Each tile was painted by a Floridian, showing concerns about the impending effects of climate change. Our Climate, a coalition of young advocates, collected the art pieces to display them at the Capitol Building.

“The theme behind these tiles is ‘what do we stand to lose from climate change,’” said Catarina Fernandez, a fellow with Our Climate, in a conversation with the Florida Phoenix. “Our hope here is that legislators see that this is an issue that clearly a lot of Floridians care about.”

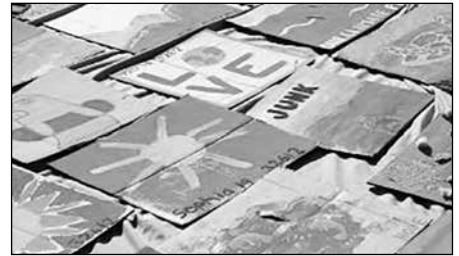
The art demonstration was just one event for Reclaiming Florida’s Future For All Advocacy Day, an annual event to promote policies that address climate change.

But this year, most of the activities are

being streamed online, including panels from climate change advocates, a lecture from a New York biologist, and a virtual climate rally featuring State Sen. Lori Berman, a Democrat who represents part of Palm Beach County.

“This is the first time we’ve done it virtually,” said Kimberly Gerbert, another Our Climate fellow working on the art demonstration. “It does make it a lot easier accessibility wise — not everyone has to make it to Tallahassee. But it does make it a little harder to coordinate.”

The participating organizations, including ReThink Energy Florida, Our Climate, and Solar United Neighbors of Florida, will “urge leaders to support legislation that transitions Florida to renewable energy and puts a priority on vulnerable communities most affected by the climate crisis” during these online events, according to a press release about the advocacy day.



An art display of painted tiles in the Capitol aims to raise awareness of climate change. Photo by Danielle J. Brown

Advocates working on the art display see Florida as one of the states with the most at stake in the coming effects of climate change.

“A lot of people here in Florida live in coastal cities and are scared to lose things that they love,” Fernandez from Our Climate said. “It’s just very telling the fact that we’re one of the most at risk states, that there’s so little being done to acknowledge the problem in the first place.”

Biden’s infrastructure plan to be the biggest since the new deal

by Jason Easley, Politicus USA

Biden recently unveiled a more than \$2 trillion package focused on physical infrastructure such as roads and bridges; major investments in housing, clean energy, and manufacturing; and a major investment in home-based care for the disabled and elderly, among other measures.

The White House will unveil a second plan, in several weeks, that includes an expansion in health care insurance cover-

age; an extension of the expanded child tax benefit; and paid family and medical leave, among other efforts aimed at families. The combined price-tag of the plans could top \$4 trillion.

A Brookings Institute analysis found that it would take \$4 trillion in spending to hit New Deal levels of federal outlays on infrastructure.

On the rare occasions in previous decades when Congress could agree on an infrastruc-

ture bill, the price tag has usually been in the hundreds of billions of dollars. Biden and the Democrats are proposing the sort of spending on the nation’s critical infrastructure that the United States hasn’t witnessed in decades.

President Biden and Democrats in the House and Senate are putting together a transformative government that is dealing with big problems, and this sort of spending will improve the lives and communities of people for decades to come.

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The Repurpose Project seeks funds for expansion

Aims to purchase second location to scale-up Gainesville's reuse economy

by Chelsea Carnes



The Repurpose Project Team. Photo courtesy of the Repurpose Project.

THE REPURPOSE PROJECT

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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.

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www.repurposeproject.org

The Repurpose Project, a 501c3 junk shop and arts hub, has been so successful in its mission of helping folks rethink what they throw away, that the shop is running out of space.

Consider: when we purge our closets of old clothing, we don't usually trash it – we donate to a thrift store. But where does one send old kitchen cabinets after a remodel? Old garden pots? Used crayons? There are few easy options for repurposing goods such as building materials, art supplies, metals, furniture, appliances, and fabrics.

Not everyone has time or enough stuff to organize a yard sale or deal with an online transaction through Craigslist or Marketplace, and items left for free on the roadside often succumb to the Florida rain before they find a new home.

The Repurpose Project has made a name for itself statewide and beyond by addressing this problem. Visitors can donate materials with ease in minutes, then park and browse the shop's collection to get inspired and buy used. The organization focuses on the positive environmental impacts of buying used and sometimes hosts events to teach crafting and building skills to the public and raise awareness of the impact of wastefulness.

Like other businesses, The Repurpose Project closed for a time during the pandemic and then gradually reopened with caution. Business picked up quickly, and since February, the shop has recorded sales even higher than pre-2020.

Donations have increased too, and the already bursting store has begun to run out of space. No space means saying no to new donations, which usually dooms those materials to the landfill. The organization's executive director, Sarah Goff, realized this spring that it was time to expand and scale up. "We need to build a better reuse system and we believe we are the visionaries and the hard workers to innovate a new reuse retail system to revolutionize a better way to manage resources," she said.

On March 18, The Repurpose Project launched an ambitious fundraising campaign to raise nearly \$200,000 in 60 days. All funds will go to the

purchase of a second building, a two acre parcel with a 20,000 square foot commercial building on Waldo Road that will triple the organization's ability to divert materials from the landfill, and create space for new green jobs and a scaled up circular economy that would put Gainesville on the map

as a model reuse economy for the rest of the world.

The nonprofit has some savings, a pre-approved bank loan, and a contract, but needs \$200,000 in donations and sales over the next 60 days to seal the deal.

In the first two weeks of the fundraiser,

Repurpose has raised \$75,000! The organization is seeking individual donors, corporate sponsorships, and match pledges. Donors can learn more or submit gifts at repurposeproject.org, through a [gofundme](https://gofund.me/61546a7b): <https://gofund.me/61546a7b> or by visiting the shop at 1920 NE 23rd Ave. 🐾

Matheson Museum reopens on weekends with two exhibits

The Matheson Museum, which hosts exhibits on Alachua County and Florida history, has reopened on a limited basis, with strict standards for covid precautions. It will be open on Fridays and Saturdays only, from 1 to 4 pm, and will allow only 12 people inside at a time. Masks must be worn (no bandanas, masks with exhale valves, or neck gaiters). The museum is located at 513 E University Ave.

Two exhibits will be on display: Trailblazers: 150 years of Alachua County Women and McCarthy Moment: The Johns Committee in Florida.

Trailblazers: 150 Years of Alachua County Women

This original exhibition highlights the lives and accomplishments of eleven women from cities throughout Alachua County. We will tell their stories, some

for the first time, to call attention to the oft forgotten contributions of women in our history and in the history of Alachua County. While we are unable to call attention to every woman who has made an impact on the county, these eleven women represent various backgrounds, experiences, and fields of work, all of which are significant to the past and present success of Alachua County. The eleven women featured in the exhibition are:

- Sarah Hamilton Matheson
- Sarah Lucretia Robb
- Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings
- Marjorie Harris Carr
- Vivian Filer
- Daphne Duval Williams
- Judith Brown
- Margaret Tebeau
- Clara Floyd Gehan

- Mary Etta Cubberly
- Emmaline Buchholz

McCarthy Moment: The Johns Committee in Florida

“Have you ever been engaged in any homosexual activities here in Gainesville?”

This question forever altered dozens of lives at the University of Florida between 1958 and 1959.

In 1956, State Senator Charley Eugene Johns created the Florida Legislative Investigation Committee. Better known as the Johns Committee, it tried to uncover subversive activity in Florida. It targeted the NAACP, suspected communists and gay people. Committee members threatened people with prison if they did not cooperate with them. This reign of terror led to dozens of professors and students leaving the university. 🐾

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.



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TEDxUF 2021:

Synergy - A Celebration of Collaboration
TEDxUF Annual Conference
April 9, 10, and 11

TEDxUF 2021: Synergy will celebrate the merging of ideas – an endeavor quite similar to TEDxUF’s foundational mission to connect the bold ideas of both the UF and the greater Gainesville community. Its 2021 conference theme, Synergy: Connections and Intersections, is all about what happens when we harness the power of collaboration.

Speakers include Carla Lewis-Miles, Micah Johson, Nancy Ruzycski, Tommy Angelini, Hannah Diasti, Giselle San Fillippo, Terry Harpold, Kim Moore, Della Mosely, and Nigel Davis.

Learn more about and register for this free event at:
tinyurl.com/Iguana1209

“A nation of sheep will beget a government of wolves.”

- Edward R. Murrow

STOP CENSORSHIP!

Do what you can to help stop HB1 / SB 484

The DeSantis Censorship Bill passed the Florida House of Representatives. Now we have to stop it at the Florida Senate. Sign the petition letter with the QR code or go to bit.ly/goddsville. You can also sign up to phone bank through bit.ly/stoppedesantis

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE BILL WERE TO PASS?

- Makes protesting punishable by felony, which could take away the voting rights of protestors
- Creates “aggravated rioting” as a second degree felony. Defined as a protest with more than 9 people blocking a road, or over \$5000 in property damage
- Denies protestors bail
- Protects people who kill or do bodily harm to protestors against civil lawsuits
- Makes pulling down or damaging a confederate statue punishable up to 15 years in prison
- Allows state to override any municipality that decreases police budgets



Editors' picks: News that didn't fit

- ✂ **A closer look at Biden's immigration plan for Central America**
by Aviva Chomsky / Common Dreams / March 30 / tinyurl.com/Iguana1192
Biden's plan actually promotes an old economic development model that has long benefited U.S. corporations. It also aims to impose a distinctly militarized version of "security" on the people of that region.
- ✂ **American democracy was never supposed to work**
by Richard Kreitner / The Nation / Nov. 17 / tinyurl.com/Iguana1195
If the United States were a democracy, this election wouldn't have been close and the winner would have been known immediately. But we do not have a democracy, because the framers of the Constitution did not create one. Without a practical plan for revising the Constitution, Democrats will be condemned to play by rigged rules.
- ✂ **Biden nominates historic judicial slate of 9 women to federal bench**
By Jason Easley / Politicus USA / March 30 / tinyurl.com/Iguana1201
Nine of President Biden's first slate of eleven judicial nominees are women including three African-Americans, one AAPI and one Muslim American, and one Mexican American woman.
- ✂ **Don't allow DeSantis to silence, jail his opponents – defeat the anti-protest bills**
by Micah Kubic / The Hill / March 23 / tinyurl.com/Iguana1191
Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis has made his legislative priority this year the passage of a law that would criminalize political protest, making it child's play to shut down a protest that, for example, calls for him to be voted out of office.
- ✂ **Fleeing a hell the U.S. helped create: why Central Americans journey north**
by Julian Borger / The Guardian / March 19 / tinyurl.com/Iguana1204
Now that VP Kamala Harris has been put in charge of immigration, we hope she has a sense of history: the forces that drive ordinary people to leave their homes and put their lives at risk to get to the U.S. are deeply rooted in Central America's history of inequality and violence, in which the U.S. has long played a defining role.
- ✂ **House Agriculture panel probes 'systemic' USDA discrimination against Black farmers**
by Ariana Figueroa / Florida Phoenix / March 26 / tinyurl.com/Iguana1202
The House Agriculture Committee heard how Black farmers have faced decades of racial discrimination in their dealings with the USDA. The USDA is working to ensure that Black farmers have access to the nearly \$10 billion in economic relief that was set aside for them in the American Rescue Plan that Biden signed into law earlier this month.
- ✂ **If you want student loan debt cancellation, the time to act is here**
by Umme Hoque / In These Times / March 25 / tinyurl.com/Iguana1198
The Debt Collective is embarking on a week of action to tell Biden that it's time to cancel every cent of student debt.
- ✂ **Seven ways to avoid becoming a misinformation superspreader**
by H. Colleen Sinclair / The Conversation / March 18 / tinyurl.com/Iguana1197
The problem of misinformation isn't going away. The best defense is self-defense.
- ✂ **The antiscience movement is escalating, going global and killing thousands**
by Peter J. Hotez / Scientific American / March 29 / tinyurl.com/Iguana1194
Rejection of mainstream science and medicine has become a key feature of the political right in the U.S., and increasingly around the world. This force threatens global security as much as terrorism and nuclear proliferation do.
- ✂ **The violent story of American whiteness**
by Kim Kelly / In These Times / Dec. 4 / tinyurl.com/Iguana1199
Three writers dive into the depths of white supremacy in America, from alt-right dating sites to the neo-Nazi movement to protect Confederate monuments.
- ✂ **U.S. House passes Dreamers bill over GOP objections, as immigration debate intensifies**
By Daniel Newhauser / Florida Phoenix / March 19 / tinyurl.com/Iguana1203
The U.S. House took up two bills that would grant legal status to broad groups of immigrants living and working in the U.S., including a pathway to citizenship for hundreds of thousands of undocumented people brought to the U.S. as children.
- ✂ **Washington's delusion of endless world dominion**
by Alfred W. McCoy / billmoyers.com / March 22 / tinyurl.com/Iguana1190
China and the U.S. struggle over Eurasia, the epicenter of world power. Sooner or later, Washington and Beijing will have to recognize that without some kind of coordination and global cooperation to curtail climate change, we are doomed.
- ✂ **Why do nonwhite Georgia voters have to wait in line for hours? Too few polling places**
by Stephen Fowler / NPR / Oct. 17 / tinyurl.com/Iguana1196
The average wait time after 7pm across Georgia was 51 minutes in polling places that were 90 percent or more nonwhite, but only six minutes in polling places that were 90 percent white. In some areas, people waited over five hours to vote. ✂

Actual, live (not virtual) Gainesville events

These are outdoor events. Mingle distantly with fellow humans. And please, masks required!

Mondays and Thursdays: Farmer's Markets with Live Music, 4-7pm

Mondays at Cypress & Grove (1001 NW 4th St.); Thursdays at Heartwood Soundstage (619 S. Main St.)

Friday, April 9: Tedx UF kickoff event, 6-9pm

Heartwood Soundstage (610 S. Main St.), with tabling by local organizations (come say hi)

Saturday, April 10 (also May 22): Upper Santa Fe River Paddle, 9am-1pm

Join Lars Andersen for a guided paddle to Alachua Conservation Trust's newest conservation purchase, Santa Fe Springs Preserve. Register at <https://www.alachuaconservationtrust.org/upcoming-events>.

Saturday, April 10: Artisans Guild event, 11am

At their new location, 224 NW 2nd Ave.

Saturday, April 10 and Saturday, May 8: Pop-Up Market, noon-5pm

AUK Market (2031 NW 6th St. - behind Curia on the Drag), hosts outdoor Pop-Up markets on 2nd Saturdays; support local artists and makers

Saturday, April 17: Bat Appreciation Day, noon to 4 pm

Black Adder Brewing (618 NW 60th St.)

Sunday, April 18: 7th Annual Tree Fest Drive-Thru, beer pre-sales begin online at 10am with pick-up from noon-7pm

Join Alachua Conservation Trust at Swamp Head Brewery (3650 SW 42nd Ave.) and help us plant trees in Alachua County. Hosted by Solar Impact, Inc. and Swamp Head Brewery. More at <https://www.alachuaconservationtrust.org/upcoming-events>.

Sunday, April 25: Glam Craft Show, noon-5pm

Cypress & Grove Brewing (1001 NW 4th St., across from Afternoon and Working Food) 🍷

INDIE & OLDER ROCK, ELECTRONIC, PUNK, AMERICANA, RAP, TALK AND MORE!

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MUSICA LATINA

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THOM HARTMANN

MON - FRI: 7 AM

DEMOCRACY NOW!

AMY GOODMAN

MON - FRI: 8 AM and 1 PM

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MON-WED-FRI 9 AM



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Civic Media Center Update

by JoJo Sacks, CMC Coordinator

We're moving into Spring at the CMC and our volunteers have been putting in work! In the past month, we've put on some great Zoom programming, Free Grocery Store has served hundreds of people, and our book club read Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

Our April book club pick is *Are Prisons Obsolete?* by Angela Davis. Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/3su299f>.

Coming up, we will have a pop-up Free Store in our courtyard on April 17th and our annual Springboard fundraiser to look forward to on May 21st on Zoom, featuring author Danny Caine. Keep an eye out on our Facebook and Instagram for updates, including new T-shirts we are printing for sale.

To get involved, register for our April volunteer meetings at: <https://bit.ly/3w4hjl3>. Of course, email with any questions: coordinators@civicmediacenter.org.

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Virtual Festival

5th Avenue Arts Festival moves online

This year's 5th Avenue Arts Festival has moved online and expanded to more than a week's length, on the theme of "Buy the Block, Build the Block, Keep the Block."

See www.culturalartscoalition.org/annual-5th-ave-arts-festival/ for the 41st celebration of the rich cultural heritage of the historic African American Community in music, dance and exhibits, with articles, historical exhibits, and virtual booths vending arts and crafts from our area, the nation, and across the world running from Saturday, April 24 to Monday, May 3.

CIVIC MEDIA CENTER

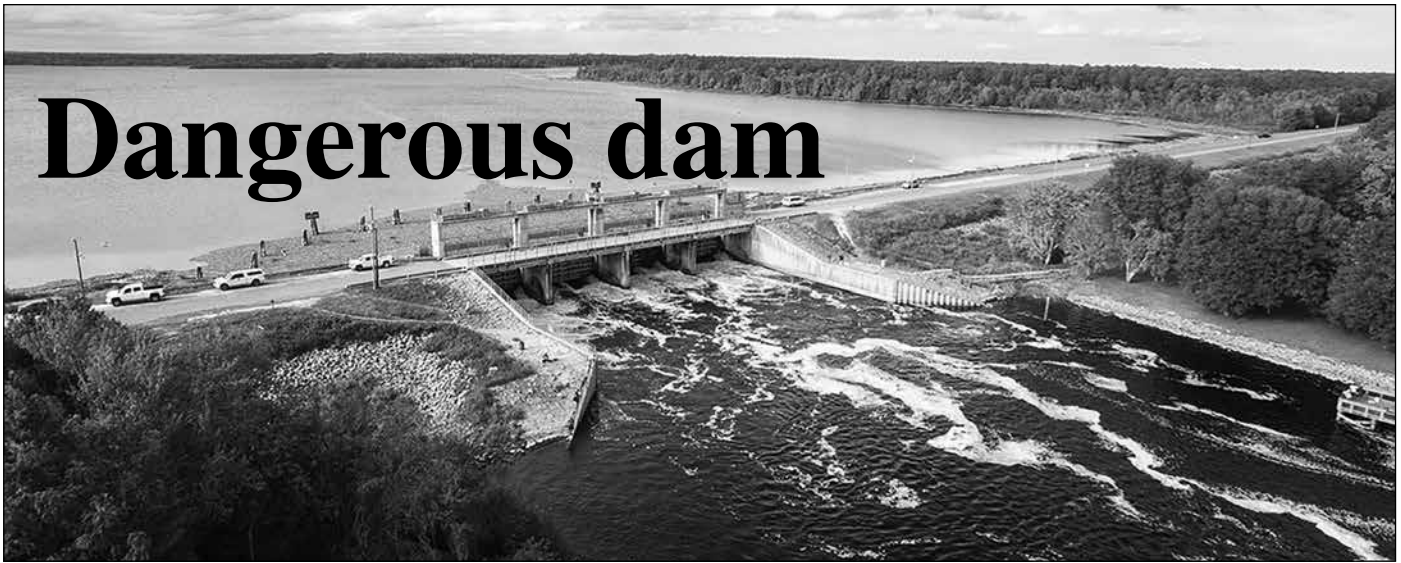
FLORIDA PRISONER SOLIDARITY

THIRD HOUSE BOOKS

Are Prisons Obsolete?
BY
ANGELA DAVIS

**CMC BOOK CLUB
ZOOM MEETINGS
WEDNESDAYS @ 6PM
APRIL 14, 21, 28**

To sign up for the book club,
visit: tinyurl.com/lguana1205



Dangerous dam

Rodman Dam suffers from serious structural problems

A catastrophic failure poses risks: loss of life, property damage, adverse environmental impact

by Bruce Kaster

Rodman Dam, near Palatka, has potentially serious structural problems that were initially recognized in a dam assessment report to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in 2015.

This report listed numerous problems that indicated the potential for dam failure. When we gained access to the report in 2020, we became concerned. We learned that dam assessments were conducted in 2017 and 2019, but these subsequent reports were not available to the public.

Pursuit to a FOIA request to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, we obtained these reports causing us increased concern about the dam's integrity.

In order to determine whether the dam posed a serious risk to the public, we hired Givler Engineering Inc., a respected earthen dam engineering company from San Antonio. Their report confirms that Rodman Dam has significant structural problems and that a breach poses substantial risk to the public in portions of Putnam county. A large portion of the earthen dam is on USFS land and by agreement the state is required to provide the Forest Service with their dam assessment reports and to repair any deficiencies noted. To date none of the problems identified in the 2015, 2017 or 2019 reports have been corrected.

Both the state and the Forest Service are on notice of the deficiencies and the failure to make the necessary repairs or modifications, but the Putnam County public officials and threatened members

of the public are apparently unaware of this serious hazard. The unfortunate folks who own property, homes or businesses on the Saint Johns, from Lazy Days Camp Resort in the south, to Stephens Point on the north, are all in the potential flood inundation zone.

This includes River Bend Condominiums at Beecher Point and Welaka, which face the double whammy of potentially higher flood insurance – if they can get it and substantially decreased property values thru no fault of their own. This analysis was based on information from 2007.

Subsequently in the 2015 dam assessment, the inundation zone was expanded to include an area from Orange Point in the south to Turkey Island in the north. Undoubtedly if the Putnam County Commissioners had been made aware of this flooding hazard they could have dealt with it but they were kept in the dark. Even now that the reports have finally been made public, some of the officials are challenging the facts established in the three state dam assessments and the independent dam engineering analysis.

It is widely accepted that all earthen dams leak. As they age, leakage tends to increase, especially in earthen dams that are over 50 years old and constructed mostly of sand, such as Rodman Dam.

As these old earthen dams age, they are increasingly subject to failure. The dam assessment reports of 2015, 2017 and 2019 all indicate structural problems in the dam. The comprehensive updated evaluation of the condition of the dam,

completed by GEI Engineering Inc., was issued in February 2021, and is critical of the dam's condition.

The agreement with the USFS requires all deficiencies in the dam be repaired. Yet, to date none of the significant deficiencies in the assessment reports have been repaired.

A catastrophic failure of the dam poses substantial risk of loss of life, property damage and adverse environmental impact. The property damage alone would exceed \$57,000,000.

In order to protect the public, the dam should be breached and partially removed. The simplest and most effective means to immediately eliminate the pending hazard of dam failure would be a permanent drawdown of Rodman Pool. Upon completion of the drawdown, the dam control structure should be removed as the most cost effective means of partial restoration of the river until a portion of the earthen dam can be removed.

The question is whether Governor DeSantis is aware of the hazard of dam failure and is willing to order an immediate drawdown of the reservoir to protect the public and begin restoration of the river. ❧

Want to learn more?

Check out *The Great Florida Riverway: Voices for the Rivers* at <https://FreetheOcklawaha.com>. You can also see the documentary and UF student projects at <https://GreatFloridaRiverway.com> ❧



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.

Visit the Florida Springs Council website at floridaspringscouncil.org to support the cause. Donate to help us keep fighting.

We'll send you:

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

All sporting the message to *Say No to Nestle* and keep fighting. ✨

Online resources


Alachua Conservation Trust:

ACT's Keep Florida Wild Series page:
<https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1208>

ACT's YouTube page:
tinyurl.com/Iguana1207

Samuel Proctor Oral History Program:

SPOHP website SPOHP on YouTube
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One morning in February 2021, Nkwanda Jah wrote to me and said she was having many thoughts about the women who had died who had influenced her and taught her how to be an activist. She wanted to brainstorm how to honor these women for Women's History Month. We talked and decided on 10 women who fit that category. We hired a graphic artist, Tanisha Byars, and started writing to women we knew who had known one of the women and asked if they could write a short tribute to that woman. That's how Kim Barton came to write the tribute to Barbara Higgins, who had worked at the Supervisor of Elections office for years and was instrumental in getting many black folks to register to vote. Vivian Filer wrote about Verdell Robinson, because they were both nursing professors at Santa Fe College. And so on. We hope to be a cog in the wheel of history that keeps these women alive in our collective memory.

To read the biographies and view the tributes alongside their art, visit www.gainesvilleiguana.org/2021/articles/standing-on-the-shoulders.

In the struggle,
Pam Smith and Nkwanda Jah ✨

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Battle for the Ballot:

Two Black women fight back against voter suppression in Florida

by Esther Schrader

This article was originally published by the Southern Poverty Law Center on March 16. See more at splcenter.org.

The grandmothers are tired.

It has been years since Rosemary McCoy and Sheila Singleton served their time and made it back home to their children and grandchildren. And it has been years since they first started applying for jobs—one search after another derailed by the minor felonies for which Singleton served six months and McCoy two years in prison.

Desperate for a way to earn a living after she was released, Singleton at one point started clipping coupons, buying body wash, shampoo, clothing detergent, anything she could find deals on, and reselling them at flea markets. These days she and McCoy work concession stands part-time at TIAA Bank Field in Jacksonville, Florida. But that work dries up when football season ends. Both find comfort in prayer, in helping their community and in trying to give their people a political voice.

But despite all the scraping and praying, the debt is still there. Fees, fines and restitution. That's what the government calls the yoke that silences both women's voices by denying them the right to vote. Singleton owes at least \$15,000 by now. McCoy owes \$7,000. And the interest on the debt keeps building, the yoke growing heavier every day.

No wonder they are tired. They are low-income Black women convicted of felonies. They long ago completed their sentences for the first crimes they ever committed. But Florida wants to make it virtually impossible for them to cast a ballot ever again.

"It's life or death," McCoy said of what voting means to her. "People like me, we have a better understanding of the issues, the problems people are going through, what keeps people down. If people like me don't vote, when people get into office they don't hear us, they don't hear our concerns and our issues. They can close their eyes to the truth."

McCoy and Singleton, represented by the Southern Poverty Law Center, are

plaintiffs in a lawsuit, McCoy, et al. vs. DeSantis, et al., which argues that tying the right to vote for women with felony convictions to the ability to pay back fines, fees and other legal financial obligations is a violation of the women's constitutional rights, including their right to vote under the 19th Amendment.

Voting rights suppressed

"For women struggling to make livable wages after incarceration, voting is simply no longer an option," said Nancy Abudu, who as SPLC's deputy legal director for voting rights leads the team that brought the lawsuit.

"It's generally known that women still get paid less than men, that people of color get paid less than white folks and that poor people in our country have a hard time satisfying financial obligations," Abudu said. "And our clients satisfy all three of these categories, so it should be understood that this law is essentially equivalent to them never being able to vote again."

Back in November 2018, it seemed that felony disenfranchisement would be an injustice Florida had left in its past. That's when a ballot measure to amend the state constitution to end this practice won at the ballot box. Supported by two-thirds of Florida voters, Amendment 4 restored the right to vote to an estimated 1.4 million people.

McCoy, Singleton and many others like them had lobbied for the amendment and collected signatures to get it on the ballot. When it became law, they rejoiced. At last, it appeared, more than one in five Black people of voting age in Florida who had been denied the right to vote because they had been convicted of felonies would be able to cast ballots. It was the largest single expansion of voting rights since the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

But it wasn't long before the Republican-controlled Florida Legislature slammed the door on the hopes of people like McCoy and Singleton. Six months after Florida voters cast their ballots for Amendment 4, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 7066, requiring people who have been convicted of felonies to pay all financial obligations related to their convictions before they could vote.

On June 28, 2019, Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis signed it into law.

'Too broke to vote'

The new law snatched away the historic voting rights victory and plunged the SPLC and other civil rights organizations into a series of legal battles on behalf of people who have been formerly convicted of felonies in Florida and have been denied the right to vote. The current lawsuit argues that since nearly a quarter of all Black women in Florida live below the poverty line, and since the unemployment rate for Black women in Florida is more than 43%, the restitution law renders it difficult if not impossible for them to satisfy the registration requirement.

The suit was dismissed by a district court and initially rejected by the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. In a new brief filed in February, the SPLC asks the appeals court to reevaluate the impact of the law. The brief argues that the law places a severe burden on ballot access that women – particularly women of color – have, even when they are compared to other people with felony convictions.

"Plaintiffs meet every voting qualification except one," the brief reads. "They are too broke to vote."

The SPLC argues that the law is a Jim Crow-era poll tax that conditions the right to vote on the ability to pay fines, fees and restitution, and that it particularly affects women of color.

"The landscape of opportunity for women of color is frankly not great, so the application of this law, we argue, harms them more than others," Abudu said. "All of these barriers already exist for them to survive and now, by completely eliminating their right to vote, you have silenced them politically."

Harriet Tubman Freedom Fighters

While the lawyers battle in the courts, Singleton and McCoy are doing everything they can to avoid being silenced. McCoy, a Navy veteran and former real estate agent, and Singleton, a certified nurse's assistant before she was incarcerated, both registered to vote after Amendment 4 became law. They

cast ballots in municipal elections in Jacksonville and have been volunteering ever since to register voters. McCoy serves on the board of the local chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union. Singleton is a member of the voting rights group Florida Rising.

Both women have also been collaborating on their own initiative, Harriet Tubman Freedom Fighters Corp., which focuses on economic justice, voter education and civic engagement.

Together with other volunteers, they provide meals to homeless people. They knock on doors, handing out literature about registering to vote. In December, they helped get out the vote for the two U.S. Senate runoff elections in Georgia.

"We tell people, we have been disenfranchised, we can't vote, so you go out and vote for us," McCoy said. "If

not, our neighborhoods are going to keep on being rundown. We're going to keep having these homeless problems. We are people that have a foot on our neck. We are gonna rise up."

All the while, both women face economic peril. McCoy, 63, lives as simply as she can on unemployment benefits and the small stimulus check she got last year. She struggles to pay her mortgage and maintain her car. She has been turned down for jobs at Walmart, insurance companies and communications firms.

"I get an interview, they all say they really love me, but once they do a background check on me, they say they just can't (hire me)," McCoy said.

Singleton said that if it weren't for her husband, an Army veteran, post office worker and truck driver, she would not be able to keep a roof over her head.


'Another form of slavery'

Neither woman has any savings. And since Duval County, Florida, where they live, requires all restitution to be paid in one lump sum, they can't even chip away at their debt by making payments.

"Who can pay an amount of money like that all at once?" McCoy said. "I mean, someone probably can, but not us."

Despite their troubles, McCoy and Singleton said they believe the legal fight that the SPLC is waging on their behalf will bear fruit.

"Having our vote taken away, it's just another form of slavery," Singleton said. "And me and Rosemary decided we ain't going back. We are not going back to slavery. We're going to keep fighting this and we're going to win in the end." ✨



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Dollar General store provokes Micanopy unrest

by Homer Jack Moore

Protests continue against construction of a Dollar General store at Micanopy's town limits. But why should anybody care?

Aside from the fact that the development site is at a scenic gateway into the historic town of Micanopy, abuts a Native American Heritage Preserve and burial mound, is cattycorner from the Tusawilla Nature Preserve, and is across the street from a church, probably nobody would. Except for the fact that *this* land is sacred.

It serves to reflect on what "Micanopy" is all about. Micanopy was the Seminole Principle Chief in 1834 when things were getting a little hot in the Alachua area.

A U.S. policy of ethnic cleansing had been enacted, the Indian Removal Act of 1830, and President Andrew Jackson was busy prosecuting it. Jackson had already tangled with Seminoles in the First War of 1817-18, a campaign to recapture runaway slaves living with them. So area Natives were not particularly keen on President Jackson in the first place, and certainly not on being told to get out. Nobody really knows why settlers decided to change the name of their little town from Wanton to Micanopy, but mollifying the Chief to help keep the lid on would be a good guess.

But to no avail. In late 1835, full warfare broke out following a Seminole attack on a military convoy just north of Micanopy town. Thus began the Second Seminole War (there was also a Third Seminole War; tough guys, those Seminoles). Natives ravaged area plantations and homesteads, but women and children were by-and-large spared. Survivors converged on Micanopy for protection by the US forces garrisoned there within a log stockade erected around the town. This was Fort Defiance, so-called.

The war bogged down in a grueling asymmetrical conflict in which Seminoles prevailed, and a Vietnam-like gloom settled over the entire US as blood and treasure continued to be sucked into what looked like a hopeless alligator-infested malaria-ridden nightmare.

Then, on June 9, 1836, Osceola with a band of 250 Seminoles and Black Seminoles challenged Fort Defiance. The U.S. forces had been dissipated by disease; only 70 men were in any kind of fighting condition. But a running battle ensued under broiling sun



Proposed Dollar General site in Micanopy. Photo by Daniel Alves

along the length of what is now called Tusawilla Road. The conflict converged on the very site where Dollar General now plans to sell beer and cigarettes.

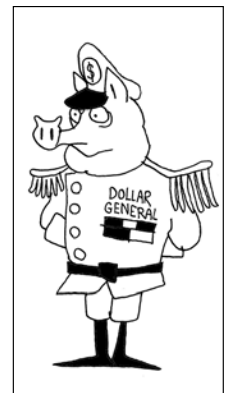
Although outnumbered, U.S. forces for at least this once fought brilliantly and achieved tactical success. The Seminoles melted back into the hammock taking their dead and wounded with them. The great US victory at the Battle of Micanopy was widely touted in the American press as a break in the gloom, and by implication, a reassurance in the ethnic superiority of Euro-Americans, both in battle and in culture.

News spin notwithstanding, things continued to go downhill in the Alachua territory. A second battle at Micanopy took place a short time later, the Battle of Welika Pond. With malaria continuing to take a toll during the summer mosquito months, with troops exhausted by battle, and with civilian refugees consuming the limited supplies of stores and facing starvation, the order was given in August to burn Fort Defiance to the ground in order to save it — and the village of Micanopy along with it. The US forces abandoned the field.

The Second Seminole War continued for yet another six horrible years. Osceola, and subsequently Micanopy, was captured under a white flag of truce, US treacheries of unspeakable shame. Some US commanders were as sadistic as they were treacherous. In his book on the Second Seminole War, historian Chris Monaco writes about

one General William S. Harney whose MO was to rape Seminole girls and then hang them in the morning. A US soldier who served in all of Seminole, Mexican, and U.S. Civil Wars remembered the Florida

war as the absolute worst. Seminoles suffered withering losses and were finally pushed into the Everglades, but they never—never—surrendered to ethnic cleansing. In utter fatigue the US finally gave up all further efforts to remove them, and the Second Seminole War sputtered to a conclusion in 1842.



In a newspaper opinion piece Monaco notes, "The war deserves a primary place in our cultural heritage not only because it was the most destructive event in local and state history, but without any knowledge of it we would be living lives that have been diminished by being severed from the past."

And indeed that *would* be the case, a final victory of settler-colonialism, a capstone of shame on US ethnic cleansing, to put up a convenience store as the monument to urban sprawl and blight on that very spot where Native Americans fought with great valor for their right of existence in their own country.

The land is sacred.✪

Biden's Band-aid, or top 8 reasons why we need Medicare for All

by F. Douglas Stephenson

This article originally appeared in *Informed Comment* on March 30.

See more at: tinyurl.com/Iguana1206

Although health insurance affordability for the majority of US citizens remains a very large problem, Pres. Biden's disappointing health insurance plan shifts many more dollars into private, Wall Street/ insurance industry hands.

Biden's American Rescue Plan (ARP), a \$1.9 trillion stimulus package increases government subsidies to health insurers for covering recently laid-off workers and those who purchase their own coverage. The ARP spends \$34 billion expanding the Affordable Care Act subsidies for two years. The changes would make upper-middle-income Americans newly eligible for financial help to buy plans on the Obamacare marketplaces, and would increase the subsidies already going to lower-income enrollees. The stimulus package also subsidizes private health insurance premiums for newly unemployed workers. The legislation that the House passed would cover 85 percent of COBRA premiums through September.

Since 'Obamacare,' the Affordable Care Act (ACA), was enacted in March, 2010, Big Insurance has lobbied Congress hard to ensure that most non-elderly Americans become compulsory customers of the private insurance industry and approve taxpayer financing of massive subsidies for that industry. The private insurance industry is very happy that with ACA, Americans are forced to purchase the product of their private industry plus give huge tax-financed subsidies to their industry in the amount of a half-trillion dollars per decade.

Eight reasons M4A-2021 is best

When compared to the newly proposed Medicare for All Act-2021 (HR 1976), Biden's plan is disappointing and at best a band-aid approach. We need a system that is truly universal – everybody in, nobody out. Biden's proposal will add more participants to the current program, but still leave millions out.

1) Health insurance coverage should be stable and permanent throughout life. Biden's proposed fixes would be temporary, many expiring in two years. With history as a guide, it's likely that legislators would develop 'reform fatigue' in this session and fail to follow up with

more permanent measures. M4A-2021 would be a single program – permanent throughout life.

2) Employer-sponsored insurance can create problems such as job lock, which many conservatives and progressives believe should be terminated. Biden would perpetuate it since it involves less government involvement – predominantly private spending with a tax benefit. M4A-2021 would end employer-sponsored insurance, and, for most, M4A-2021 would be better.

3) Medicaid carries the stigma of being a welfare program which results in legislative underfunding and neglect. Biden would attempt to expand Medicaid in those states that have underutilized it. M4A-2021 would fully terminate the Medicaid program and move everyone into a universal, comprehensive and equitable program.

4) We need a program that is affordable for each individual and for society as a whole. Biden's plan will add significantly more spending to the program while leaving it still unaffordable for too many individuals. M4A-2021 would achieve all goals of financing reform without significantly increasing spending.

5) Patients should have free choice of their professionals and health care institutions. Biden would continue health plans with restrictive networks that take away free choice. M4A-2021 allows choices within the entire health care system.

6) The privatization of public programs such as Medicare through Medicare Advantage and Medicaid through private managed care programs have proven to provide poor value for the taxpayer (obscured by cherry picking and lemon dropping) and should be eliminated. Biden would continue these programs, whereas M4A-2021 would eliminate them.

7) Fragmentation results in dysfunctional financing of health care. Biden would perpetuate fragmentation whereas M4A-2021 would bring an end to it.

8) Biden's proposals would add more administrative burden along with the costs they entail. M4A-2021 is specifically designed to greatly reduce this burden and its associated costs; health insurance industry profiteering is ended.

Summary

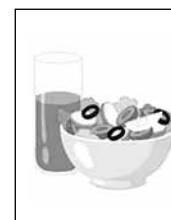
Although the "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021" is a positive and much needed

\$1.9 trillion economic recovery bill, it is regrettably a massive gift to the profiteering health insurance industry. President Biden, along with Democrats in Congress, chose the most expensive method of expanding health insurance care via the Affordable Care Act (ACA), giving more taxpayer funds to private insurers by paying higher prices for a health care financing system heavily dependent on private insurers.

The major reason private insurers are more expensive is due to profiteering and administrative costs. Those extra taxpayer funds going to private insurers include costs such as advertising/ marketing of their plans, costs of contracting for restrictive provider networks, administering prior authorization requirements, complex systems of processing claims including denial of benefits, simple administrative costs of operating large corporate entities, and distributing generous profits to their executives and passive Wall Street investors.

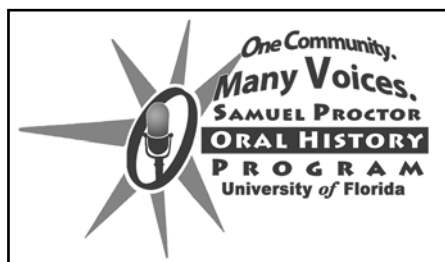
Increased costs to taxpayers are not just for more health care, but are a gift to the most expensive and inefficient health insurance financing system on earth. Very worrisome is the fact that the administration is presenting this as if it were a gift from the government to patients. Government money provided by the taxpayers is hidden from view since a large portion of taxes we pay are disassociated from health insurance/care spending.

The new Medicare for All Act-2021 (HR 1976) now filed in Congress, would much better fill our health care financing needs without wasting hundreds of billions of dollars on superfluous administrative costs and end immense profiteering by private insurers and big pharma. The USA is a country where health insurance for medical and mental health care is a function of socio-economic status. Everyone knows that this inhumane system should have been corrected long ago. Please tell your legislators that the very best way to cope with the vast dangers of COVID-19 and other health problems is to immediately enact "The Medicare for All Act-2021, H.R. 1976." 🐘



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History and the people who make it: Howard K. Suzuki



Dr. Howard K. Suzuki [S], former UF Dean, anatomist/physiologist, wildlife sculptor and photographer, was interviewed by Don Obrist [O] in November 2011.

This is the 66th 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.

O: Your date of birth?

S: April 3, 1927.

O: Where were you born?

S: In Ketchikan, Alaska. My father was born in Tokyo in the late 1800s and came to the United States around 1910 to work for the Great Northern Railway Company. He stayed there until 1914 thereabouts, then he moved to Ketchikan. At that time, he saved enough money that he was able to send for his bride. He had started a laundry and dry cleaning business. They worked hard like many of the immigrants would and still do.

He had two girls, my older sisters. They were born in 1915 and in 1917. Then I was born in 1927. But there was ten–twelve years' difference. I never really got to know them that well. The younger sister decided to go to Japan to visit the relatives, my dad's brother. Then when war broke out on December 7th, 1941, she was stuck in Japan. She was an American citizen. We were able to communicate with her occasionally because she was able to get a position with the International Red Cross. But immediately after December 7th, the U.S. Marshals came and picked up my dad.

O: Was your dad a citizen?

S: No. At that time, no Asians could become citizens. It was only after World War II that my folks were able to get their citizenship.

O: You were a citizen because you were born here.

S: Yes. But because of the events of

Pearl Harbor and the invasions in the South Pacific, the Philippines and China and so forth, the United States was really traumatized. The General of the West Coast made an order to intern all men of Japanese ancestry. As long as they're male and had any Japanese blood in them, they were to be put into this prison.

O: I believe the exact number was one-sixteenth Japanese blood. I did a little research on that.

S: So he was separated from us then. My parents had the business and that went to pot because he had several Japanese employees and one Caucasian. The Japanese men were also put in the same jail.

In February of [19]42 we were given orders to be removed from Alaska. We were only allowed a couple of suitcases and we had to sell a lot of things, like – my dad had a boat and had to practically give it away, car. The business was taken over by the military because we had contracts with the military to do laundry and dry cleaning because they had the military base on another island adjacent to Ketchikan.

In early April we were put on a military ship. We were put into the hold. Men were separated from the women, men and boys. We went down on that ship to Seattle. We were treated like prisoners of war – allowed one hour out on deck with armed guards and so forth. It's pretty traumatic when you're fourteen.

There was no question about prejudice. In Ketchikan there were five families of Japanese ancestry. We lived more or less in one section of town, away from downtown, close to Ketchikan Creek, and my dad had his business facing the creek. Our house faced the creek and across the creek were a lot of houses. I was twelve or fourteen and I used to stand up there and see the houses with the red lights on them and I'd ask my dad what they were.

Well, actually the houses along the boardwalk across the creek were the red light district. [Laughter] Because there were many military, it was used quite frequently. They had many, many, many saloons for a town of five thousand. I first learned about the so-called prophylactic stations where when people got venereal disease the treatment was horrible, injecting mercury or whatever into the genitalia. In spite of all that before the war we used to have a lot of fun, fishing,

boating and hiking and things like that.

O: That's where you get your love for the outdoors.

S: Yes. I used to try to catch salmon during the migration when I'd get in the middle of the creek and try to grab them. Occasionally I'd catch a salmon because, you know, there were thousands. I had some very, very close Caucasian friends and we just palled around together. We were not concerned about racial segregation. The only thing about segregation that I noticed was that they had tennis and that was restricted primarily to Caucasians. We were not included in that and so I have never played golf or played tennis. I never joined a country club although I had been invited to join.

I remember our neighbors of Japanese ancestry went to the University of Washington. They would get advanced degrees – chemistry, or pharmacy or what-have-you – and they couldn't get a job. The guy with a bachelor's degree like chemistry would come back and work in his dad's grocery store or bakery store.

Because I was interned that was a period that allowed me to become free and the people, my mentors, Caucasian and of Japanese ancestry, kind of pushed me and got me out of things. I was able to go on to get advanced degrees and positions. So I look at my personal experience being interred as a very positive one.

Anyway, once we got into Seattle, we were put into closed buses with shades on it and we were put into a racetrack, a Puyallup racetrack where they had crudely built barracks. Many families, had to live in the horse stalls. We stayed there from April until August of 1942.

O: How were you treated by the guards?

S: Fine. The War Relocation Authority [The War Relocation Authority was the part of the U.S. Army that oversaw Japanese internment camps in the Western states] hired a lot of Caucasian teachers. It was not until we were moved to Idaho, in Minidoka, near Pocatello that we started school. There was a rush to build these ten or fifteen relocation camps throughout the United States. Arkansas had two, Wyoming had one, Idaho had one, California had a couple. They had special ones in Texas for the Axis. That means German and Italian. Some Japanese were put in there.

Going back to April through August at the racetrack – I don't know how many thousands were from Seattle and Portland and I came from Ketchikan and there were others from Juneau and Anchorage – you know few families and we were most used to dealing with and socializing with Caucasians and here, ninety-nine point five percent were of Japanese ancestry.

We did not speak Japanese in our house. I knew a few words but it was very traumatizing for me, because I couldn't speak Japanese to many of the first generation called Issei, and the second generation, Nisei. My children would be Sansei, or the third generation.

My dad had short-wave radio and they would listen to broadcasts from Japan. As soon as the war broke out the Government – I don't know who, if it was the FBI or Immigration or what – they came in and took the short-wave radio portion out of the radio so the radio was essentially useless because it messed up the regular AM.

O: Now when you left the racetrack and went to Idaho...

S: We were put in a train again. The shades were drawn down so we couldn't see anything. We arrived in August I think, in this desert, hot, sagebrush and so forth, with barbed wire with guard towers. They had all long barracks. We were assigned rooms. My dad was put in Los Alamos with a special camp.

O: So he was separated from the family.

S: Oh yeah. All men of Japanese ancestry and immigrants, because they were not citizens, were placed in that Los Alamos camp. And that included Hawaii Buddhist priests. The reason why the people of Japanese ancestry in Hawaii were not interred –

O: There were so many of them, right?

S: Sixty percent or whatever. [Laughter] There would be nothing. Who would run the place? Who would do the work?

But let me digress again. My wife – she's from Hawaii, born and raised there and her dad had to go help his brother in Honolulu on December 7th. He went out to the porch that early Sunday morning and saw unusual flight of airplanes and said that's unusual to be doing military maneuvers and then he saw the big red ball underneath the wings, then he knew. he was then not allowed to return to the other island where the family was. He had to stay in Honolulu for another three months. That was another traumatic experience.

O: Your dad is in Los Alamos –

S: So we had to write letters. All the letters were censored because they were opened just like the military. If you were a soldier overseas you still had all that.

In the internment camp we went to school. I was what, ninth grade, eighth grade The books were all used. They didn't have enough. The teachers were Caucasian in the main, who were excellent teachers but they had very little supplies.

We were living in a room that was probably no bigger than 12 by 15. There were three of us, my older sister, and my mother and myself. Families that had bigger rooms, there would be four or five children, mother and father all in the same room. Fathers from the West Coast, Seattle, Portland, so forth did not have to go to New Mexico. It was only the people from Alaska. We were isolated, separated from the rest.

O: How was the food?

S: My mother used to work in the mess hall. At first we had Spam three times a day. [Laughter] Very ingenious how they could make Spam so many different ways. [Laughter] It was many, many years after that I would even look at a can of Spam. They had a lot of truck farmers, doing vegetables and so forth, and then had to give up all their land or rent it out to Caucasians. But anyway, the vegetable gardens were excellent.

I forgot to mention too, that while we were in camp – right after the war started my dad's insurance company canceled the insurance to his business and home so the place was uninsured – while we were in camp and my dad was down in New

Mexico, the place burned down and killed several military men. My folks never got any remuneration from that even though we tried to hire lawyers, and even after the war couldn't get anything. He had the insurance but they cancelled it because he was, quote, an enemy alien. I know that was hard on my folks.

I worked at the hospital as an orderly. They put me in a tuberculosis ward, too, and I knew nothing about tuberculosis and unfortunately I caught tuberculosis later on. I'm sure it was because of my –

O: Work?

S: – at the hospital. I used to go fishing. A friend of mine and I would sneak underneath the barbed wire with a guard watching us, going down to the river. We would take our rod, make a catch-carp and –

O: Why do you think the guard didn't do anything?

S: I don't know. We did sneaky things like that. I found out later on that a number of people were shot doing that. They were adults. But they had been doing the same thing I was.

Audio and full transcript of this interviews will be posted at <https://ufdc.ufl.edu>.

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





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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

From ELECTIONS, p. 1

doors. Turnout was low at 10.6 percent, but given the inevitability of the At-Large race (Commissioner Johnson did not even accept campaign donations), and this being the last stand-alone City race, it's not a surprise. City races occur on cycle with County races and party primaries this August.

Simmons' past electoral success laid the groundwork for this District to have the opportunity to select from two strong progressive African-American women's voices for the first time in Gainesville history. The candidates who run for this seat will likely reflect the pivot from Simmons' original candidacy for many cycles.

Supporters for Commissioner-Elect Duncan Walker drew stark contrasts with Commissioner Simmons on the most heated topic of the day: the gentrification of historically African-American communities as developers build luxury student housing or renovate existing dwellings into unaffordable units. The City's approval to build luxury student housing in neighborhoods like Seminary Lane, Pleasant Street, and Porters took front and center during this race, with Duncan-Walker's camp promising to do more to reevaluate and slow down a nationwide process that has taken on the momentum of a juggernaut.

The irony is that both candidates had good positions on gentrification. Commissioner Simmons stood with an absolute Commission majority in acknowledging the legal obstacles to fighting property rights in Florida in neighborhoods that were rezoned for vertical density many years ago under different leadership. During her term she focused instead on issues like the landmark renters' rights ordinance, in which she played a key role.

In Florida it is almost impossible to deny property rights to developers or to downzone neighborhoods. Renters rights on the other hand will improve the lives of tens of thousands of residents, most concentrated in District One. It is a district rich in history and community, with the highest concentration of African-Americans. But it also encompasses most of the East Side from Waldo Road, a pocket of low wages and food deserts drawing deeply from our segregated history.

Commissioner-Elect Duncan-Walker and her supporters want a Commissioner who will line up more aggressively with the minority vote on the Commission, led by At-Large Commissioner Gail Johnson, in seeking a moratorium on development in historically Black communities. Their consensus is that more could be done to protect older neighborhoods or to at least leverage the City's progressive voice to get more from developers that do build there.

Other issues drew some light as evinced in the candidate's *Gainesville Sun* editorials. Commissioner Simmons drew the entire attention of her piece there to the COVID crisis and work being done in District One to protect public health and facilitate the transition back to normal life. Duncan-Walker brought up the need to work more closely with the school board and other local governments, and to prevent District One from funding sprawl through current tax structures.

But it was gentrification that created all the heat in this election. Gigi Simmons has been a great Commissioner, but District One seems to want more. Commissioner-Elect Duncan-Walker has her work cut out for her.

James Thompson frequently analyzes local and state house elections for The Gainesville Iguana. He is a community activist. ✨



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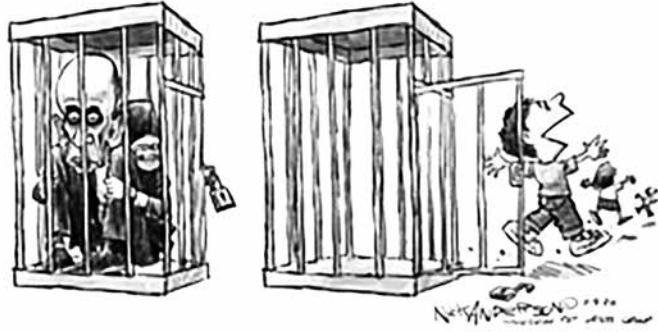
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We thank you very much!

IF THERE'S ANY JUSTICE



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 numbers 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 Brooker 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 firstcoastclu@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. centralfdsa@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 / gnewbun@famm.org / 682-2542 / FAMM.org

Continued on next page

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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@gainesvilleroilerrebels.com / <https://gainesvilleroilerrebels.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. gainesvillengl@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 Sante 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/UNAUSAGainesvilleFICChapter/

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://vfgainesville.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. wmw@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@wspus.org / <http://wspus.org> 🌐

Civic Media Center SpringBoard features author, anti-Amazon activist Danny Caine

by the Civic Media Center Board

Going back decades, the Civic Media Center's Board, with the help of the coordinators and volunteers, have organized a fundraising event in the spring, which we cleverly named the SpringBoard.

The goal was to raise funds to put us ahead financially before the slower period of summer, by means of a community dinner event where we could celebrate with our supporters, present a notable speaker, and with the partnership of United Faculty of Florida, Veterans for Peace, and the Alachua County Labor Coalition, occasionally present the Jack Penrod Brigadas Award to a local organizer/activist.

In the initial years, the event was a house party, which it outgrew and became an event at varied community locations, including the Matheson Museum, the Thomas Center, Prairie Creek Lodge, the Woolly and, most recently in 2019, Forage Hall at Working Foods.

2020 was supposed to be there too, but the pandemic put the kibosh on that. Instead, the CMC experimented with digital events over the summer of 2020, including talks on the history of Seminary Lane and on mutual aid organizing in Gainesville.

Here for 2021, we have adapted to the options available to us, and a practice we knew not much about last year – but now we all know – an online event using Zoom.

On May 21, at 6pm, join us over Zoom to hear from author and bookstore owner Danny Caine. Caine is the owner of the Raven Bookstore in Lawrence, Kansas, the winner of the Midwest Independent Bookseller of the Year Award, and author of several poetry collections and the book "How to Resist Amazon and Why."

With the Bessemer, Alabama unionization drive, the labor abuses at Amazon were in the national spotlight, as was the possibility of concerted resistance and solidarity against Amazon and all tech giants. While Amazon pushed anti-union propaganda, many workers testified to the reality of working for the tech giant, which made clear how high the cost of convenience really is.

In "How To Resist Amazon and Why," Caine outlines the history of the tech giant and the brutal conditions in Amazon's warehouses. He also suggests ways that

we can refocus our civic and financial investment to support our communities, not big businesses. Caine's book was originally a zine, and the paperback edition was published in 2021 by Microcosm Press.

The Raven, Caine's bookstore, has been in business since 1987, with Caine taking over ownership in 2017. The Raven is the only survivor of three other specialty bookstores in Lawrence, Kansas, with the others driven out of business by the arrival of Borders Books in the late 1990s.

Caine is dedicated to the Raven's place in the Lawrence community, and the place of local bookstores in communities more generally. Speaking with Publishers' Weekly, Caine described running a small business in the era of Amazon as an "up-hill battle," but one where customers are able to shop their values, even if it costs a little more. Caine told Publisher's Weekly the Raven's "mantra" is something like "Yes, you are paying more, but you get a lot more with it: author events, community support, political activism, donations to charity. The book costs \$5 more, but this is what we'll do with that \$5."

At the SpringBoard event, Caine will talk about his book, drawing on his experiences as owner of the Raven and from his research on the history of Amazon and "big box" stores. This talk will prove illuminating for anyone interested in reevaluating their own relationship to consumption, and especially to people looking to learn more about the history and economic realities of one stop online shopping, or to kick the Amazon habit for once and for all.

Danny Caine will be introduced by Heather Halak, CMC board member and owner of Third House Books, an independent bookstore in Gainesville. She will discuss the challenges facing independent bookstores in the era of Amazon.

Third House opened in 2016 as founder Kiren Valjee's response to the loss of other local bookstores and community sites in Gainesville. Current owner Heather has been with the store since 2017, taking ownership in 2018. The store aims to create a space for community building and particularly a "safe space" and home away from home for Gainesville's marginalized people.

Tickets for SpringBoard are by donation, with a suggested donation of \$5-\$10 this

year. You can donate and register via Eventbrite at tinyurl.com/Iguana1187, or find more information on our facebook page, facebook.com/civictimediacentre. You can buy Caine's book at Third House Books on their website: thirdhousebooks.com. ☘

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