

The Gainesville Iguana

A progressive newsletter

April 2022

Vol. 36, Issue 4

Teaching in 2022: a precarious balancing act

by Kendra Vincent

I really do love being a teacher and being in a classroom every day. I really do love my students. But teaching is a difficult job in the best of circumstances, and we've been operating under circumstances that are much less than best.

Teaching is a constant balance of so many things ... state and district mandates with joys of learning; implementing a rigorous learning environment with fostering a compassionate, nurturing classroom; feeling overwhelmed with what I do being only a small drop of water in a vast ocean with feeling immense pressure of the high stakes of our children; being

the best teacher I can be with preventing complete burnout.

All of us are tired. All of us expected this year to be better. It's not. It's a balance.

This year, we have the ability to be vaccinated, we know that we do not need to be as concerned about surfaces, and we eventually received air filters in classrooms.

However, I also have more students in my classes, social distancing is impossible, and masks can't be mandated and are not chosen by most.

Then there are the emotional, social, and academic needs of the students that have only become more acute and more diffi-

cult to meet. But at least we're all in the same room together, and I am only creating one set of curriculum to be taught in

See TEACHING, p. 19

Lawmakers did nothing about excessive rents, collapsing condos

'Nothing matters to these Republicans but power – power and malice'

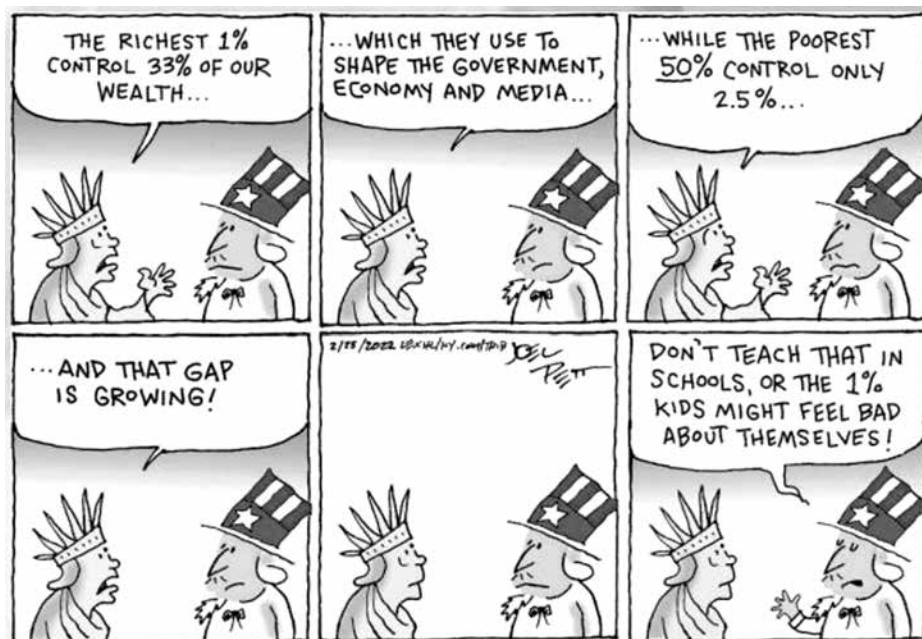
by Diane Roberts

The cruelty is the point.

Adam Serwer's 2018 *Atlantic* essay on Donald Trump describes the first year and a half of his administration as a "whirlwind of cruelty," a never-ending storm of insults, pettiness, and bullying. He could have been writing about Ron DeSantis and Florida's Republican "leadership."

The 2022 session, an orgy of malice, bad faith, and lies, is finally over. And what did your elected representatives do, you ask?

See CRUELTY, p. 20



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History rounds off skeletons to zero

The war in Ukraine, along with US and Western countries-imposed sanctions, have caused global food, fertilizer and fuel prices to skyrocket, endangering the world food supply

by Vijay Prashad, Director,
Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research

*This letter was originally published on
March 31. More at thetricontinental.org.*

Dear friends,

Greetings from the Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research.

On 16 March 2022, as Russia's war on Ukraine entered its second month, Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev warned his people that "uncertainty and turbulence in the world markets are growing, and production and trade chains are collapsing."

A week later, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development released a brief study on the immense shock that will be felt around the world due to this war. "Soaring food and fuel prices will have an immediate effect on the most vulnerable in developing countries, resulting in hunger and hardship for households who spend the highest share of their income on food," the study noted.

South of Kazakhstan, in the Kyrgyz Republic, the poorest households already spent 65 percent of their income on food before these current price hikes; as food inflation rises by 10 percent, the impact will be catastrophic for the Kyrgyz people.

After the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, immense pressure was brought to bear on the countries of the Global South to disband their food security and food sovereignty projects and to integrate their production and consumption of food into global markets. In his recent address, President Tokayev announced that the Kazakh government was now going "to oversee the production of agricultural equipment, fertilisers, fuel, and the stocks of seeds."

While 22 percent of world cereal production crosses international borders, Big Agriculture controls both the inputs for cereal production and the prices of cereals. Four corporations – Bayer, Corteva, ChemChina, and Limagrain control more than half of the world's seed production, while four other corporations – Archer-Daniels-Midland, Bunge, Cargill, and Louis Dreyfus – effectively set global food prices.

Very few countries in the world have been able to develop a food system that

is immune from the turbulence of market liberalisation. Modest domestic policies – such as banning food exports during a drought or keeping high import duties to protect farmers' livelihoods – are now punished by the World Bank and other multilateral agencies. President Tokayev's statement indicates an appetite in the poorer nations to rethink the liberalisation of the food markets.

In July 2020, a statement titled "A New Cold War against China is against the interests of humanity," was widely circulated and endorsed. No Cold War, the campaign which drafted the statement, has held a number of important webinars over the past two years to amplify discussions in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Europe on the impact of this U.S.-imposed pressure campaign against China, and on the racism that this has inflamed in the West.

Part of No Cold War's analysis is that these manoeuvres by the United States are intended to discourage other countries from commercially engaging with China, and also Russia. U.S. firms find themselves at a disadvantage compared to Chinese firms, and Russian energy exports to Europe are vastly cheaper than U.S. exports. The U.S. has responded to this economic competition, not on a purely commercial basis, but treated it as a threat to its national security and to world peace.

Instead of dividing the world in this manner, No Cold War calls for relations between the United States and China and Russia based on "mutual dialogue" centred "on the common issues which unite humanity."

During this war on Ukraine, No Cold War has launched a new publication called *Briefings*, which will be factual texts on matters of global concern. Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research will share these periodic briefings in this newsletter. For its first issue, No Cold War has produced the following Briefing, *World hunger and the war in Ukraine*.

The war in Ukraine, along with sanctions imposed by the United States and Western countries against Russia, have caused global food, fertiliser, and fuel prices to "skyrocket" and endanger the world food supply. This conflict is exacerbating

the existing crisis of global hunger and imperils the living standards and well-being of billions of people – particularly in the Global South.

War in the "breadbasket of the world"

Russia and Ukraine together produce nearly 30 percent of the world's wheat and roughly 12 percent of its total calories. Over the past five years, they have accounted for 17 percent of the world's corn, 32 percent of barley (a critical source of animal feed), and 75 percent of sunflower oil (an important cooking oil in many countries). On top of this, Russia is the world's largest supplier of fertilisers and natural gas (a key component in fertiliser production), accounting for 15 percent of the global trade of nitrogenous fertilisers, 17 percent of potash fertilisers, 20 percent of natural gas.

The current crisis threatens to cause a global food shortage. The United Nations has estimated that up to 30 percent of Ukrainian farmland could become a warzone; in addition, due to sanctions, Russia has been severely restricted in exporting food, fertiliser, and fuel. This has caused global prices to surge. Since the war began, wheat prices have increased by 21 percent, barley by 33 percent, and some fertilisers by 40 percent.

The Global South is "getting pummelled"

The painful impact of this shock is being felt by people around the world, but most sharply in the Global South. "In a word, developing countries are getting pummelled," United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres recently remarked.

According to the UN, 45 African and "least developed" countries import at least a third of their wheat from these two Russia or Ukraine – 18 of those countries import at least 50 percent. Egypt, the world's largest wheat importer, obtains over 70 percent of its imports from Russia and Ukraine, while Turkey obtains over 80 percent.

Countries of the Global South are already facing severe price shocks and shortages, impacting both consumption and production. In Kenya, bread prices have risen by 40 percent in some areas and, in Lebanon, by 70 percent. Meanwhile, Brazil, the world's largest producer of soybeans, is

See WAR, p. 6

From the publisher ...

Onward thru the contradictions

They say ignorance is bliss and I suppose it is, but it is a kind of shallow way to go through life. One of the facets of gaining knowledge is that the more basic questions are answered, the more further questions are revealed. With that comes at times quite contradictory situations: two things which are ostensibly true, but are somewhat mutually exclusive. This can be a trap if you are totally locked into a binary attitude where you believe strictly in seeing things as either this or that.

There are usually more than two sides to any issue, which is inconvenient if you are, say a news program addicted to concise brief handling of a story. If you are a person of strong convictions, it can be really challenging, because there can be a tendency to be quite judgmental. Or if not judgmental, simply feel you must take a side. Generally this is not bad, but sometimes neither side is all that good. Sometimes the historic or personal allegiance to a "side" means that is hard to not become rigid despite changing facts.

Regarding Ukraine, I stand by what I wrote last month, the makers of war are the enemy. We are on the 54th anniversary of Martin Luther King's "Beyond Vietnam" speech on April 4, 1967, where he stated "... the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today - my own government ...". (Read or listen to the speech at: tinyurl.com/Iguana1374.) One year later to the day he was assassinated.

President Biden just requested a \$773 billion dollar budget for the Pentagon, a 4 percent boost, a budget hugely more than any other nation. The U.S. has military bases all over the world, indeed, that IS exceptional. Country after country has been invaded or overthrown and left worse off for it, but no longer a "threat." So no, I am not a flag waver.

But Putin is nothing more than an authoritarian oligarch whose own war of choice is horrendous. The people of Ukraine fighting to save their country are the only "good guys" here, along with the brave Russians going out in the streets, and all those helping with the unprecedented refugee situation. And regarding supporting Ukraine's resistance, it IS known that among them are a faction of repulsive neo-nazis. That is for Ukrainians to sort out, not us.

In the huge wash of contradictory information out there, I rest on the belief that the people Ukraine, and the people of Russia, will solve this. In no way did this war have to happen, the stage has been set over the past couple decades and the makers of the weapons are the only winners. Collateral damage will be felt by millions affected across the globe by the unprecedented sanctions the U.S. is applying to the Russian economy. It will in all likelihood impact third worlds' food supply and who knows what else. Uncharted territory here.

Paul Street wrote a piece in *CounterPunch*, "15 bad Ukraine narratives," which you can find listed in the Editors Picks on page 17. I think he is spot on. Here is a fast summation of his main points:

- Long developing NATO expansion helped provoke this war, and the US has no moral high ground to stand on with its own invasions of other countries.
- Putin is acting to keep a buffer and acquire strategic territory, not reconstitute the USSR.
- Collective punishment thru sanctions on Russia that hit regular people only hurt regular people.
- You can be both anti-NATO and anti-Russia, it is not one or other.
- Escalation by the US, especially a "no fly zone" is a terrible idea, fraught with danger of expanded conflict.
- Putin was pretty well set on going in, and US intelligence was pretty accurate; it was his poorly conceived choice, he had other options. Putin seriously overestimated his capabilities.
- Ukraine is a large and dynamic country with a strong sense of identity that has been dealing with outside interference repeatedly. And it is not the only nation with proto-fascist elements in its population.

To that I can only add, let's hope this horror can be settled without growing regional, or worse. ☹



Joe Courter

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Artisans' Guild Gallery
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Organizing for change is our only weapon

by Joe Courter

Political organizing is work that challenges one's ideals, supporting imperfect candidates and electoral outcomes that may displease, but the work needs to be done.

Disheartening and distracting are the opposition's main tactics, as well as the blatant voter suppression we see here in Florida. But organizing for change is our only weapon, which is why the opposition works so hard to throw roadblocks in our way.

I had a long talk with a goodhearted friend who was so down about the rapid changes to our city done by people she had supported. She was ready to give up on the process. I share that disappointment, but no, we have to keep moving ahead.

This is a pivotal election year locally and statewide. We will get into that in the May-June issue of the Iguana. ✨

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The Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice celebrates 40 years of activism

When: Sat-Sun, April 30-May 1

Where: 10665 SW 89th Ave, Hampton

You are invited to a gathering with the Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice on May Day weekend (April 30-May 1). Camp out on Saturday night to share food and fellowship. Enjoy a full day on Sunday of nature walks, peace talks, and ancient wisdom.

We will walk through our beautiful natural space with the help of group leaders who can narrate the plants among us.

We will gather in the Peace Education Center for a (socially distanced) discussion around the importance of peace in our world and daily lives.

Join us as we find hope in ancient practices and the wisdom of elders. Food (Wild Man Foods and Radha's Kitchen) and other vendors will participate, with engaging activities at the Kids Zone.

FCPJ was founded in 1982 and has been based in Hampton,

Florida since 1990. This non-profit organization has a long and rich history serving Florida with multi-generational education relating to peace, self-empowerment, regenerative ecological practices, social justice reform, innovative projects, and peaceful conflict resolution.

We are located at 10665 SW 89th Ave, Hampton, FL 32044, 22 miles northeast of downtown Gainesville, in undeveloped Old Florida. We welcome you to find solace and explore ways forward together.

www.florida4peace.org

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From WAR, p. 2

facing a major reduction in crop yields. The country purchases close to half of its potash fertiliser from Russia and neighbouring Belarus (which is also being sanctioned) – it has only a three month supply remaining with farmers being instructed to ration.

“War is the only game in which both sides lose.”

– Walter Scott

New Station, Great Tunes.



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“The United States has sanctioned the whole world”

The situation is being directly exacerbated by U.S. and Western sanctions against Russia. Although sanctions have been justified as targeting Russian government leaders and elites, such measures hurt all people, particularly vulnerable groups, and are having global ramifications.

Nooruddin Zaker Ahmadi, director of an Afghan import company, made the following diagnosis:

“The United States thinks it has only sanctioned Russia and its banks. But the United States has sanctioned the whole world.”

“A catastrophe on top of a catastrophe”

The war in Ukraine and associated sanctions are exacerbating the already existing crisis of world hunger. The UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation found that “nearly one in three people in the world (2.37 billion) did not have access to adequate food in 2020.” In recent years, the situation has worsened as food prices have risen due largely to the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and related disruptions.

“Ukraine has only compounded a catastrophe on top of a catastrophe,” said David M. Beasley, the executive director of the UN World Food Program. “There is no precedent even close to this since World War II.”

“If you think we've got hell on earth now, you just get ready,” Beasley warned.

Regardless of the different opinions on Ukraine, it is clear that billions of people around the world will suffer from this hunger crisis until the war and sanctions come to an end.

In 1962, the Polish poet Wisława Szymborska wrote *Starvation Camp Near Jasło*. Located in south-east Poland not far from the Ukraine-Poland border, Jasło was the site of a Nazi death camp, where thousands of people – mainly Jews – were caged and left to die of starvation. How does one write about such immense violence? Szymborska offered the following reflection:

*Write it down. Write it. With ordinary ink
on ordinary paper; they weren't given food,
they all died of hunger. All. How many?
It's a large meadow. How much grass
per head? Write down: I don't know.
History rounds off skeletons to zero.
A thousand and one is still only a thousand.
That one seems never to have existed:
a fictitious fetus, an empty cradle,
a primer opened for no one,
air that laughs, cries, and grows,
stairs for a void bounding out to the garden,
no one's spot in the ranks ...*

Each death is an abomination; including the 300 children who die of malnutrition every hour of every day.

– Warmly, Vijay ✨

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Looking ahead ...

The Politics of Florida and the 2022 Midterm Elections

Webinar: Tuesday, April 19, 2pm

Registration: bit.ly/LookingAhead-RSVP

Join the UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Initiative and the UF Samuel Proctor Oral History Program for a dynamic panel discussion that will focus on Latino political candidates in Florida, their platforms, their electoral base, the issues taking center stage in this election cycle, and the political implications that the races in Florida will have for the rest of the country.

Speaking with community organizers, elected officials, and political candidates is the best way to understand what is at stake during the upcoming 2022 midterm elections. Looking Ahead, The Politics of Florida and the 2022 Midterm Elections focuses on the community organizers who are working on the ground to mobilize Florida voters, the elected officials

who are championing new progressive policies, and the candidates who hope to secure office and lead Florida through a period of ongoing recovery.

Uplifting the stories of Floridians during the 2022 midterms provides a play book for states facing similar electoral shifts

and hoping to enact bold, impactful policy reforms. For more information, please contact Adolfo Romero from the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program at adolforomero@ufl.edu.

Event registration link:

bit.ly/LookingAhead-RSVP 🐾

Letters from an American

One of the smartest daily reads out there.
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<https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com/>



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A farewell letter to Gainesville

PONZ's art yard sale, including live painting, music, food truck

When: Tuesday, April 16, 11am-5pm

Where: 435 S Main St, Gainesville

Dear Gainesville,

Thank you for helping me become an artist. Since welcoming me here in 1989, you immediately made me feel at home.

Thank you for your unique open-minded spirit, your free-thinking individuality, and your willingness to take chances (on me)! Thanks for nurturing me and inspiring my art for so many years.

Thank you for your university, which allowed me to teach and celebrate painting. Thank you for the inspiring late nights and the high energy of your music community that I found at the Hardback Café, Florida Theater, (and my home-away-from-home) the Covered Dish.

Thanks for allowing me the chance to paint live at your shows and for making me feel like I was helping to contribute to your scene in some small way. Thanks to the many artists, musicians, poets and others who I have since been honored to call my longtime friends.

Thank you, Gainesville, for understanding my distractions while attempting glory in the NYC art world, and thanks for helping me realize there are other ways to make a life in art.

Thanks for the honor and opportunity to brighten your community with numerous works of public art. Thank you for allowing me a long and meaningful career as an educator, and for the chance to build a quality HS fine arts program.

And thanks for your patience and faith in me as I tried innovative ways to encourage your teens to be their best, to live life well, and to recognize the true meaning, power, and value of creativity. Thanks for the opportunity to organize over 100 exhibitions at the Cofrin Gallery and special thanks to my colleagues and all the visual artists who helped make it such a creative rallying point for the community.

Thank you, Gainesville for helping me raise and nurture my two sons, and for enriching them with your unique nature and culture. Thanks for your kind support when my first marriage equitably ran its course, and thanks so much for understanding.

Gainesville, thank you for leading the way in Citizen Diplomacy and for encouraging me to go out into the world, and to use my art and creativity to form relationships with people around the globe. You truly turned me into a global citizen.

I also can't thank you enough for being so welcoming and supportive to our visit-

ing friends from Israel, Palestine, China, Haiti, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Russia, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, etc. And thanks for modeling the best qualities in what it means to be American (you make me proud).

When my global interests led me to Amsterdam, I met Maureen, a lovely, creative, and talented Canadian artist/educator who ultimately gave up her career to come to Gainesville to be my wife. I truly want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for making her feel right at home here these last five years.

Gainesville, it is bittersweet for me to announce we have decided to leave your fair city and start a new chapter of our lives as artists and educators in Canada. While we will miss our family, friends, home and community here in Gainesville, we look forward to the experiences and opportunities this exciting new endeavor will bring.

Gainesville, before I go, I wanted to hold one last public art gathering to thank you all in person. One of my true, longtime Gainesville friends, Celino Dimitroff, has generously offered to let me use the courtyard of his store SOMA Art Media Hub to throw an event called "PONZ's Art Yard Sale" on Saturday, April 16, from 11am to 5pm.

You are all invited to this free event with live painting by Blake Harrison, art making stations, and great music by some other Gainesville friends, the funky-up Table 11, the genius stylings of Chuck Martin, the rockin' good vibes of Jason Hedges, and audio selections planifested by Clif and Julia Whitwam!

As the event title indicates, this is also a chance for you to pick up some of my work as well... at discounted prices! (Because I can't take it with me!) Frenchmen Street Food Truck will also be on hand serving their vegan goodness!

Thanks again, Gainesville. The lessons I learned here have given me the confidence to start this next adventure. While I look forward to creating a new and productive future in Canada, Gainesville will forever be one of the warmest parts of my heart.

Sincerely, PONZ (Robert Ponzio)
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Free UF Coalition holds rally decrying university censorship

The Free UF Coalition, made up of UF students and faculty held an academic freedom rally on March 30 on the UF campus. The March 30th Academic Freedom rally called for university personnel and students to be able to discuss, teach and conduct research on any subject without censorship by government officials.

The University of Florida has been in the national news recently for limiting professors' academic freedom, by barring them from testifying as expert witnesses. In January, a federal judge issued an injunction against UF, saying the university "had blatantly violated the Constitution and described the university's legal defences as 'shocking.'" (See WUSF's report at [tinyurl.com/Iguana1375](https://www.tinyurl.com/Iguana1375).)

Examples of censorship include cancelling courses or degree programs that higher-ups don't like, blocking experts from testifying in a court of law, terminating faculty based on politics or personal opinions, and the blocking of experts from publishing research that contradicts a particular political position or impact the personal investment of a politician or political donor.

From the Free UF Coalition rally handout:

Public universities exist to serve the citizens of their state, NOT to serve as a tool of political oppression and propaganda. Academic freedom protects the integrity of public research and education by ensuring that information generated and shared at these institutions is as unbiased as possible.

Ashley Sanguino, a UF student, spoke at the rally speech:

I'm honored to be able to speak for such a critical issue that is directly affecting our university.

Now, there's a lot of reasons to consider the impacts of academic freedom. We could talk about degree implications, how UF's submission to exterior interests has raised suspicions on the crediting agency and affects the validity of our degrees. Or the professors who aren't being allowed to testify and uphold justice.

But at the heart of this is an attack on history. An attack on our ability to learn, grow, and change as students and as a collective. They don't want us to talk about critical race theory, or any curriculum that challenges the status quo because they don't want us to be better.

They want us to be complicit, and the Florida legislature is hoping to do that by putting caps on what we can learn.

But if there wasn't hope, they wouldn't need these laws. They fear people power. The organization of people who care, like all of the people I see before me today.

So we need to keep fighting.

Keep teaching your children about systemic racism.

Keep teaching your children about LGBTQIA+ identities.

Support your fellow students and faculty through these difficult times. And remind them that they can never truly control knowledge. Because we hold it right here.

Thank you. 🐢



Ashley Sanguino speaks on March 30 at the Academic Freedom rally, organized by the Free UF Coalition, made up of students and faculty. Photo by Emily Negrette.



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In historic move, Amazon workers in New York vote to unionize

by Rachel Lerman, Greg Jaffe, Jeff Stein, Anna Betts

Workers voted on April 1 to unionize a Staten Island Amazon warehouse, a historic decision that marks the first successful U.S. organizing effort at the e-commerce giant and a major victory for the domestic labor movement. Amazon, the country's second-largest private employer, has long fended off attempts to unionize workers at its warehouses.

But a small, upstart independent union led by a former employee of the Staten Island warehouse mounted the first successful campaign to unionize Amazon workers, breaking many of the traditional organizing rules and relying on workers' momentum.

The vote could start a cascading effect at other Amazon warehouses, labor experts say, encouraging others to consider unionizing. That could transform the way the e-commerce giant conducts business and prioritizes the treatment of workers.

The final vote tally announced Friday was 2,654 in favor of the union versus 2,131 opposed. The Amazon workers at the JFK8 warehouse on Staten Island will need to ratify a contract to become union members, the next step in an already lengthy process that former Amazon worker Chris Smalls began last year as leader of the Amazon Labor Union.

This is a condensed version of an article in the Washington Post on April 1. See the full article at tinyurl.com/Iguana1372. 🦎

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And the good news is ...

Youth offenders: the collateral damages of an arrest record; Lawmakers approve changes

Keeping troubled youths out of prison could give them a chance for job opportunities and education

Florida state lawmakers have approved a bill that would allow juveniles to get into diversion programs if they have not been charged with “forcible felonies,” such as murder or sexual crimes, or felonies related to the sale, use or possession of firearms.

The aim is to keep troubled youths out of prison and expunge arrest records that could give kids a chance for job opportunities and advanced education. Advocates have been fighting for this kind of juvenile justice reform for years.

Currently, most of the diversion programs involve misdemeanors, with certain felonies allowed. In this case, “forcible felonies” would be excluded in the 2022 legislation.

The House and Senate agreed with the bill, HB 195, and it is headed to the governor’s desk for his consideration.

Christian Minor, executive director of the Florida Juvenile Justice Association, whose group helped craft the 2022 legislation, entitled “an act relating to juvenile

diversion program expunction,” believes Gov. DeSantis will not veto the bill once it reaches his desk.

The Florida Police Chiefs Association, is “pleased to see that issue addressed in this year’s bill,” said Jennifer Cook Pritt, executive director of the FPCA.

This is a condensed version of an article by Issac Morgan published in the Florida Phoenix on March 9. See the full article at tinyurl.com/Iguana1361.

Student debt harms the economy. Everyone would benefit from its cancellation

Its the second-highest household debt type, behind mortgages -- surpassing credit card and medical debt combined

Everyone from young people to even older borrowers are suffering grave consequences of crushing student loan debt. They’re not able to purchase homes, they’re having trouble starting a family or having kids, getting married. There’s difficulty in just living a dignified life. It’s crushing, and it’s dragging down the economy.

The group Debt Collective, a membership-based union for debtors and allies is

demanding cancellation of student debts and free college.

They say that they are demanding abolition or cancellation, not forgiveness, because they have nothing to be sorry for. Because they have had the audacity to go to college to try to better themselves, or to simply learn something that they’re interested in – that is not justification for a lifetime of debt.

They say that the president has actually the authority to broadly cancel federal student debt with an executive order and that cancelling student debt will not hurt the economy, in fact, cancellation will improve the lives of everyone.

This is a condensed version of an article by Janine Jackson of FAIR on March 4, published in Truthout. See the full article at tinyurl.com/Iguana1362.

The Left is finally rising in Colombia

The best result for the Left in decades: Gustavo Petro is a favorite to become the country’s first socialist president

Colombia’s left-wing and progressive coalition, Pacto Historico, has become the country’s most popular political movement following the congressional elections on March 13.

This historical victory threatens two hundred years of ruling-class hegemony, with most of the coalition’s representatives coming from campesino and working-class backgrounds. Depending on what

happens in May’s presidential election, this win could have global reverberations.

Gustavo Petro, the coalition’s presidential candidate, won the coalition’s primaries with more than four million votes.

Francia Marquez, a rural black activist within the alliance, also made history with close to a million votes – more than all the mainstream candidates received in their respective primaries.

What happens next depends on Pacto Historico’s ability to mobilize first-time and swing voters and persuade the more popular center parties and leaders to join the coalition.

This is a condensed version of an article by Carlos Cruz Mosquera published in Jacobin on March 23. See the full article at tinyurl.com/Iguana1363.

Florida legislature bans teachers, other school staff, from using zip-ties and handcuffs on students

Legislation builds off previous efforts to limit how schools handle students who act out in a dangerous manner

Right now, teachers and other staff can use handcuffs, zip-ties, straightjackets or other devices on students who act out or misbehave in a way that poses a threat to themselves or others.

But that traumatic practice may soon come to an end.

The House and Senate approved legislation to prohibit those methods, which have often targeted children with disabilities.

The next stop is for Gov. Ron DeSantis to approve the bill.

HB 235 provides that only school resource officers, school safety officers, school guardians, or school security guards can use these mechanical restraints on students in grades 6 through 12 — but not children in younger grades.

The legislation builds off previous efforts to limit how teachers and other school

personnel handle students who might be acting out in a dangerous manner.

For example, the prior legislation added language into Florida law that limited the use of restraints on students and completely prohibited the use of seclusion on students.

This is a condensed version of an article by Danielle J. Brown published in the Florida Phoenix on March 18. See the full article at tinyurl.com/Iguana1364. 🐢

World Water Crisis: getting worse

Millions of people do not have adequate water for drinking, cooking, sanitation needs

by Peter Neill, Director,
World Ocean Observatory

*This article is a transcript from
World Ocean Radio's programming
on March 22. Learn more at
WorldOceanObservatory.org.*

Welcome to World Ocean Radio ...

I'm Peter Neill, Director of the World Ocean Observatory.

The world water crisis has been a focus of alarm for decades, and despite public awareness and some action, the situation has only gotten worse.

Millions of people worldwide do not have adequate water supply for drinking, cooking, and basic sanitation.

Climate-induced weather change has increased the incident and degree of extreme drought with the consequent degradation of watersheds, aquifers, and wells. Severe storms have caused unequalled volumes of rain, with floods and erosion, increased pollution, inundated farmland and villages, and disruption of the basic requirements for living.

According to a February "Economist" Impact Report, "more than 3.5 billion

people live in areas that experience water scarcity. This is set to increase to more than 5 billion by 2050. Government investment in mitigation of the problem is clearly inadequate, with estimates of some \$1.7 trillion required to address any level of redress and improvement to the global water infrastructure."

It is obvious that some serious increase and innovation in water restoration, in the form of re-engineering and Nature-based solution, is essential. Some strategic focus, beyond scientific studies, policy papers, high-level summit meetings, and political calls for action, is required.

The economic consequence of the pandemic, and now war in Europe, will not help, as these have and will continue to divert the needed financial resources to immediate social, political problems.

The situation, as we have argued often on World Ocean Radio, cries out for invention. Invention does not always require some new revolutionary technology, some deus ex machina to solve the problem suddenly and simplistically. It may best succeed if we take what we already know and apply it differently, locally and internationally, to scale.

For example, the "Economist" Report asserts that UN agencies and others have long argued "for the protection, management, and restoring of natural system, such as wetlands, marine and coastal ecosystems, as essential for healthy water systems and human well-being. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that forested watersheds provide 75 percent of the world's accessible freshwater. More than half the world's population depends on those resources."

How do we respond to an opportunity to sustain what we already have? We enable massive deforestation, encroaching development, and acid pollution to diminish and corrupt that potential on an ever-increasing, perpetuating, accelerating vector of counter-force and decline.

How to begin?

Where I live, small towns sharing a coastal ecosystem are beginning to collaborate first to map and understand the status of local water, its supply and movement across the landscape, to identify point-source pollution, unnatural barriers, and development patterns, in order to create local plans for protection and sustainability, using existing resources best, working

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 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 or call Sheila Payne at 831-334-0117.

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from the inside of the community to the outside, from the bottom of the governance structure to the top, demonstrating common sense, economy, planning efficiency, and political will.

On the international level, water as a unifying source is remarkably evident in a collaboration in the Mideast, between Jordan, Israel, and the United Arab Emirates whereby an UAE-owned solar power facility in Jordan will provide electricity to Israel in return for desalinated water for Jordan, what the "Economist" Report describes as "example of cross-sectoral and cross-boundary thinking."

Think about this: three nations, divided by religion, economic conditions, and political boundaries, rising above historical conflict, to unite around the production and sharing of necessary resources, using modern technology, for the benefit and stability of a geographical region. This is what planning with water entails; it is hydraulic society at its most inventive and rewarding demonstration of human ingenuity and progressive interaction.

So, what we have here is an application of the wisdom Nature contains. Even as a victim of our unmitigated avarice and consumption, it offers us a way forward. These efforts, perpetuated by women and men faced with necessity, transcend the despair we might feel that the world water crisis cannot be faced down in time and place. For me, they are palpable, inspirational harbingers of hope.

We will discuss these issues, and more, in future editions of World Ocean Radio.

World Ocean Radio is a weekly audio feature for web listeners, podcasts, and worldwide distribution through community radio stations and partners. WOR provides weekly 5-minute commentary from longtime host Peter Neill, offering a unique perspective on important and relevant ocean issues, ready to broadcast immediately. 🌊



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

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

For more info:

Facebook: [freegrocerystore](https://www.facebook.com/freegrocerystore)
Web: www.facebook.com/GNVFGS
Email: fgsgnv@gmail.com
Leave message at: 352-388-1586

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Repurpose Project • 1920 NE 23rd Avenue

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Sunday noon-5pm, Monday closed
repurposeproject.org • 352-363-8902

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What's a GINI? And what is an 'Heirs Property?'

by Harvey Ward, Gainesville City Commissioner, District II

Your City of Gainesville government has been busy working on programs likely to have a tremendous impact on folks often in need of city services. Two programs with the potential to be most helpful in our city this spring are the GINI (Gainesville Immigrant Neighbor Inclusion Initiative) and the Heirs Property program.

The Gainesville Immigrant Neighbor Inclusion Initiative

The GINI initiative starts from the basic assumption that no matter who you are, where you came from or why you came to Gainesville, if you're here you deserve access to the sweeping array of services our city offers whether you are a fluent user of English or not. Admittedly, that sounds easier than it is. The initiative's beginnings are rooted in a tragic incident involving a GPD response to a domestic dispute in 2018 that resulted in federal immigration action.

Local activists, city staff and commissioners have worked since then to create a program to make public safety services as well as all the other services we offer accessible from a language perspective. On March 17, the city commission voted to move forward with a plan that will create a Community Liaison

position to direct the program, and for the person hired for that position to work on identifying the most-used city documents for translation into the most-needed languages other than English as well as seeing that signage on city buildings and areas used by the public is reproduced in a bilingual format. They will work closely with the Rural Women's Health Project, who have been doing this work for years, and bring the essence of what they have been doing into city government. Clearly there is plenty of work to be done in many ways. This is where we can make an honest beginning.

The initiative will be phased in over a period of years, with the intent of doing it properly, rather than just creating an office and calling the work done. Watch for more news about GINI, as it should be an effective program and one that our other local governments can use as a model.

The Heirs Property program

The Heirs Property program is a service we are piloting through the Gainesville Community Reinvestment Area (GCRA) to help families build neighborhood stability within the GCRA program area by helping them gain clear title to their homes. "Heirs Property" is a legal concept that results when a property owner dies without a will or other estate plan.

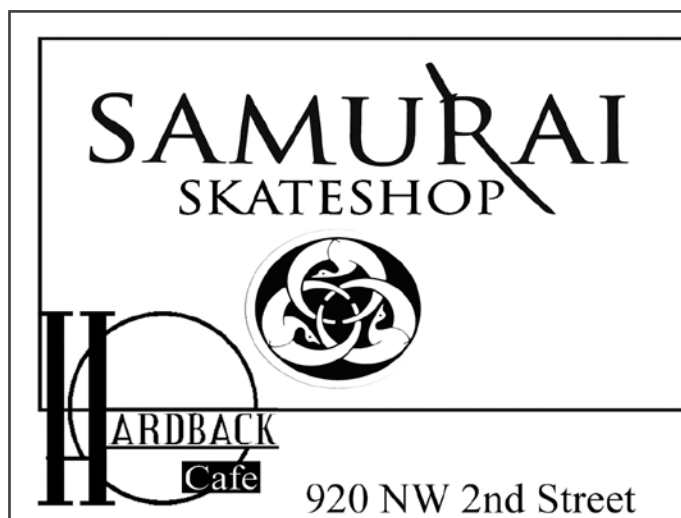
While the family may understand and agree which relative "inherits" the home, the state doesn't see it that way unless it is spelled out in a will. The title ends up being shared by all living heirs, and will then be passed down in a like manner every generation until the number of fractional owners becomes entirely unwieldy.

This complicated fractional ownership often leads to a situation where the property is uninsurable, unable to be borrowed against and difficult to improve or repair. It even affects payment of property taxes, as since the person living in the property does not have clear title, they cannot "homestead" it, resulting in significantly higher taxes. Eventually the families involved often give up and abandon the property entirely.

Heirs Property is a vestige of Jim Crow, as it primarily affects Black families who were often denied access to or at least discouraged from participating in the legal system. Many times, the families who are affected by these issues are very well aware of the problem, but the only way to untangle the legal difficulties is by spending thousands of dollars they don't have on legal fees.

This program seeks to directly address the issues, family by family, by having the City of Gainesville pay the legal bills. The city has awarded a one-year competitive grant of \$250,000 to Three Rivers Legal Services. The grant is renewable under the pilot program for a second year. Three Rivers will work with GCRA staff to qualify owners, and then work with those owners to complete the legal work necessary to clear the titles to their homes. Once the title is cleared, those families can enjoy all the benefits of home ownership—and generational wealth-building—that many of us take for granted. The community wins because these families are then more likely to stay in their homes, which helps keep our neighborhoods strong.

There are more innovative and helpful programs the city is working on than there is space to write about them. For now, please watch this space for more information about these and other programs in the works. ☘



Help stop the causes of global warming

Live by basic principles of ecology: recycling, partnership, flexibility, diversity, sustainability

by Bill Gilbert

Global warming/climate change will soon overshadow all other problems that now confront us. We see increasing intensity of forest fires, floods and hurricanes; unprecedented species extinction globally; a global fresh water crisis; and, desertification of the world's topsoil that is a major threat to our species.

Global warming/climate change will not be stopped without ending the use of fossil fuels.

Here are some things you can do locally to stop the causes of global warming.

1. Hasten the ending of fossil fuels by Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU). With your friends and neighbors please contact the Gainesville City Commission to request/demand that commissioners shorten the present city's goal of 100% renewable energy by 2045 (that is 23 years from now) to 2032 or 10 years from now. In Alachua County, 30% of our energy is provided by renewable energy.

Implement an effective county-wide net metering program that allows for excess energy produced by renewable energy, mostly rooftop solar, to be sold back to the power grid at the retail rate. This lowers monthly electricity bills and helps pay for rooftop panels.

2. Trees in Alachua County are being cut down at an alarming rate. Request the Gainesville City Commission and the Alachua County Board of Commissioners to implement a Tree Replenishment Program.

(a) Ensure that developers replant so many trees for every one cut down either on site or elsewhere.

(b) Inform people where they can obtain tree seedlings and where to plant them. The physical act of planting a tree would be meaningful to many people of all ages. Staff support and instructions could be provided. Specific times and locations could be printed in the *Gainesville Sun*. For more information on this point, contact:

Alachua County Arborist,
Lucy Holtzworth, 352-548-1266

Longleaf Pine Restoration &
Management Care, Alachua
Conservation Trust, 352-373-1078

Resources for Florida-Friendly
Landscape Care, UF, IFAS, 352-955-2402

3. Recognize and implement what scientists call the "Global Deal for Nature." Request that the Alachua County Board of Commissioners solve two interconnected crises:

- (a) biodiversity loss
- (b) climate change.

"Everywhere in open country side, in farmland, in urban megaregions, and in other cities and towns — the tasks are the same: protect what survives; repair what's been damaged; connect places that have been severed; collaborate as never before; and make the whole effort personal by bringing the natural world back into people's lives wherever they are" (from the book by Tony Hiss, *Rescuing the Planet: Protecting Half the Land to Heal the Earth*, 2021).

Support these organizations: Alachua County Forever and Alachua Conservation Trust, because they are key players in accomplishing some of these goals.

4. Purge fossil fuel companies from your investments and pension funds. Plan for that first electric car.

*"As we pollute and destroy nature,
we pollute and destroy ourselves."*

— Thich Nhat Hahn, Zen master

5. "Ecology is a way to understand life in our time," said Rev. James Parks Morton of the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine.

He believed "the survival of humanity will depend on our ability to understand and live by some of the basic principles of ecology: recycling, partnership, flexibility, diversity, and, as a consequence, sustainability." Realize logically and spiritually the interconnectivity and interdependence of all things. We are one. Then, perhaps we will have enough compassion to fully engage our knowledge and technology to live in peace with ourselves and with the Earth. ☸

Learn more about sustainability at:

- ucsusa.org/
- 350.org/
- globaldealfornature.org/science/
- natureneedshalf.org/
- alachuacounty.us/Depts/landconservation/
- alachuaconservationtrust.org/
- sierraclub.org/
- springseternalproject.org/
- rightsofnature.org/
- freethecocklawaha.com/



Upcoming course at Santa Fe College: The American Revolution, 1763–1815

by Gary Gordon

This is an introductory course on the American Revolution, so it must be said at the outset this course will not cover everything there is to say about the event and those years.

This is not a course about battles.

The attempt here will be to fill in some gaps to allow greater understanding of what took place between the end of “The French and Indian War,” also known as “The Seven Years War,” and the end of the War of 1812, when the United States’ victory over the British secured it as a nation with status to be reckoned with in the modern world.

The American Revolution was more than the Boston Massacre, the Boston Tea Party, the battles of Lexington and Concord, Valley Forge and Yorktown; the Declaration of Independence; and Constitution. The War of 1812 was more than the Battle of New Orleans.

A more complete story includes what led to the Tea Party, the arguments between the organizers and activists who set in motion the first and second Continental Congresses, the arguments about what the victory in The Cause meant after the British were defeated, arguments over the nature of the union and government, all of which redound to our times. Nothing was preordained, nothing was inevitable.

Over the years, as I read more and more about this period I was astounded by what I didn’t know, didn’t learn in high school or college — all during a time that allegedly preceded the “dumbing down of America.”

I’ve created this course to share what I’ve learned, to fill in the gaps. I don’t have an agenda. I am not planning to state a single one-sentence wrap-it-all-up conclusion; I’m not going to draw conclusions: that’s for you to do.

One conclusion you may draw is you want to learn more about the creation of the nation. 🐢

AMERICAN REVOLUTION:1763–1815

This course will not focus on battles, instead this is an introductory course on information usually left aside when discussing the American Revolution.

The post-war period will include the disagreements over the reasons for the war, the Federalist and anti-Federalist papers, a strong or weak central government; the Whiskey Rebellion, the Alien and Sedition Acts, the lead-up to the War of 1812 and its immediate aftermath, after which the United States began to be recognized as a nation among nations.

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Instructor: Gary Gordon

Location: SF - NW CAMPUS S-221
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Course Fee: \$69.00

Register at: sfcollege.edu/cied/communityed/index



"Beautiful Water," painting by Ernest Lee.

The best is yet to come: Works of Mr. Ernest M. Lee

Opening reception: Friday, May 13, 6-9pm

Santa Fe College Art Gallery

3000 NW 83rd Street, M-147, Gainesville

A retrospective exhibit of the works of local folk artist Ernest Lee will be held in the Santa Fe College Art Gallery from May 16 through June 17.

Lee was a decorated and prolific artist depicting colorful scenes of rural life in North Florida, as well as the childhood memories of those he knew. A staple of the Gainesville art community, his work was featured in numerous exhibits and festivals around the region.

He grew up in North Carolina, where he learned to love painting as a youth through an art class in high school. He explored many different paints and techniques, but fell in love with painting country houses with oils.

After moving to Gainesville, he was a regular instructor for both Santa Fe College’s Community Education and College for Kids programs. He also exhibited his art at the annual Spring Arts Festival for many years.

Lee has been referred to as Florida’s Van Gogh, because of his robust impasto style with rich and vibrant colors.

In 2019 he was a winner of the Awards of Merit at the Santa Fe Spring Art Festival. In 2021, he won the Judge’s Choice award for the 40th Annual Downtown Festival & Art. Lee died on November 27, 2021.

Notecards of his paintings are available for sale at Wards Supermarket in Gainesville, the Cottage Gift Shop in Longwood, Ashley’s corner in Mount Dora, and Wren Wood Antiques in Micanopy. His prints can be seen on his web page at ernestleeart.com.

An opening reception will take place on Friday, May 13, from 6-9:00pm. The Gallery is open Mondays through Fridays from 10am-4pm. Admission is free. 🐢

Editors' picks: News that didn't fit

Why conservative parts of the U.S. are so angry

by Mike Males | *Daily Kos* | March 21 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1358

Self-defeating political culture: Stats show Republican-ruled jurisdictions have more poverty, violence, and bad health - particularly for white people - than their Democratic-run counterparts.

The MADness of the resurgent US cold war with Russia

by Nicolas J.S. Davies | *Code Pink* | tinyurl.com/Iguana1359

The U.S. and NATO have used forms of force and coercion against many countries. In every case, they have been catastrophic for the people directly impacted, whether they achieved their political aims or not.

15 bad Ukraine narratives

by Paul Street | *Counter Punch* | Feb 28 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1360

The Ukraine Crisis is a good focus for practicing the art of detesting two things at the same time. Just as one can hate both the neoliberal-capitalist Democratic Party and (imagine) the neofascist-capitalist Republican Party at the same time, one can simultaneously abhor both supremely dangerous US-led Western imperialism and the less powerful but nonetheless criminal, imperialist, and supremely dangerous Vladimir Putin regime.

A four-day workweek will benefit everyone, but especially women

by James Derry | *Jacobin* | March 25 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1365

Taking into account domestic and caring responsibilities, women work more hours per week than men on average — and their pensions are still far smaller than men's. That's not a fair deal. A four-day workweek can help get us on the track to equality.

Bernie Sanders wants WWII-style tax on 95 percent of corporate windfall profits

by Sharon Zhang | *Truthout* | March 28 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1366

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont) introduced a bill that would capture nearly all of the excess profits being raked in by major U.S. corporations as they exploit ongoing crises to pad shareholders' and executives' pockets. The Ending Corporate Greed Act would levy a 95 percent tax on excess profits for corporations that make more than \$500 million in yearly revenue until 2024, and would apply to about 30 top companies.

Mass antiwar protests sweep Europe as Russia's invasion continues

by Jake Johnson | *Common Dreams* | March 14 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1368

Tens of thousands of people took to the streets to join anti-war demonstrations across Europe as Russia continued its deadly assault on Ukraine, bombarding major cities and intensifying a humanitarian crisis that is having reverberating effects worldwide. In addition to protests in Berlin, London, Warsaw, and Madrid — where participants carried signs and banners that read "Stop the War" and "Peace and Solidarity for the People in Ukraine" — demonstrations sprang up on a smaller scale in occupied Ukrainian cities and in Moscow, despite the threat of arrest and police brutality.

Progressives demand congress cut military support for war on Yemen

by Kathy Kelly | *Common Dreams* | March 25 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1373

The United Nations' goal was to raise more than \$4.2 billion for the people of war-torn Yemen by March 15. But when that deadline rolled around, just \$1.3 billion had come in. The crisis in Europe will dramatically impact Yemenis' access to food and fuel, making an already dire situation even worse," said the secretary general of the Norwegian Refugee Council. Human rights groups have decried the Saudi/UAE-led coalition for bombing roadways, fisheries, sewage and sanitation facilities, weddings, funerals and even a children's school bus. U.S. Reps. Pramila Jayapal of Washington and Peter De Fazio of Oregon, both Democrats, are now seeking cosponsors for the Yemen War Powers Resolution. It demands that Congress cut military support for the Saudi/UAE-led coalition's war against Yemen.

As SCOTUS decision approaches, some states are enshrining the right to an abortion

by Alexandra Martinez | *Prism* | March 19 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1369

As conservative states across the country continue to pass restrictive abortion laws, other states are introducing and passing legislation to enshrine abortion care as a statewide right. The moves are in anticipation of the Supreme Court's ruling on Mississippi's *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which calls into question the authority of *Roe v. Wade*. The landmark SCOTUS decision says abortion is a constitutional right, but if the *Dobbs* SCOTUS decision in June overrules or curtails *Roe v. Wade*, abortion rights will be left to state lawmakers. Florida and Idaho are already enacting "trigger laws" that render abortions illegal past 15 and six weeks, respectively. In response to the possibility of losing constitutional protections, other states like Colorado, New Jersey, and Vermont have introduced or passed statewide protections.

Democrats unveil bill to tax big oil's profits and send checks to the public

by Sharon Zhang | *Truthout* | March 11 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1370

Democrats recently introduced a bill that would levy a tax on oil and gas companies and redistribute the money back to the public, who are currently facing the highest gas prices ever seen in the U.S., according to AAA. The Big Oil Windfall Profits Act would levy a tax on each barrel produced or imported by large oil companies. Barrels would be subject to a 50 percent tax on the difference between the current price and the average price of a barrel between 2015 and 2019. Only large companies like Exxon Mobil and Chevron would be subject to the tax, disincentivizing large oil companies from keeping prices high without the threat of losing market share.

Judge finds Trump's attempt to overturn 2020 election was likely a felony

by Brett Wilkins | *Common Dreams* | March 28 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1371

A U.S. federal judge on Monday found that former President Donald Trump and legal adviser John Eastman probably committed felony obstruction in their efforts to overturn the 2020 presidential election. The government watchdog group American Oversight said the ruling is a "clear call for accountability and further investigation of the attempt to subvert the election." 🐸

In memoriam

Tom Rider, rest in power

Remember bookstores?

Gainesville had a great bookstore near the UF campus for years: Goerings.

Tom Rider was the co-owner, and he passed away on March 17, years after the store succumbed to redevelopment and online sales.

I used to manage a record store a few blocks from Goerings, and both stores were similar in that the staffs genuinely loved what they were selling, were knowledgeable, and the stores were often places where you'd run into people for great conversations.

As you'll note in his obit below, Tom was also very active in his neighborhood and the community at large. I'm proud to say he supported me in my campaigns for City Commission in the early/mid 80s.

- Gary Gordon

From the *Gainesville Sun*:

Thomas D. Rider, longtime Gainesville resident and former co-owner of Goerings Book Store, passed away on March 17. He will be deeply missed as a father by Andrew, Peter and Leslie Rider and as a

wonderful spouse by Jane Brockmann, retired UF Biology professor.

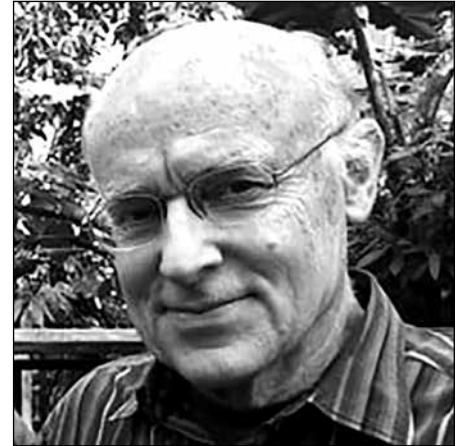
Born in 1939, Tom grew up in Garwin, a small town in Iowa that formed the core of Tom's character, both in terms of his love of community and his commitment to civic life.

While pursuing his PhD, Tom won a Fulbright to study in India, living there for several years, which fostered his love for Indian cultures, cuisines, and history.

In 1972, Tom moved to Gainesville and started working at Goerings Book Store, becoming the co-owner in 1981. The bookstore was for many years a treasure for readers and a true hub for the local community.

Tom was committed to many civic organizations, serving on the boards of the American Booksellers Association and the Alachua County Library Board of Trustees. His passion for the arts led him to the boards of Acrosstown Repertory Theater and The Gainesville Orchestra, among others.

For most of his fifty years in Gainesville, Tom lived in College Park. He loved



Tom Rider

the neighborhood, created a beautiful yard, and served on local planning and neighborhood associations.

Tom was grateful for the rich, fulfilling life he led, as a reader, citizen, joker, and father. He recognized how lucky he was to find and share that life with Jane. His absence will be deeply felt; a celebration of his life will be held later this spring.

Donations may be made in Tom's memory to the Alachua County Library District Foundation (acldfound.org), 401 East University Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601.

Labor Notes

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*" Books, not bullets,
will pave the path
towards peace and
prosperity. "*

- Malala Yousafzai



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From TEACHING, p. 1

person (instead of online and in person at the same time). Being completely back in person creates space for me to build learning foundations and relationships and to assess needs, struggles, and opportunities in a way that often felt nearly impossible last year... but the fatigue is real. It's a precarious balance.

The pressure to prepare students for state standardized tests has never left. Even in the height of a pandemic (because let's remember that Florida schools were open) – and while teaching HyFlex without any real extra support – teachers were expected to keep students ready for the tests.

Now, with the new mandates, the FSA and current standards will be replaced by more testing throughout the year and new standards. This means instead of preparing my students for high stakes testing that occurs in April and May, I will be preparing them in a much smaller amount of time for similar high stakes tests multiple times a year.

Even though my students have not yet had a usual or normal high school year, and none of the high school students have had more than one full year of a normal high school year, teachers are expected to balance the grace and compassion students need with the expectations and skills that students must have as they move through the school system and graduate. This balance is much more of a tightrope than I ever remember it being.

While the district is discussing the hemorrhaging of students and FTE funds, that is not my experience. I have the total number of students that I usually have in six classes in five. In my mind, smaller class sizes is one of the simplest fixes to improving the quality of education for all students, but in the last two years my class sizes have only increased. It is also an expensive solution, because it requires hiring more teachers.

Another way class sizes are decreased at the secondary level doesn't decrease a teacher's number of students or workload, but we are at least paid more. Many teachers at the secondary level hope for the ability to take a sixth class each year, because the extra money we are paid to give up our planning period makes our salaries almost feel like we're paid as professionals. This means that many teachers are teaching 180 to 200 students this year. But, even if hiring more teachers was a solution that school districts were willing to invest in, it is becoming a more difficult solution as fewer people choose to teach. I certainly understand why this balancing act is not appealing.

The bills passed and expected to be signed by the governor this legislative session in Florida are not only an attack on individual rights, but a very clear attack on public education, academic freedom, and teachers' rights.

Just like with the pandemic, I can't think too deeply about what the laws and rules will be and still manage to do my job.

Just like with the pandemic, I can't let myself indulge in the fear that I have, because it would paralyze me, making it impossible to do my job. I must weigh the information and strike a balance.

I believe my job involves much more than just teaching reading comprehension and writing skills. I want to help provide a broader worldview, give students diverse perspectives, help them navigate difficult questions, and help support them as they grow and figure out more of who they are in a safe, structured, classroom environment.

I want to facilitate respect for opposing viewpoints and the abil-

ity to recognize everyone's humanity no matter how unlike they may be. I want my students to know that I care about them. The laws that are being passed make my job much more difficult. We know that students need to see themselves reflected in the curriculum—research shows that it improves educational outcomes.

As a whole, we need to grow and improve when it comes to diversity, inclusion, and representation in curriculum and the classroom; however, the laws being passed make this much more challenging and maybe even dangerous. The laws that are being passed are rolling back long, hard fought progress. Students of color and students who are LGBTQ+ are the ones who will be most directly affected, but this affects everyone.

Public education, in part, should help students understand the world in which they live—not just what is easy or convenient for the power structure. True learning and growth takes some discomfort. Our students and our communities will suffer from this new legislation, but teachers will be targeted and punished for doing our jobs and prioritizing our students' well-being and best interests.

Kendra Vincent has taught high school in Alachua County since 2006. She is a member of the Alachua County Education Association and is the 2022 High School Teacher of the Year for Alachua County. 🐢



Friends of Little Orange Creek, Alachua Conservation Trust,
and The City of Hawthorne Present:

Nature Day In May!

Saturday, May 7th, 2022
11 AM - 4 PM
Little Orange Creek Nature Park (1.3 miles past Hawthorne on Hwy. 20)
Free Event

Musical Performances by:
The Front Porch Backsteppers & Clay Dixon & the Piccadillies!

Come Out And Enjoy!

Local Food Vendors	Cilantro Taco Food Truck
Native Plant Sales	Bartram Impersonator
Children's Activities	Live Wildlife Demonstrations
Guided Hikes	Arts & Crafts

Contact us:
7204 SE, Co Rd 234, Gainesville, FL 32641
(352) 373-1078
Info@alachuaconservationtrust.org

From CRUELTY, p. 1

Nothing to help the thousands of Floridians getting evicted and unable to find affordable housing.

Nothing to address the toxic algae befouling our waters.

Nothing to help the nearly 23,000 people with intellectual or developmental disabilities still on a waiting list to get Medicaid-funded state assistance at home.

Nothing to ensure that we won't see another collapsing condo like Surfside: The bill to mandate serious inspections and necessary repairs died.

Nothing to move Florida toward sustainable energy sources. In fact, they approved a giveaway to Florida Power & Light—whose lobbyists essentially wrote the bill—by punishing consumers who use solar panels.

This state has a hell of a lot of problems. But the governor and Legislature are only interested in making scared angry white people feel good about being scared angry white people.

They're betting their voters don't notice or don't care about the contempt they have for the environment, the elderly, and the poor, and the special hatred they have for public schools.

Ron DeSantis has just appointed a woman to the state Board of Education who loves the Proud Boys, supports Q-Anon, and calls the Jan. 6 insurrection a "peaceful protest."

He was hardly going to choose someone rational.

Concerned your kid might learn that despite our admirable Constitution and inspirational Declaration of Independence, the majority of the United States' founders had no problem with slavery?

Worried your college student might come home for summer vacation toting a copy of *The 1619 Project*?

Never fear: The Legislature is cracking down on educators at all levels who dare tell the truth about the genocide of the continent's indigenous peoples, the brutality of the plantations, the laws restricting the freedom of Asians and Native Americans, the crippling injustices of Jim Crow, and any suggestion that the nation continues to struggle with the inequities of our criminal justice system, our police, and our financial institutions.

According to its Republican sponsors,

HB 7 merely stops "indoctrination," because teachers are sinister subversives who "may be imposing their thoughts on students when they don't know how a student may interpret the ideas of certain things."

Those same teachers may be saying "gay" a little too often. Ron DeSantis has taken to railing against "injecting transgenderism" into our youth, something which can evidently be accomplished merely by acknowledging that Trey has two daddies or Heather has two mommies.

Danny Burgess of Pasco County opined that children ought to be able to hang onto their "innocence" — and their parents' sclerotic understanding of gender roles—so that "a little girl" can aspire to be a fairy tale princess and "a little boy" can imagine being Captain America.

Someone should tell Sen. Burgess: There's now a gay Captain America.

Sen. Ileana Garcia of Miami paraded her gobsmacking ignorance insisting, "Gay is not a permanent thing, LGBT is not a permanent thing."

Dennis Baxley, sponsor of the bill's Senate companion SB 1834 (which is also approximately the year he last formed a coherent thought) said the quiet part out loud: "Why is everybody now all about coming out when you're in school?"

He went on to explain that a lot of kids will want to be gay or transgender or some such because "all of a sudden overnight they're a celebrity."

Florida Republicans are now happy to say the quiet part out loud, because they no longer care about moderates, the socially tolerant, or people who believe in basic human decency. Those people are not their voters. Their voters applaud the racism, homophobia, and misogyny on full display during the 2022 session.

Women will no longer be allowed to terminate a pregnancy after 15 weeks. No exceptions for rape, incest, or trafficking.

Democratic Sen. Janet Cruz of Tampa said the new law "will absolutely result in women seeking unsafe abortions and dying as a result."

Republican Sen. Kelli Stargel shrugged off that argument. Grown women be damned; it's all about "protecting those babies."

Other babies, now: The ones already born, the ones that come from other countries and maybe have brown skin, they don't really matter. They might even be

a menace to the American Way of Life.

To that end, Florida will now ban state agencies and local governments from doing business with airlines, bus companies, and anyone else transporting "unauthorized aliens" to Florida unless said "unauthorized aliens" are on their way to jail or deportation.

It doesn't matter that a lot of asylum seeking children come to Florida to stay with relatives. Sen. Stargel clearly doesn't care about protecting these babies.

It doesn't matter that the federal government, not Ron DeSantis or the Florida Legislature, sets immigration policy.

It doesn't matter that there's no mechanism for determining exactly who is an "unauthorized alien." What is Florida law enforcement going to do, sit around at the airport or the bus station guessing who's undocumented? Round up anyone speaking Spanish? Arrest anyone who looks "different"?

Only a few years ago, Republicans tried to hide how much they loathe anyone who's not like them. Now they're loud and proud and figure they can suppress and delegitimize enough votes to win this year's elections.

They've made sure it will be harder to vote in the first place, especially if you use a postal ballot.

The governor got his Elections Crimes cops, (though fewer than he originally demanded), who'll get millions to combat voter fraud — which pretty much does not exist, unless you count the four Trumpers from The Villages arrested for voting more than once and the South Florida miscreants who changed voters' registrations from Democrat to Republican.

This absurd law isn't about election integrity. It's about clamping down on vote-by-mail and drop boxes—used in record numbers by Democrats in 2020—and ginning up the "Stop the Steal" Trumper base.

Nothing matters to these Republicans but power—power and malice. They stand for nothing except beating the other side, "owning the libs," and watching their "enemies" suffer.

As Adam Serwer reminds us, cruelty "makes them feel good, it makes them feel proud, it makes them feel happy, it makes them feel united."

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

Spotlight on ...



The Sister Cities Program of Gainesville is a non-profit organization founded in Gainesville that strives to be a community leader by encouraging municipal officers and members of the community to engage in long-term relationships with other Sister City programs throughout the world.

Our mission is to promote friendship, cultural exchange and shared experiences among citizens, institutions, businesses and officials of Gainesville and the world. We do this by stimulating environments for cultural understanding by sharing experiences.

Currently there is a multipanel illuminated display of the nine

current Sister Cities Gainesville has, which include cities in Russia, Israel and Palestine (jointly), Iraq, Honduras, Scotland, Haiti, Colombia, Lebanon, and Nicaragua. The panels have photos of the city, its people, and its history, and are located between City Hall and Bo Diddley Plaza, by the clocktower. To get involved go to gnvsistercities.org or facebook.com/gainesvillesistercities/.

Sister city partnerships have the potential to carry out the widest possible diversity of activities of any international program, including every type of municipal, business, professional, educational and cultural exchange, or project.

Sister city programs are also unique in that they inherently involve the three main sectors in a community: local government, businesses, and a wide variety of citizen volunteers (and civil society or non-profit organizations). ✨

Iguana Directory

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

Readers: If there is inaccurate information here, please let us know. If you are connected to an organization listed here, please check and update your listing so others can be accurately informed. Readers should confirm times of meetings with individual organizations as they may be cancelled due to the pandemic. Unless 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 | 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, for location contact 871-1995 | alachuagreens@gmail.com | 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@laborcoalition1.com | LaborCoalition.org

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

Alachua NAACP – With 2+ million activists across the country, we work to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all people and to eliminate

racial hatred and discrimination. Everyone invited to join. [Facebook.com/alachuaNAACP](https://facebook.com/alachuaNAACP) | NAACPach.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. 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 | arcinst.org

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

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 | facebook.com/NCFloridaDSA

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

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 | 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 | chispasuf.com | 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. [Facebook.com/CodePINKgainesville](https://facebook.com/CodePINKgainesville) | [CodePink4Peace.org](https://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 | 450-4965 | communityweatherization.org

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

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

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

Goddsville Dream Defenders is a socialist, feminist abolitionist organization in Gainesville, organizing to dismantle institutions and be a safe space for people of color. goddsville@gmail.com | facebook.com/UFDreamDefenders

Continued on next page

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Edible Plant Project is a volunteer-run, non-profit Gainesville collective aiming to create positive alternatives to the unsustainable food system in this county. 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, 32614 | gnewburn@famm.org | 682-2542 | 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 | FinalFriends.org@gmail.com | FinalFriends.org

The Fine Print is a quarterly magazine based in Gainesville providing political, social and arts coverage through advocacy journalism. TheFinePrintUF.org

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

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

Florida Defenders of the Environment works to protect freshwater resources, conserve public lands, provide quality environmental education. 475-1119 | FloridaDefenders@gmail.com | FlaDefenders.org

Florida Prisoner Solidarity is a carceral abolitionist collective with members inside and outside of prisons. Efforts focus on incarcerated individuals' needs and their care networks. P.O. Box 358439, Gainesville, FL 32635 | 850-895-1505 | FLPrisonerSolidarity@gmail.com | facebook.com/FLAbolition | FLPrisonerSolidarity.org

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 | Facebook.com/GAAPonline | gainesvillepride.org

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

Gainesville for All The Gainesville Sun's GNV4ALL initiative is an effort to identify and address problems related to inequities and racial injustice in our community. See Facebook for online activities. GNV4ALL@gmail.com | 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 | gainesvilleiaij.blogspot.com

Gainesville National Organization for Women focuses on reproductive rights, ending sex discrimination, constitutional equality, promoting diversity, ending racism, economic justice, stopping violence against women, lesbian rights including marriage equality. Contact Lisa@450-1912 for meeting info | info@gainesvilleNOW.org | facebook.com/gainesvilleNOW

Gainesville 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., Gainesville | 372-1070 | GainesvilleQuakers.org | facebook.com/GainesvilleQuakers

Gainesville Roller Rebels, a women's Flat Track roller derby team, needs skaters and volunteer assistance. join@gainesvillrollerrebels.com | gainesvillrollerrebels.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 | 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 music, visual arts, humanities for enrichment of the Gainesville community. 219-0145 | Bryson66@gmail.com | growradio.org.

Humanist Families of Gainesville aims to raise ethical, secular children in a religious, moral environment. Meetings include children and are based on members' interests. facebook: Humanist Families of Gainesville.

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

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

Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) Gainesville General Membership Branch Union represents all workers, regardless

of industry, trade, job, employment status. gainesvilleiww@gmail.com | iww.org

Institute for Tropical Ecology and Conservation is an academic nonprofit that provides undergraduate field courses in tropical marine and terrestrial ecology, hosts biology-based study abroad programs, provides a venue for researchers, conducts conservation and community service programs. 367-9128 | itec1@itec-edu.org | itec-edu.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 | LWValachua.org

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 | 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, educating parents on responsible gun storage. Alachua County events listed at 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. 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) | namigainesville.org

National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare works to preserve these threatened programs for senior citizens and families. Local volunteers needed. Our circle.of.care@gmail.com | ncpsm.org

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

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

male supremacy and win more freedoms for women. Inequalities between women and men are political problems requiring a collective solution. 575-0495 | nwl@womensliberation.org | 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 | leanin.org/circles/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. Facebook.com/occupygainesville

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 | 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. 340-3770 | info@pflaggainesville.org | 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 | plannedparenthood.org (enter Gainesville FL in "find a health center" box)

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

Pride Community Center of North Central Florida has resources for the LGBT+ community, open Sat. 2-4pm and by appt. 3131 NW 13th St., Suite 62, Gnv | 377-8915 | pccncf@gainesvillepride.org | GainesvillePride.org

Repurpose Project, a nonprofit junk shop/community center, diverting useful resources from landfill and redirecting items to the public for art and education, inspiring creativity, and rethinking what we throw away. Help protect the planet and buy used. Check website for hours. 1920 NE 23rd Ave, Gnv | 363-8902 | info@RepurposeProject.org | repurposeproject.org

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

Samuel Proctor Oral History Program focuses on story-telling, social justice research, social movement studies, oral history workshops. 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 | ssjsierra.org/florida/suwannee-stjohns

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

Student Animal Alliance is a UF-based group whose purpose is to educate and bring fellow animal lovers together to better the lives of the animal around us. StudentAnimalAllianceUFL@gmail.com | facebook.com/SAAatUF | 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 or brett@sfalliance.org | facebook.com/sfalliance

Sunday Assembly Gainesville is a secular congregation celebrating life. There is talk, music, sing-along, discussion and fellowship. Meetings and events are on Zoom. SundayAssembly32601@gmail.com | 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 (see website) for news, action alerts, meeting alerts. ClimateRealityProjectgnv@gmail.com | facebook.com/GlobalClimateEducation | ClimateRealityProjectGNV.wordpress.com | ClimateRealityProject.org

UF Black Student Union strives to create, cultivate, and challenge all minority Gators to be better citizens of the Gator Nation. Facebook.com/groups/BlackStudentUnionUF

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

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

UFPrisesu@gmail.com | facebook.com/ufpsu | plaza.ufl.edu/jsoto19/PSU

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. ufydsa21@gmail.com | facebook.com/ufydsa

United Faculty of Florida, UF chapter is run by and for faculty, and represents over 1600 faculty and professionals at UF. Its origins lie in efforts by faculty to protect academic freedom, defend civil liberties, end racial discrimination at UF. 519-4130 | officemanager@uff-uf.org | www.UFF-UF.org

United Nations Association - Gainesville Chapter works to heighten citizen awareness/knowledge of global problems and the UN's efforts to deal with them. facebook.com/UNAUSAGainesvilleFICChapter | UNA-USA Gainesvillefl.org

United Way Information and Referral is a human-staffed computer database for resources and organizations in Alachua County. 332-4636 or simply 211 | UW211help@gmail.com | unitedwayncfl.org

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 | Facebook.com/VFPchapter14 | vfp Gainesville.org

WGOT-LP 100.1 FM is a community low-power radio station operating as part of the Civic Media Center. info@wgot.org | www.wgot.org

Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) at UF aims to foster the success of women, non-binary folks, other underrepresented genders in science and engineering. People of all genders are welcome. uf.wise@gmail.com | Facebook.com/UFWiSE | wise.group.ufl.edu/about-wise

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@stevelittler.com | wilpfus.org

Women's March Florida - Gainesville/Ocala Chapter is a grassroots progressive mobilization network inspired and created by the women who brought about the Women's March on Washington. facebook.com/wmflgnv

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. wspan.org. ☘

The Gainesville Iguana

Gainesville's progressive newsletter

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News from the



by Fi Stewart-Taylor

The Civic Media Center is excited to welcome you back to our space for a slew of great events this spring. Our regular open hours are Wednesday, 2-6pm, and Saturday, 1-5pm, when you can check out books, read zines, and browse our collection.

Volunteer led programming supports our mission of community access to education. Film screenings are every third Friday at 7:30pm; in March, we partnered with National Women's Liberation to screen *Jackson*, an important documentary on the fight for abortion access. You can find information about upcoming films on Facebook or Instagram. Our book clubs meet on Wednesdays, led by volunteers. To get involved, come to a volunteer meeting, every 2nd and 4th Thursday, at 5:30pm.

Music returns to the CMC this spring, with the Bluegrass and Old Time Jam on the last Sunday of each month, 2-5pm. Keep your ears open for the return of more shows in the courtyard.

Poetry Jam remains on zoom; more information can be found on Facebook. ArtWalk is the 4th Friday of each month 7-10pm; on April 29th we'll feature feminist collage by Anna Gorostiaga, on view through the end of the month.

In May, we'll host local creators for our second zine fest. To register for Zine Fest or to exhibit at the CMC, email CMCboard@gmail.com.

Mutual aid programs, like Free Grocery Store, Free Store, and Gainesville Books to Prisoners, continue to meet in the CMC space. Walk up service for Free Grocery Store is Tuesdays at 4pm, and Free Store is every third Saturday. These programs support a more just and vibrant community, and we are proud to collaborate with them.

Our annual fundraising event, Springboard, will take place in June this year- mark your calendars, and check out our facebook for more information soon.

We are also pleased to announce that anyone joining or upgrading to a sustaining membership at the \$10/month level or higher in May will receive an invitation to Springboard, as well as access to a playlist of recorded CMC events from years past.

The Civic Media Center is an entirely grassroots funded 501c3 nonprofit. We depend on the community we serve, and we need your support to keep offering educational and arts programming. If you are interested in making a donation, you can visit our website at civicmediacenter.org, or connect with us at any of our events.

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

May 2022 issue: Deadline for content is Wednesday, May 4
Submit events, content, and any questions to:

gainesvilleiguana@cox.net

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