



# The Gainesville Iguana

*A progressive newsletter*

**July/August 2022**

**Vol. 36, Issue 7/8**

## SCOTUS: WTF?

# Roe gone, but guns okay



On June 11, shortly after the mass shooting in Uvalde, Texas, a coalition of groups, under the banner of March for Our Lives Gainesville, organized a rally in Gainesville at Bo Diddley Plaza that marched to Depot Park. About 500 attended to hear speakers at both locations. Organizing groups included Moms Demand Action, Florida Forward, Planned Parenthood, UF College Democrats, and Young Democratic Socialists of America. Similar events took place across the country.

A report from Vicki Machado, a Gainesville local who attended the DC rally, is on page 17. Ashoka Singh Banerjee, a high school student, gave the following speech at the Gainesville rally. For more on the Gainesville rally, see [tinyurl.com/Iguana1396](http://tinyurl.com/Iguana1396).

Every day for the last 10 years of my life I have woken up, gotten ready, and gone to school.

Every single day one of those days could have been the day in school that I was killed, by a random kid who had a bad day.

It makes me sick to know that my friends and I could have been the children hiding behind desks, covering ourselves in the blood of each other, just to survive another day.

*See MARCH, p. 16*

# VOTE Tuesday, August 23

*by Joe Courter*

The upcoming primary election on Aug. 23 will see the Democrats and Republicans narrowing their candidates down for the November midterm election races.

In Alachua County the nonpartisan mayor, city commission, and school board races will be on the ballot as well as the circuit court judges race, with candidates trying to achieve that magical 50% + 1 in order to win their seats. However, if no candidate achieves that number, the seat

will then be on the November midterm ballot for a runoff decision.

This is already an important election cycle with the future of Florida in play. For the first time, the city elections will be included with other August races and voting, making August voting even more important for Gainesville.

Florida is a closed primary election state, which means that only voters registered with a political party can vote in that party's primary contests on the ballot.

However, all registered voters, regardless of party affiliation, may vote in nonpartisan races, such as Alachua County School Board, city races, and judicial contests. All voters who live within Gainesville's city limits can vote in Gainesville mayoral

*See ELECTION, p. 8*

### REGULAR FEATURES

<i>From the publisher</i> . . . . .	3
<i>Editors' picks</i> . . . . .	13
<i>Oral History</i> . . . . .	18
<i>And the good news is</i> . . . . .	19
<i>In memoriam</i> . . . . .	20
<i>Directory</i> . . . . .	21-23



Photo by Laura Blecha

Gainesville rallies for abortion rights ...

# 'Our bodies, our choice'



Photo from Facebook



Photo by Candi Churchill

On Saturday, June 25, the day after the Roe decision dropped, a previously scheduled noontime teach-in at the Public Library was held covering the book *Birth Strike: The Hidden Fight over Women's Work* by Jenny Brown. That was followed by a large rally outside of the Alachua County Courthouse.

Speeches were followed by personal testimonies for about 45 minutes, and then, thanks to large banners and fired up energy, the gathering spontaneously turned into a march going up Main to University Ave., then west down University toward Midtown, with stops for chanting at the state attorney's office and the new "Crisis Pregnancy Center" fake clinic near the UF Campus.

Huge, peaceful, and powerful! 🐊

*From the publisher ...*

## Compartmentalized minds

This information age we live in presents major challenges in coping. How do we sort through all the options available?

Humans have never faced such an overwhelming array of stimuli and endless paths to follow. Unfortunately, since peace and tranquility are less attention grabbing, a lot offered is negative and disturbing.

Doom scrolling is a real thing for many, and it is not healthy. Strategic and critical thinking is, to say the least, undervalued. And in a country that by design counts on an informed, participating citizenry (well, okay, in the beginning they really didn't want everybody ... some still don't), it has created a very serious problem of people trapped in silos.

There has been in the last few years an increasing amount of rightfully disturbing phenomena. Covid was a real shake up as to how we live. The reaction to dealing with Covid exposed a propaganda-driven, anti-science groupthink, closely linked to the metastasizing of MAGA mentality, for which we have not found a cure. (And if these Jan. 6 hearings don't have an effect, we are in deep doo-doo.) But leaving all that aside, there is just so damn much that is not making sense!

Ukraine is becoming more and more repulsive to me. Both sides, the whole thing, is so wrong, needless and devastating. I now see it as a war of choice, choosing war over negotiating and diplomacy. All the resources expended, the destruction and disruption of millions of lives, and the now emerging world food shortages; all in a proxy war destroying Ukraine to what end? It's madness.

And now the end of Roe; the taking away of rights that were gained, as most rights are, through struggle. Cold and callously ideological, this is so so wrong: the fear of mandatory motherhood will affect every sexually active person who can become pregnant. The door to going backwards has swung open, what else will we let them (yes, let them) undo? Gay marriage? LGBTQ rights? Decriminalized weed? Birth control? Union organizing?

Oh, and let's ignore climate change, our pathetic health care system, massive entrenched poverty, and the unmistakable drift to a form of religion-based authoritarianism. Let's erase the disturbing parts of our history so young minds are kept patriotically pure. Things are pretty fucked up on so many levels these days.

But you know what? Stuff all that into manageable mental compartments. Find a way to put a lid on your anger and frustration, and find things in your life that matter.

Number one is take better care of yourself. You are needed for the long haul. By all means keep paying attention, but learn how to stuff it into boxes. Number two is that this next election will require all the organizing we can do to get a good turnout at the polls and start trying to get moving in a better direction. We need organized people and groups with an attitude and structures that will last beyond the election. This will let us open those boxes and compartments and act with more power than just our individual selves. Go find *The Low Road* by Marge Piercy and give it a read.

P.S. Re the Jan. 6 hearings: We have seen a string of truth-telling, rational, and admirable Republicans testify as witnesses, Cheney and Kinzinger, too. They are very unlike the mean-spirited Republican blowhards we usually see. The hearings present a glimmer of hope that we could work together, although perhaps the fundamental divide of "pro business-make money" vs. "pro people-share the wealth" is too systemically entrenched. But I think of Rodney King: "Can't we all get along?" 🐾



*Joe Courter*

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# Why peace? Resolving conflicts without weapons

Larry Dansinger does a weekly editorial "Outside the Box" on radio station WERU, in Blue Hill, Maine. In this transcript, he speaks for and to many who feel frustrated by the embrace of militarism to solve problems. The station, and its archive of past shows, is available at [www.weru.org](http://www.weru.org).

It's *Outside the Box*, questioning my so-called patriotic duty. Today's topic is: Why Peace?

It's obvious that the U.S. government has taken sides in the conflict in Ukraine. The Russians, especially Vladimir Putin, are the bad aggressors, and the Ukrainians are the innocent victims and need to be supported militarily. Of course, it isn't that simple that one side is all right and the other all wrong.

Research from various sources shows bad actions by both Russia and Ukraine.

During the Soviet era, Russians were sent to Ukraine to "Russianize" that country. But Ukraine has been taking military action against pro-Russian separatists in eastern parts of the country since 2014. Russia sent its military into another country, clearly an invasive act.

Its soldiers are being accused of war crimes — mass slaughter, rape, other horrors. But, a few neutral observers say horrendous acts attributed to Russia, like mass graves, may actually have been done by the Ukrainians. Russia appears to be attempting genocide of the country and culture of Ukraine so it can protect itself against NATO threats. However, there

are claims of neo-Nazi militias fighting on behalf of Ukraine against Russian separatists. Not a simple situation of who's right and who's wrong.

What should be the U.S. position on this conflict?

My hope is that the U.S. will use a "human rights framework" in its position on the war. It should always be promoting a quick end to the conflict so that fewer people die or suffer. It doesn't blame just one side; it blames all sides. It should be on the side of ending the suffering of innocent people, not one government or another. No matter who quote-unquote "wins" the war, it's a loss for both Russia and Ukraine.

Because the U.S. has done its own share of starting wars and destabilizing of other



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governments and countries, it should not be out front in promoting human rights yet, until it stops its own threatening.

But, it can support the United Nations or Nobel peace laureates or other independent efforts to intervene in this conflict for an end to military action. It can support refugee relief and sanctions that primarily hurt the warmongers, but not Russian civilians just trying to survive.

I've been participating in weekly vigils in downtown Bangor every Wednesday from noon to 12:30 in front of Bangor City Hall. These are peace vigils, not supporting either side but rather an end to the fighting. The US should not send billions of dollars to the Ukraine military to keep the conflict alive. This will destroy more of Ukraine and cause the loss of more lives on both sides. Not a solution.

There are no right wars and wrong wars, I believe. They are all wrong, because a few powerful men create conflicts that they won't settle another way. The victims are everyone else — soldiers, guerilla fighters, and many, many civilians, including about 6 million Ukrainian refugees and another 8 million internally displaced. The Russian people are suffering also from an economy that is collapsing because of sanctions.

Sadly, the U.S. wants to expand its influence in Ukraine, in Europe, and around

the world, just as Russia does. This proxy war against Russia, fought by the Ukrainians, gives the U.S. a way to expand that influence without endangering U.S. troops. It strengthens NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, a cold war relic that seems to provide security to many European countries while threatening Russia.

Would Russia have started its war against Ukraine if NATO did not exist?

This is not to excuse Russian aggression; U.S. aggression in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other countries; its failure to act in places like Syria, Palestine, and Yemen; and its constant manipulation of governments thru spying and CIA involvements throughout the Americas and beyond. Both the U.S. and Russia need a 180 degree turnaround.

Any so-called "victory" by either Russia or Ukraine, rather than an immediate interruption and ending of the fighting, will encourage governments to use war and military means to resolve conflicts and seize territory they can control.

What's really needed is the political and social will on an international level, initiated by the UN and/or other international peace movements, to express outrage against any war or aggression which violates human rights. That outrage needs to be backed up by worldwide

disapproval and ways to isolate and pressure any government aggressor.

If we want to save lives, end suffering, and respect all humans, we need to adopt this "human rights framework" for addressing all conflicts. Taking sides with a government will make things worse, not better. How do you think we can resolve all conflicts without resorting to weapons and militaries?

I'm Larry Dansinger, prepared to keep on vigiling for the foreseeable future. 🦉

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## Alachua County Labor Coalition to host Gainesville City Commission, mayoral candidate forums

The Alachua County Labor Coalition (ACLC) will be hosting two forums with candidates in the upcoming Gainesville elections. Separate forums will be held for commission and mayoral candidates. ACLC members and the general public will ask questions on the topics of a living wage, affordable housing, transportation, health care, food access, corporate responsibility, criminal justice reform, and general governance. Prior to the forum, candidates will return ACLC questionnaires touching on the same topics.

The commissioner forum will take place on Thursday, July 14 at 6pm.

The mayoral forum will take place on Thursday, July 28 at 6pm.

Both forums will be held at Emmanuel Mennonite Church, 1236 NW 18th Ave. The ACLC is immensely grateful to Emmanuel Mennonite for the generosity in sharing their space.

ACLC Coordinator Bobby Mermer can be reached at [Info@LaborCoalition.org](mailto:Info@LaborCoalition.org) should you have questions. ✨

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# News from the Civic Media Center

by Joe Courter

The Civic Media Center thanks JoJo Sacks for being the steady rock and creative spirit that rode the responsibility of the Civic Media Center valiantly through the Covid period of “what the hell are we gonna do” doubts. Her creativity with taking advantage of the new options social media offers, new ways of donating like Venmo and PayPal, all coupled with this community’s generosity when those stimulus checks rolled in, kept us afloat.

And then as things began to open up, JoJo resumed volunteer meetings and drew a vibrant pool of mostly new people attracted to the concepts and ongoing projects like Free Grocery Store (many had never been to a CMC event!).

And now we have begun to slowly and safely host events, showing films, having meetings, poetry, and music. JoJo isn’t leaving; she has a job with Santa Fe College heading their LGBTQ Center and will be helping train the new CMC coordinator Chris.

Events coming up include the regular Poetry Jam Thursday evenings at 8pm, the Old time and Traditional music jam is every 4th Sunday from 5-8pm in the Courtyard. Volunteer meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 5:30, and a showing of *Cabaret* is on Saturday, July 16.

Watch the Facebook page as new events get scheduled, and sign up for email updates at the website: [civicmediacenter.org](http://civicmediacenter.org). We have a cool little video there.

We’re excited to welcome Chris to the CMC. Below are some words of introduction in their own words:

*I’m Chris Overley, the new coordinator at the Civic Media Center. Last year, I moved from Las Vegas to Gainesville as an aspiring biologist with no idea what to expect.*

*Coming from the urban desert, Gainesville was a completely new experience for me. Over the course of my first year here, things changed a lot, and I learned there is so much more to this wonderful town than first meets the eye.*

*I got involved with the Civic Media Center and was amazed by all the real, grounding work they do there.*

*Then the coordinator position opened up. I privately felt like a perfect fit — fundraising, educational programming, and event planning were my whole thing while managing the environmental nonprofit Southern Nevada Conservancy. I applied, and now it’s official!*

*Talking with everyone involved at the CMC is so enlightening, and I love engaging with all the different perspectives people bring to their work.*

*I feel like so much good has been done in terms of community outreach and education, mutual aid, and making space for community and healing in a world that wants to drain us.*

*I am energized by the work being done for prison abolition, reproductive rights, LGBTQ rights, and all matters of bodily autonomy.*

*I am inspired by Free Grocery Store and Free Store and all efforts to create self-sustaining communities in Gainesville.*

*Moving forward I hope to involve more Black voices, more Indigenous voices, more immigrant voices, and more disabled*

*voices in the CMC’s efforts. I look forward to continuing support for the organizations already in community with the CMC, as well as building new bridges to all the people we have yet to reach.*

PLEASE NOTE: This hiring process means a double payroll for a few weeks as JoJo helps train and orient Chris, so any celebratory expressions of financial gratitude would be welcome. Old School with checks to CMC, 433 S. Main St., Gainesville, 32601, or using electronic methods, you may donate on Venmo @CMC4ever or [paypal.me/CMC4ever](https://paypal.me/CMC4ever). 🐾

## Gainesville Quaker Meeting

You are welcome here, where together we seek to live lives committed to peace and justice.



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**2022 Primary and Gainesville Election:  
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July 25, 2022



**Aug  
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**PRIMARY ELECTION**  
August 23, 2022

**Florida is a Closed Primary State. Changes to party affiliation must be made prior to July 25 to take effect for the August Primary.**

**No matter your party affiliation, there is something on the ballot for everyone to vote on.**



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*From ELECTION, p. 1*  
and in city commission district races for the candidate in their district.

As a reminder, voters can update their party affiliation any time. However, Florida law requires that they do so at least 29 days prior to a primary election to vote in that party's primary contests. That date is July 25, which is also the last date to register to vote (i.e., to support Fried, Cornell, or Wheeler, you need to be a Dem).

Early voting is Saturday, Aug. 13, through Saturday, Aug. 20, from 9am to 6pm.

You can request a vote-by-mail ballot by calling or visiting the website of the Alachua County Supervisor of Elections. There are new rules for vote-by-mail ballot collections and verification, so familiarize yourself with those policies if using that method. More voting info is at [votelachua.com](http://votelachua.com).

For more candidate information we encourage you to watch or attend candidate information forums, attend candidate meet and greets, research candidates and their platforms, or talk to friends and associates for their opinions.

Page 11 contains a brief voting guide – our opinion on races and candidates – you can take with you when you vote. Some races are harder to give a definite opinion on, so for those, we state who we believe should be the front runner(s). Our suggestions:

**Florida House Representative District 8:  
Brandon Peters and Olysha Magruder**

We feel both candidates are good people, and Magruder has a lot of city support, but Peters has more reach out into exterior of the sprawling District 8. This would give Peters a much better chance of beating Republican Chuck Clemons, and that needs to be the overall goal.

Unfortunately, Republican dark money dirty tricks marred Magruder's last primary race, with a unsanctioned mailer bashing her opponent Kayser Enneking. That weakened Enneking's image for November. Many would have liked for those primary games to have been denounced by Magruder sooner, as historically, a united Democratic Party gives a stronger chance in November.

Democrats need to be on the lookout for similar things in this race and remain united, so either candidate will get the best shot at unseating Clemons.

**8th Circuit Court Judge:  
AuBroncee Martin and Dan Weisman**

Martin currently works in the Public De-

fender's office and is a previous adjunct professor at the University of Florida Levin College of Law where he taught aspiring lawyers the art of trial advocacy. Weisman is a former prosecutor, current private defense attorney, and community activist tackling social justice issues. Both would be great on the bench, and it is important that one of them make it into the probable runoff.

**Gainesville Mayoral Race:  
Harvey Ward and Gary Gordon**

There are a total of nine people running in this race, and with that crowded of a field, there will undoubtedly be a runoff in November. We do not believe that many of these candidates will get to double digits, as it seems a large portion are running vanity-style campaigns. Keeping that in mind, we are choosing to highlight three of the more serious candidates, with the two Democrats being our top choices.

While the top two have some large policy and perspective differences between them, both want what is best for Gainesville and its residents. Ward has supported some of the new urbanist initiatives that have come before the commission in the past few years, which many feel has contributed to the rapid city build up. Ward is a good-hearted, progressive person, and is known for being very open and reachable, which is a good quality in an elected official. Ward also championed the city's Heirs Property work, which is allowing folks to claim back homes and property lost to their families long ago.

Gordon was a former city commissioner and mayor-commissioner from 1983 to 1986. Gordon was engaged in working in and around governmental and civic entities during his time in California, before moving back to Gainesville where he grew up. He is strongly supportive of single-family zoning retention and increased citizen input regarding development issues, not letting developers call the tune.

Also in the mayoral race is former, fired head of Gainesville Regional Utilities Ed Bielarski, who declared his run for mayor the day after he was fired. Bielarski has experience in finance, but none in governing. Bielarski is a bit bombastic at times, bringing into question his ability to maintain emotional order on the dais.

**Gainesville City Commission District 2:  
James Ingle**

There are four candidates running for the District 2 seat, and while there are no major disqualifications for any of the can-

didates running, Ingle is a candidate with heart and a real motivation to lead. Ingle is a local electrician and union president. Ingle is running because he wants a voice on the commission from a working-class background, someone with lived experiences who knows the challenges blue collar families face in Gainesville. That is something we can get behind.

**Gainesville City Commission District 3:  
Casey Willits**

Willits is a local organizer and political activist with a passion for affordable housing advocacy. If elected, Willits wants to work on housing, infrastructure, and op-

tions to making streets safer for bicyclists and pedestrians.

**Gainesville City Commission District 4:  
Bryan Eastman**

Eastman is a Gainesville business owner and former campaign manager who has served on many city boards, including currently on the board of Grace Marketplace. Eastman has a passion for renewable resources and hopes to carry that passion with him into his work if elected, seeing Gainesville grow while preserving our beautiful environment and unique character.

*See ELECTION, p. 11*

# School boards: The next big fight

Across the country, Republicans are methodically setting their sights not only on big state and federal elections, but also on previously unremarkable local races. From city and county commissions to elections boards and — perhaps most chillingly — school boards, far-right Republican candidates are running campaigns based largely on fear and hate. And in many cases, they are winning.

The Republican Party’s electoral strategy has been sickeningly consistent for de-

cadecades: develop messages of fear and hate that resonate with their base and exploit the message to accumulate power and control. Today is no different. Republicans’ most recent message is “Save the Children from the Scary Liberals.” Whether stoking racist hate (see the Stop WOKE Act) or anti-LGBTQ hate (see the Don’t Say Gay Bill), this message forms the base for every policy proposal and political campaign.

Republican candidates use this message to fundraise off of parental fears and pro-

mote candidates in targeted seats. They use this fear to set the terms of debate and monopolize the conversation toward conservative values that, at best, alienate other viewpoints, and, at worst, put minoritized children and families in danger.

Nowhere is this political plan more active than in our own state. Florida is the political frontline for this anti-democracy, anti-inclusion, anti-science movement. Governor DeSantis has raised over \$120 million to continue his autocratic takeover of Florida and further his efforts for a presidential bid in 2024. The cornerstone of his plan is targeting local school districts, where he knows he can stoke parental fears that were exacerbated during the COVID pandemic. And unfortunately, Alachua County is his ground zero.

We here in Alachua County have seen a full-scale political attack from the governor on our school system, school board members, and former superintendent. He will stop at nothing in order to control our area, including funding his pick for school board candidates. Currently DeSantis has promised over \$250,000 in campaign funding to the four conservative candidates he has put his stamp of approval on for our four open school board seats in this August race.

These candidates have all the approved Republican talking points strewn throughout their messaging, speaking of safety concerns and behavioral correction, reading achievement gaps, parental collaboration, and empowering teachers. These are nothing more than empty promises and dog whistles for book banning, excluding students and families who are not Christian conforming, and segregating communities that they feel bring the system down and do not promote their whitewashed agenda.

Do not fall for the false messages. Do not let the governor execute his agenda in our community. Do not aid the governor in his quest to Make America Florida.

You must stand up to this takeover and help our communities fight back by electing good folks to our school board who are truly here to protect our children, their families, and their interests, not using them for profitability. We need school board members who will ensure that ALL students excel, not just those with means.

Finally, ensure you elect school board members with a backbone to stand up to

See *SCHOOL BOARD*, p. 11

**"We need leaders who will stand strong in their commitment to provide safe and inclusive classrooms where every child can learn, who won't rest until our educators have the resources and support they need and the compensation that they deserve, who won't back down in the face of threats from Tallahassee, and who will fight to protect public education from profit-seekers and their politicians." - Prescott Cowles**

Paid for by Prescott Cowles for Alachua County School Board District 5

**Endorsed by the Teachers and Staff of the Alachua County Education Association**

**DR. SARAH ROCKWELL**  
FOR ALACHUA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 3

Paid for by Dr. Sarah Rockwell for Alachua County School Board District 3

## The Iguana's Alachua County voters' guide

Cut this out and bring it with you when you vote.

**Senator:** Val Demings

**US Rep Dist. 3:** Danielle Hawk

**Florida Governor:** Nikki Fried

**State Rep Dist. 22:**

Brandon Peters or Olysha Magruder

**Judge Circuit:**

AuBroncee Martin or Dan Weisman

**Alachua Co. Commission:**

Marihelen Wheeler

**Alachua Co. Commission:**

Ken Cornell

**Alachua Co. School Board 1:**

Tina Certain

**Alachua Co. School Board 2:**

Diyonne McGraw

**Alachua Co. School Board 3:**

Sarah Rockwell

**Alachua Co. School Board 5:**

Prescott Cowles

**Gainesville Mayor:**

Harvey Ward or Gary Gordon

**Gainesville City Comm. Dist. 2:**

James Ingle

**Gainesville City Comm. Dist. 3:**

Casey Willits

**Gainesville City Comm. Dist. 4:**

Bryan Eastman 🐊

From *ELECTION*, p. 9

There is a separate article on the Alachua County School Board races on page 10, and clear choices are highlighted, as well as talk about the money flowing in from Tallahassee trying to shape our board to the governor's will.

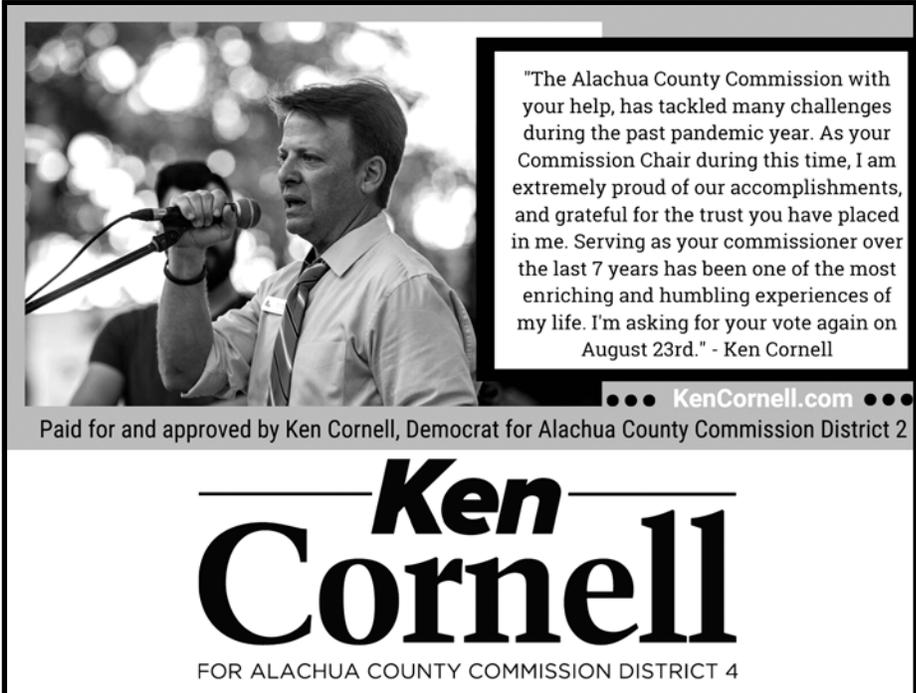
Get out and meet all of these candidates, ask your own questions, and most importantly, be sure to get out and vote on August 23.

**NO COMPLACENCY!** 🐊

From *SCHOOL BOARD*, p. 10

the Tallahassee takeover. We cannot not let our public schools fall and ultimately fail. On August 23, elect Diyonne McGraw for School Board District 2, Sarah Rockwell for School Board District 3, Tina Certain for School Board District 1, and Prescott Cowles for School Board District 5.

With these folks in the driver's seat we can push back on the governor's attacks and send a clear message to Tallahassee that their agenda does not belong here. 🐊



"The Alachua County Commission with your help, has tackled many challenges during the past pandemic year. As your Commission Chair during this time, I am extremely proud of our accomplishments, and grateful for the trust you have placed in me. Serving as your commissioner over the last 7 years has been one of the most enriching and humbling experiences of my life. I'm asking for your vote again on August 23rd." - Ken Cornell

KenCornell.com

Paid for and approved by Ken Cornell, Democrat for Alachua County Commission District 2

# Ken Cornell

FOR ALACHUA COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICT 4

## Candidate forums at press time

**Thursday, July 14, 6pm:**

- *City Commission candidates*  
Emmanuel Mennonite Church, 1256 NW 18th Ave., hosted by ACLC (see page 6 for more info)

**Monday, July 18, 5:30-7:30pm:**

- *County, School Board, and Judges candidates*  
Cotton Club, 877 SE 7th Ave.

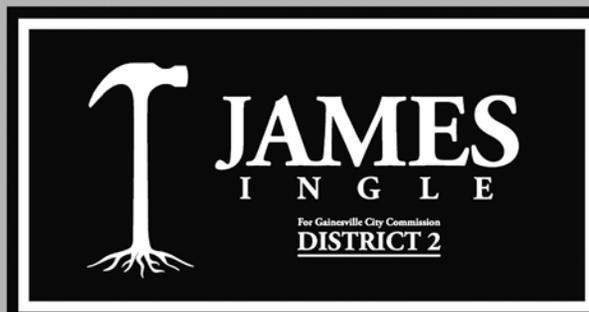
**Wednesday, July 20, 5:30-7:30pm:**

- *City Commission and Mayoral candidates*  
Cotton Club, 877 SE 7th Ave.

**Thursday, July 28, 6pm:**

- *Mayoral candidates*  
Emmanuel Mennonite Church, 1256 NW 18th Ave., hosted by ACLC (see page 6 for more info) 🐊

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



**Vote  
Aug 23!**

VoteJamesIngle.com

Paid for and approved by James Ingle for Gainesville City  
Commition District 2

# Local environmental book club announces future dates

by David Vaina

Our Santa Fe River's Environmental Book Club, launched this past January, has selected its monthly book club selections for August through June 2023.



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The discussion will be facilitated by *Iguana* publisher Joe Courter. The club will meet in August at the Civic Media Center in Gainesville from 2-3pm on Sunday, Aug. 14 to discuss Kim Stanley Robinson's *The Ministry for the Future*.

Robinson has been writing speculative fiction for many decades now and counts Ursula K. Le Guin as one of his literary heroes (as do many of us!). His work is economic and political theory with lots of science and technical details mixed in.

Perhaps what's unique about this book is its style (many vignettes stitched together) as well as its utopian optimism about our future as we accelerate deeper toward a world re-configured by climate change. Though it reads fairly fast, please note *The Ministry* is a relatively long book (500+ pages) and we hope you will spend these 90+ degree (or hotter) days in north central Florida getting an early jump on it.

Looking ahead, our monthly selections are as follows:

**September:** Robert Knight, *Saving Florida's Springs: A Prescription for Springs Health* (Zoom meeting, date and time TBD)

**October:** David Ehrenfeld, *Beginning Again: People & Nature in the New Millennium* (Curia on the Drag, Oct. 23, 2-3pm)

**November:** Starhawk, *Dreaming the Dark: Magic, Sex and Politics* (Curia on the Drag, Nov. 20, 2-3pm)

**December:** Elvia Alvarado, *Don't Be*

*Afraid Gringo: A Honduran Woman Speaks from the Heart* (Curia on the Drag, Dec. 18, 2-3pm)

**January:** Annie Dillard, *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* (Curia on the Drag, Jan. 29, 2-3pm)

**February:** Paul Hawken, *Blessed Unrest: How the Largest Social Movement in History is Restoring Grace, Justice, and Beauty in the World* (Curia on the Drag, Feb. 26, 2-3pm)

**March:** Edward Abbey, *The Monkey Wrench Gang* (Curia on the Drag, March 26, 2-3pm)

**April:** Helen MacDonald, *H Is For Hawk* (Curia on the Drag, April 30, 2-3pm)

**May:** Wangari Maathai, *Unbowed: A Memoir* (Curia on the Drag, May 28, 2-3pm)

**June:** Linda Hudson, *Solar Storms: A Novel* (Curia on the Drag, June 18, 2-3pm)

The Alachua County Library has many of these books in multiple formats for cardholders to borrow at no charge.

We ask you please check Our Santa Fe River's Facebook page for any changes in the schedule due to nasty weather or COVID-19. Please contact David Vaina, the group's organizer and Our Santa Fe River board member, via email at david.vaina@gmail.com for additional info.

Our book club is a small group of kind, thoughtful, progressive, and laid-back citizens who welcome all who share our concerns about the future for both the human and non-human worlds. Happy reading! 🐾

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## Editors' picks: News that didn't fit

### **Biden directs federal agencies to protect LGBTQIA+ rights under attack in GOP-led states**

by Jacob Fischler | *Florida Phoenix* | June 15 | [tinyurl.com/Iguana1415](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1415)

President Biden signed an executive order aiming to curtail conversion therapy, expand health care access and promote safe learning for LG-BTQI+ people. The order is meant to counter laws in Republican-led states that restrict the rights of LGBTQI+ kids.

### **EXCLUSIVE: Now the far right is coming for college too – with taxpayer-funded “classical education”**

by Kathryn Joyce | *Salon* | May 31 | [tinyurl.com/Iguana1403](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1403)

Republicans are channeling tax dollars to right-wing institutes at colleges across the nation. What's the endgame?

### **Half in new poll say Trump tried to stay in office through illegal means**

by Zach Schonfeld | *The Hill* | June 26 | [tinyurl.com/Iguana1414](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1414)

Half of U.S. adults believe former President Trump planned to remain in the presidency through illegal and unconstitutional activities.

### **Ketanji Brown Jackson sworn in as 1st Black woman to serve on Supreme Court**

by Brendan Morrow | *The Week* | June 30 | [tinyurl.com/Iguana1413](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1413)

History has been made, as Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson is officially the first Black woman to serve on the Supreme Court.

### **Poll shows majority oppose Supreme Court's attack on fundamental rights**

by Julia Conley | *Common Dreams* | June 27 | [tinyurl.com/Iguana1416](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1416)

Fifty-six percent of respondents said they're concerned the court will attack marriage equality and the right to obtain contraception.

### **'Stay Woke Go Vote': Florida Black Caucus launches campaign to empower voters**

by Issac Morgan | *Florida Phoenix* | May 9 | [tinyurl.com/Iguana1417](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1417)

The Black delegation in the Florida Legislature and community activists are doubling down on efforts to empower Floridians to vote during the upcoming elections, with the launch of a campaign that pushes back against Republican lawmakers' policies.

### **The Supreme Court's shock-and-awe judicial coup**

by Naomi Klein | *The Intercept* | June 30 | [tinyurl.com/Iguana1406](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1406)

The rolling judicial coup coming from this court is by no means over.

### **The war in Ukraine may be impossible to stop. And the U.S. deserves much of the blame.**

by Christopher Caldwell | *New York Times* | May 31 | [tinyurl.com/Iguana1408](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1408)

A tragic, local and ambiguous conflict has been turned into a potential world conflagration.

### **UF's Alligator student newspaper battled on front lines of abortion issues 50 years ago**

by Katie Delk | *The Gainesville Sun* | June 26 | [tinyurl.com/Iguana1404](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1404)

In 1971, the University of Florida student newspaper printed a list of abortion referral agencies. The editor in chief was arrested and jailed.

### **What's behind the antiabortion crackdown?**

by Jenny Brown | *Jacobin* | [tinyurl.com/Iguana1405](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1405)

Since the turn of the 19th century, crackdowns on women's reproductive rights have come in cycles. The attack isn't only about controlling women, but about pushing up the birth rate to suit capital's needs. ☹️



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**Apes of the State** is an independent folk punk band from Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

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They sing songs about whatever makes them feel things, like love, heartbreak, student loan debt, regret, and overcoming addiction.

# I won't let Florida's 'Stop WOKE Act' silence discussions on race in my classroom

by Paul Ortiz, UF history professor

This article was originally published online in the Gainesville Sun on June 28. See more at [gainesville.com](http://gainesville.com).

At the same moment that college and university instructors in Florida were grading our students' final exams, members of the Florida Legislature launched their latest attack on the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution by passing House Bill 7, the "Stop WOKE Act."

The stated aim of this measure is to suppress what Ron DeSantis calls "corporate wokeness" as well as to silence discussions on race in a wide variety of settings. I am going to focus primarily on the impact of HB 7 on higher education in Florida.

The mechanism for deciding that an instructor is violating HB 7 is completely subjective. The new law creates a mishmash of state-imposed speech codes that will harm academic achievement in Florida. By stifling the marketplace of ideas, the Stop WOKE Act will hamper the ability of our students to compete with their peers across the country for job placements and post-graduate professional programs.

Gov. DeSantis's announcement upon signing HB 7 that, "No one should be instructed to feel as if they are not equal or shamed because of their race," may be well-intentioned. However, by injecting the concept of "feelings" into the new law he violates a vital premise of generations of conservative thought that it is not

the place of government to legislate feelings or morality.

What happens if one student in a class of 60 "feels bad" during a discussion of slavery or the genocide of European Jews during World War II? Instead of engaging in tough but fruitful dialogs that lead to new understandings, will students be tempted to just "opt out" due to the new law?

Will the state proceed to pass additional speech restriction laws about other topics that generate spirited debate such as global climate change, women's reproductive freedom and voting rights? The endgame appears to be a society where following Ralph Waldo Emerson's famous dictum to "go upright and vital and speak the rude truth in all ways" is punished by the state.

As a veteran of U.S. Special Forces who has served in countries that lacked traditions of freedom of expression, the Stop WOKE Act is an alarming development. It is hard to avoid the conclusion that HB 7 is an attempt by an increasingly authoritarian state government to impede the free flow of ideas that some may find detrimental to the status quo.

This is being done in the name of scoring political points with those who do not want the citizenry to discuss controversial subjects such as inequality, the history of segregation or the many ways that Tallahassee has tried to stifle the First Amendment from the beginning of our state's history to present.

Thousands of different courses are taught every semester on a

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multitude of subjects at the University of Florida. With this topical diversity, these classes share one thing in common. Faculty choose readings, experiments and discussion topics based on the most prestigious scholarship in their respective fields, not on how we think the material is going to make our students feel.

The secret behind UF's rise to top-five status is this. Our students are exposed to learning environments that are as rigorous as found at Harvard, Yale or any top university in the world. This academic rigor in turn allows our students and alumni to fulfill their career goals and their intellectual aspirations.

I am not going to allow HB 7 to stop me from offering my students the most challenging scholarship on the Holocaust, eugenics, racism and related fields. The Stop WOKE Act will have zero impact on my research, public speaking or on my class lesson plans.

In the fall semester, I am teaching my "African Diaspora in the Americas" class, a course I have taught since I was an assistant professor. I invite Gov. DeSantis to audit or to visit my class anytime he is back in Florida. One caveat: The class requires a ton of reading, Mr. Governor!

Gov. DeSantis needs to get his priorities in order. Instead of trying to stop Floridians from learning about Critical Race Theory — which is taught in the

finest universities in the land — the governor needs to worry about the deadly impacts of Great Replacement Theory, an ideology that has ruined lives, promoted hatred and led directly to mass murder. Challenging Replacement Theory means having exactly the kinds of discussions that the governor seems determined to squelch.

*Paul Ortiz is a PEN-award winning author and a professor of history at the University of Florida.* ✨



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**From MARCH, p. 1**

This doesn't happen in the rest of the world. This only happens in America.

Only in America do our children hide from gunmen in schools.

Only in America do we have vigils at schools.

Only in America do we teach our children to learn to play dead, to break windows and run, and sometimes how to fight back, disarm, and detain an intruder.

Our curriculum does not include social-emotional learning, or CRT, or climate change, but it does include "how to smear yourself in blood to escape being shot in the head, as camouflage."

Only in America do we send 10-year-olds to battlegrounds instead of playgrounds.

Nowhere else has as much gun violence as the United States, the so-called "Greatest Country in the World."

This isn't because their people are any less insane than ours, it's just because they saw the problem and, instead of sitting around arguing, they actually worked together to fix it.

But here in America, we're so busy arguing about what "this is really about,"

that we haven't even tried to fix it.

What are our politicians doing?

They are sitting at their desks, not hiding underneath them.

What are our congresspeople doing? They're counting the money they got in the past week by pledging themselves in opposition to gun regulation, as they run their campaigns with a rifle slung over their shoulder.

What are our representatives doing?

They're weighing their options — "Well, if we sacrifice twenty or so kids a month to the National Rifle Cult they'll bless us with a hundred thousand dollars!"

What are we doing?

Gathering again to mourn children shot to death in schools.

What are we doing?

We're believing the lie that schools can be made safer, as if hundreds of people aren't being shot to death every day in the streets.

What are we doing here, again?

And again?

And again?

If we had the will, we could make it stop.

It will take all of us.

Let's march, let's mourn, but above all, we need to vote against the gun lobby and the politicians who arm those who would rob us of our children, this world's future.

After all, this is America, and in America we are forced to negotiate for our lives at the ballot box.

My name is Ashoka Singh Banerjee, and I am 15 years old.

Five years ago, I stood here on this same stage, giving a speech to mourn the lives lost in the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas shooting.

That day I swore that it would be the first and last time I would do this.

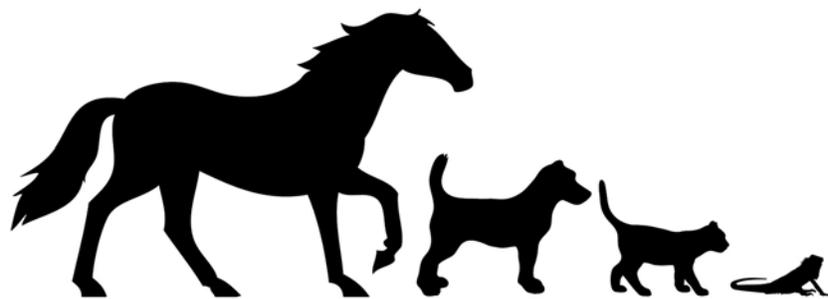
It has been five years, yet this keeps happening.

And I have had enough, haven't you?

This problem is of your making, with the systems you've put in place. Show some courage so that we kids don't fight this fight for you, so that we kids don't have to die for your failures.

If you won't fix it, our generation will fix it — our way. ✨

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# March for our lives DC



by Vickie Machado

Saturday, June 11, under overcast DC skies, people converged with signs and banners before a stage set up on the lawn north of the Washington Monument. Just blocks away from key congressional decision makers, the audience's message was clear: enough is enough, we want an end to gun violence. Tired of mass shootings, the crowd was there to march for their lives.

Gun violence has no limits, impacting everywhere from the South Side of Chicago to the school shootings of Uvalde, Parkland, Sandy Hook, and Columbine. More recently, it has hurt communities like Laguna Woods and Buffalo. Similarly, it has brought even the largest of cities like Las Vegas and Orlando to their knees in grief. The crowd in DC was well aware of the events and the common threads that united them.

Many speakers brought to light the racial inequities surrounding gun violence as it has been a long time problem that has yet to be addressed in many black and brown communities. Community leaders, local politicians, and survivors shared their stories of losing multiple family members to drive-by shootings while others recounted incidents when they were hunted down. Additional speakers called out the white supremacist motivations

of several mass shooting gunmen and the need to address such racism through legislation centered on combating hatred. The speakers that followed proposed everything from school walk outs to DC statehood.

Seventy-eight minutes into the rally, the reality of the situation came to the forefront. As the audience quieted for a moment of silence, the stillness was interrupted by a man shouting. Seconds later the crowd surged, setting off a domino effect as people in the crowd began running away from the commotion. A moment later the speaker on stage clearly spoke: "DO NOT RUN." It slowed those who had panicked. While many toward the back left, most of the crowd returned to attention. The disturbance, which was later reported on by the *Washington Post* ([tinyurl.com/Iguana1398](https://www.washingtonpost.com/iguanas/2022/06/11/march-for-our-lives-dc/)), incited fear in those already fearful and reinforced that the feeling of safety and security is hard to come by in a country where this year alone has seen more than 250 mass shootings ([washingtonpost.com/nation/2022/06/02/mass-shootings-in-2022/](https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2022/06/02/mass-shootings-in-2022/)).

While March for Our Lives has the energy, there are still questions about how to direct that momentum toward impactful and long lasting change that will protect our communities. One thing is clear: America needs change and we need it now. 🐾

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# History and the people who make it: Thomas Arthur Harris

## *Practicing law as a Black attorney in the Jim Crow south*



The children of formerly enslaved Blacks in the Jim Crow South fought to acquire an education and succeed in white-collar professions. Segregated schools ensured that Black children would not receive education equivalent to that of their white peers. Their parents struggled to provide for their families and pay their taxes, only to see them misappropriated for white schools. Black families were forced to fundraise in their communities to overcome the void left by the absence of their tax dollars. Scholars call this double taxation.

Black school children were barred from studying subjects that would allow them to pursue professional degrees in law or science. Those who did succeed in pursuing such degrees then faced prejudice, discrimination, and racially motivated violence in their professional practice.

Ms. Dora Anderson, whose grandfather, Mr. Thomas Arthur Harris, attempted to open a legal practice in Tuskegee, Alabama, explains how her grandfather entered the legal profession.

*Ms. Anderson was interviewed by Dr. Paul Ortiz in August, 1994. This is the 69th in a series of transcript excerpts from the UF Samuel Proctor Oral History Program.*

*Transcript edited by Yiorgo Topalidis.*

**Anderson:** He had worked very hard going to Atlanta, and Nashville, and Birmingham working with lawyers trying to get ready to pass this bar because they did not have law schools as such then, especially not for black people. So, he passed the bar and they told him then not to hang out his shingle, but he hung the shingle out at any rate.

*As evinced by Ms. Anderson, her grandfather was an apprentice for many lawyers. He learned to practice law by working for them because law schools*

*at the turn of the 20th century blocked Black Americans from earning law degrees. The shingle that Ms. Anderson mentioned refers to her grandfather's law office sign. And from Dr. Paul Ortiz's following query, we learn that the "they" were members of the KKK.*

**Ortiz:** So, did the Klan come to his house?

**Anderson:** Yes, they gave him so much time to get out of town and told him if he didn't get out, that they would have him strung up to a tree at the lower part of the town. They said they would have him strung up by the time the sun was down.

So after it was dark, Grandpa went across the street to Mr. John Alexander's house. He was the Justice of the Peace. So, he said, "well now, they have not come, and it is night, do you think they are going to burn me down tonight, burn me and the children, you know, me and the family up tonight?" And so, Mr. Alexander said he didn't know what they planned to do.

About that time, they looked down the street, and there, all of these torches were coming. So, he started to go through [Mr. Alexander's] yard and on out to another street instead of going back home. But Mr. Alexander told him no, he did not want him to go through his yard. [The KKK] were in the yard out there and he said he didn't want him to go through the yard because he had his daughters in the house there and he didn't want them disturbed.

About that time the mob was there. So, they started shooting and the first bullet went through Mr. Alexander's neck ... and they shot my granddaddy's left knee cap off and they left him there, you know, to die. Left him there to die.

But grandma and her daughters came out and they were teenagers. Well anyhow, she carried them in the house and this young man that was there with them went through the back way downtown to the meat market to tell my daddy, he was the oldest son, what had happened.

He told his cousin to hook up his horse to the buggy and he did, and he said it was in July and it was raining. And so, he came and put tourniquets over Grandpa's knee down and below he said. And they wrapped him in quilts, and he put him in his buggy. They would have a little place here for the lines to come through. You

know, driving the horses. But he put up his rain curtain, and he said he drove right through the mob. But they had five white doctors there and they did not let any of them take care of Grandpa.

So, he decided to go to Montgomery. Said he had a cousin down there and he drove all that night. He drove that night in and out of places that he didn't even know but he said the sun was up good when he arrived in Montgomery. And he got him to this cousin's house and the cousin got him medical help.

And he stayed there for about a month and then Papa said that he advised him to go to Mexico and he did. So, then he said in Mexico the language barrier was too great for him. You know, he hadn't practiced too long, and he didn't know Spanish at all, so he came back to Houston, Texas and he stayed there a while. But he finally came all the way back to Birmingham. That is where he practiced until he died.

*Ms. Dora Anderson reminds us that Black Americans had to put their lives on the line to achieve any form of upward mobility and semblance of socioeconomic justice in the United States. They fought against institutions barring them from access to the necessary educational opportunities. They fought against the Klan's racial violence. They fought to ensure a better future for their children.*

•••••

*The SPOHP will post the recording and full transcript of this interview this summer. Search for "Dora Anderson" at <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/oral> for the recording and full transcript of this interview. If it doesn't show up, try again in a few weeks.*

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

*SPOHP needs the public's help to sustain and build upon its research, teaching, and service missions: even small donations can make a big difference in SPOHP's ability to gather, preserve, and promote history for future generations. Please click on the following link to provide a donation: [tinyurl.com/Iguana1402](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1402) 🐊*

# And the good news is ...

## Judge blocks Florida's 15-week abortion ban from going into effect

***"The statute ... is unconstitutional in that it violates the privacy provision of the Florida constitution"***

On June 30, a Florida judge blocked a 15-week abortion ban from going into effect.

"The statute in section House Bill 5 is unconstitutional in that it violates the privacy provision of the Florida constitution," Circuit Judge John Cooper said.

Cooper issued a statewide temporary injunction that will be effective once he signs an order. It's not clear whether he

will sign the order before the law goes into effect on Friday, July 1, but the temporary injunction will block the ban from taking effect before a next hearing is set.

"Florida passed into its constitution an explicit right to privacy that is not contained in the U.S. Constitution. The Florida Supreme Court has determined 'Florida's privacy provision is clearly implicated in a woman's decision of whether or not to

continue her pregnancy,'" Cooper said in his ruling. "In other words, on the issue of abortion, the Florida Supreme Court has decided that women have a privacy right under the state constitution to not have that right impacted up to 24 weeks at least."

*This is a condensed version of an article by Alanna Vagianos published in the HuffPost on June 30. See the full article at [tinyurl.com/Iguana1409](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1409).*

## 'It's a public health issue!' MSNBC host makes case for Medicare for All

***"It's time to stop treating universal healthcare ... as some sort of fringe, left-wing issue," said Mehdi Hasan***

Research published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences estimated that at least 338,594 lives could have been saved from Covid-19 in the U.S. if the country had a single-payer healthcare system. The coronavirus is still killing hundreds of people each day across the nation as tens of millions remain uninsured, often forgoing care out of fear of racking up debt.

The study's authors also found that a Medicare for All system could have cut

\$105.6 billion in national healthcare costs by reducing coronavirus-related hospital expenditures.

"There are a number of reasons as to why our country has handled the pandemic so much worse than most other western countries," said Hasan, citing "poor presidential leadership during the Trump era, the efforts of anti-vaxxer Republican governors, and media misinformation from the likes of Fox and Facebook ... We also need to

talk about the elephant in the room: universal healthcare — or, our lack of universal healthcare. Compared to other large high-income countries, the U.S. had the highest death rate per capita from the virus. And it's also the only one among such countries without universal healthcare."

*This is a condensed version of an article by Jake Johnson published in Common Dreams on June 20. See the full article at [tinyurl.com/Iguana1410](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1410).*

## New PET-like plastic made directly from waste biomass

***Scientists have developed a new, PET-like plastic that is easily made from the non-edible parts of plants.***

A new, PET-like plastic easily made from the non-edible parts of plants is tough, heat-resistant, and a barrier to gases like oxygen, making it a promising candidate for food packaging. The new plastic can also be chemically recycled and degrade back to harmless sugars in the environment.

It is becoming increasingly obvious that moving away from fossil fuels and avoiding the accumulation of plastics in the environment are key to addressing the challenge of climate change. There are

considerable efforts to develop degradable or recyclable polymers made from non-edible plant material.

Producing competitive biomass-based plastics is not straightforward. There is a reason that conventional plastics are so widespread, as they combine low cost, heat stability, mechanical strength, processability, and compatibility — features that any alternative plastic replacements must match or surpass. And so far, the task has been challenging.

Until now, that is. Scientists led by Professor Jeremy Luterbacher at EPFL's School of Basic Sciences have successfully developed a biomass-derived plastic, similar to PET, that meets the criteria for replacing several current plastics while also being more environmentally friendly.

*This is a condensed version of an article by Nik Papageorgiou published in Science Daily on June 27. See the full article at [tinyurl.com/Iguana1411](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1411).*

## Civil rights groups demand Biden cancel at least \$50K in student debt per borrower

***"This would provide immediate relief to more than 75% of all borrowers"***

Marking one year since the Biden administration announced its intention to narrow the racial wealth gap and "reinvest in communities that have been left behind by failed policies," 60 civil rights groups wrote to the White House demanding the cancellation of at least \$50,000 in student debt per borrower — a step, they said, that would help "alleviate the financial suffering of millions of Americans."

Noting that 45 million Americans carry a total of more than \$1.6 trillion in student debt, the groups called the federal student loan payment moratorium — which has been extended multiple times since the coronavirus pandemic began and is currently set to expire at the end of August — "only a band-aid solution."

The groups pointed out that canceling student debt would help a broad cross-

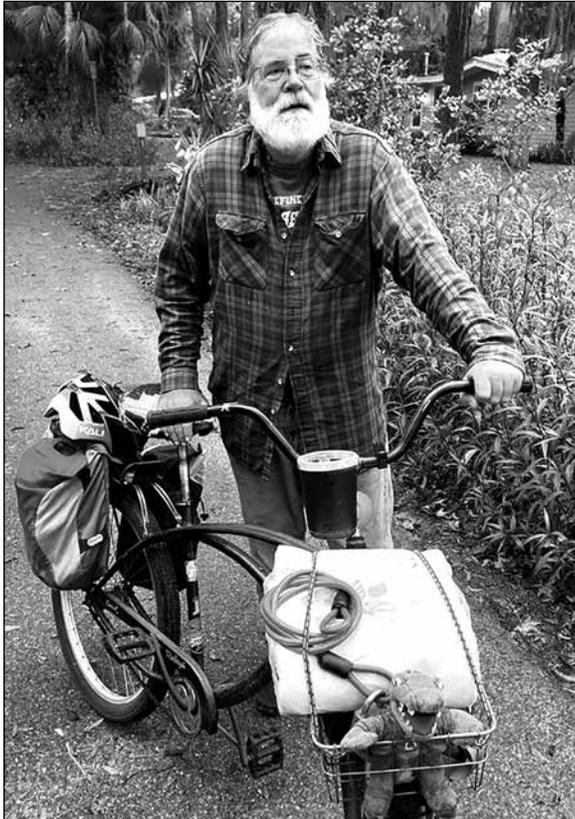
section of the American public. The number of student borrowers over the age of 60 has quadrupled in recent years. Forty percent of borrowers over 65 were in default as of 2017, which put them at risk of having their Social Security garnished.

*This is a condensed version of an article by Julia Conley published in Common Dreams on June 22. See the full article at [tinyurl.com/Iguana1412](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1412).*

## In memoriam:

### Chandler Brooks Otis, 1955-2022

by Paul Schmidt, Owner of Bikes and More



Reclusive and soft spoken by nature, Chandler Brooks Otis was a pillar in the volunteer cycling community.

I was introduced to CBO through Bike Florida and Campus Cycle bicycle shop. I eventually, through Chandler's help and guidance, became a tour mechanic alongside CBO, and his coworker at Campus Cycle (circa 1995).

I was able to return the kindness in 2007, when I took ownership of Bikes and More bicycle shop, and hired CBO as my employee. I worked with Chandler until he took a permanent position with Bubba's Pampered Peddlers, a full-time cycle touring operation.

His time was well spent introducing new riders to cycling and repairing countless bicycles; bicycle mechanics were the least of his talents. He was well educated

and well spoken, and often used his journalism degree to send the Gainesville Sun opinion articles advocating for cycling.

His cycling pursuits and other volunteer efforts all took a back seat to his lifelong dedication to the Friends of the Library book sale. He volunteered as a child, alongside his parents, and continued to assist in the annual sale, long after their passing.

He dedicated his life to being an aid to others. His servitude to his community required no gratitude but was appreciated by all he assisted.

I am grateful for the influence he had on my path, for his compassion, and his dedication to his community. My abilities as a mechanic and my focus on cycling would not be what they are without the guidance and tutelage of Chandler Otis. 🐾

### Rest in Power, Sidney Leonard Bertisch, 1941-2022

by Elaine Bertisch

We mourn the passing of Sidney Leonard Bertisch, who died on April 17, at UF Health Shands Hospital after a brief illness.

Sidney was born in the Bronx, New York, on June 26, 1941, to Max Bertisch and Kate (Lieber) Bertisch. He graduated from Theodore Roosevelt High School, then worked for several years at resorts in the Catskills as a lighting operator for nightclub acts including Milton Berle, Gregory Hines, Eydie Gormé and Steve Lawrence, and Jackie Mason. Sidney's Borscht Belt sense of humor originated there.

In 1967, Sidney headed to Gainesville to visit a friend. He never left, aside from spending a few years in Colorado. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Florida, then launched a successful career as a local piano player and singer at regular gigs and private events. He also worked for the University of Florida from 1983 to 1998.

Sidney's hobbies included contra dancing, bicycling, and acting; his passion was social activism. He participated in many demonstrations, including the 1963 March on Washington (he quit his job when he wasn't given permission to attend) and protests against the death penalty in Florida. His compassion for all humans and for other species was unlimited.

Sidney is survived by his wife, Elaine Bertisch of Gainesville; his sister, Sandra Gelman of Ocala; his son, James Bertisch of Aracaju, Brazil; numerous other relatives; and hundreds of

friends. He will be greatly missed. A private burial at Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery was held with immediate family in attendance. Details for a Celebration of Sidney's Life will be shared in the future.

If inclined, please donate to one of the causes Sidney supported. Those especially meaningful to him include Human Rights Watch, PETA, PCRM, FFRF, IPPL, ACLU, Fairness & Accuracy in Reporting, Jewish Voice for Peace, Jane Goodall Institute, Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, The Jerusalem Fund, Doctors Without Borders, Democracy Now!, The Hightower Lowdown, and Amnesty International and, locally, Jungle Friends Primate Sanctuary, the Civic Media Center, Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice, FL0165 Gainesville Area NOW, WGOT, and Pride Community Center of North Central Florida. 🐾



# Spotlight on ...



**National Women's Liberation (NWL)** is a multiracial feminist group for women who want to fight male supremacy and gain more freedom for women. Our priorities are abortion and birth control, overthrowing the double day, and feminist consciousness-raising. NWL meetings are for women and trans people who do not benefit from male supremacy because we believe *we* should lead the fight for our liberation. In addition, women of color meet separately from white women in Women of Color Caucus (WOCC) meetings to examine their experiences with white supremacy and how it intersects with male supremacy to oppress women of color.

- Sign and share our pledge, [AidAndAbetAbortion.org](http://AidAndAbetAbortion.org), to build a movement of activism and defiance
  - Sign up to become a Plan C Ambassador at [plancpills.org](http://plancpills.org)
  - Read Jenny Brown's books *Birth Strike: The Hidden Fight Over Women's Work* and *Without Apology* and host a book club
- Attend our next public meeting at 6:30 pm on Thursday, July 14, at Curia on the Drag, 2029 NW 6th St. Find out more at [womensliberation.org](http://womensliberation.org).

## Iguana Directory

Call 352-378-5655 or email [gainesvilleiguana@cox.net](mailto:gainesvilleiguana@cox.net) with updates and additions

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

**Alachua Conservation Trust, Inc.** has been protecting North Central Florida's natural, scenic, historic and recreational resources for over 25 years. 373-1078 | [AlachuaConservationTrust.org](http://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](mailto:alachuagreens@gmail.com) | [GainesvilleGreens.webs.com](http://GainesvilleGreens.webs.com)

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

**Alachua County Organization for Rural Needs Clinic** is a not-for-profit in Brooker providing low-cost, high-quality dental care for people with and without health insurance to Alachua, Bradford and Indian County residents. The Clinic fulfills its mission with the help of volunteers. 485-2772 | [acornclinic.org](http://acornclinic.org)

**American Civil Liberties Union** has no Alachua County chapter. For info on forming a new chapter, or for ACLU info, contact the Northeast Chapter at [firstcoastaclu@gmail.com](mailto:firstcoastaclu@gmail.com) | [northeastflorida.aclufl.org](http://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](http://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](http://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 | [arcnst.org](http://arcnst.org)

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

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

**Coalition of Hispanics Integrating Spanish Speakers through Advocacy and Service** is a UF student-run group focusing on immigrant rights and immigrant advocacy. [chispasuf@gmail.com](mailto:chispasuf@gmail.com) | [chispasuf.com](http://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](http://CodePink4Peace.org)

**The Community Weatherization Coalition's** mission is to help their neighbors save energy and water and reduce utility bills by engaging volunteers, building community, and learning together. [info@communityweatherization.org](mailto:info@communityweatherization.org) | 450-4965 | [communityweatherization.org](http://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](mailto:info@conserveflorida.org) | [conserveflorida.org](http://conserveflorida.org)

**Democratic Party of Alachua County** meets monthly on the second Wednesday at 6pm on Zoom. 373-1730 | [alachuadems.org](http://alachuadems.org)

**Divest Gainesville** advocates divesting City financial assets from fossil fuel industries and educating on racial justice and climate change. [youngern@outlook.com](mailto:youngern@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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:gnewburn@famm.org) | 682-2542 | [FAMM.org](http://FAMM.org)

**Final Friends**, run by volunteers, helps families learn how to accomplish legal home funeral care as an alternative to a commercial funeral home. 374-4478 | [FinalFriends.org](http://FinalFriends.org) | [FinalFriends.org@gmail.com](mailto:FinalFriends.org@gmail.com)

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**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 Area Chapter of Climate Reality Project** works to address the climate crisis for future generations. The chapter mobilizes people to become powerful activists and push for aggressive climate action. The hope is to not only transform society but to change the world. climaterealityprojectgnv@gmail.com | @climaterealityprojectgnv | climaterealityprojectgnv.wordpress.com

**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

**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@lww-alachua.org | LWValachua.org

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

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

**Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America** is a grassroots organization working to end gun violence 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 | ncpssm.org

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

**National Women's Liberation** is a feminist group for women who want to fight back against male supremacy and win more freedoms for women. Inequalities between women and men are political problems requiring a collective solution. 575-0495 | nwl@womensliberation.org | womensliberation.org

**North Central Florida Association for Women In Science** is an advocacy organization championing the interest of women in science,

technology, engineering and math (STEM) across all disciplines and employment sectors. ncfawis@gmail.com | leanin.org/circles/ncfawis

**Occupy Gainesville** is about engaging local people in grassroots, participatory democracy, diversity and dialogue; we stand in solidarity with the Occupy Wall Street Movement and the rest of the people peacefully occupying public space across this county and the world. Facebook.com/occupygainesville

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

**PFLAG Gainesville** is a local chapter of Parents and Families of Lesbians and Gays, the nation's foremost family-based organization committed to the civil rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. 340-3770 | info@pflaggainesville.org | pflaggainesville.org

**Planned Parenthood Clinic at Gainesville Health Center** is a full-service health center for reproductive and sexual health care needs. Offering pregnancy testing and options counseling. 914 NW 13th St., Gnv. | 377-0881 | plannedparenthood.org (enter Gainesville FL in "find a health center" box)

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

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

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

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

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

**Sister City Program of Gainesville** links

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

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

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

**Student/Farmworker Alliance** is a network of youth organizing with farmworkers to eliminate sweatshop conditions and modern-day slavery in the fields. billy@sfalliance.org or brett@sfalliance.org | facebook.com/sfalliance

**Sunday Assembly Gainesville** is a secular congregation celebrating life. There is talk, music, sing-along, discussion and fellowship. Meetings and events are on Zoom. SundayAssembly32601@gmail.com | SAGainesville.weebly.com

**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 | (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 | ClimateRealityProjectGNV.wordpress.com | ClimateRealityProject.org

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

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

**UF Pride Student Union** is an LGBT+ group open to queer folk of all sorts, including students, non-students, faculty and staff, that educates and provides a safe space for those of marginalized sexualities and gender identities. UFPridesu@gmail.com | facebook.com/ufpsu | plaza.ufl.edu/jsoto19/PSU

**UF Young Democratic Socialists of America** is a student-run socialist organization dedicated to organizing students to fight for the needs of workers and students while building the

capacity to fight radical and structural changes. Weekly meetings. ufydsa21@gmail.com | facebook.com/ufydsa

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

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

**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/

**Veterans for Peace Gainesville Chapter** is an anti-war organization that raises awareness of the detriments of militarism and war, as well as seeking peaceful and effective alternatives. 375-2563 | Facebook.com/VFPchapter14 | vfp Gainesville.org

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

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

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

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

**World Socialist Party of the United States** welcomes anyone wanting to know more about Marxian socialism and our efforts to transform the dog-eat-dog - Devil take the hindmost world created by capitalism into a democratically arranged world society of equality. wspan.org. 🌐

# WGOT: Back on the air, need volunteers

by Fred Sowder, WGOT Station Coordinator

After a two-month blackout following a catastrophic server failure, WGOT is happy to announce that we're back on the air at 100.1FM in Gainesville and streaming live at [wgot.org](http://wgot.org). It may be some time before we can recover older shows from our old server if at all, so it's almost like we're a new station. Here's to new beginnings!

We're having an open house at the Civic Media Center on Saturday, July 9. We'll have one-hour training sessions at 1, 2, 3, and 4pm, with two trainees allowed in the studio at once to maintain distance. To re-

## The 15th anniversary of SiCKO!

In the spring of 2007, Michael Moore released a blockbuster documentary showing the extraordinary damage the U.S. healthcare system inflicts upon ordinary Americans. Story by story, SiCKO pulled back the veil of how ordinary illness and injury, when paired with deadly health care profiteering, leads to suffering, financial ruin, and even death.

15 years later, we are bringing together the patients featured in SiCKO, whose extraordinary stories impacted Congress, shaped the Affordable Care Act, and helped to launch the modern Medicare for All movement.

Join us to reflect on the impact SiCKO made and celebrate our victories over the past 15 years and the road still remaining to win a just health care system! Watch the live reunion at 8pm on Wednesday, July 29, on Facebook ([tinyurl.com/Iguana1400](https://www.facebook.com/tinyurl.com/Iguana1400)) or on YouTube ([tinyurl.com/Iguana1401](https://www.youtube.com/tinyurl.com/Iguana1401)). 🐢

**Want your article, ad, event or PSA in the September 2022 issue of the Iguana?**

**Deadline is Wed., Aug. 31**

Submit events, content, and questions to: [gainesvilleiguana@cox.net](mailto:gainesvilleiguana@cox.net)

serve a spot, email us at [info@wgot.org](mailto:info@wgot.org). If you can't attend at those times, we can work something out. Most of our operations can be done remotely, which makes volunteering as convenient as possible. There's something for everyone: recording announcements, scheduling, hosting your own show, and more.

If you can't volunteer, we understand. It seems most of us are busy these days. Please consider helping us financially instead, by searching for WGOT on [patreon.com](https://www.patreon.com) or [gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com). As a famous progressive congresswoman recently said, asking for money without an explanation of what it's being used for seems disingenuous, and we couldn't agree more. Your support helps pay our utility and licensing bills, which allows us to "keep the lights on" as well as play all the cool

## Fifty years of Title IX: 37 Words that changed America

**Friends of Susan B. Anthony celebrate Women's Equality Day 2022**

The Friends of Susan B. Anthony is happy to announce that we will celebrate Women's Equality Day (Aug. 26) with our annual luncheon on Saturday, Aug. 27. This event, which began as an informal birthday party for Susan B. Anthony over forty years ago, is now held in conjunction with the anniversary of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment giving women the right to vote. Each year a local woman is recognized who exemplifies the spirit of Susan B. Anthony. This year, Sheila Payne will be honored for her community work on behalf of labor and fair housing.

The featured speaker will be Dr. Elaine Turner, who is dean for the UF/IFAS College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. She will be discussing the momentous impact that Title IX has had on women's education and sports. For further information, and instructions on how to register for the luncheon, please check our website at [fosba.com](http://fosba.com) or contact Barbara Oberlander at 352-378-6447. 🐢

music we do. Our Gofundme campaign is designed to beef up our infrastructure and possibly improve our signal by moving our antenna. And, if you have a local business and would like to get the word out about it, ask us how that can be accomplished for as little as \$50 per month with an underwriting sponsorship.

It's a new day at WGOT and we hope you'll join us. We can only move forward with the help of a new generation of volunteers. Email us for more info anytime. Our address is [info@wgot.org](mailto:info@wgot.org). Hope to see you soon! 🐢

## The Gainesville Iguana

*Gainesville's progressive newsletter*

*Established 1986*



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Gainesville, FL 32604

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

(352) 378-5655

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Current and past issues since 1996 and PDFs since 2012 are available at [www.gainesvilleiguana.org](http://www.gainesvilleiguana.org)

**If every time men had sex, they risked death, physical disability, social shunning, a life altering interruption of their education or career, and the sudden life-long responsibility for another being, I think they'd expect a choice in the matter.**