

# The Gainesville Iguana

*A progressive newsletter*

March 2022  
Vol. 36, Issue 3



## Ukraine and the myth of war

**Ukraine should not have to suffer invasion by Russia. And Russia should not have had its safety and security threatened by NATO expansion and weaponry.**

***Iguana Editor's Note:** The makers of war are the enemy. It is they who set the stage. It is they who pursue ideology over compromise and cooperation. It is they who value power and nationalistic ego over diplomacy. It is they who build up the stockpiles of armaments along with governments who provide the directives and funding.*

*In 1953 President Eisenhower said, "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed."*

*We citizens of the world are victims of war making even before a shot is fired!*

*But now, yet another war begins. The makers of war have set the stage, and it is playing out before us. The destruction, the killing, more people fleeing and seeking shelter from a war they had no role in making.*

*Stark imagery and ahistorical commentary tend to obscure how we got here. We are but three days in as I write this. The outcome is far from certain, but it is a major event. Modern*

*See WAR, p. 20*

## Floridians for Reproductive Freedom rally against HB 5 on Capitol steps



*Photo by Stephanie Kollgaard, National Women's Liberation*

A coalition of organizations sent over 200 people to Tallahassee on Feb. 22 for the Floridians for Reproductive Freedom day of action and grassroots lobbying at the Florida Capitol. The goal of the day was to show opposition to HB 5, a bill banning all abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy. The bill is moving forward due to Republican majorities voting for it. The FRF coalition held a rally and speakout on the old Capitol

*See ABORTION BAN, p. 4*

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# Gainesville Veterans for Peace Scholarship Program for Alachua County students

*Deadline for Application is April 27*

Gainesville Veterans for Peace Chapter 14 is excited to announce our 8<sup>th</sup> annual Peace Scholarship Program for the spring of 2022. We are awarding three college and/or vocational scholarships of \$1,000 each for high school seniors, college students or adults with a commitment to activities including immigrant rights, Black Lives Matter, conflict resolution and/or nonviolent social change.

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

Most Veterans for Peace Scholarships awarded thus far have gone to first-generation students as well as those planning to enroll in community college programs. Students enrolled in vocational, apprenticeship and career training programs are eligible to apply.

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

Another scholarship recipient, University of Florida student Mariana Castro, an immigrant rights activist notes, "To me receiving the Veterans for Peace Scholarship meant that there are people in our community who truly believe in helping change and shape our society for the betterment of all. There are not many scholarships such as VFP Peace Scholarship because work for social justice is often overlooked in our world."

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

To be eligible to apply for the Peace Scholarship, the applicant must be:

- 1) a resident of Alachua County;
- 2) a high school senior planning to enroll in full-time undergraduate study at an accredited two- or four-year college, university or vocational-technical school or apprenticeship program in the United States for the 2022-23 academic year, or a student currently enrolled in one of these programs and in good standing or;
- 3) an adult student enrolling in higher education who needs financial assistance.

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

## **Scholarship Application Deadline**

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

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

The postmarked deadline for the scholarship application is April 27.

Peace Scholarship recipients will be announced during the first week of May. For questions about the Peace Scholarship, contact Paul Ortiz at: ortizprof@gmail.com or 831-334-0131.

The full announcement and instructions for applying may be found at <[www.vfpgainesville.org](http://www.vfpgainesville.org)> 🐾

**Mama's Club presents:**

## *The early days of women's liberation in Gainesville*

*by Pam Smith*

Mama's Club will host a Zoom presentation of four women's experience of being part of the beginning of the Women's Liberation Movement in Gainesville on Saturday, March 19 from 4pm to 6pm.

Gainesville was one of five cities in the world that gave birth to this phenomena that continues to transform relationships and institutions including governments.

The Women's Liberation Movement had its beginning in the Civil Rights Movement. It was in a civil rights office in Georgia that one afternoon a woman asked the other women in the movement office to stay after work to talk about their position in the Civil Rights Movement.

Why were they being assigned the secretarial duties? Who was doing the public speaking? Months later having heard about the women's rumblings, Stokely Carmichael (later known as Kwame Ture) famously said, perhaps joking, "The position of women in the movement is PRONE."

That is what those brave women were up against.

That small meeting in Georgia gave birth to what came to be called "Consciousness Raising" groups. Three Gainesville women who were working in the deep south that Freedom Summer came back to Gainesville and started a consciousness raising group here, one of the first in the country, along with New York City, Cambridge, Chicago, and Seattle.

Meanwhile, there were other women working in Gainesville in the Gainesville Women for Equal Rights. This group consisted of Black and white women working together, meeting in secret, because it was dangerous for them to "fraternize" across racial lines.

Come listen to four women's experience of those times in Gainesville.

Tune into Zoom on Saturday, March 19 from 4pm to 6pm. Email [sisterspace1515@yahoo.com](mailto:sisterspace1515@yahoo.com) or text Pam Smith at 352-231-3639 or Faye Williams at 352-226-2623 for the Zoom link. 🐾

*From the publisher ...*

# Troubling times

This is one of these times where writing this column has so many items of concern in flux.

The horror show of right wing arrogance that is the Florida legislature is in full swing until March 11. In a state where active and effective gerrymandering has a completely stacked deck against the Democrats, the Republicans are going after abortion rights in such an unempathetic way, not even allowing exemptions for rape, incest or human trafficking. And they seem to be getting away with it without large public outcry.

They are making the job of a teacher impossible when it comes to teaching history in any meaningful way. And the vengeance against LGBTQ youth, very vulnerable at that age as statistics show, made worse by making schools more hostile to their lives, opening them up to bullying and even proposing to have the parents notified if their kids are expressing their true selves (although they pulled that one back). What else they will come up with, and what will actually be signed into law, we will know next month.

But onward. All I have left of the full paragraph I wrote the day prior to the Feb. 23 invasion is this: "Ukraine is a huge country, stretching from NYC to Chicago and Raleigh to Toronto if overlaid on North America."

What I wrote was waxing hopeful Putin was bluffing. I was wrong. So now, my only feeling is this: Disgust at war makers and their arrogant conduct. This will be an ugly mess. As was the Iraq War, the Afghan War, the war in Yemen, the war in Syria, the wars in Central America, and of course, Vietnam.

As our weapons grow in power, the slaughter and displacement of civilians increases. What can be done? On Feb. 15, 2003, the world demonstrated for peace, gathering all over the globe to stop Bush's war of choice in Iraq. It was a mere blip on the screen. No effect, the war went ahead. That war had devastating consequences in many nations that still reverberate. This one may, too. This is big and will affect many lives negatively.

Meanwhile here we are. As citizens, the only real power we have through established means is the voting booth, and we need no further confirmation of that than the efforts that are being made to make voting harder. Our power of the vote is not just our one vote, but the level of organizing, educating, inspiring and activating others to vote that we embrace as we live our lives, plus the needed watch dogging that our elections are fairly held and the votes actually counted ... that is the essence of the Democratic system. There are the outside-the-system tactics, too – of putting pressure on the system by taking to the streets, of strikes and occupations.

The Right seems to have embraced this with faux grassroots demos, funding and organizing splashy media events, beginning with the astroturf Tea Party, right through to the current Trucker Freedom from Mandates gatherings that invaded Ottawa a couple weeks ago. All this anti-vax, anti-mandate, anti-science, anti-critical race theory organizing being nurtured by mega donors to defeat Biden and the Democrats is its own sort of virus infecting the body politic. The phrase herd immunity was tossed around a lot. To stretch the analogy, my fear is that there is a stampede of reactionary ignorance rolling across the plains, fed by the wacky weed of unchallenged and false social media and taking us over the cliff into a bleak authoritarian future.

But wait, we decent folk outnumber them, and the fight is not over. There is a sort of vaccine available, but it must grow within each of us as we reach a point to say yes to fighting back, to facing down their bullshit, be it against our rights and liberties or opposing our misguided foreign policies.

We need to stand up for one another and find that common cause. Covid's isolation was a real setback in many ways, but as we emerge, we can have those conversations, those meetings, finding and sharing good information sources, and all that needs to take us back from the brink. Do what you can. They want you to be hopeless, but history compels us to fight the good fight. Carry on. 🐸



*Joe Courter*

## Subscribe!

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

Individuals: \$15  
(or more if you can)  
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Groups: \$20

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Comments, suggestions, contributions (written or financial) are welcome. To list your event or group, contact us at: 352-378-5655

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# Dissident parties continue to fight against ‘the System’

## UF student elections: Gator Party sweeps Change Party, Communist Party

by Aron Ali-McClory

Over the past month, the spring 2022 elections at the University of Florida were held, with 50 Senate seats proportioned to the university’s various colleges at stake, as well as the lucrative “executive ticket,” composed of a party’s presidential, vice presidential, and treasurer candidates.

Three political parties were running candidates for the Student Senate: Communist Party, Change Party, and Gator Party. The latter two parties both fielded executive ticket candidates – the Communist Party did not. The Change Party made history by fielding UF’s first all Black, queer, and femme slate of candidates for their executive ticket.

Both the Communist Party and the Change Party focused on fighting against “the System”: a coalition of Greek organizations represented in Student Government politics by the Gator Party, which has been exposed for forcing members of Greek organizations to vote, and has been accused of stifling change and prog-

ress in Student Government at UF. However, Communist and Change had differing approaches to fighting “the System.”

The Change Party opted for a centrist platform, which pushed for the implementation of online voting, and the expansion of library hours to be 24/7, among several other points. In addition to their normal canvassing efforts in the open areas of the UF campus, the Change Party also held a protest in support of sexual assault victims, and a Black food and arts market. Mid-way through the month-long campaign season, which started on Jan. 26, the Change Party released a zine, which detailed the wrongdoings of “the System” in a digestible format.

The Communist Party, meanwhile, opted for a decisively provocative leftist platform, calling for debt relief for students, the unionization of Student Government salaried workers, and a “Trans Solidarity Fund” to assist transgender students with legal costs associated with transitioning. The Communists held an almost strictly digital

campaign, releasing a list of 12 platform points, various critiques of “the System” and the Change Party, among other materials on their Instagram page, which grew rapidly during the election cycle.

Despite their efforts, neither the Change nor the Communist Party prevailed on election night. The Gator Party triumphed over the Change Party in the race for the executive ticket, with the Gator Party claiming almost two-thirds of the vote for their presidential, vice presidential, and treasurer candidates.

The Gator Party won 44 seats outright, compared to the Change Party’s five seats, and no seats for the Communists. The Change Party, which had previously stated a goal of winning a third of the Senate’s seats or 33 in total – was left with just 12 members in the 100 person Student Senate at the end of the night.

The results left Change Party supporters somber. Volunteers and candidates were visibly upset on the ground floor of the J. Wayne Reitz Union as Gator Party supporters cheered their landslide victory.

The Communist Party, meanwhile, looked to the future with optimism. Although they won no seats, an announcement on their Instagram spoke of success in the Student Honor Court, and in starting conversations around pressing social issues. They announced their dissolution as a party, although the announcement stated that they were only gaining momentum, and would likely be back as a new party. 🐾

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### From ABORTION BAN, p. 1

steps to denounce the abortion ban bill and discuss next steps. Current US House Rep and candidate for US Senator Charlie Crist attended.

Coalition organizations represented included Florida National Organization for Women; Florida Alliance of Planned Parenthood Affiliates; GenAction activists from the FSU chapter and around the state; National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice; Southern Birth Justice Network; National Women’s Liberation - Gainesville chapter; Women’s Voices of SW Florida; Women’s March Florida; A Woman’s Choice of Jacksonville; Party of Socialism and Liberation -Tampa chapter; and the National Council of Jewish Women - Miami Beach chapter. 🐾

## 'Save Academic Freedom' Teach-In at Plaza of Americas

Wednesday, March 23, 10:30-1:30 (time tentative)  
UF campus, The Plaza of Americas

The Free UF coalition, a coalition of students, staff, and faculty fighting against censorship at the University of Florida, is hosting a teach-in on Wednesday, March 23 at the Plaza of Americas.

Professors, librarians, staff, and students will be discussing their experiences with censorship at UF, the value of academic freedom, the history of censorship and the fight for academic freedom at UF, and more.

The event is sponsored by members of the Free UF Coalition: the United Faculty of Florida, United Campus Workers, Young Democratic Socialists of America, and College Democrats.

Everyone is invited, including alumni, retired faculty/staff, and concerned members of the local community. Live music and refreshments will be provided.

Follow @free\_uf on Instagram, @UFFatUF Facebook, or email us at freeufcoalition@gmail.com to learn more. 🐼

## Tools to quit tobacco

Quitting tobacco isn't easy. Finding help should be. If you are ready to quit, join our Tools to Quit Tobacco group. This free one-time, two-hour group will give you tips on how to deal with triggers, withdrawal symptoms and prevent relapse.

You will also receive up to four weeks of free nicotine patches, gum or lozenges. This group more than doubles your chance of quitting for good. Pre-registration is required.

Our next TTQ is Thursday, March 17 from 5:30-7:30pm at Pride Community Center of North Central Florida. Virtual options are also available on the computer or over the phone.

Call 866-341-2730 to reserve your spot. 🐼



*Dr. Cynthia Chestnut  
City Commissioner  
Gainesville City  
Commission*

Thank you Gainesville voters,  
for giving Cynthia Chestnut a victory  
in the Jan. 25 City election.

**It was close – your vote counted!**

**H**igher education should provide  
an environment to test new ideas,  
debate theories, encounter challenging  
information, and figure out what one  
believes.

– Kirsten Powers, political analyst

## Labor Notes

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# How we turned the tables on Starbucks union-busters

by Sara Mughal

*This article was originally published on Feb. 17 in LaborNotes. See more at <labornotes.org>.*

*A national wave of organizing has hit Starbucks' company-run stores in the last three months. The author is among hundreds of Starbucks workers who have filed for elections with the National Labor Relations Board in almost 100 locations since early December when workers in Buffalo won the first union at a company-run location in the U.S. in decades. —LN Editors*

Let me set the stage for you: A single cheese pizza cut into sixteenths, a small group of chairs awkwardly arranged in a circle, and corporate level managers trying to chat baristas up like we were best friends.

Our store had closed at noon that Tuesday, so that the company could hold four consecutive “store meetings,” each with a group of around six employees. A few weeks before, five workers had to go into isolation due to Covid and the store had barely modified operating hours—but for these meetings we could shut down for almost the entire day.

These were Starbucks’ “listening sessions,” or corporate union-busting meetings workers hoping to unionize their store are forced to participate in. But we at the Hopewell (New Jersey) store were prepared.

## We came prepared

Starbucks is spending millions upon millions of dollars to hire a huge law firm to train its managers to become experts in union-busting. You’d think they’d be better at it. Every store that files goes through the same basic steps of union-busting. The upside of this is that Starbucks workers can see what’s coming, and get creative.

Our store prepared for the meeting not only by communicating with each other, but also by holding a Zoom meeting with baristas from other cities who’d already gone through the same

experience. They walked us through what to expect and what kinds of things had worked best for them in throwing the union-busters off their game.

So when we sat down for our meetings with our store manager, district manager, and regional manager, we did so in solidarity.

Our manager started off the meeting. This woman had spent a good part of the last election cycle talking about her left-leaning politics. She leads the Starbucks “Womens’ Alliance Network,” a group designed to empower female Starbucks employees. She started our meeting by looking us all in the eyes and saying, “I don’t think you need a union.”

## Going off-script

Over the next few hours they tried various tactics to try to sow doubt among us. They tried one of the arguments they’ve used frequently, which is that with a union we won’t be able to have baristas from other stores cover shifts at our store. In response, two people pointed to a New Jersey law that specifies that non-union workers can work in union settings.

Our Regional Manager kindly thought of those workers and wondered, “How would that affect their experience? How would they feel working in an environment where their salary is different?” One worker responded, “Well, I’d think that would just spark interest in them unionizing their store too.”

Clearly these managers were operating from a basic script; when we veered away from it, they unskillfully tried to return to it.

In the middle of our discussion which had turned into all the positive things our union could help us achieve, our regional manager tried to redirect by telling us she was “worried about all the pros and cons she was hearing.” I asked, “I think I missed the cons, what were those again?” She looked annoyed, half-heartedly tried to bring up a previously addressed point, then got quiet.

## Long list of questions

Our one-hour session finished on a wonderful note. One worker who doesn’t often feel comfortable enough to speak up in front of managers said, “Since we all decided to do this, we all have more confidence and there’s a lot of hope in the store. We don’t even feel like a team, we feel like a family. I come in and now I’m happy to be here.” All of us agreed with her, and we were all in tears—while the three managers looked on and truly had no idea what to do or say.

When we all discussed our meetings later that day, we found just about every one had gone similarly. Each group of workers had different tactics, but the union-busting managers were thrown off again and again.

The final group had two workers who had decided to prepare lists of questions that spanned multiple sheets of paper. They doubled the length of their meeting to two hours; over and over, exasperated managers tried to end their long, unsuccessful day.

I’m certain the goal of the day for these managers was to have us all questioning everything we’ve been working for. Instead, I’m confident they ended their day confused and unsure of where to go next. Perhaps they should have prepared a little more, like we did.

*Sara Mughal is a shift supervisor and member of Starbucks Workers United at the Hopewell Starbucks in Pennington, New Jersey. ☘*



## Reuse Planet is now open!

*The Repurpose Project has opened a second location featuring used furniture, appliances, cabinets, and more.*

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# Reclaim the politics of pleasure:

## *How I transitioned from the Republicanism of my childhood to a progressive in my teens*

by Amanda Marcotte

There are lots of versions of the story about how I transitioned from the Republicanism of my childhood to become a progressive in my late teens: critical thinking skills, education, relocation from a small town to liberal Austin, Texas. The truest story is the simplest: The left was a lot more fun.

The progressive world had better music, more interesting books, and entertaining parties. Feminism interwove political discourse with pop culture, fashion, and sex. Liberalism promoted curiosity, beauty, humor, and freedom — so totally unlike the small-minded and boring conservatives I grew up around. But it no longer seems so obvious that liberals are the fun ones.

The right has done a surprisingly good job at marketing themselves as edgy trolls and painting the left as dour snowflakes. Progressives haven't been doing ourselves many favors. The dominant discourse is so often focused on suffering and surviving, without any talk about happiness and thriving. Humor is in short supply. The gleeful progressivism I used to know has been replaced by competitive self-denial.

In 2022, the right has granted the left a golden opportunity to remember that we value pleasure and beauty and creativity. Conservatives are the ones advocating for a sad and colorless world.

Look at the two biggest culture war issues this year: Reproductive rights and book banning. Republicans are almost certainly going to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, uncorking an onslaught of laws meant to punish sexually active women with forced childbirth. Conservatives are waging all-out war on classrooms and libraries, trying to snatch some of the greatest books of the 20th and 21st centuries out of the hands of curious young readers. If liberals can't use this moment to remind the public that we're the ones who want you to get laid and enjoy a good book, then truly, we deserve to lose.

The right's censorship campaign [is] about racism and homophobia, sure. It's also because right-wingers have no real love for art or beauty. Expanding the imagination and exploring new ideas are antithetical to conservatism, and it's a good time for the left to start talking about that again.

We talk about the importance of educating children, and how books like *Maus* and *Beloved* can aid in that. We haven't been talking about why. Reading these books doesn't feel like homework. The narratives are so graceful and beautiful that it's transporting.

On abortion rights, liberals shy away from sex talk. The focus is on the rape victim, the pregnant teenager with abusive parents, the domestic violence victim trying to escape, the woman with health problems who can't carry this pregnancy to term.

But we don't talk very much about having sex for pleasure. A woman's right to enjoy sex is central to why abortion rights are so important. Republicans wish to avoid having to explain why they don't think women deserve to feel good about their sexuality. It certainly cuts against GOP efforts to convince people that they're the fun ones!

Grimness becomes a habit, and it's been hard in the past couple of years not to fall into it. Darkness has spread across progressive discourse, sucking light and color and fun out of everything. Equality and justice aren't just about bodies surviving, but

granting all people the opportunity to feel good, to feel fulfilled, to use their precious years on earth actually living.

2022 is the year to get our groove back. The right has opened the door, by inviting us to debate whether sex should be fun and reading should be pleasurable. That's a fight that the left can win, easily. We can get back to who we once were.

Read the full article at [tinyurl.com/Iguana1350](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1350) and Marcotte's companion piece, "Young Democrats are right: There is no reason to date or befriend Trump voters" at [tinyurl.com/Iguana1351](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1351) ✨




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

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Email: [fgsgnv@gmail.com](mailto:fgsgnv@gmail.com)  
Leave message at: 352-388-1586

# Traditional Medicare will soon be taken over by Wall Street

by Marilyn Eisenberg

Many of us retired folks in the progressive community have signed in to the publicly funded traditional Medicare plan with or without supplements. Even though Medicare Advantage plans offer attractive perks to well retirees, we all know that for serious illnesses and injuries, these plans fall apart.

Medicare Advantage plans find devious ways of not covering the expenses they had promised, usually invoking the not-in-network excuses causing many 'surprise' bills to their hapless recipients.

But what you might not know is that the traditional Medicare that we have relied on for many years is being undercut by a plan initiated in the Trump presidency, but continuing under the Biden administration. The plan is called Direct Contracting Entities.

Without Congressional approval or oversight, it will slowly strip our Medicare of its public funding, and make it into a private profit-making insurance plan, much like our present private insurance companies and the assorted Medicare Advantage plans.

If you want to learn more about this outrage and what to do about it, follow the links below provided by Physicians for a National Healthcare Plan. This organization has already caught the attention of many Congress members and Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra. But the practice persists, and unless the government takes swift action, our non-profit Medicare coverage will be gone by 2030.

Want to learn more about Medicare Direct Contracting? Visit [pnhp.org/StopDCEs](http://pnhp.org/StopDCEs), where you'll find:

- Fact sheet: Direct Contracting: Quietly Handing Medicare to Wall Street (one page)
- Policy primer: Medicare Direct Contracting Explained (four pages)
- Video: Dr. Ana Malinow explains Medicare Direct Contracting (15 minutes)
- PowerPoint: Direct Contracting: Handing Traditional Medicare to Wall Street 🐘

## Health insurance Navigator Program

Need help getting health insurance? Health Insurance Marketplace Navigators are standing by. Suwannee River Area Health Education Center Navigators provide outreach and enrollment services to anyone looking to enroll for health care coverage in the Federal Health Insurance Marketplace.

We assist consumers with confidential telephone, virtual, and online enrollment service appointments. Our services are completely FREE.

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# Sunshine State Book Festival



The Writers Alliance of Gainesville is pleased to announce the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Sunshine State Book Festival that will bring readers and writers together on April 9 and 10. The two-day event is free and open to the public.

North Central Florida's cultural landscape is enhanced by this annual event, produced by the Writers Alliance of Gainesville with support from local sponsors. Come enjoy the festival—rain or shine.

Saturday's festival will be held in the Oaks Mall on West Newberry Road immediately east of I-75 in Gainesville. It begins at 11am and goes until 5pm.

Visitors can meet and engage with nearly 100 authors, purchase books, and have them signed. There will be books in most genres and books for all ages. Parents will find books for themselves as well as young adult books, children's books, and picture books for their little readers.

There will also be hourly drawings for free books.

Author tables will be arranged throughout the spacious mall so that social distancing is easy, and health department guidelines regarding masks will be followed.

Sunday's program will feature talks on hot topics by five renowned authors. Guest speakers include Carol Richardson, Robert Knight, Robert and Patience Mason and Paul Ortiz. The program is slated to take place between 1pm and 5pm at the Matheson History Museum, 513 E. University Avenue in downtown Gainesville.

For details about the authors and speakers and to check for any necessary changes in the April 9–10 schedule, visit <[www.sunshinestatebookfestival.com](http://www.sunshinestatebookfestival.com)> 🐢

## Bob Graham Center for Public Service events

**March 15 | 6pm | In Person**

**NATO's Enduring Alliance and the Russo-Ukraine Crisis**

The NATO alliance has endured despite continuous predictions of collapse. Now it's facing a moment of crisis as leaders grapple with a solution to the Russo-Ukraine conflict. Join international relations expert Timothy Sayle of the University of Toronto for this timely and in-person lecture examining the historical connections between NATO's Cold War inception and the crisis of today. Sayle is the author of *Enduring Alliance: A History of NATO and the Postwar Global Order* (2019). A Livestream link is also available at <[tinyurl.com/bdh92vds](https://tinyurl.com/bdh92vds)>

**March 17 | 6pm | Zoom**

**Harvard author Vincent Brown speaks on 'Tacky's Revolt'**

*Tacky's Revolt: The Story of an Atlantic Slave War* is a superb geopolitical thriller that traces the roots, routes, and reverberations of the largest slave insurrection in the 18th century British Empire. Join our conversation with author Dr. Vincent Brown, professor of African and African-American studies at Harvard University, as he looks at how the insurrection of enslaved West Africans in Jamaica reverberated across the Atlantic. Register now at <[tinyurl.com/46ymaj73](https://tinyurl.com/46ymaj73)> 🐢

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# A dramatization of Jim Crow, civil rights years in Gainesville

by Pam Smith

On Friday, March 18, at 7 pm, the Cotton Club will present a YouTube dramatization of a rich part of Gainesville's history—the firsthand experience of eight women, six black

and two white, who lived in Gainesville during the Jim Crow and civil rights years.

In the early 1960s a group of women in Gainesville started Gainesville Women for Equal Rights. At the first meeting, the group's founders, white women who were predominantly wives of University of Florida professors and who were already working for civil rights for African Americans, invited Black women to come to the meeting and talk about their daily lives. From that first meeting forward, GWER became an integrated group of black and white women working together toward changing the racist culture of Gainesville. It was the first group of its kind in Florida. They had to meet in secret because it was dangerous at the time for black and white people to work together.

In the early 1980s, Dr. Elizabeth Heard, a graduate student at UF at the time, set out to interview as many women from that era as she could. These interviews now live in the Samuel Proctor Oral History Project at UF. She then wrote a play using eight of those women's actual words.

The Cotton Club Museum and Cultural Center, which is dedicated to preserving the African American experience, is presenting this play on YouTube on Friday evening, March 18, at 7pm in honor of Women's History Month. It will be followed by a question and answer period with Ms. Vivian Filer who also lived through those times in Gainesville and Dr. Zoharrah Simmons who was a SNCC volunteer in Georgia, Mississippi, and Louisiana during that time. Both women continue to be very active in the struggle for liberation.

The YouTube link to connect you to the play is: <[bit.ly/3GZxqHs](https://bit.ly/3GZxqHs)> 🐘

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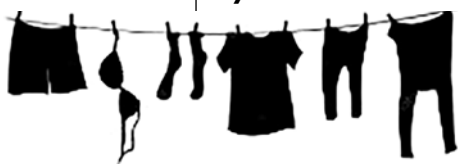
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## And the good news is ...

### Colombia legalizes abortion in move celebrated as 'historic victory' by campaigners

#### *The country of 74 percent Catholics decriminalized abortion during the first 24 weeks of pregnancy*

*This is a condensed version of an article by Joe Parkin Daniels published in the Guardian on Feb. 21. See the full article at <[tinyurl.com/Iguana1346](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1346)>*

Colombia has decriminalized abortion during the first 24 weeks of pregnancy, adding to a recent string of legal victories for reproductive rights in Latin America.

The South American country's constitutional court ruled five against four to decriminalize the procedure on Feb. 21.

The decision follows a series of rulings in Mexico and Argentina that lowered barriers to abortion.

Previously, abortion in Colombia was allowed only where there was a risk to the life or health of the pregnant mother; the existence of life-threatening fetal malformations; or when the pregnancy was the result of rape, incest or non-consensual artificial insemination.

"We celebrate this ruling as a historic victory for the women's movement in Colombia that has fought for decades for the recognition of their rights," said Erika Guevara-Rosas, Americas director at Amnesty International. "Women, girls and people able to bear children are the only ones who should make decisions about their bodies."

"Now, instead of punishing them, the Colombian authorities will have to recognise their autonomy over their bodies and their life plans," she said. ✨

### How the Left stopped Fascists from organizing in Australia

#### *Coalitions of anti-fascists, union militants and community organizations are stymieing the far right's rise*

*This is a condensed version of an article by Evan Smith published in Jacobin on Feb. 17. See the full article at <[tinyurl.com/Iguana1347](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1347)>*

If there was any doubt before, 2021 made it clear that leftists in Australia have to take the threat of the far right seriously. The media exposed the extreme right's activities nationwide, as well as their links to overseas neo-Nazis. The police arrested far-right activists in relation to violent crimes, and on

top of this, the far right mobilized as part of the anti-vaccine, anti-lockdown movement, which was centered in Melbourne. They often appropriated trade union uniforms and symbols to lend their cause legitimacy.

On the electoral front, Pauline Hanson's One Nation is hoping to capture Senate seats, while Craig Kelly and Clive Palmer have teamed up in the United Australia Party to take advantage of anti-lockdown and anti-vax sentiments.

These developments have prompted debates among the center and the Left about how to respond.

While the situation in some respects is a new one, Australian history has seen its fair share of fascists and ultranationalists. And more important, the workers' movement and the Left have beat them back before. It's more than a history of victories — it's a gold mine of valuable experiences that can help inform our response today. ✨

### Sanders calls to cancel all student debt after Biden axes \$415 millions' worth

#### *This action could relieve tens of millions of borrowers of what is often a huge financial burden*

*This is a condensed version of an article by Sharon Zhang published in Truthout on Feb. 18. See the full article at <[tinyurl.com/Iguana1348](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1348)>*

After the Biden administration canceled \$415 million of student debt for victims of for-profit colleges, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont) called for all student debt to be canceled, a move that could relieve

tens of millions of borrowers of what is often a huge financial burden.

On Feb. 16, the Education Department announced that it was canceling debt for students who were misled by for-profit colleges like DeVry University. The agency has been fielding complaints from borrowers and has found that the institution made "widespread substantial misrepresentations

about its job placement rates." Advocates and lawmakers lauded the decision, but pointed out there is still more to be done if the administration is to substantially address the student loan crisis.

"Good," Sanders wrote on Twitter. "Now cancel the remaining \$1,883,214,046,704 for 44,984,000 other Americans who are still drowning in student debt." ✨

### A quiet policy change could make a huge difference for LGBT refugees, asylum seekers

#### *Spouses will be considered married even if their marriages are not recognized by their countries of origin*

*This is a condensed version of an article by Gabe Ortiz published in the Daily Kos on Feb. 21. See the full article at <[tinyurl.com/Iguana1349](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1349)>*

While a new immigration policy announced by the Biden administration last week didn't appear to get much of any mainstream media attention—or get heavily promoted by the administration itself—advocates said the change will "make a huge difference" for LGBT refugees and asylum-seekers coming to the U.S.

Under the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services change, the new policy will allow these vulnerable populations "to be considered spouses even when their marriages are not recognized by their countries of origin or asylum," *Documented* reported.

International Refugee Assistance Project's Betsy Fisher tweeted the policy change will benefit refugees and asylum-seekers who have faced "discriminatory policies as stateless, LGBTI, or interfaith couples," or

have been "denied access to government civil registration." The organization had noted in an April 2021 letter restrictions by the previous administration that affected LGBT refugees, heaped in among hundreds of anti-immigrant changes throughout its four years.

IRAP noted at the time that the Biden administration "took initial steps to address this issue," and "urged the Secretary of State and Secretary of Homeland Security to carry out the president's directive." ✨

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# Updates from Alachua County Labor Coalition

by Sheila Payne, Alachua County Labor Coalition Board Member

The Alachua County Labor Coalition is shaking off the Covid blahs and continuing our work on housing and legal system transformation advocacy.

We just elected a whole new slate of enthusiastic Executive Board members at our in-person and virtual membership meeting on Feb. 15. We continue to add liaison and representatives from each of our 24 member organizations to sit on the executive board. There are calls to get involved in helping to organize some folks interested in union organizing.

A group in Marion County also wants to start a Marion County Labor Coalition, using ACLC as a model.

The ACLC housing committee has been working the last two years to stem evictions doing letter outreach to those already served eviction notice in the courts, knocking on doors in communities with high eviction rates and fielding many calls and emails from people who were unsuccessful in applying or receiving Emergency Rental Assistance Program funding.

We were asked to be part of the process of developing the ERAP dispersal of funds, advising that information sharing should be phone adaptable, the hiring of two intake workers to help renters gather their documents and an easily accessible portal that would let people know where they were in the process.

Though the program has helped many people who lost work because of Covid, there were still many who have contacted ACLC who were evicted before they received the funds, their landlords would not accept funds, their landlord held the money and evicted, or landlord was overpaid after the tenant was evicted.

The whole process was too cumbersome for many. We have been assisting tenants in filing Equal Employment Opportunity Commission complaints against landlords. Tenants calling code enforcement and landlords retaliating is an on-going issue we are interceding on.

We went after landlords, mostly corporate that would not accept ERAP funds and finally were able, with the help of the National Housing Law Project, to get the City of Gainesville and the Alachua County legal team to agree that landlords had to accept ERAP funds under the



*ACLC members hold up a sign: "Health care for all - Right to a job at a living wage - Right to organize, bargain, and strike!"*

*Bottom row from left: Chad Hood, Treasurer Adolfo Romero, Co-Chairs Jenn Powell and Melissa Hawthorne, and Gaby Gross.*

*Top row from left: YDSA-UF Rep Allan Frasher, Secretary Pam Paris, Membership Coordinator Tyler Foerst, Sheila Payne, and Union Liaison Eli Barrett.*

*Photo courtesy of Alachua County Labor Coalition.*

Source of Income provision in the Anti-Discrimination in Housing ordinances that ACLC advocated for and ushered through the city and county commissions. The city and county are now holding meetings with landlords to let them know that yes, they must accept housing vouchers and ERAP funds.

We have also had multiple meetings about the Renters Rights Ordinance now in effect in the city, with the county posed to pass after the city works out kinks. For more info, go to the ACLC website.

Join the Legal System Transformation committee on Feb. 24 at 7pm. If you would like to attend, email [info@laborcoalition.org](mailto:info@laborcoalition.org). We are taking on Court Services as a first step. Cash bonds, deflection/diversion programs, pre-trial, assessment tools, first appearance, bond reduction hearings.

Why does Court Services here almost always recommend bond? Why are they not advocating for more people to be placed in diversion programs?

For more information, check out the

ACLC website, [laborcoalition.org/](http://laborcoalition.org/) to see the White Paper we wrote. We are using Pinellas County Court System as a model for what can be done here.

Lots more; please join us at our many committee meetings or at our March member meeting. 🍸

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# People power stops upzoning near Depot Park

by Tana Silva

On Feb. 22, an outpouring of concern about Gainesville's future turned back a private initiative to allow maximum development beside Depot Park. The stakes were high and the vote consequential, yet no news media covered the city commission special meeting in advance. Still, remarkably, people showed up and called in to address the commission, three minutes at a time, and collective wisdom prevailed.


The 5-2 vote by the commission, with Lauren Poe and Adrian Hayes-Santos in dissent, denied attorney David Coffey and his clients, heirs of Jim Stringfellow Sr., rights to develop the heirs' 4.82 acres on the south edge of the park with downtown land use and zoning up to 14-story buildings. That was to be the first piecemeal upzoning in the South Main-Depot-Power District area, with city staff's blessings and support. Next would've been the city-owned 10-acre Regional Transit System site beside the

park, without a long-sought vision for redeveloping the entire area incrementally for greatest public benefit.

The vote potentially signaled a turning point in recent years of public input being ignored if not hampered. An irrational sudden technocratic shift of governance in 2016 increasingly cut the public out of decision making, much to the whole city's detriment. The City got rid of commission standing committees and review boards and tightened control over public participation, questioning, and dissent in what should be robust democratic self-government. The drama and disarray in city government, the lack of accountability, the unbridled spending and debt, reliance on consultants, hiring sprees and widening pay gap, indulgence of commission members' whims, fake "community engagement," caving to UF and private interests, leverage and asset giveaways, all that and more has spiraled from the centralization of power. That's not Gainesville, and Gainesville is talking back.

At the meeting as elsewhere, commissioners Desmon Duncan-Walker and Cynthia Chestnut called for wide-open discussions with meaningful public involvement, unafraid of airing tensions that have been building. "I don't want developers to control how Gainesville looks," Duncan-Walker said. Neither did people at the meeting. Chestnut said that on her recent campaign trail, what she heard most was people's frustration over what's happening to their city and neighborhoods and being left out of those decisions. She said housing is being used as a catch-all justification to open the door to upzoning all over Gainesville. Sure enough, the applicants, staff, and some commissioners trotted out the usual ruses and excuses – housing, sprawl, density, equity, growth – when it was admittedly about money. The same rhetoric is driving other extremely damaging proposals being pushed now, as a lame-duck mayor comes to the end of his many years on the commission.

A comprehensive plan update reflects that agenda; UF is planning downtown; city Power District plans veer toward upzoning and sale; Opportunity Zone tax breaks encourage huge developments all the way to Melrose. The vote to deny Coffey upzoning is an encouraging sign that a commission majority will rescue collective visioning just in time. The 2013 Power District redevelopment plan makes an excellent starting point. ✨



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**12th Annual Alachua County Peace Poetry Contest 2022**

The Gainesville Chapter of Veterans for Peace invites all students, K-12, in Alachua County to create and submit one original poem on the subject of *peace and social justice*.



**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: April 12, 2022**

Entries should be emailed to [vfppeacepoetrycontest@gmail.com](mailto:vfppeacepoetrycontest@gmail.com) or mailed to:


VFP Peace Poetry Contest  
2115 NW 7th Lane  
Gainesville, FL 32603

**REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMISSION:** Please include (1) the poet's name; grade level; school; parent/guardian and/or teacher's name; and (2) two preferred methods of contact (e-mail, phone number and/or mailing address).

Winners will receive a valuable prize and have their poems published in the 2022 Peace Poetry Contest Book. Winning poets will have the opportunity to read their pieces aloud at the public Peace Poetry Reading in May in Gainesville. All poets will be notified, whether their poems place or not.

For additional information, email [vfppeacepoetrycontest@gmail.com](mailto:vfppeacepoetrycontest@gmail.com) or call Sheila Payne at 831-334-0117.

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# Springtime Santa Fe River events

## *Providing opportunities to learn, explore and play*



The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Santa Fe RiverFest fundraiser returns with the Santa Fe River Song Contest on Sunday, March 27, beginning at 1pm at Rum 138, at 2070 Southwest County Road 138 in Fort White, Florida.

Held over two weekends during the month of March, RiverFest activities also include a plant walk and guided river paddle. These “learn, explore and play” events are sponsored by Our Santa Fe River, Inc., a North Florida non-profit organization working to bring some much-needed attention to area water resources.

“We have worked very hard this year to give our river a voice where the science of water can be celebrated through a confluence of song, dance, art, and mermaid magic,” said Rhonda Long, this year’s RiverFest Coordinator.

“These events enable us to not only raise funds, but awareness, so we can continue to develop and expand our grassroots efforts to protect our community’s aquifers, springs, and waters,” said Long.

“This year, we’ve reduced the ticket price of the Song Contest to make it more affordable for the whole family to attend,” said Our Santa Fe River President Kristin Rubin.

The Song Contest, a competition of original songs written about the Santa Fe River, brings local and regional singer/songwriters and music lovers from around the state to celebrate and learn about this special spring-fed river. Entrants perform their songs live at Rum 138 on March 27.

Gates open at 1pm with the In the Moment band opening the show. The live performance of song entries begins at 2pm.

Gainesville’s Poet Laureate E. Stanley Richardson is the master of ceremonies. The winner and two runners-up will walk away with a cash prize, and all participants will receive a professional YouTube video of their performance. After the song win-

ners are announced and the silent auction pieces are distributed, In the Moment takes the stage again to close the show.

The RiverFest Song Contest will include an opportunity to have a photograph with a MerMaid, information booths, locally crafted beer, food and wine, a 50/50 raffle, and a silent auction with many interesting and unusual items, including pieces donated by the area’s leading artists and crafters.

This year’s plant hikes feature Bottomland Hardwood Forest with guide and botanist Colette Jacono, Ph.D., on Saturday, March 19 at 9am and a transitional hike from Upland Forest down to Spring Run Swamp on Sunday, March 20 at 9am. Admission is \$20 per person. There is a \$5 parking fee at the site, and carpooling is encouraged.

The annual guided paddle will be on Saturday, March 26 at 10am. The Upper Santa Fe/Olustee Creek paddle tour will be an up-and-back paddle on the upper Santa Fe River. The first half of the tour is against a light current that paddlers will barely feel. The return back downstream (going with the current) will end the trip at the same launch site. Paddle time,

including a brief lunch/stretch break, is about 3-3.5 hours.

The tour will be on a little-known section of the Santa Fe River, above the River Sink and O’Leno Park. We will paddle to (if water levels allow), a short way beyond the confluence of Olustee Creek. This charming reach of the upper Santa Fe is characterized by a wide channel with high, sandy banks. Reserve your place early, as this event historically sells out quickly.

Admission to the song contest is \$10 per person, ages 12 and under free. Plant Hikes are \$20 per person (plus parking). Tickets can be purchased in advance at <oursantaferiver.org>. Tickets to the Upper Santa Fe/Olustee Creek Paddle are \$60 per person, including vessel, or \$40 per person with one’s own vessel. They must be purchased directly through Adventure Outpost by calling 386-454-0611.

Bring plant hike or paddle tickets to the song contest to receive \$5 off food and beverage tickets. All proceeds support Our Santa Fe River, Inc.

For information on events, sponsorship opportunities, ticket purchasing, or volunteering, visit <oursantaferiver.org> 🐸

## Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice updates

Did you know that the Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice is one of the closest destination locations to the halfway point of the 1,500-mile-long Florida Trail? At less than two miles from the Trail, FCPJ is now recognized as a gateway community by the Florida Trail Association. Stop by to visit on your next hike.

FCPJ is expanding their hosting to more youth groups in 2022. Their Peace Education Center is available for retreats and gatherings at a reasonable rate. With the facility, groups enjoy the peaceful 15-acre rural sanctuary in Bradford County. Call 352-247-7142 for rates and availability.

Spring is starting to blossom and FCPJ is actively seeking partners to join as they expand their gardens and educational efforts to support growing local food. If you like to get your hands dirty, get in touch with them and explore ways to grow a brighter future.

Mark your calendars for the return of the FCPJ May Day event. Join them for

another open house celebration the first Sunday in May as they honor the earth and come together in harmony around community conversations that matter. Find them online at <www.Florida4Peace.org> or email them at Florida4Peace@gmail.com to connect or inquire about participation. 🐸

## Hey, Readers!

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

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## Radio silence? Can you help?

*by Chris Lake and Fred Sowder  
WGOT Volunteers*

Where there used to be vibrant discussion, there is now silence. Voices once representing the oppressed and diverse have been cast aside for personal gratification via popular entertainment. Community level discussions that once took center stage are now gone. Elections keep producing winners with little interest in supporting social justice or anti-fascism.

How could such things happen? Sounds dystopian and hopeless, doesn't it?

Things don't have to continue in this direction. Your community radio station could use your help in multiple ways and we invite you to join our family.

Do you have tech skills that could be put to use toward WGOT's website or studio gadgetry? Are you a fundraising or community-building powerhouse? Can you do simple data entry and curation tasks?

If you answer yes to any of these questions, please consider contacting us at [info@wgot.org](mailto:info@wgot.org) asking how you can help. As we hopefully emerge from this pandemic, we could use more help than ever.

If you've always wanted to host a podcast, how about putting some minor tweaks on it so it reaches a whole new audience on the radio as well as streaming on demand?

New programs are always being added to WGOT's schedule. One recent example is Salvation: The Punk Rock Revival. Cohosts Leigh Scott and Jay "Pops" Cogar bring you some of the rawest and crucial tunes from the punk genre. After getting its start on commercial radio a couple decades ago, we're honored to have Salvation now be a part of WGOT.

You may have noticed some technical difficulties with WGOT and our FM signal on 100.1FM. We are working to resolve those issues as quickly as possible. But frankly, that is going to take money, which is something WGOT is lacking after two years of Covid wrecking our normal fundraising efforts.

What you can do to help and support us is to subscribe to WGOT via [patreon.com](https://www.patreon.com/wgot). Deepest thanks to all of our supporters already on the platform. You can also give the WGOT Facebook page a like and view our pinned posts there from time to time to find out what's happening in our world.

In the meantime, you can listen to WGOT anywhere you have an internet connection. Just visit [wgot.org](http://wgot.org) for all the details. We hope to have all the technical problems fixed as soon as possible. But until then, keep it loud, Gainesville! And don't forget to spay and neuter your pets. 🐾

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# Editors' picks: News that didn't fit

- ✈ **All about winning elections: Latino, white, and Black voters respond best to one type of messaging**  
by Ian Reifowitz / *Daily Kos* / Feb. 15 / <tinyurl.com/Iguana1338>  
Race-class fusion messaging: an important, poll-supported strategy for Democrats to pull the country together.
- ✈ **Covid-19 misinformation: Come for the misinformation, stay for the facts:**  
by the Social Media Lab at Ted Rogers School of Management / <covid19misinfo.org>  
A Covid-19 global misinformation monitor that houses a collection of resources about virus "infodemic" claims (including corrections), sorted by type and source.
- ✈ **Fight misinformation with education, not censorship**  
by Jeffrey Aaron Snyder / *Washington Monthly* / Feb 18 / <tinyurl.com/Iguana1344>  
A review of a book by Jacob Mchangama on the history of speech rights sheds light on the titanic battles over social media, anti-vaxxers, and what to do about Joe Rogan. Check out *Free Speech: A history from Socrates to Social Media*.
- ✈ **Florida Legislature honors women by taking away their autonomy and control over their bodies**  
by Diane Roberts / *Florida Phoenix* / Feb 11 / <tinyurl.com/Iguana1345>  
Only in "dystopian Florida" does it make sense to "honor women" by ignoring what they want and by making decisions about their bodies based on falsehoods. One state senator insists: 'We're not being mean.'
- ✈ **Forward to the past (Organic farming)**  
by Santiago De Choch / <tinyurl.com/Iguana1356>  
"The agriculture of the future looks like that of the past, but nothing like the energy hungry agro-industry we have now ... It's time to turn the TV off and mobilize every ounce of strength, every skill you've got, and every neighbor, friend and relative toward one goal: independence from long supply chains by growing as much food as possible in your own backyard, neighborhood and region."
- ✈ **My talk at the "No war with Russia over Ukraine rally," February 5th, 2022**  
by Peter Bohmer, *Peter Bohmer's Blog* / Feb. 13 / <tinyurl.com/Iguana1337>  
A political economy professor explains why Russia is not the only aggressor and threat to peace in Ukraine, and how we, in the U.S., need to transform our exploitative capitalist system into a participatory socialist system.
- ✈ **Points of no return: As the world warms, these Earth systems are changing. Could further warming make them spiral out of control?**  
by Alexandria Herr, Shannon Osaka, Maddie Stone and others / *Grist* / <tinyurl.com/Iguana1336>  
A tidy, clear, scary summary of seven potential tipping points on sea, ice, and land for climate disaster.
- ✈ **Suddenly there's a rush of 15-week abortion bans. Here's why**  
by Carter Sherman / *Vice News* / Feb. 17 / <tinyurl.com/Iguana1340>  
States are looking to adopt bans they think the Supreme Court will uphold, but abortion opponents will not stop with a 15-week ban," said a state policy analyst.
- ✈ **What I learned from watching more than 500 Jan. 6 videos**  
by Quentin Young / *Colorado Newsline* / Feb 12 / <tinyurl.com/Iguana1341>  
Nothing provides an understanding of Jan. 6 like a mass of videos taken by rioters themselves as they converse with one another, chant together, coalesce as a mob, commit violence, and take stock of what they accomplished. Here's the top takeaway: The insurrection represented a greater threat to America than casual observers think. ✈



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## *In memoriam: Rest in power*

### **Todd Gitlin, prominent activist and thinker, dead at 79**

*A president of SDS in the 60s, he helped organize the first major protest against the Vietnam War*

*This is an abridged version of an obituary originally published by the Associated Press on Feb 5. For a more in-depth look at Gitlin's life and accomplishments, see "Todd Gitlin, New Left Activist and Scholar, Dies at 79" in the Washington Post <[tinyurl.com/Iguana1354](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1354)>.*

Dr. Todd Gitlin, a prominent anti-war and campus activist of the 1960s who drew upon his experiences and influenced many others as an author, sociologist and educator, has died at age 79.

Gitlin's friend and fellow author Peter Dreier posted a tribute on his Facebook page, calling him a "prolific writer, a profound thinker, a progressive political activist, and a respected and revered mentor to several generations of activists, writers, and scholars."

A Manhattan native, Dr. Gitlin was a one-time president of one of the leading campus organizations of the '60s — Students for a Democratic Society — and helped organize one of the first major protests against the Vietnam War, in Washington, D.C. in 1965. The same year he helped lead an anti-apartheid sit-in at the Wall Street headquarters of Chase Manhattan Bank, a lender to South Africa's racist regime.

"This is what moved me most about the SDS circle: everything these people did was charged with intensity," Gitlin wrote in "The Sixties: Years of Hope, Days of Rage," a widely praised book published in 1987 that combined history and personal memories. "They were at once analytically keen and politically committed, but also, with a thousand gestures of affection, these unabashed moralists cared about one another."

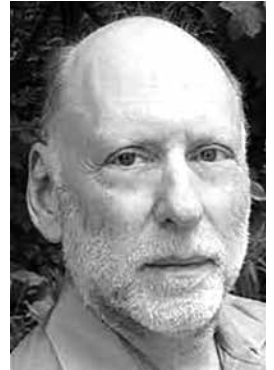
Gitlin's activism dated back to the start of the decade, when he was an undergraduate student at Harvard. He became a leader of a Harvard group opposing nuclear weapons and helped organize a demonstration in Washington in 1962. He later received a master's degree in political science from the University of Michigan, where Tom Hayden and others helped found the SDS, and a Ph.D. in sociology from UC Berkeley.

Gitlin remained politically involved after the '60s, but also clashed at times with fellow liberals. In the 1990s, he was critical of some of the academic debates over the literary canon and the predominance of male white writers. In his 1995 book "The Twilight of Common Dreams: Why America Is Wracked by Culture Wars," he alleged that the focus on what he and others called

"identity politics" was weakening the left overall, writing that while Republicans were gaining power in Washington, the left has been "marching on the English department."

In 2020, he was among the signers of a widely debated letter that appeared in Harper's magazine and denounced so-called "cancel culture" and the rush to "swift and severe retribution in response to perceived transgressions of speech and thought."

Gitlin taught at several schools before joining Columbia University in 2002 as a professor of journalism and sociology. His writings appeared in The New York Times, The New Republic and other publications. His books also included "Occupy Nation" and "Letters to a Young Activist," in which he advised his would-be reader to "Be original. See what happens." 🐼



## **Remembering Dr. Paul Farmer**

*World-renowned infectious disease doctor, anthropologist, global health advocate, and author leaves large legacy*



*This abridged obituary was published by Partners in Health on Feb. 21.*

*For a more thorough look at his life and impact, see "Paul Farmer, Pioneer of Global Health, Dies at 62" from*

*the New York Times on Feb. 21 at <[tinyurl.com/Iguana1355](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1355)>*

Partners In Health announced that its founder, Dr. Paul Farmer, unexpectedly passed away today in Rwanda from an acute cardiac event while sleeping.

Farmer was 62 years old. Partners In Health CEO Dr. Sheila Davis released the following statement:

"Paul Farmer's loss is devastating, but his vision for the world will live on through Partners in Health. Paul taught all those around him the power of accompaniment, love for one another, and solidarity. Our deepest sympathies are with his family."

Farmer, M.D., Ph.D., was Kolokotronis University Professor and chair of the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School, chief of the Division of Global Health Equity at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, and co-founder and chief strategist of Partners In Health.

Farmer and his colleagues pioneered novel, community-based treatment strategies that demonstrate the delivery of

high-quality health care in resource-poor settings. He wrote extensively on health, human rights, and the consequences of social inequality. Farmer was a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, from which he was the recipient of the 2018 Public Welfare Medal.

He authored multiple books, including: *In the Company of the Poor: Conversations with Dr. Paul Farmer and Fr. Gustavo Gutiérrez*, *Reimagining Global Health: An Introduction*, and *To Repair the World: Paul Farmer Speaks to the Next Generation*.

His most recent book was released in November 2020: *Fevers, Feuds, and Diamonds: Ebola and the Ravages of History*. 🐼

# Truth be told: Phosphate mining plan needs transparency

by Carol Mosley

*Originally published in the Bradford Telegraph on Feb. 3*

One thing the public should be able to expect from our commissioners and public employees is openness and honesty. Florida's Sunshine Laws under F.S.119 are designed exactly for that outcome.

In 2016 HPSII Enterprises (a phosphate mining company) submitted a plan for phosphate mining to the Bradford County Commission. I showed up with a long list of questions. I've spent the last six years reviewing documents and seeking answers to separate spin from fact.

In 2017, the county hired Onsite Environmental Consultants to review the mining plans that HPSII submitted, and then to make a recommendation to the county as to whether HPSII has shown that their plans are in keeping with Bradford's Land Development Regulations. HPSII agreed to pay for the county's consultants (an odd arrangement), except for one section of the scope dealing with land use and regional planning, which HPSII did not want to pay for. The County has still not assigned that important section elsewhere for any review over these six years. Why not?

In November 2019, HPSII submitted their third Master Mining Plan, their cover letter stating that they hoped this was sufficient to proceed to the public hearing.

In January 2020, the hydrogeologist submitted his final review to OEC, including a review of the Master Mining Plan. In the two years since then, despite my constant requests to know what we are waiting for, no action took place and I received no answer.

In March 2021, attorney Will Sexton gave an "update" saying that in September 2019 the hydrogeologist had requested more information and HPSII was working on it. Supposedly, the Request for Additional Information was "not reduced to writing." Sexton said he spoke with the HPS attorney and "our" OEC consultant, who both stated that the delay was a result of the September 2019 RAI.

Since my two years of requests for information about the "unwritten RAI" were unsuccessful, I wrote to OEC (that had by now been taken over by another consulting company, SWCA) but they did not respond. So in December 2022, I finally appealed directly to the hydrogeologist, who promptly confirmed that he finalized his review in January 2020 and had retired that same year.

It is not true that we have been waiting for two years for information requested by him, as stated by Sexton in March 2021.

So what is really going on here?

Why did our County Attorney/County Manager Sexton drag the public and commissioners along on a two year journey down a dead end road?

Who benefits from this delay? HPSII? OEC? Not the County.

Is the delay in going to a hearing due to the concerns expressed in the hydrogeologist's review of the mining plans?

Why were the commissioners negligent in getting to the bottom of the two year delay, despite my constant requests for transparency and my evidence of obvious "anomalies?"

Why are our County's consultants seeking plans for deep well injection discharge for HPSII to consider in their plans?

Is OEC/SWCA confused about their intended scope of work?

Deception and obfuscation from our public servants are not OK. The County Commissioners need to demand answers from their staff and consultants. We, the public, deserve better.

The Board of County Commissioners needs to tell OEC/SWCA to submit their final report, including the hydrogeologist's review. The County then needs to bring the Master Mining Plan to a Hearing, as per F.S. 125.022.

If HPSII is still not ready to proceed to the hearing, perhaps their submission of a Master Mining Plan six years ago was premature. They could withdraw their application and submit a new MMP when they are ready for the hearing.

*Note: After this letter was published in the Bradford Telegraph, the Bradford County Commission held a meeting at which this issue, which was not put on the agenda as requested, was presented to the commissioners and attended by local environmental groups. However, no satisfactory response was provided to the public by the county attorney nor the county commission.*

*Public comments included those from local residents and representatives from Bradford Environmental Forum, Citizens Against Phosphate Mining, Our Santa Fe River, and Sierra Club. The plan is to mine on both sides of the New River, which flows into the Santa Fe River. HPSII is suing Union County for hundreds of millions of dollars. Alachua County has set aside funds and vowed to follow the process to protect the Santa Fe River and aquifer system. 🐢*



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## From WAR, p. 1

*tools of warfare are in play – economic and cyber attacks are deployed even as missiles are fired and decades-old tanks roll and troops advance.*

*But, we do see backlash in Russia, bravely in the streets. It was almost as if Putin was goaded into this decision – the West rejecting his demands. It may backfire on him. But regardless, the blame for the destruction can be spread broadly.*

*And we citizens, especially in this nation, a major builder of weapons and an economic agenda setter, need to heed Martin Luther King's words: "Those who love peace must learn to organize as effectively as those who love war."*

*The article below by Brad Wolf was published on Feb. 26 by Common Dreams. See more at CommonDreams.org.*

Last September 21st, in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the International Day of Peace, as U.S. forces withdrew from Afghanistan, our local peace organization emphasized that we would be relentless in saying no to the calls for war, that those calls for war would come again, and soon.

Are we truly incapable of resolving these concerns without slaughtering each other? Is our intellect that limited, our patience that short, our humanity so curdled that we must repeatedly reach for the sword?

It did not take long.

The American military establishment and our domestic war culture must always

have a villain, a cause, a war. Great sums of money must be spent, weapons quickly deployed, people killed, cities razed.

Now, Ukraine is the pawn.

Some shrug and say war is in our bones. While aggression may be part of our DNA, the systematic killing of organized warfare is not. That is learned behavior. Governments created it, perfected it to advance their empires, and could not perpetuate it without the support of its citizenry.

And so, we the citizens must be duped, fed a story, a myth of rogues and righteous causes. A myth of warfare. We are the "good guys," we do no wrong, killing is noble, evil must be stopped. The story is always the same. It is only the battlefield and the "evil ones" who change. Sometimes, as with the case of Russia, the "evil ones" are simply recycled and used again. America has bombed a sovereign country every day for the last twenty years, in Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, and Yemen. Yet that is never part of the story we tell ourselves.

Since the fall of the Soviet Union, we have used NATO to surround Russia. Our military and that of our NATO Allies—tanks and nuclear missiles and fighter jets—have moved up against the Russian border in a provocative and destabilizing way. Despite assurances NATO would not expand to include former Soviet bloc countries, we have done just that. We weaponized the Ukraine, minimized diplomatic solutions such as the Minsk Protocol, played a role in the 2014 coup that ousted the government there and installed a pro-Western one.

How would we respond if the Russians were garrisoned in massive numbers along the Canadian border? If the Chinese conducted live-fire war drills off the coast of California? In 1962 when the Soviets installed missiles in Cuba, our outrage was so severe we took the world to the brink of nuclear war.

Our long history of assimilating other lands into our own, of meddling in foreign elections, of overthrowing governments, invading other countries, of torture, leaves us with little room to speak when others breach international law. But it

does not seem to prevent our government, our news media, our own selves from repeating the war myth of Americans as the good guys and everyone else as evil. It has become our bedtime story, one that seeds a nightmare.

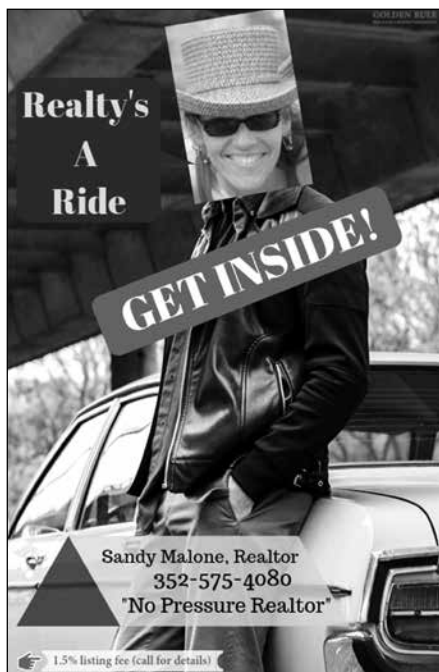
We have arrived at this point of peril in Eastern Europe because we have lost the ability to see the world through the eyes of another. We see with the eyes of a soldier, an American soldier, not a citizen. We have allowed military behavior to define our human behavior, and so our outlook becomes hostile, our thinking belligerent, our worldview filled with enemies. But in a democracy, it is the citizens who are to rule, not the soldiers.

And yet a relentless stream of propaganda, a perverse telling of our history, and the glorification of war, create a militaristic mentality in far too many of us. It thus becomes impossible to comprehend the behavior of other nations, to understand their fears, their concerns. We know only our own created story, our own myth, we care only for our own concerns, and so are forever at war. We become provocateurs rather than peacemakers.

Military aggression should be stopped, international lawlessness condemned, territorial boundaries respected, human rights violations prosecuted. To do that we must model the behavior we claim to esteem, do it in a way that it becomes learned in each one of us and in the rest of the world. Only then will transgressors be few and truly isolated, unable to function in the international arena, thereby prevented from fulfilling their unlawful aims.

The Ukraine should not have to suffer invasion by Russia. And Russia should not have had its safety and security threatened by NATO expansion and weaponry. Are we truly incapable of resolving these concerns without slaughtering each other?

Is our intellect that limited, our patience that short, our humanity so curdled that we must repeatedly reach for the sword? War is not genetically set in our bones, and these problems are not divinely created. We made them, and the myths surrounding them, and so we can unmake them. We must believe this if we are to survive. ✪



*"All war is a symptom of man's failure as a thinking animal."*

- John Steinbeck, author and 1962 Nobel Prize winner



## Spotlight on ... UF Young Democratic Socialists of America



UF Young Democratic Socialists of America is a student-run socialist organization dedicated to organizing students to fight for the needs of workers and students while building the capacity to fight radical and structural changes. The chapter has taken an activism-first

approach to its work, recently organizing a protest against the "Don't Say Gay" legislation moving through the Florida legislature, and is working with unions at UF to fight for academic freedom. UF YDSA also regularly participates in various projects at the Civic Me-

dia Center, such as Free Grocery Store and Books 2 Prisoners. A new organization, UF YDSA looks forward to a future of growth, and hopes to further its anti-racist, feminist, and anti-capitalist mission both on UF's campus and in Gainesville proper. ✨

## Iguana Directory

Call 352-378-5655 or email [gainesvilleiguana@cox.net](mailto: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 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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 [firstcoastaclu@gmail.com](mailto:firstcoastaclu@gmail.com) / <http://northeastflorida.aclufl.org>.

**Alachua NAACP** – Together with more than 2 million activists across the country we work to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination. Everyone is invited to join. Follow us on Facebook / <https://naacpacb.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](http://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](mailto: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. [centralfldsa@gmail.com](mailto:centralfldsa@gmail.com) / Facebook: North Central Florida DSA

**Citizens Climate Lobby** builds awareness and lobbies for sensible climate policies. 214-1778 / [https://citizensclimatelobby.org/chapters/FL\\_Gainesville/](https://citizensclimatelobby.org/chapters/FL_Gainesville/) [btancig@gmail.com](mailto:btancig@gmail.com) /

**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](mailto:coordinators@civicmediacenter.org) / [www.civicmediacenter.org](http://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](mailto:chispasuf@gmail.com) / [www.chispasuf.org](http://www.chispasuf.org) / Facebook: [chispasUF](https://www.facebook.com/chispasUF)

**Code Pink: Women for Peace** Women-led grassroots peace and social justice movement utilizing creative protest, non-violent direct action and community involvement. Join our Facebook group at: [Codepinkgainesville /](https://www.facebook.com/Codepinkgainesville/) [CodePink4Peace.org](https://www.facebook.com/CodePink4Peace.org)

**The Community Weatherization Coalition's** mission is to help their neighbors save energy

and water and reduce utility bills by engaging volunteers, building community, and learning together. [info@communityweatherization.org](mailto:info@communityweatherization.org) 450-4965 /

**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](mailto:info@conserveflorida.org) / [www.conserveflorida.org](http://www.conserveflorida.org)

**Democratic Party of Alachua County** meets monthly on the second Wednesday at 6pm on Zoom. 352-373-1730 / [www.alachuadems.org](http://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](mailto:youngersn@outlook.com) / [www.facebook.com/DivestGainesville](https://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](http://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](https://www.facebook.com/groups/edibleplantproject)

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

**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](mailto:final.friends.org@gmail.com) / [www.finalfriends.org](http://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, workshops, and educational activities that promote peace, human

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rights, social justice awareness, conflict resolution, self-empowerment and environmental awareness. 352-603-3680 / [florida4peace.org](http://florida4peace.org).

**Florida School of Traditional Midwifery** is a clearinghouse for information, activities and educational programs regarding midwifery. 338-0766 / [info@midwiferyschool.org](mailto:info@midwiferyschool.org)  
[www.midwiferyschool.org](http://www.midwiferyschool.org)

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

**Florida Prisoner Solidarity** is a carceral abolitionist collective with members inside and outside of prisons. Efforts focus around needs of incarcerated individuals and their care networks. P.O. Box 358439, Gainesville, FL 32635 / 850-895-1505 / [flprisonersolidarity@gmail.com](mailto:flprisonersolidarity@gmail.com) / [www.flprisonersolidarity.org/](http://www.flprisonersolidarity.org/)  
[facebook.com/FLAbolition](https://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](mailto:info@gaaponline.org)  
<https://gainesvillepride.org/gaap/>  
[www.facebook.com/GAAPONLINE/](https://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](mailto:mark1343@juno.com) / [www.fadp.org](http://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](https://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](mailto:Gainesvilleiaij@gmail.com) / [www.gainesvilleiaij.blogspot.com](http://www.gainesvilleiaij.blogspot.com)

**Gainesville National Organization of Women** focuses on reproductive rights; ending sex discrimination and 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](mailto:info@gainesvilleNOW.org) / [www.gainesvillennow.org](http://www.gainesvillennow.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](http://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](http://www.GainesvilleQuakers.org)

**Gainesville Roller Rebels**, a women's Flat Track roller derby team, needs skaters and volunteer assistance. [join@gainesvillerollerrebels.com](mailto:join@gainesvillerollerrebels.com) / <https://gainesvillerollerrebels.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](mailto:organizing@ufgau.org) / [www.ufgau.org](http://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](mailto: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 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.

[facebook.com/humanistsocietyofgainesville](https://facebook.com/humanistsocietyofgainesville)  
[gainesvillehumanists@gmail.com](mailto:gainesvillehumanists@gmail.com) / [www.gainesvillehumanists.org/](http://www.gainesvillehumanists.org/)

**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](mailto: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. <https://indivisiblegnv.org>  
[projectmanagement@indivisiblegnv.org](mailto:projectmanagement@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](mailto: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@lwv-alachua.org](mailto:info@lwv-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](mailto: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](mailto:msfgainesville@gmail.com)  
[www.facebook.com/MSFGainesville/](https://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/](https://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](http://www.namigainesville.org)

**National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare** works to preserve these threatened programs for senior citizens and families. Local volunteers are needed. [Our.circle.of.care@gmail.com](mailto:Our.circle.of.care@gmail.com) / [www.ncpssm.org](http://www.ncpssm.org)

**National Lawyers Guild** consists of lawyers, law students, legal workers and jailhouse lawyers who use the law to advance social justice, support progressive social movements. [gainesvillennlg@gmail.com](mailto:gainesvillennlg@gmail.com) / [www.nlg.org](http://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 / [nw1@womensliberation.org](mailto:nw1@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](mailto: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](http://www.facebook.com/occupygainesville)

**Our Revolution North-Central Florida**, inspired by Bernie Sanders, bringing progressive voices into the Democratic party. [contact@ourrevncfl.com](mailto:contact@ourrevncfl.com)  
[www.facebook.com/OurRevNCFL/](http://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](mailto: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. 317-7307 / [prairiecreekconservationcemetery.org](http://prairiecreekconservationcemetery.org) / [info@prairiecreekconservationcemetery.org](mailto:info@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](mailto:ufpridemonth@gmail.com) / <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1152>

**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](http://www.GainesvillePride.org)

**Quaker Meetinghouse** Quakers have a 350-year tradition of working peacefully for social justice. Silent, unprogrammed worship Sundays at 11, followed by potluck. Visitors welcome. 702 NW 38th St. Facebook/GainesvilleQuakers for events or request Meetinghouse space at [www.GainesvilleQuakers.org](http://www.GainesvilleQuakers.org)

**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](mailto:info@RepurposeProject.org) / [www.repurposeproject.org](http://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](mailto:info@centerforpeacebuilding.org) / [www.centerforpeacebuilding.org](http://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](mailto:info@rwhp.org) / [www.rwhp.org](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:standbyourplan@gmail.com) / <http://standbyourplan.org>

**Student Animal Alliance** UF-based group that promotes animal rights through education, <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](mailto:billy@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](mailto:sundayassembly32601@gmail.com) <http://SAGainesville.weebly.com/>

**The Climate Reality Project Gainesville Area Chapter** is the local chapter of an international nonprofit group dedicated to accelerating urgent action globally on the climate crisis. Join the chapter for news, action alerts, meeting alerts at <https://www.climate realityproject.org/apply/chapters> / <https://www.facebook.com/climate realityprojectgnv> / [climate realityprojectgnv@gmail.com](mailto:climate realityprojectgnv@gmail.com) / <https://climate realityprojectgnv.wordpress.com>

**UF College Democrats** is the official voice of the Democratic party on UF campus. 407-580-4543 / [president@ufdemocrats.org](mailto:president@ufdemocrats.org) / [www.ufcollegedemocrats.org](http://www.ufcollegedemocrats.org) / Facebook.com/UFcollegedems

**UF Pride Student Union** is an LGBTQ+ 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](mailto:ufpridesu@gmail.com) / [www.facebook.com/ufpsu/](http://www.facebook.com/ufpsu/)

**UF Young Democratic Socialists of America** is a student-run socialist organization dedicated to organizing students to fight for the needs of workers and students while building the capacity to fight radical and structural changes. Weekly meetings. @uf\_ydsa / [ufydsa21@gmail.com](mailto:ufydsa21@gmail.com)

**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](mailto:officemanager@uff-uf.org) / [www.UFF-UF.org](http://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/](http://www.una-usagainesvillefl.org/) [facebook.com/UNAUSAGainesvilleFlChapter](https://facebook.com/UNAUSAGainesvilleFlChapter)

**United Way Information and Referral** is a human-staffed computer database for resources and organizations in Alachua County. 332-4636 or simply 211 / [uw21help@gmail.com](mailto:uw21help@gmail.com) / <http://www.unitedwayncfl.org/21>

**Veterans for Peace Gainesville Chapter** is an anti-war organization that raises awareness of the detriments of militarism and war, as well as seeking peaceful and effective alternatives. 375-2563 / <http://vfp Gainesville.org/> [www.facebook.com/VFPchapter14/](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:info@wgot.org) / [www.wgot.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:wmw@hearourvoicegnv.org) / <https://m.facebook.com/wmflgnv/> / [www.facebook.com/groups/wmflgnv/](http://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. <http://wspus.org>. 🐉

## Florida legislative watchdogging: Radio shows and websites

- ✪ **Capital Report:** From <wfsu.org>, locally at 6:30pm Monday through Friday on WUFT FM and other public radio stations
- ✪ **Florida Education Association:** <feaweb.org>
- ✪ **1,000 Friends of FL** (environmental group): <1000fof.org>
- ✪ **American Civil Liberties Union:** <aclufl.org>



## News from the



by JoJo Sacks

The Civic Media Center has been busy with lots of local organizing, skillshares, workshops, and film screenings in the courtyard. The volunteers are figuring out ways that we can get together safely and build community.

Thanks to your support, we have continued to keep our space open on Wednesdays and Saturdays for browsing of the library collections. Our volunteer base is growing, and we always appreciate the help.

### Calendar

- ✪ **Thursday, March 10, 5:30pm:** Volunteer meeting
- ✪ **Friday, March 18, 6:30:** Film screening of *Jackson*, a compassionate insight into the fight for abortion rights, with National Women's Liberation
- ✪ **Saturday, March 19, 2-5pm:** Gainesville Free Store
- ✪ **Wednesday, March 23, 7pm:** Book Club will resume with *Constructive Criticism: A Handbook* by Gracie Lyons
- ✪ **Thursday, March 24, 5:30pm:** Volunteer meeting
- ✪ **Friday, March 25, 7-10pm:** Friday night Artwalk will feature a special artist at the CMC ✪

### Want your article, ad, event or PSA in the *Iguana*?

April 2022 issue: Deadline for content is March 30  
Submit events, content, and any questions to:  
**[gainesvilleiguana@cox.net](mailto:gainesvilleiguana@cox.net)**



Established 1986

# The Gainesville Iguana

## Gainesville's progressive newsletter

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

- (352) 378-5655 • [GainesvilleIguana@cox.net](mailto:GainesvilleIguana@cox.net) • Instagram: [gnv\\_iguana](https://www.instagram.com/gnv_iguana)
- [www.gainesvilleiguana.org](http://www.gainesvilleiguana.org) • [facebook.com/gainesvilleiguana](https://www.facebook.com/gainesvilleiguana)
- P.O. Box 14712, Gainesville, FL 32604

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