



The Gainesville Iguana

A progressive newsletter

May/June 2022

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Codify Roe

It's time for a federal abortion rights law

by Jenny Brown

This article was originally published by Jacobin on May 3. See more at jacobinmag.com

Abortion looks set to be illegal in half the country within weeks. *Politico* obtained a leaked draft of the upcoming Supreme Court decision in which Justice Samuel Alito argues that the 1973 *Roe v. Wade*

decision found a right to abortion in the constitution that was never there. The decision would overrule both *Roe* and the 1992 *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* decision that upheld the abortion rights *Roe* established.

Demonstrations defending the right to abortion are planned at federal courthouses across the country.

The final decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* isn't expected until June, but if the leaked draft holds, states will be permitted to ban abortion, and at least half are likely to do so. A dozen states already have trigger laws in place that will automatically ban the procedure as soon as the Court allows it. And 58 percent of U.S. women of childbearing age live in states with hostile legislatures.

The decision will force hundreds of thousands of women and others who need abortions to scramble to try to get to states in which the procedure is legal, or to procure abortion pills and procedures clandestinely. Those without adequate re-

sources will be forced to carry pregnancies to term and give birth against their will, a form of torture. In states where abortion is illegal, those who perform abortions will be arrested, and those who have abortions will be interrogated and jailed if they refuse to talk.

See ABORTION RIGHTS, p. 20

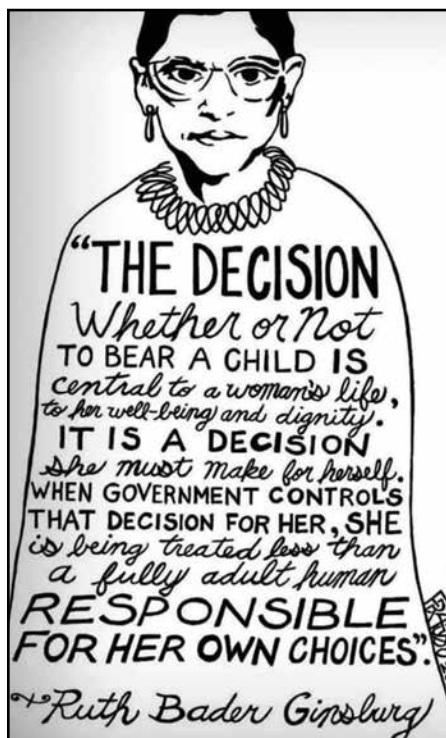
The August 23 elections ... No complacency!

by Joe Courter

You've heard this before, but it's worth reminding yourself of the power of your vote. There is POWER in your vote. We need that power more than ever. Not just in November, but in August. Our August elections will not only shape the field but will in many cases be the deciding factor for many of our local seats.

While the City Commission districts have not been officially finalized, we are starting to become familiar with many of the folks running and who they could represent. With the Mayor's race and three Commission seats on the ballot, an unprecedented majority swing is possible, shaping the voice and direction of our city.

See ELECTIONS, p. 2



REGULAR FEATURES

From the publisher	3
And the good news is	7
Editors' picks	17
Oral History	18-19
Directory	21-23

From ELECTIONS, p. 1

In the City Commission elections, voters will be able to vote for candidates in District 2, District 3, and District 4. District 2 may see several candidates on the ballot, depending on how the final maps land, however, currently I am impressed with James Ingle who has declared for that seat. James is a union president, electrician, and community activist. His slogan is "We need a pair of work boots on the city commission," and I couldn't agree more. District 3 currently has four candidates declaring, but look for many changes coming in that race come mid-June and with finalized maps, therefore it's too soon to even speculate a stand out. District 4 is an interesting race with currently two candidates declaring. However, that will change with the new maps. Bryan Eastman is a candidate for District 4 currently, and in my opinion is not a bad replacement for Hayes-Santos. Keep an eye on all these races as we learn more about district finalization and as we come closer to the June qualifying deadline.

Why the delay in finalized district lines?

From Harvey Ward: "The question most folks have is why it took so long, and that is more than fair to ask. The city's tradition has been that unlike other local governments, we draw our district maps to coincide as much as possible with the precinct maps drawn by the Supervisor of Elections (SOE) and approved by the county commission. The SOE (rightly) didn't draw those precincts until the legislature finished its state house and senate maps, which didn't happen until the end of the legislative session. The legislative maps slice our city up in new, creative, and (I believe) punitive ways, but they are what they are." 🐢

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There are five folks in the Mayor's race presently. This race will be exciting to watch as it already has a vastly wide field. Currently I lean toward Harvey Ward, as he is a known entity and seems to be motivated to continue working with the community voices he has developed relationships with during his time as District 2 Commissioner. However, I remain concerned about the current days' city growth policies and want to hear more from Harvey on his vision for future city development and planning.

Alachua County School Board will also have four seats on the ballot to vote on. With the current media hysteria and state attention over education issues, these races will be more contentious than ever before. We will need to do our research and ensure we are supporting the best candidates. Currently I support Tina Certain (Incumbent D1), Diyonne McGraw (D2), Dr. Sarah Rockwell (D3) and Kay Abbott (D5). This could change, however, depending on the final declarations.

The Alachua County Commission has two seats on the ballot. I decisively can declare support for Ken Cornell (Incumbent D4) and Marihelen Wheeler (Incumbent D2). They both are fantastic commissioners and our community would be worse off without them.

Branching out to Florida State House and Senate races, there is a lot of work to be done and no clear strong early Democratic campaigns that signal a great chance to fight the deluge of early Republican money we see coming in. Strongly supported and well-funded Democratic candidates will be needed in order to have any chance of turning those seats blue, especially with our new highly gerrymandered districts. Pay close attention to these races; sign up to volunteer for the Democratic candidate campaigns; donate funds and assist on getting out the vote canvassing.

Lastly, in all of these races beware of push polling, dark money, bogus smear campaigns, and false promise advertising. This will be a combative election cycle. We need to come together and have each other's blue backs. It will take every single blue vote there is to make a true difference as we fight back against the Republican fascism that is devouring our state and encroaching on our little blue dot heaven. 🐢



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From the publisher ...

2022 heating up in many ways

First off, a big thank you to the Supreme Court leaker, regardless of their intent, who has certainly given a jolt to the slow whittling of abortion rights, which seemed to be slipping away without much fightback.

A big alarm clock has just gone off.

These so-called conservative justices were lying through their teeth while under oath with those words about “settled law” regarding *Roe* during the confirmation hearings. We can be heartened by the big turnout on short notice at our court house and around the country less than a day after the revelations were made. Now, can we build on and sustain the outrage to organize a massive voter turnout in November, and make it more than a moment, but a movement?

This country has turned reactionary in so many ways. Our heads are spinning as we choose between which fronts to focus on.

Teachers are being trolled as “groomers” for some gay agenda. History is being dumbed down and steered toward patriotic propaganda. The mega rich are shooting themselves into space, blowing untold millions that could be doing so much good here on earth combating disease and poverty. Climate change is staring us in the face with undeniable trend lines, and yet science itself is undercut by crackpot theories promulgated by hucksters with big microphones.

And voting, the foundation of our democratic system, is being attacked with gerrymandered districts, intentional long lines due to polling place closures, increasing hurdles to voting registration, and wealthy people and corporations dominating the electoral system with their unchallenged influence through the use of campaign donations, dark money expenditures, media buys, and message control. We came very close to a genuine coup on Jan. 6, and as was pointed out back then, an unpunished coup simply serves as a rehearsal. Lots going on.

In regards to Ukraine, I am at a loss thinking about what should be done, or what can be done, to get a resolution that stops the killing and destruction. There seems to be no end game in sight, no active diplomacy, and the West keeps pumping in more weapons with no hint of an offered exit strategy for Russia. Russia is backed into a corner, its authoritarian leader insulated as the Russian people are being fed lies. The threat of escalation remains high, and while people in Europe are demonstrating for an end to the conflict, here in the U.S. our media seems happy to accept the idea that war is the only solution, virtually cheerleading the efforts while bathing us in tragic stories, all the while excluding the other stories of death and destruction our money and weapons are creating in Yemen and elsewhere.

What is left out of the conversation are the effects of this conflict all over the world economically. Food prices are up and there are dire predictions of food shortages. Petroleum prices are up with the poor worldwide feeling the pinch. Many countries in the developing (and exploited) regions of the world have experienced the impact of the U.S. interfering in their country’s affairs and are skeptical of this US-NATO operation, even while condemning Putin’s attack on Ukraine. And I am especially intrigued by the accusation of war crimes against Russia being leveled by US leaders, here in a nation with its own war crimes history and its strong opposition to the International Criminal Court when it might affect the U.S. See the article by Rep. Ilhan Omar on page 4.

While the U.S. has been supporting various proxy wars, Russia has actually been doing the real thing in its region. They are an authoritarian state willing to play hardball. I do not see a good ending here. It is a mess that did not need to happen except in the minds of risk-taking geopolitical strategists. Ukraine and its people are being sacrificed to intentionally weaken Putin and Russia, consequences be damned.

Again, for the third time I say it is these makers of war that are the enemy. There is a lot of blame to be had, and blood is on the hands of many highly regarded professionals wearing suits. ☹️



Joe Courter

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Gainesville Iguana

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For Putin to face justice, we must join the International Criminal Court

By Ilhan Omar

Ilhan Omar, a Democrat, represents Minnesota's 5th Congressional District in the U.S. House. This article was originally published on April 13 by the Washington Post. See more at [washingtonpost.com](https://www.washingtonpost.com).

The world has been rightly shaken to the core by the atrocities being perpetrated by Vladimir Putin and his Russian forces in Ukraine. I have recoiled in horror seeing bodies of civilians—even children—strewn across city streets. Reports of massacres of civilians, mass graves and rapes by Russian forces are rampant, recalling some of the worst atrocities in history.

For me personally, it evokes a traumatic past. As an 8-year-old girl in Somalia, I remember watching armed militias go by my family's window, hearing bombs go off outside our doors and wondering if our house was next. No child in Ukraine or anywhere in the world should have to witness what I witnessed as a little girl.

Accountability is the key to prevention. If there are no consequences for committing these atrocities, we will find ourselves in the same place in the future. Putin must be charged and held fully accountable for his crimes against humanity by the International Criminal Court (ICC). And anyone responsible for this illegal war of aggression must face justice.

Thankfully, there are already bipartisan calls for accountability, and President Biden himself has labeled Putin a "war criminal." But unfortunately, a glaring asterisk hangs over any calls for justice made by the United States. That's because, more

than two decades after its creation, we have yet to ratify the Rome Statute—the treaty establishing the ICC. We are in the company of countries such as Iran, Sudan, China, and, yes, Russia as one of several nations that have refused to sign onto this bedrock of international law.

In fact, the Trump administration went so far as to approve sanctions on the staff members of the court for carrying out their jobs. Biden thankfully lifted these sanctions. But Secretary of State Antony Blinken reiterated our country's "long-standing objection to the Court's efforts to assert jurisdiction over personnel of non-States Parties" last year. In other words: We're not joining, and don't investigate us or anyone that is not a member.

Sadly, it's this exact position that is now hamstringing the United States as we seek accountability for Putin. If we oppose investigations into countries, like our own, that haven't joined the ICC, how can we support an investigation into Russia, another country that hasn't joined the court?

There's a simple solution to this: The United States must join the International Criminal Court. Equality under the law is one of the core tenets of our legal system and the international legal system. If we truly believe in prioritizing human rights and enforcing international law, how can we not be part of the court that upholds that law?

Our absence also allows regimes to commit human rights abuses with impunity. If the most powerful country won't hold itself accountable to the rule of law, other countries feel emboldened to violate it. And indeed, we have turned a blind eye

to wanton human rights violations by regimes in countries such as Saudi Arabia, Egypt, El Salvador and even India, in the name of political convenience. Even when war criminals are successfully convicted — as Malian terrorist Ahmad al-Faqi al-Mahdi was in 2016 — our absence only undermines the legitimacy of those verdicts.


It's also important to remember that the ICC is a court of last resort. It doesn't have jurisdiction over crimes *unless* the country in question — like Russia — is unable or unwilling to prosecute the perpetrators domestically. Because we aren't members of the ICC, we can't engage directly in the efforts to prosecute criminals. Imagine how much we could accomplish if we helped legitimize the ICC.

Many will argue that there are parts of the criminal court that need to be reformed. I agree. Let's work as a member state to improve it and make sure it lives up to the highest standards of impartiality. The United States once led the world on international justice. In response to the horrors of the Holocaust, we spearheaded the Nuremberg trials to hold Nazi war criminals accountable and, for the first time, establish international criminal law.

We intentionally created an impartial judicial process modeled on our own judiciary, rather than simply executing Nazi war criminals without trial. The last living Nuremberg prosecutor, Benjamin Ferencz, boiled this philosophy down to a simple axiom: "Law not war."

In this moment of horrifying violence, it's time to reclaim the mantle of leadership we seized after World War II. It's time to hold the perpetrators of crimes against humanity accountable for their actions and send a message to the whole world that true justice is blind, that no targeting of civilians, no use of chemical weapons and no wars of aggression will ever be tolerated again.

It's time for the United States to join the International Criminal Court. If we believe Putin should be held accountable for violating international law, then we have to support international law. This week, I will be introducing a resolution to join the court, and I hope other members of Congress will join me in supporting it. ✨



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VFP remembers Memorial Mile with information table

Who: Gainesville Veterans for Peace

What: Info Table

Where: NW 8th Ave. & NW 31st St.,
Gainesville

When: Memorial Day, Monday, May 30

Since 2007, the Gainesville chapter of Veterans for Peace has mounted a major Memorial Day display of tombstones for each American troop killed as a result of the US wars on Afghanistan and Iraq. Now that the US military has withdrawn from both nations, and — so far as we know — has ceased attacking them with missiles and bombs as well — the chapter has called off the display.

Still, the dead deserve remembering, and the ending of the display (which required the work of over 100 volunteers just to set up) has left a gap in Gainesville's traditions. To meet these needs, Gainesville VFP will host an information table this Memorial Day, all day, at the corner of NW 8th Avenue and NW 31st Street, with books listing the names and service information of the nearly 8,000 American troops who died (to accomplish what?) in those wars, samples of the remembrances left by their loved ones, and more.

Gainesville Vets for Peace invites our community to visit us at the site of Memorial Mile (as officially recognized by the city) and join us in remembering our remembrance. 🐢



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And the good news is ...

VICTORY! After years-long student campaign, Wendy's will no longer have a home at FAU *A Florida Atlantic University spokesperson confirmed that Wendy's contract has not been renewed*

There has been a student effort to remove the Wendy's on campus for several years because the company has declined to participate in the Fair Food Program.

The Coalition of Immokalee Workers' founded the program in 2010 in an attempt to provide better protections for farm workers, who in years past have been victims of human rights violations. McDonald's, Walmart, Burger King, and more corporations have joined since its creation in 2010.

In 2019, the Boca Raton House of Representatives passed a resolution recommending that university officials remove the Wendy's on campus. They then forwarded the resolution to Chartwells, the university's food provider, but neither side took further action.

Some students attended the CIW's march in Bradley Park on April 2 demanding that FAU terminate its contract with Wendy's. They wanted to end what they believe is modern-day slavery and to take

a stance against Wendy's refusal to join the Fair Food Program.

"Students are vital for this fight," said Kayla Barnes, a junior majoring in interdisciplinary studies who took part in the protest. "Human rights are being violated."

This is a condensed version of an article by Caroline Ribeiro published in the University Press on April 20. See the full article at tinyurl.com/Iguana1391.

Petition drive seeks to give Florida residents a fundamental right to clean water *Lakes are now suing developers, a first for any U.S. court action*

There's now a drive to pass a new constitutional amendment to say that in Florida, clean water is a right of all citizens. "This is a legal tool whose time has come," said Joseph Bonasia, a Cape Coral retiree who's spearheading the amendment's petition drive.

How many times have you seen developments pave over Florida's precious wetlands and obliterate an ecosystem? Now,

the ecosystem is trying to fight back. But it's an uphill battle, to say the least.

The group Florida Right to Clean Water filed the paperwork with the state Division of Elections to try to amend the Florida Constitution in the 2024 election. This is their second try after a scattershot effort last year failed.

This time, rather than calling for lakes and rivers to have rights, their amendment

would simply spell out that all of us — 22 million thirsty humans squeezed into the Sunshine State — enjoy the right to clean drinking water. If something threatens to pollute it, we humans can sue.

This is a condensed version of an article by Craig Pittman published in the Florida Phoenix on April 28. See the full article at tinyurl.com/Iguana1392.

Connecticut abortion bill signed in to law by Gov. Ned Lamont *"No politician is going to get in between you and your doctor," Lamont said*

Gov. Ned Lamont signed Connecticut's expanded abortion access bill into law on May 5.

"No politician is going to get in between you and your doctor, you make the choice," Lamont said as he signed the bill.

A leaked draft majority opinion from the U.S. Supreme Court suggests that

the country could be on the precipice of overturning *Roe v. Wade*, which guaranteed access to abortion. If overturned, abortion access would be decided by individual states.

The bill is the first of its kind in the nation. It provides protections to people who seek abortion procedures in Connecticut from states where abortion ac-

cess has been severely curtailed or outlawed. It limits how much information Connecticut authorities and doctors can share when a person comes to the state for an abortion.

This is a condensed version of an article by Rich Scinto published in the Patch on May. 5. See the full article at tinyurl.com/Iguana1393.

New Mexico to offer a year of free child care to most residents *The program, which state officials says is the first to target such a broad swath of income levels, began May 1*

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham (D) announced Thursday that New Mexico will cover the costs of child care for most residents through June 2023. The benefit, which covers families earning up to 400 percent of the federal poverty level, makes New Mexico the first state to offer no-cost care over such a broad range of incomes, officials said.

"It's free, no more co-pays, no more wait-

ing," Lujan Grisham said to a crowd of preschoolers at East Gate Kids Learning Center in Albuquerque. "This is the road to a universal child-care system."

The median household income in New Mexico is \$51,243. Under the new program, which begins May 1, a family of four earning up to about \$111,000 would be eligible for free child care. The state recently expanded a federal child-care

subsidy to middle-class families. On Thursday, Lujan Grisham said it would eliminate co-pays for them, too. Officials estimate both changes will make child care free for a total of 30,000 families.

This is a condensed version of an article by Casey Parks published in the Washington Post on April 28. See the full article at tinyurl.com/Iguana1390. ✨

A brief history of a negotiation: Graduate students vs University of Florida

by Antonios Kyriazis, GAU member

The Graduate Assistants Union (GAU) at the University of Florida (UF) has been bargaining with the university for six months now for a higher wage. Their story has been an odyssey, with many ups and downs, and has highlighted the exploitative practices on the workforce of one of the nation's largest universities.

The background

Let's start with some numbers: UF has broken in to the top 5 list of public research universities this year, it brought over \$860 million in research funding in 2021, has an endowment of \$2.29 billion, has been hiring new faculty members, has increased the salary of out-of-unit administrators an average 8.2 percent in the period 2018-2021 and is currently building a 263,000 square foot data science department. So, why can it not give its graduate students a living wage?

Graduate assistants (GAs) have been asking this question to UF's bargaining team for six months now. As their contracts mandate, the GAU can negotiate with the university at the beginning of each academic year. Article 10, which refers to stipends, raises and fee relief, has been in the union's agenda since Fall 2021. The union focused this year on raising the minimum wage, which has remained stagnant at \$21,333 for a 12-month appointment, since 2017.

These \$21,333 are for a maximum of 20 hours of work per week. But anyone who has been through grad school can tell you that GAs spend much more than 20 hours on their duties. These include administrative duties in the courses that they are teaching, writing and grading quizzes and homework sets, proctoring exams, conducting research for their labs, publishing articles and finally doing their own research and writing their dissertation.

In addition to this, UF's GAs have been facing an even more pressing problem than overwork: The rising living costs in Gainesville. According to the MIT living wage calculator, a single adult currently living in Gainesville needs \$34,582. This situation has been steadily aggravated by the rising cost of inflation, as \$21,333

from 2017 has the same buying power as \$24,097 in September 2021. And things have worsened by rent hikes, where 30 percent of the population in Gainesville faces severe rent-burden, while a one-bedroom apartment costs \$1,099, a 19 percent increase from last year.

The dire situation that GAs at UF have found themselves in was captured in a survey from September, where over 1,000 responses were recorded from a pool of 4,000 members. According to the responses, 29 percent of students cannot afford groceries, 14 percent had to use food stamps and 50 percent cannot afford medical attention.

Sleeves up

The negotiations started with the proposal to raise the minimum wage to \$38,833.33, based on UF's own calculations about the living costs of Gainesville, taking into account that one's rent should be 30 percent of their salary to avoid being rent-burden. The counter-offer by UF was an across the board raise of \$1,060 annually, a raise that not only fails to address inflation, but also removes an important graduate student fee waiver that absorbs half of the raise. The union made a counteroffer of \$34,794, the same salary that the University of Michigan provides, which is two places above UF in the public universities ranking, while also maintaining fee relief. The university asked for an extension to the negotiations to provide a counterproposal.

That counterproposal came two months later in February 2022 as a "slap in the face," to quote one of the GAU's bargaining team members. The counterproposal left the minimum stipend untouched at \$21,333, gave a \$1,314 raise across the board, but by cutting fee relief again, resulting in an effective raise of \$708. The reason for taking away fee relief, given by Ryan Fuller, a labor attorney on UF's bargaining team, revealed a lot about the priorities of the university.

"It creates some issues with our federal and state sponsor when we are paying a lump sum outside of the normal salary cycle. They have questions about what that is because it's not a normal wage."

This sparked the first protest of the spring semester, which took place outside of Tigert Hall, UF's administration building, on March 1. The GAU managed to gain some visibility, as the protest was featured by a local news station, the campus newspaper, and, later that month, in an article on the Guardian regarding graduate students across the US protesting for higher pay. The next bargaining session was on March 3, and the ball was on GAU's side.

In a Zoom meeting with over 100 graduate assistants, a number unprecedented for these negotiations, Esteban Rodofili, GAU's chief bargainer, opened the floor.

"We don't think this is a good, acceptable deal. The time that is has taken to come up with this bargaining proposal does erode the trust this bargaining committee bestowed on you in December," he stated.

He then outlined GAU's counterproposal. The minimum stipend would be raised to the same amount as that in the University of Georgia, \$29,450. The idea behind it was that the University of Georgia is also a public university located in Athens, a city that is only 2 percent cheaper than Gainesville.

UF asked for a second extension to develop their counterproposal. As GAU members observed, this was a clear case of delaying, a common tactic by employers in these types of negotiations to kill their momentum.

GAU organized the second protest of the spring semester in response to this delay. With even greater participation than the first one, GAs demanded UF to come to the bargaining table with their proposal. They also distributed flyers at Gator Fair, an event hosted by UF, with the aim of attracting prospective undergraduate students, informing the students' parents how little their teachers are getting paid.

The pressure exerted by their activism seemed to be paying off when UF arranged a bargaining session on April 18, offering their best proposal up to that point. The minimum stipend would be raised to \$22,753, still not enough to address inflation, and there would be either a 3 percent raise or a flat raise of \$708 across the board. In addition to all that, there was no mention of cutting fee

relief, which was considered an important step forward by the union's bargaining team. They immediately submitted a counterproposal, bringing the minimum stipend down to \$28,500. Finally, there was a feeling among union members that after 6 months of meetings, a proper negotiation could take place.

If it sounds like a duck ...

All that went out the window when in the fourth bargaining session for spring 2022, on April 29, UF made their counterproposal. The minimum stipend was kept the same as in their last proposal, \$22,753, while also offering one time payments to GA's who make less than \$18,500, something that was characterized as completely inadequate by GAs at that meeting, in addition to a 3 percent raise. The jaw dropping moment was when Fuller announced that this was the university's final proposal.

"What happens when we offer you a counterproposal?" Rodofili asked.

"We'll decline," Fuller responded.

The same side that asked for an extension to the negotiations, now is flat out refusing to bargain further in good faith, declaring an unofficial impasse, without actually declaring it.

An impasse is declared by one of the two sides when it looks like the negotiations are in a limbo without any hope of progress. In that case, a third party comes in and proposes a settlement, which is non-binding. Since that pendulum can swing in any direction, it is something that both sides have been trying to avoid, which makes UF's ultimatum even more head-scratching.

GAU is of course planning on keeping the pressure on UF to offer GAs a living wage. They are consulting their parent union's advisory team regarding the legality of UF's final offer in the middle of an extension and planning another protest in the meantime.

Welcome to the machine

This fight is not isolated in UF, of course. In December, GAs in Columbia University reached an agreement with their university that raised their wages, expanded health insurance and work-space protections and insured the intervention of a third party in cases of harassment and discrimination.

GAs at the University of Illinois-Chicago are also on their second strike in three years, after one year of stalled negotiations

with the university, demanding higher wages and lower student fees. In Indiana University, GAs are also fighting for recognition of their union.

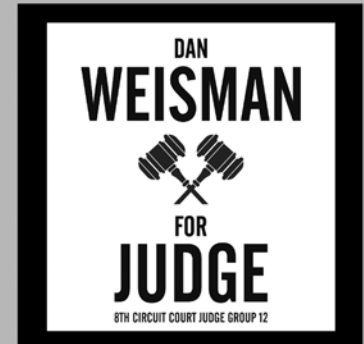
Even though graduate students across the nation are an indispensable component of higher education, they are also the most exploited. They conduct the majority of the research, teach labs and courses, live in a constant state of anxiety and get paid wages that would be laughable at

any other sector that requires this degree of expertise and commitment from its workers. The only way that this status quo can change, is if GAs come together and organize against these powerful, corporate institutions that profit off of their backs and treat them like commodities. History has showed time and time again that collective action of workers is the agent of social change, and it is time to prove this once more. ✨

We cannot defend freedom abroad by deserting it at home.

- Edward R. Murrow

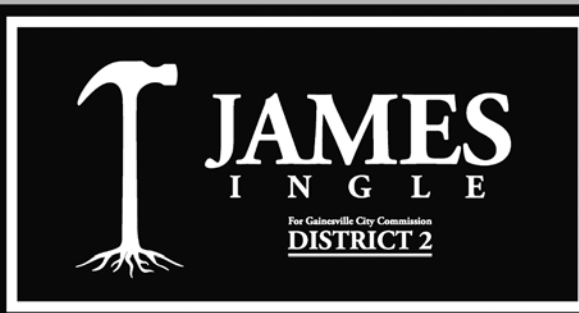
Dan believes that to live in a great community, we have to get involved by finding the intersection between our interests and the needs of the community. He has been appointed to the Alachua County Veterans' Services Advisory Board and the Alachua County Historical Commission, and he volunteered as a committee member with the Alachua County Community Remembrance Project, which, in connection with the Equal Justice Initiative, works to commemorate those victimized by historical lynchings and other acts of extrajudicial violence in the past.



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"It's time we had a pair of work boots on the City Commission" - James Ingle



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Committion District 2

Help make Medicare for All a reality

By Gaby Gross, Alachua County Labor Coalition,
and Candy Birch, Medicare for All, Florida

Everyone living in the U.S. deserves high quality healthcare. No one should suffer poor health because they can't afford to see a doctor or buy medication that they need. However, almost half of Floridians—including those with insurance—could not afford needed healthcare; about a third who did get necessary care struggled to pay their medical bills

The Alachua County Labor Coalition has joined Medicare for All Florida. Its goal is to remedy this dire situation by building support for the Medicare for All Act of 2021, HR1976. To do this, residents are asked to get cities and counties to pass resolutions in support of the bill and send those resolutions to Federal legislators. A proposed resolution has been submitted to the Gainesville City Commission and will be heard sometime in August.

Since the pandemic, the deficiencies of our medical system have become very clear and people would like to see it improved. However, insurance and pharmacology companies are increasingly profitable and make huge donations to legislators, including Democrats.

At the recent 5th Avenue Arts Festival, we found that most people we contacted were in favor of Medicare for All and over 100 signed the petition urging the Commissioners to pass the resolution. We hope to gather thousands more before submitting them to the Gainesville City Commission.

HR1976 is much better than current Medicare or Medicare Advantage. It covers all residents. It covers all medically necessary care including hospitalization, doctor visits, long-term care, prescription drugs, as well as dental, vision, hearing and mental health services. A one-page summary of the bill is at pnhp.org/housebill.


The care will be provided free at the point of service. No premiums. No copays. No deductibles.

The Bill includes funds to assist and retrain displaced insurance workers for five years.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office concluded in a recent report that Medicare for All would result in higher wages, increased household disposable income, and improve workers' health and longevity.

Join us in this initiative to build a better and more inclusive healthcare system. Sign the electronic petition at the Alachua County Labor Coalition website or join our campaign (laborcoalition.org). ☘

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

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


For more info:

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A massive parking garage on 5th Avenue to serve luxury college apartments was built on Seminary Lane land, bought with HUD money intended to house low income residents. Homes had been demolished with promises of rebuilding -- instead the land was sold to an Orlando developer. This neighborhood is the historical heart of the Black community of Gainesville.

Photo by Lee Mallis.

Is Gainesville development out of control? This is *not* what democracy looks like

by Lee Mallis

Since 2016 there seems to be an assault on Gainesville. For those of us who remember what it was like before, it's hard to believe this is the same town we've known forever. Gainesville was known as a Tree City USA for good reason. We had a beautiful city with a healthy tree canopy of mature hardwoods. There were mandates for green spaces, setbacks, parking, and density. But that's all changing. Now if you drive down University Ave., 13th St., or NW 5th Ave., or visit Porter's Quarters or downtown, you see massive development everywhere. This is because our city government has been changing the rules to make Gainesville developer-friendly.

The most depressing example is the NW 5th Ave. neighborhood, the historical heart of the Black community. It is bad enough that a developer is building a massive luxury student apartment complex there, but the worst part is that it is being built on land bought by the federal government's Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for low-income housing. This apartment complex is about a whole city block in a small residential neighborhood. Residents hired a lawyer and appealed city staff's decision to allow this development to go forward "by right," at considerable costs of litigation. At a meeting last year, over 300 people voiced opposition to the Administrative Law Judge, to no avail, because city staff said the developer was complying with the 2017 Land Development Code, which gave him the right to build despite public opposition.

Now the next battle of Mayor Poe's final term is looming, a renewed plan to consolidate all residential zoning and allow "small-scale multifamily development" up to quadraplexes with no occupancy limit throughout the city. City officials are eliminating whatever little bits of code we had left before they leave office. Two of the Commissioners supporting this "inclusionary zoning" plan, Harvey Ward and David Arreola, are running for mayor. Enough public outcry at the upcoming meetings could delay this vote until after the city elections in August. After three "housing workshops" (May 9, 17, 21), the plan will go back to the Plan Board for a recommendation on May 26. If the Plan Board approves, it will go to the City Commission for approval as an ordinance in June or July. If approved then, it will be irreversible. Citizens will not be able to

undo the plan. It is now or never. Contacts for getting involved are at the bottom of this article.

To understand what is happening now, we need to look at what has changed in city government in the past six years. The shift began under former City Manager Anthony Lyons, who was hired in April 2016, and the subsequent hiring of Wendy Thomas as Director of the Department of Doing, the new name of the Gainesville planning department. The name change was to let developers know that they are ready to do business. Lyons had a degree in Art History and no previous experience in city management. Thomas left Bozeman, Montana, under a cloud of discontent, where she supervised the City's comprehensive plan, leading to a public outcry by the organization Save Bozeman.

In a letter to the *Bozeman Chronicle*, Save Bozeman asserted that "adjoining neighborhoods were not invited to participate in the NCOD code update process. In addition, public notice indicating potential stakeholder impact was minimal and inadequate as indicated by the utter lack of neighborhood awareness or involvement in a process. Further, public documents indicate that a number of task force members appear to have had a clear conflict of interest." This echoes what is happening in our city.

Under the Gainesville code that was approved in 2017, no development plan requires a public hearing by the Development Review Board, the Plan Board, or the City Commission unless the developer was seeking a zoning change, a variance, or a special use permit. The public only gets a "Neighborhood Workshop" in which the developer tells the residents what they are going to do. If the developer complies with the code and has staff approval, the public is unable to modify or stop the development as the developer is able to claim the development is "by right."

In August 2018, with little public engagement, the Department of Doing proposed a massive rezoning initiative called GNV RISE. The city tried for months to sell the ideas to the public, but the effort backfired. Hundreds of people showed up at City Hall in opposition. They wanted changes in the pace and style of development and, even more important, a greater say in such decisions.

Over 60 people spoke against the plan at the last hearing, while only three people spoke in favor of the Department of Doing's plan, including future Commissioner Reina Saco, an ally of Mayor Lauren Poe. Wendy Thomas soon resigned and her former deputy, Andrew Persons, became head of the Department of Doing, which was renamed the Department of Sustainable Development. Lyons was forced to resign as city manager and now is vice president of AMJ, a local development company that has gotten almost \$2 million in concessions from the city for a downtown hotel and planned high-rise.

In 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the commission voted 4-3 to approve three-story triplexes anywhere in Gainesville, any neighborhood, as accessory dwelling units, ADUs. What's proposed now would increase that to quadruplexes with no limits on number of bedrooms or occupants and no parking requirements and almost no setbacks from the properties around them. This means potentially more demolitions, more destruction of trees and loss of yards and gardens and the green spaces, such as Florida Park, Kirkwood, and other tree-covered neighborhoods which are the lungs of the city. This destruction will make way for new apartments owned by corporate investors. These changes are made to give "predictability" to developers but no predictability for any homeowners or homebuyers anywhere in the city.

The Mayor and the Commission justify their actions as efforts to increase affordable housing and equity. They also assert that infill will stop the destruction of forests in the county. However, the city incinerates trees for electricity, burning countless thousands of gallons of diesel to destroy forests and transport and chip and incinerate them, releasing carbon and calling that "renewable energy." The city is billions of dollars in debt to Wall Street for its tree incinerator, and the commission is looking at adding another, while utility bills keep rising. And if you drive in any direction outside our city (except the predominantly African American communities on the East side), you will see that trees are being clear-cut as fast as possible. None of the developments built in these areas are affordable or low-income. The need for affordable housing is not going away with the massive infill. It's getting much worse. They are tearing down affordable housing to build high-rise student apartments.

Mayor Poe implied that those who disagree with his planning vision are racists or NIMBYs. I'm not sure how he made that leap. At the commission meetings on GNV RISE and since, numerous Black community leaders spoke out against Poe's plan, including Aaron Green, former mayor and a resident of the 5th Avenue neighborhood, Roberta Parks, the 5th Avenue Neighborhood Association chair and a resident of the neighborhood for over 80 years, and Faye Williams, community activist from the Porter's Quarters community. None of them believed that Poe's plan was going to be good for Black or poorer communities in Gainesville.

Back in 2016-17 Poe, Santos, Ward and Arreola all touted their progressive ideas and promised to "protect neighborhoods" and promote green spaces, greater economic equity, and increase social and racial justice. We thought life was safe and good in Gainesville, and all that we had to worry about was Trump, the destruction of American democracy, and the death of our planet. Ever since they were elected they've been chipping away at every protection we used to have. Many of us who value justice, the natural world, and our local community are disheartened and even disgusted by what has been done by these so-called progressives.

Thank you to Robert Mounts and Anna Peterson for assistance with this story.

If we want to stop the destruction of what we value in our city, we have to speak out now. To get more informed and involved follow: Gnv Neighbors on Facebook. Read articles and sign up for Gainesville Neighborhoods United email at: gainesvilleneighborhoodsunited.org/. Contact Save Gainesville by email at: savegainesvillefl@gmail.com. 🐢



A massive luxury apartment development towers over local low-income housing on 5th Avenue. The city allowed it to be sold to out-of-town developers despite hundreds of people protesting and community litigation to stop the development. Photo by Lee Mallis.



Local businesses, affordable housing, and hundreds of old growth trees were torn down to make way for luxury high-rise student apartments on NW 13th Street. It is happening all over the center of Gainesville. Photo by Lee Mallis.



A massive development on 5th Avenue for luxury college apartments built on Seminary Lane land. Photo by Lee Mallis.



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WGOT is off the air

by Fred Sowder, WGOT Volunteer

In my last article here about your community radio station, I had no intention of my premonition coming true, but here we are. By the time you're reading this, WGOT may still be off the air due to a server crash that happened in late April.

We still continue to seek assistance by a tech support person. We run servers on Ubuntu Linux, so knowledge of that operating system would be a plus. Once we get our old server back running, we have a newer server that we've had for a couple of years that needs to be put into service.

If you have any experience with Linux, as well as simple script-writing ability and experience using Cron job scheduling, we'd love to hear from you at info@wgot.org.

On the fundraising front, The Amazing Give was a bit of a disappointment compared to previous years, so anything you can contribute would be greatly appreciated, be it from starting a Facebook birthday fundraiser to becoming a sustaining sponsor via Patreon. If you have a small business, you can get at least one on-air mention each weekday for a whole month for as little as \$50.

Thanks for your patronage and support of 100.1 FM WGOT, as always. And hopefully we're back on the air by the time you read this. If not, we hope to be soon.

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From DON'T SAY GAY p. 24

I'm also a political scientist specializing in LGBTQ politics and that means I happen to know a thing or two about history, Florida history specifically.

This resolution, like the state-level Don't Say Gay bill that inspired it, is the direct descendent of The Florida Legislative Investigation Committee (commonly known as the Johns Committee). This committee was established by the Florida state Legislature in 1956 and from 1956-1965, the Johns Committee used its mandate to investigate, harass, and intimidate "communists" and "subversives" like civil rights activists in the NAACP fighting to desegregate Florida's public schools.

When the NAACP proved too politically powerful for the committee to silence and suppress, they moved on to more vulnerable targets: LGBT teachers, college students, and professors.

Having the power to subpoena witnesses, take sworn testimony, and employ secret informants, the committee spread terror among the closeted lesbian and gay population in state colleges and schools, often using uniformed policemen to pull students and professors out of classes for interrogation.

"Sodomy" was a crime under Florida law at the time so admission of homosexuality constituted "moral turpitude" and was grounds for firing or expulsion. By 1963, the Johns Committee had caused the firing of 39 professors and deans and the revocation of teaching certificates for 71 public school teachers. Scores of students were interrogated and subsequently expelled from public colleges across the state, as well.

We must not repeat or return to this dark and shameful epoch in our state's history. Oppose this resolution. Support LGBTQ+ students and teachers. 🐸

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Gainesville Veterans for Peace invited all students, K-12, in Alachua County to submit one poem on the subject of peace. Winners were selected by a panel of judges. Winners will read their poems aloud at the public reading on May 21st and poems are published in the 2022 Peace Poetry book. VFP will also be awarding 4, \$1500 Peace Scholarships to students who applied and demonstrate a commitment to peace and social justice. Please wear a mask at the event.

For more information, email vfppacepoetrycontest@gmail.com. To see a video of the event after the fact, visit vfpgainesville.org. For more information on the Peace Poetry and Peace Scholarship winners, visit gainesvilleiguana.org.



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The Ten Commitments promoting a democratic world

by Joe Courter



A few weeks ago I was at First Magnitude enjoying a music show by Sooz, and at break I had a conversation with a college-age *Iguana* reader and supporter who raised an interesting point. He said that in some of the articles there is not a positive side, an alternative vision of how things could be made better instead of just pointing out what was wrong. I hoped to but did not hear back from them ... I expect finals got in the way ... but my quick response at the time was that it was up to each of us to see a positive angle or interpretation in how to deal with information and the world.

Shortly after, I saw this poster in the Spring 2022 *New Humanist* magazine and thought it was relevant to what I was trying to say.

From the poster's website: "The Ten Commitments represents our shared humanistic values and principles that promote a democratic world in which every individual's worth and dignity is respected, nurtured, and supported, and where human freedom and ethical responsibility are natural aspirations for everyone."

The poster's website goes into each of the ten points and is worth pondering. See more at: tinyurl.com/Iguana1389

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May 20	Crooked Counsel	60's & 70's Rock
May 27	The Lee Boys	Sacred Steel
June 03	Gainesville Retro Society	Chicago (Band) Tribute
June 10	Heavy Petty	Tom Petty Tribute
June 17	Phillip "Jazz Dad" Thomas & The Forever Miles Band	R&B/Soul
June 24	Stereo Vudu	Rock/Blues/Funk
July 01	Tamayo//Dionysis	Psychedelic Jam//Jazz
July 08	Fast Lane	Funk/R&B
July 15	Gainesville Big Band	Jazz/Swing
July 22	The Ruckus	Folk
July 29	Jimmy Young & Passion	R&B
Aug 05	Dion Dia Presents	Hip-Hop
Aug 12	De Lions of Jah	Reggae
Aug 19	The Savants of Soul	Soul
Aug 26	Matcha//Sooza Brass Band	Funk Rock//Brass Band
Sept 02	Fest 20yr Anniversary	Showcase
Sept 09	Pet Detectives	90's Rock & Alternative Covers
Sept 16	Wax Wings	w/Special Guests Original Folk Rock
Sept 23	The Late Night Losers	w/Special Guests Alt Rock
Sept 30	RC & Showtime	R&B/Soul
Oct 07	The Last Waltz	The Band Tribute
Oct 14	Morningbell	Psychedelic Rock & Soul
Oct 21	The Imposters	The Beatles Tribute

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Editors' picks: News that didn't fit

'Absolutely Tragic': Doctors tie Trump's 30-foot border wall to surge in injuries and deaths

by Jessica Corbett | *Common Dreams* | April 30 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1395

"We're seeing injuries we didn't see before: pelvic fractures, spinal cord injuries, brain injuries, and a lot of open fractures when the bone comes through the skin," said a San Diego doctor.

Algeria's war of independence (50-minute audio)

from The History Hour | *BBC News* | May 2 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1376

Sixty years after Algeria's independence from France, first-hand accounts of a traumatic 'birth of a nation': a female Algerian bomber who was part of the battle for Algiers; how the French military responded with brutal tactics; a massacre on the streets of Paris; and reprisals against Algerians who fought alongside the French. Plus, the flowering of a national spirit through football.

ALU Staten Island: Labor movement resurgence (5:46-minute video)

by Dave Lippman | *YouTube* | April 25 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1381

Friend of Iguana Dave Lippman sent in this video: Amazon Labor Union (ALU), having won the election at the JFK8 Staten Island warehouse, looks to their second vote this week at the adjacent LDJ5 warehouse. Supportive unions and politicians rally at the site.

An intellectual no-fly zone: Online censorship of Ukraine dissent is becoming the new norm

by Alan Macleod | *MintPress News* | April 25 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1377

Google has sent a warning shot across the world, ominously informing media outlets, bloggers, and content creators that it will no longer tolerate certain opinions when it comes to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

DeSantis, other state officials, go after university professors, tenure protections

by Danielle J. Brown | *Florida Phoenix* | April 19 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1383

Gov. Ron DeSantis, House Speaker Chris Sprowls and Education Commissioner Richard Corcoran scrutinized university professors, made claims about profs indoctrinating students, and criticized the long-standing tenet of Florida's traditional tenure system during a recent news conference at The Villages in Sumter County in Central Florida, where a majority of residents are senior citizens.

Florida gave voting rights to people with felony convictions. Now some face charges for voting.

by Alexandra Martinez | *Prisim Reports* | April 21 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1394

Amendment 4 is now being weaponized against poor people: ten have been recently charged with third-degree felonies for illegal voting. Eight of the 10 are Black men.

How young workers are unionizing Starbucks

by Sonali Kolhatkar | *Independent Media Institute* | April 29 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1380

Starbucks Workers United is racking up victorious union votes in one branch after another of the iconic American coffee chain. A young California-based worker-organizer explains why this organizing campaign is different.

Investigation shows hundreds of US cops being trained by far-right extremists

by Kenny Stancil | *Common Dreams* | May 6 | <https://tinyurl.com/yua55z8e>

Hundreds of cops across the United States have been taught by individuals who espouse far-right extremist views. "Bad training is instilling bad behavior," said one criminal justice reform advocate.

Kathy Boudin, radical imprisoned in fatal heist, dies at 78

by Michael Hill | *AP News* | May 2 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1379

Kathy Boudin, a Weather Underground activist in the '60s who spent 22 years in prison for an armored car robbery that killed three, died of cancer after another 19 years aiding prisoners and ex-prisoners, earning a PhD along the way.

Medicare for All is not enough

by David U. Himmelstein, Steffie Woolhandler, Adam Gaffney, Don McCanne, John Geyman | *The Nation* | March 31 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1382

More book bans sought in 2021 than any other point in past 20 years

by Chris Walker | *Truthout* | April 4 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1385

More than 700 challenges were made across the U.S. last year, affecting the availability of nearly 1,600 books.

Robin D. G. Kelley: White indifference is normalizing spectacular acts of violence

by George Yancy | *Truthout* | tinyurl.com/Iguana1386

A discussion about the current conservative pushback against critical discussions about race and racism, Black pain and suffering, and practices of hope.

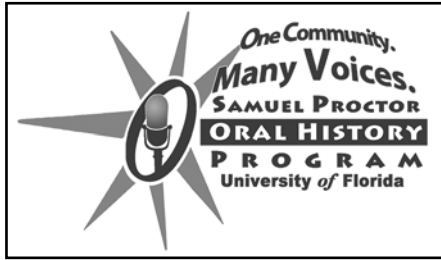
While hoarding vaccine recipe, Moderna got another \$300 million from US taxpayers

by Jake Johnson | *Common Dreams* | May 6 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1387

The Massachusetts-based pharmaceutical giant Moderna disclosed in a financial filing this week that it received another \$300 million in U.S. government funding for coronavirus vaccine development in March even as the company hoarded its technology from the world—and attempted to undermine a critical vaccine project in South Africa. 🐢



History and the people who make it: David Payne



This transcript excerpt illustrates race and gender intersectionality in the classroom through the recollections of Mr. David Payne, who attended the University of Florida and worked as a teacher in the Orange County school district. He was interviewed on December 6, 2014, by Drs. Justin Dunnivant and Ryan Morini [M] for the SPOHP's African American History Project.

This is the 68th in a series of transcript excerpts from the UF Samuel Proctor Oral History Program collection.

Transcript edited by Yiorgo Topalidis.

M: Could you state when you were born?

Payne: January 28, 1942.

M: And where were you born?

Payne: I'm a Floridian who was born in Kentucky. University of Florida, the tuition my first year was ninety dollars a semester. As many classes as you wanted to take. My older sister, who enrolled in the University of Florida in 1951 as a junior, was like in only the fifth class that accepted women.

I knew no Black students, because there weren't any. I read with amusement that the University of Florida claims to have integrated in 1958. There weren't any Black students here when I got here. And there weren't until they admitted, I think it was two girls, in [19]62, I believe it was.

I am opposed to segregation, but I wasn't involved in any kind of activism at that time. Mark, a graduate student in psychology, he said, we want to do something. College Inn is not integrated. We got to do something that will work.

This is my idea. A boycott is not going to work. Protest signs out front aren't going to work. The only thing that is going to work with this owner who is adamantly segregationist, we've got to get to the cash register in his head. The way we can

do that is tell him that all of us opposed to his policy are going to patronize the place on a Saturday. Then if he doesn't change his policy, he will never see us again.

I believe it was like a couple of thousand, I don't have a count, but there were a lot of us lined up University Avenue. A lot. Because I was one of the organizers, I was at the front of the line. Went in. Of course all the serving people were Black. Getting my food. Black lady, probably in her sixties look at me, and there were kind of tears in her eyes. She looks at me and says, "Thank you."

That would be the day I became an active activist. [Laughter] We succeeded in getting him to serve Black people at College Inn.

Oh, another thing. I think it was James Brown. My older brother was here for about a year and a half. Went down to a James Brown concert in Ocala. The Ocala Sheriff's Department didn't want any white people at this Black performance. And they aggressively hassled any white people, students, who went down there to attend this concert.

That's one thing I remember that was really disturbing about the racist attitude.

Many, many of my relatives on my mother's side are religious fundamentalists. There are some things that you can't even talk to them about. I love one of my cousins dearly. The things she believes are mind-numbing because she is a Bible literalist. There is no way.

We can't sit down and talk about reality, because she is operating from a rigid belief system. I gather that in the middle of this divide, there is a portion in the middle that now embraces gay rights. So on that issue, we are no longer fifty-fifty polarized. We are now at like what? Sixty-five or seventy-thirty on the issue of gay rights. And that has occurred in the last — less than ten years.

That mindset I was talking about. That kind of culture-wide mindset has changed. And that would change even more as young people begin to replace the old die-hards.

When I was younger, the thing that set our family apart from the other families was that my parents were not racists. I don't know why I got that lucky draw. But I got that lucky draw. They weren't. Including when, I guess I was about seven, and my

brother, who is two years older, we were in the house. And my brother referred to Black people. He said, those [expletive]. And mother said, wait a minute. You know that that is an insult, right? Yes. Okay, put the shoe on the other foot. If you were Black and someone said that to you, how would you feel?

And that is how she got us to understand. [Moreover], there was a Black man that Mother used to buy fresh vegetables from. He would come to the house. He comes through the back door. Mother says you don't have to go through the back door. He says, oh, yes ma'am, I do. Do you know why?

Because if a white person had seen him come through the front door of our house, when he left, they would have tracked him down and beat him senseless.

[In Orlando], Black people patronized our store, which was owned by a couple of German immigrants. They immigrated in the 1930s. Got away from Hitler's Germany and moved to Ohio and then to Florida.

But Black people would patronize our store because they could trust the owners. We treated them as human beings. To the extent that we kept these little pencil-written pads. They would come in during the week and buy groceries. He would just write it down. And then on Friday when they got their check from the oranges being picked or whatever, they would come in and pay their bills. Absolutely pay their bills. He never had bad debt on any of those people.

In one of my jobs, for some reason, I could understand fairly heavy Southern Black dialect. I knew what they were saying. So I was the one they would call. Again, this was a Black lady, I think, in her seventies. She was in line to get some [chewing tobacco]. I was bagging the groceries. She asked did we have such-and-such kind of [chewing tobacco]. I think that is what it was she asked for. She asked me something, and I said no ma'am. And she said, oh, okay. She went out.

The next person behind her was this white guy, upper [class] blue-collar, driving a new pickup truck. He leaned over into my face and said, don't you ever say ma'am to a [expletive] again. One of my bosses was standing behind me because I was about to hit him.

Mr. Payne then presents a courageous image of his friend and classmate Clif-

ford Vick that exemplifies intersectional expression of identity.

Payne: I had a ‘fro. I used to have a ‘fro that was like this *[gestures to indicate large size]*. And one of the white history teachers, he was Air Force retired. He came up to me one day in the hall at the college and says, when are you going to have your nose flattened and your lips thickened? This was a history teacher at Lake Sumter in 1974 or 1975, he said that. And he was a friend.

But what happens for me then is that they used to be here. I couldn’t believe that a college instructor in the 1970s would even say that to me. But he did. *[Laughter]*

Oh God. The other one, Bride, Colonel Bride who was retired, I think, he was Army colonel.

One of our students, this Black student, Clifford Vick, was gay and an incredible actor. At that time, I was in charge of the theater program. We started as a club, but by the time I left, we had a full-blown theatre program. But Clifford, one Friday, Clifford comes in in drag with lipstick and plops himself down in Bride’s class. And Bride can’t say a word. All he can do is just suffer and steam. When we found out about it, the enlightened faculty was thinking way to go, Clifford. *[Laughter]*

Finally, Mr. Payne goes on to describe the political atmosphere and difference in political ideologies between Florida’s Republican and Democratic parties in relation to gay rights.

Payne: Charley Johns was lieutenant governor. Charley Johns, he was going to clean up the University of Florida of those — I don’t remember the phrase he used. But basically, those pinko commie fags on the University of Florida faculty.

Luckily, our governors, our Democratic governors, were enlightened. I think Charley Johns — when he was chosen as the lieutenant governor’s running mate — was the thing about where you want the other voting block to pretend.

But if you look at Democratic governors of Florida starting in the late [19]50s, I can’t say his name now. But he was one of the enlightened southern governors who was very helpful. And then, of course, people like Bob Graham all the way up to Lawton Chiles.

But the Democratic governors were typically enlightened. Far enlightened for the South. And the legislature was kind of retarded.

This would have been probably [19]62, Skelly and Hoover, Hoover was fullback, Skelly was the tailback on the football team.

We used to have an alligator in just a little chain-link fence pen by the Century Tower. You would just walk past and say hey to the gator. They never let it get to be a real big one.

Well, Hoover and Skelly got this bright idea that they wanted to wrestle him. So they broke into the pen. They cut the gator. They hurt the gator. So the university wanted to discipline them, and the state legislature passed one of those, not real bills but whatever they call those things, making alligator wrestling a three-credit class at the University of Florida.

Search for “David Payne” at: ufdc.ufl.edu/oral for the recording and full transcript of this interview.

The Samuel Proctor Oral History Program believes that listening carefully to first-person narratives can change the way we understand history, from scholarly questions to public policy.

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Carnage and incarceration

The new decision would sic cops on doctors and trigger punitive measures against women who obtain abortions. Oklahoma recently passed legislation that would provide ten years in prison and up to \$100,000 in fines for performing an abortion.

Anti-abortion forces piously promise that women getting abortions would never be subject to arrest, only those terrible abortionists — a bold lie given that women are already being arrested. A woman in Texas was charged with murder in March for allegedly giving herself an abortion. Charges were only dropped after a national outcry. Around twenty-five women have been prosecuted in the United States for their miscarriages over the last decades. Until she won a reprieve, Purvi Patel was sentenced to twenty years in prison for concealing her late miscarriage. Jennie Lynn McCormack in Idaho used abortion pills and was sentenced to five years in prison. She appealed and managed to get her conviction and the law overturned.

Cases like these have generally been won on appeal as the homicide and feticide statutes used were found to be inappropriate. But that's only because, up until now, states couldn't classify abortion as murder. Soon, they'll be free to bring such charges against doctors and patients.

A lot of pro-choice rhetoric suggests that women are going to be dragged back to a time before *Roe v. Wade* enshrined the right to abortion. In fact, the legal situation in the 1960s is not a particularly good guide for what we will see next. The United States has become much more of a police state since then, with mass incarceration and heavy sentences that outstrip all other countries. The United States has 33 percent of the world's female prison population.

Abortion pills change things

While the carceral state has expanded, medical technology has also advanced since the 1960s, when five thousand women a year were estimated to have died from unsafe illegal abortions. Serious complications were so common that whole hospital wards had to be dedicated to botched abortion cases.

Nowadays, doctors who study self-abortion say that attempts to abort with sharp objects, blunt trauma, and poisons are much less prevalent because abortion pills have become more available on the gray market and from overseas providers such as Aid Access. And the Food and Drug Administration recently loosened restrictions on abortion pills to make them available by mail in states that allow them.

Abortion pills are safe and effective, and they are currently used in more than half

of medically supervised abortions. But while those who use abortion pills are safe medically, they will not be safe from anti-abortion state laws and prosecutors bent on terrorizing people as a deterrent to the use of pills.

The people's elected representatives

In the leaked draft decision, Alito writes: "It is time to heed the Constitution and return the issue of abortion to the people's elected representatives." This sounds great in theory, and abortion supporters themselves have even made this argument. Large majorities of people in the United States (between 60 and 72 percent) support *Roe v. Wade*, so a healthy legislative system would have long since made abortion legal through federal law. But ours is moribund.

In September, anticipating a Supreme Court bloodbath, Democrats in the U.S. House passed the Women's Health Protection Act, a law codifying the rights enumerated in *Roe*.

A Senate vote defeated the act 46–48. Two Republican senators who allegedly support abortion rights, Lisa Murkowski and Susan Collins, voted against the bill, citing quibbles with its language. But even if they had voted for it, the filibuster rule means that forty-one senators can nix anything, and they no longer have to make long speeches or wear adult diapers to do so.

Short of abolishing the Senate altogether — most democracies have unicameral legislatures — it would certainly help to get rid of the filibuster rule. Not just abortion but a host of vital bills are being held hostage by the party out of power, from climate change legislation to a higher minimum wage to union rights.

Having been unable to pass most legislation that would actually help communities pillaged by corporations and oppressed by right-wing state legislatures, Senate Democrats are now set to use the issue of abortion to try to gin up support in the midterm elections.

But even if a massive popular uprising on this issue allows Democrats to hold on to the Senate, unless they abolish the filibuster rule, a law protecting abortion access has no chance. What can they promise us tomorrow that they can't deliver today?

It's time for Democrats to defend democracy and make abortion legal throughout the country. ☘

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Spotlight on ...



Planned Parenthood Clinic at Gainesville is a full-service health center for reproductive and sexual health care needs, offering pregnancy testing and options counseling. Located at 914 NW 13th St., Gainesville. For information, call 377-0881.

Volunteer with Planned Parenthood!

To get involved, contact the volunteer sign up at PPFLA.org/volunteer. Monthly volunteer meetings are the 1st Tuesday of month from 6:30 to 7:30pm. The current volunteer focus is on:

- funneling support into abortion funds and other practical support organizations
- destigmatizing abortion work
- letters to the editor, phonebanking, data entry, and similar duties

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@laborcoalition.org | LaborCoalition.org

Alachua County Organization for Rural Needs Clinic is a not-for-profit in Brooker providing low-cost, high-quality dental care for people with and without health insurance to Alachua, Bradford and Union County residents. The Clinic fulfills its mission with the help of volunteers. 485-2772 | 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://www.facebook.com/alachuaNAACP) | NAACPacb.org

American Promise Association is a cross-partisan, citizen-powered endeavor to amend the US Constitution to ensure We The People – not big money, corporations, unions, or wealthy special interests – govern the United States of America. 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://www.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. centralfdsa@gmail.com | [facebook.com/NCFloridaDSA](https://www.facebook.com/NCFloridaDSA)

Citizens Climate Lobby builds awareness and lobbies for sensible climate policies. 214-1778 | btancig@gmail.com | [citizensclimatelobby.org/chapters/FL_Gainesville](https://www.citizensclimatelobby.org/chapters/FL_Gainesville) | [facebook.com/CitizensClimateLobbyGainesvilleFL](https://www.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.com

[gmail.com](mailto:chispasuf@gmail.com) | chispasuf.com | [facebook.com/chispasUF](https://www.facebook.com/chispasUF)

Code Pink: Women for Peace Women-led grassroots peace and social justice movement utilizing creative protest, non-violent direct action and community involvement. [Facebook.com/CodePINKgainesville](https://www.facebook.com/CodePINKgainesville) | 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](https://www.facebook.com/DivestGainesville)

Divest UF is a student-run organization and a loose collective of Gators seeking to divest the university from fossil fuels, the prison industry, and arms and surveillance companies. [Divestuf.org](https://www.Divestuf.org) | [facebook.com/DivestUF](https://www.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](https://www.facebook.com/UFDreamDefenders)

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](https://www.facebook.com/groups/edibleplantproject)

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

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Final Friends, run by volunteers, helps families learn how to accomplish legal home funeral care as an alternative to a commercial funeral home. 374-4478 | 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@gainesvillerollerrebels.com | gainesvillerollerrebels.com

Graduate Assistants United union represents UF grad assistants by fighting for improved working conditions, community involvement and academic freedom. 575-0366 | organizing@ufgau.org | 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](https://facebook.com/HumanistFamiliesofGainesville)

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](https://facebook.com/MindFreedomFlorida)

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](https://www.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 Santa Fe River. 386-243-0322 | [oursantaferiver.org](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://www.pccncf.org) | [GainesvillePride.org](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://www.centerforpeacebuilding.org)

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

Samuel Proctor Oral History Program focuses on story-telling, social justice research, social movement studies, oral history workshops. [oral.history.ufl.edu](https://www.oral.history.ufl.edu)

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](https://www.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](https://www.facebook.com/SAAatUF) | [instagram@studentanimalallianceUF](https://www.instagram.com/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](https://www.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](https://www.SAGainesville.weebly.com)

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. ssjsierra@gmail.com | [sierraclub.org/florida/suwannee-stjohns](https://www.sierraclub.org/florida/suwannee-stjohns) | (561) 707-4565

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](https://www.facebook.com/GlobalClimateEducation) | [ClimateRealityProjectGNV.wordpress.com](https://www.ClimateRealityProjectGNV.wordpress.com) | [ClimateRealityProject.org](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://www.facebook.com/UFCollegeDemocrats) | [UFcollegedems.org](https://www.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. UFPridesu@gmail.com | [facebook.com/ufpsu](https://www.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](https://www.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/UNAUSAGainesvilleFLChapter](https://www.facebook.com/UNAUSAGainesvilleFLChapter) | [UNA-USAgainesvillefl.org](https://www.UNA-USAgainesvillefl.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](https://www.unitedwayncfl.org)

University of Florida HealthStreet is a community engagement program that employs community outreach practices to reduce disparities in healthcare and research. Free services include medical and social service referrals, health screenings, Narcan Nasal Spray Kits, clothing and toiletry items, health education, events, support groups, and more. 294-4880 or [healthstreet.program.ufl.edu/](https://www.healthstreet.program.ufl.edu/)

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](https://www.facebook.com/VFPchapter14) | [vfpgainesville.org](https://www.vfpgainesville.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](https://www.facebook.com/UFWiSE) | [wise.group.ufl.edu/about-wise](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://www.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. [wspus.org](https://www.wspus.org). 🌐

Professor Lorna Bracewell to discuss new book: 'a gripping social history of feminist political theory'

Who: Dr. Lorna Bracewell, Flagler College professor

What: Book talk on *Why We Lost the Sex Wars: Sexual Freedom in the #MeToo Era*.

Where: Civic Media Center, 433 S. Main St., Gainesville

When: Saturday, June 4, 6:30pm

Cost: \$10 (donation) students, \$20 (donation) others

by the CMC Board

Please join the Civic Media Center Board on Saturday, June 4, at 6:30pm, to hear Dr. Lorna Bracewell discuss her new book, *Why We Lost the Sex Wars: Sexual Freedom in the #MeToo Era*.

Dr. Bracewell's book is a timely and urgent reconsideration of feminist debates on sexual freedom in the 1990s. An important intervention into feminist history, *Why We Lost the Sex Wars* traces utopian attempts to redefine the imagination of sex and sexual freedom, and the ensuing debates that still influence us today.

Why We Lost the Sex Wars is a fascinating read. It provides a gripping social history of both feminist movement and of feminist political theory, including archival research into interviews and writings that current feminist "legends" did as graduate students. This is intertwined with incisive and creative theoretical analysis of the arguments offered in courts, conferences, and publications.

Lorna N. Bracewell shows that the so-called "sex wars" were not warlike, nor a clear-cut duality, but rather multiple and complex, and that these debates and arguments still influence feminism and feminist theory today. In Bracewell's account of the central role that feminists of color played, which is often overlooked, is particularly insightful and important. This book is essential reading for all of us interested in the history of late-twentieth-century feminism and in understanding how we got to where we are today.

- Nancy Hirschmann, author of *Gender, Class, and Freedom in Modern Political Theory*

Dr. Bracewell, an alumna of the UF Political Science PhD program and a professor at Flagler College, will speak about her book and answer questions from the audience.

SpringBoard is one of the CMC's two biggest annual fundraisers, along with CMC's anniversary in October. This is SpringBoard's first in-person event since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.

We recognize that the pandemic is not over, but we invite you to join us in our space at 433 S. Main St. to celebrate another year of survival. We will be requiring masks, and a Zoom option will also be provided to support accessibility. Tickets are available at the door or on Eventbrite. Donations of any size are welcome, with a recommended donation of \$10 for students and \$20 or more for others. 🐢

Bracewell speaks against Duval County's support of 'Don't Say Gay' bill

The comment below was given by Lorna Bracewell on May 3 at a Duval County School Board meeting. The meeting surprisingly turned into a marathon session of public comment and debate regarding a proposed resolution that would support the state's Florida Parental Rights in Education bill (Don't Say Gay bill). After eight hours, the resolution was ultimately tabled to be taken up at a later date. Bracewell is speaking at the CMC's SpringBoard on June 4. See more background on the issue in Duval County at: tinyurl.com/Iguana1388.

Good evening. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I'm here to ask you to support LGBTQ+ students and teachers and oppose the don't say gay resolution. During public comment tonight, I've been called a "deviant," "sexual abuser," "sexual predator," and a "pervert." But I'm not any of those things. What I am is a gay teacher, a college professor. <gasp> I'm also the proud spouse of a brilliant, passionate Duval County Public School teacher.

See *DON'T SAY GAY*, p. 15

Want your article, ad, event or PSA in the July/August 2022 issue of the Iguana?

Deadline is Wednesday, June 29. Submit events, content, and questions to: gainesvilleiguana@cox.net

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

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