



The Gainesville Iguana

*A progressive newsletter
and events calendar*

October 2022

Vol. 36, Issue 10

Defend your rights!

Here's how Americans can fight back to protect abortion rights

by Rebecca Solnit, The Guardian

How do you strip away cherished rights?

The best strategy is incrementally and undramatically, a death of a thousand cuts. That's how Republicans were hacking at voting rights until recently, when the rest of us woke up and began to pay attention to the cumulative impact of voter ID laws, the shuttering of polling places, restrictions on voting by mail, and all the rest.

Reproductive rights have been under attack for more than 30 years – by rightwing terrorism against abortion providers all through the 1990s and as recently as 2015 in Colorado Springs, but also by a sort of attrition, narrowing down access by shutting clinics, limiting how many weeks pregnant you can be, and other such measures.

Overturing Roe v Wade upends all this stealth and incrementalism. Judging by the reaction, it may be exactly the kind of overstep that leads to a backlash. After all, the great majority of Americans support the right to choose.

There are many kinds of actions to take in response to this likely overturning of a fundamental right to bodily self-determination and privacy. (And it's bitterly amusing that a court that wants to set policies reaching into the uterus of people across the country apparently feels violated by having its own internal workings exposed with this leaked draft opinion.)

Direct support for the poor and unfree people

who will be the most affected is already under way – and by unfree I mean those who are under the domination of a hostile partner, family, church or community.

People have organized to offer travel to clinics for those far from them, access to abortion pills, and other forms of support. But by backlash I mean and am hoping for the kind of backlash Trump's election and subsequent outrages provoked, the 2018 election that swept the Squad and many other progressives into office and took back the House of Representatives.

A Democratic majority in both houses could make abortion a right by law, and it's worth remembering that Mexico, Ireland and Argentina are among the countries that recently did so.

What is striking this time around in the US both about the rightwing agenda and the response is that it is broad enough to build powerful coalitions. The human rights activism of the 1990s was silenced: though the same voters and politicians might support LGBTQ rights and reproductive

See ABORTION, p. 20

Iguana Voter Guide for Alachua County

by Joe Courter

First, be correctly registered to vote. This needs to be done by Oct 11. If you are still registered elsewhere, consider changing your registration to here. We need you. They can help you downtown at the Supervisor of Elections office (call 352-374-5252).

If so moved, early voting is a snap. Here's the schedule:

- Monday, Oct. 24, to Saturday, Nov. 5, 9am to 6 pm

- Sunday, Nov. 6, 9am to 6pm (note that early voting on this day will take place **only** at the Supervisor of Elections Office)

Other early voting locations:

- Supervisor of Elections Office: 515 N. Main Street, Gainesville

- Millhopper Branch Library: 3145 NW 43rd St, Gainesville

- Tower Road Branch Library: 3020 SW 75th St

- Orange Heights Baptist Church: 16700 FL-26, Hawthorne

- Legacy Park Multipurpose Center: 15400 Peggy Rd, Alachua

See ELECTION, p. 20

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UF spends student tuition money on intense political lobbying

Solutions to problems that UF students care about — such as climate change, housing costs, and mental healthcare — are not getting the funding they need, if any at all, due to UF's hidden lobbying efforts, which perpetuates a broken system that works against students

by Aron Ali-McClory

There is something deeply broken at the University of Florida.

According to federal lobbying and tax forms provided by OpenSecrets, since 1998 the University of Florida has used our tuition money, to the tune of over \$6.1 million, to build its institutional and political clout at multiple levels of government.

All while students suffer from outrageous on-campus living conditions, skyrocketing off-campus housing costs, an active anti-sustainability agenda from the highest levels of administration, and a depleted and underfunded mental healthcare service, the Civic Wellness Center.

However, when one looks into who actually serves at the highest level of our administration, especially the Board of Trustees, it's not hard to see why our university continues to work against the interests of students and community members, and for the interests of corporate donors and the big-wigs in Tallahassee.

The University of Florida Board of Trustees itself is composed of real estate developers, bank executives, and high-rolling investors, many of whom are also

huge donors to government officials like our governor, Ron DeSantis.

Given the recent scandal over academic freedom at the University of Florida, which caused the administration to briefly reverse course, as well as the looming influence of the state government over the universities' curriculum, some might find it easy to see how UF might engage in such behavior.

However, what might not be so easy to see is the kind of solutions we will need to tackle this situation, and most importantly, how we get there.

Un-PAC, a student group at UF, is starting a campaign to pressure our university into adopting demands that will represent a first step in fixing our broken democracy and ensuring that the University of Florida is working and spending on behalf of the students who pay tuition, not the government, or corporate interests.

These university demands aren't complicated – students deserve to know where their tuition money is being spent, and why it is being spent there.

Financial transparency is key to establish-

ing a relationship of trust between us students and the administration.

We also demand that if our university chooses to engage in lobbying, it does so to improve our democracy by fighting for voter access and campaign finance reform.

Other demands for our administration include having voter registration at freshman orientation, and divestment from anti-voter corporations and politicians.

These demands represent solutions to the problems students face by not only making their voices heard but ensuring their needs are taken into account when important decisions are being made.

No longer will the University of Florida be able to hide from the student body that demands transparency, freedom, and fairness when it comes to finances. ✨

People have the power *

Listen,

I believe everything we dream

Can come to pass through our union

We can turn the world around

We can turn the earth's revolution

We have the power

People have the power

People have the power

People have the power

The power to dream, to rule

To wrestle the world from fools

It's decreed: the people rule

It's decreed: the people rule

We have the power

The people have the power

We have the power ...

Please watch; feel the power:

tinyurl.com/Iguana1437

* lyrics by Patti Smith and Fred Smith ✨

This proposal has strict accountability measures including citizen oversight, annual independent audits, and full public disclosure of all project spending in each city and the county.

If approved by voters, this will only add 1/2 percent to the levy, as it replaces the existing Wild Spaces & Public Places 1/2 cent. By voting FOR Wild Spaces and Public Places, we will protect and enhance Alachua County's quality of life today and for future generations.



**Vote For
Wild Spaces
and Public
Places
by Nov 8th!**

Pd. Pol. Adv. paid for by Wild Spaces & Public

From the publisher ...

Had enough?

Nothing like the power of Nature to give you perspective. Thank you Ian for avoiding Alachua County. However, a fallen tree on a power line took out my power for a day, minor compared to what so many experienced but still... such a good feeling when power came back on. With its restoration the song "People Have the Power" came to mind, first with humor, then with more significance as I contemplated the need to write this piece.



Joe Courter

Indeed we have the power. We good people are many, but dis-united. And we are run by fools, fools fixated on ideology, greed, fear, personal power. Some blend strict free market capitalism and judgmental religion. They espouse an ideology which abhors cooperation with and acceptance of others, and purports their One True Way,

Those many of us who live outside of abject poverty have access to things Kings, Queens and Pharaohs could only dream of. Our society has created the wonderment of small personal devices with the knowledge of the world. We can view the weather from above, see the clouds, winds, storms. A vast collection of the world music and art is at our fingertips. We can communicate with anyone by pushing buttons. We humans did this. We have never had such abilities. We have a little rover driving around on Mars. Our medical advances and scientific discoveries are astounding. And yet, look at what our relatively few occupants of the seats of power are doing while we many live our lives in our dis-united little worlds.

We people need to wake up to our power, and this election is more pivotal than any in my lifetime, because democracy hangs in the balance. Our very electoral system is being challenged. Authoritarian fools are gaining power worldwide, and this country is no exception. They use fear, division, hate and intolerance – old tricks of authoritarian movements combined with a perverse application of communication technology, to create or enhance big lies that unite their followers. I am sick of it.

I have had enough of not seeing immigrants as fellow humans; DeSantis's Martha's Vineyard stunt was so arrogantly inhumane. I've had enough of intolerance of my Lesbian, Gay, Bi and Trans friends who just want to live their lives, and be who they are. I've had enough of male supremacy, the sexism, the fear of rape and assault, and now, NOW, the taking away of bodily autonomy, the right to an abortion, a right fought for for decades now being tossed aside. I have had enough of denials of systemic racism.

I have had enough of a military-industrial complex that eats up monies that could be used to heal, to educate, and insure a better living standard for so many in need. And now, with the melting glaciers, and the storms we see fed by the climate-changing way of life we lead, we see denial by our leaders, and the blossoming of a new "Energy War," reversing climate change goals as war is substituted for diplomacy and cooperation between nations. It is a dangerous game that makes the lives of so many so much harder, let alone the risk of nuclear war. I have had enough.

We need to get out the vote for November 8th like never before. Complacency and apathy are shirking the duties of being a citizen and enjoying what we have. Do you need more motivation than that those tools of the fools are actually attacking us? Here in Gainesville: bricks through windows of the Pride Center, Planned Parenthood, and Democratic Party Headquarters? This kind of crap is going on around the country. We can beat them with our votes. This is our fight: DeSantis OUT, Rubio OUT, Cammack OUT. Even if Democrats aren't exactly what we want, side by-side-no comparison, right down the ballot.

I am for the good but will take the lesser evil too. We need to make the system work better for those who need help. You know you care; see what you can do. Talk to friends, donate time and/or money. This election in November is huge. We can do this. And yes, you might say I'm a dreamer, but I am not the only one. C'mon, let's go!

"The power to dream, to rule

To wrestle the world from fools" 🐉

Subscribe!

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

Individuals: \$15
(or more if you can)
Low/No income: What you can
Groups: \$20

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

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<https://wmbt901.com/listen-live/>

Save Our Vote

Right now, Our County Commissioners elected "At-Large" meaning everybody can vote in ALL five races.

The proposed change would make it so only the people who live in the same district as the commission candidates can vote in that race, meaning everyone would only get to vote for ONE commissioner.

Do not give up your voice to vote in all races!

Vote No on Single-Member Districts!

Pd. Pol. Adv. paid for by Alachua County's Future

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Book review:

The Battle for Social Security

From FDR's vision to Bush's gamble

by Mary Savage

On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, Americans and the world watched in shock and disbelief as the World Trade Center towers collapsed onto Lower Manhattan. By Oct. 3, among the first to receive monetary benefits from the tragedy were employees and survivor family members of the New York Police Department, the Fire Department and the Port Authority. Those benefits had been quickly organized and managed for distribution by the Social Security Administration.

So begins author Nancy J. Altman's book *The Battle for Social Security: From FDR's Vision To Bush's Gamble*. This is a well-written and copiously detailed chronicle that tells of the dire need for an American social insurance program, the personalities who helped in its establishment, and the obstacles and threats the program faced and continues to face to this very day.

If you're looking for interesting reading and have a curiosity and appreciation for history, this book is for you.

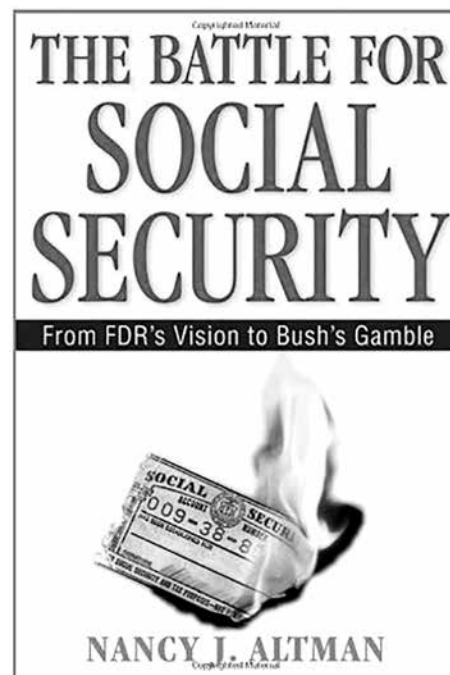
Signed into law on Aug. 14, 1935 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Social Security continues to be America's best-loved anti-poverty program that provides an income for senior citizens, the disabled, the unemployed and children of deceased workers. But this was not an easy achievement, as Altman's book reveals. The author also shares in compelling words the bleak cultural reality of the time: The poorhouse where the elderly whose families could not care for them went to live and die. As Altman declares in the book, "The poorhouse was a fate to be dreaded."

This book is an exciting page-turner that credits those who helped create and launch the Social Security program, including Francis Perkins, the first woman to serve as Secretary of Labor; First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, whose speaking tours supported the vision of ending poverty in old age; and John R. Commons, known as the "Grandfather of Social Security."

While the Social Security Administration stepped up to quickly provide 9/11 survivors their benefits, enemies of the program had their sights on its destruc-

tion. George W. Bush took alarming steps towards privatization, which would have destroyed Social Security and turned it over to Wall Street. (And today, Florida Sen. Rick Scott wants to "sunset" Social Security and Medicare in order "to save it.") Read the book to learn more.

Nancy J. Altman has a 40-year background in the study of Social Security and private pensions. She is co-director of Social Security Works and co-chairs the Strengthen Social Security coalition and campaign. Other books by Altman include *Social Security Works* and *Social Security Works for Everyone*. ☛



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

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GINI to provide free community resources, important updates on immigrant inclusion

Ethan Maia de Needell
Programs Associate, Rural Women's Health Project

Whether it's the cutting-edge research at the University of Florida, the food we all eat, new businesses created, or the constant construction our towns are experiencing, our foreign-born neighbors have been playing an integral part in our community for years.

Making up over 10 percent of our population in both the City and County, the number of immigrants and refugees making their homes here has been on the rise. But a survey (referenced below) of the immigrant population revealed that nearly 80 percent of immigrants wanted more opportunities to participate in our community and 1/3 of respondents did not feel included at all. Despite this, our foreign-born community contributed

over \$57 million in state and local taxes and nearly 16 percent of the GDP in 2019 alone.

The Gainesville Immigrant Neighbor Inclusion Initiative (GINI) was created in recognition that, despite their critical and necessary presence, there are systemic barriers preventing our foreign-born neighbors from being fully safe and included in our community.

After a year of monthly meetings of the GINI Steering Committee members, in-depth interviews of immigrant community members, and 170+ responses to the GINI Immigrant Welcoming Survey, the Immigrant Inclusion Blueprint was released.

This document (available on the GINI website: rwhp.org/gini.html), provides a comprehensive list of specific steps local government, schools, organizations, and individuals can take to build a welcoming Gainesville and Alachua County. It's been six months since its release and important strides have been made toward achieving the Blueprint's goals.

On Sept. 14, the GINI Initiative hosted a community update, with leaders from the City, County, and Alachua County School System, on the amazing progress accomplished to better include our foreign-born neighbors: The City and County have allocated funds for the translation of signs and important documents, the implementation of an interpretation service, and the hiring of an immigrant liaison — someone in charge of immigrant programming who will serve as the connection between immigrant communities and local government.

Letters from an American



One of the smartest daily reads out there. Great analysis and observations from a historian. No BS, no hype. Read it.

<https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com/>

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GINI Initiative Gainesville Immigrant Neighbor Inclusion Initiative
Making Gainesville and Alachua County Welcoming Communities

Language Identification Guide

Please use this card when interacting with limited English speakers.
Present the card and ask them to point to the language that they speak.

<p>American Sign Language</p>  <p>AKATEKO ching'anab' yin Akateko</p>	<p>German Ich spreche Deutsch</p>	<p>Pashto زه په پښتو خبرې كوم</p>
<p>Arabic أنا أتحدث اللغة العربية</p>	<p>Greek Μιλώ τα ελληνικά</p>	<p>Portuguese Eu falo português do Brasil / de Portugal</p>
<p>Bengali আমি বাংলা কবা বলতে পারি</p>	<p>Gujarati હું ગુજરાતી બોલું છું</p>	<p>Punjabi ਮੈਂ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਬੋਲਦੀ/ਬੋਲਦਾ ਹਾਂ।</p>
<p>Chinese (Cantonese) 我講廣東話 (Traditional) 我讲广东话 (Simplified)</p>	<p>Haitian Creole M pale kreyòl ayisyen</p>	<p>Q'anjob'al Ayin tí chí wal q'anjob'al</p>
<p>Chinese (Mandarin) 我講國語 (Traditional) 我讲国语/普通话 (Simplified)</p>	<p>Hindi मैं हिंदी बोलता हूँ।</p>	<p>Russian Я говорю по русски</p>
<p>Dari من دری حرف می زنم</p>	<p>Italian Parlo italiano</p>	<p>Spanish Yo hablo español</p>
<p>Farsi من فارسی صحبت می کنم.</p>	<p>Japanese 私は日本語を話す</p>	<p>Tagalog Marunong akong mag-Tagalog</p>
<p>French Je parle français</p>	<p>K'iche In kinch'aw pa K'iche'</p>	<p>Thai พูดภาษาไทย</p>
<p>Mam Bán chiyola tuj kiyol mam</p>	<p>Korean 한국어 합니다</p>	<p>Ukrainian Я розмовляю українською мовою</p>
<p>Mixteco Alto Mee ká'an yu sa'an Savi</p>	<p>Nepali म नेपाली बोल्छु</p>	<p>Urdu میں اردو بولتا ہوں</p>
<p>Nepali म नेपाली बोल्छु</p>	<p>Vietnamese Tôi nói tiếng Việt</p>	<p>Zapoteco Neda chhenea dixha xhon</p>

The Alachua County School District is currently testing out their own interpretation service and have their sights set on opening a Welcoming Center to serve as a centralized location where parents, including those foreign-born, can go to with any questions and concerns in any language.

Our allies with the Human Rights Watch of Alachua County have received funding, as well as recognition of their Community ID from the City, County, Gainesville Police Department and the Alachua County Sheriff's Office. This tool serves as proof of residence in our community, allowing the cardholder access to services otherwise out of reach.

Since the release of the Immigrant Inclusion Blueprint, GINI was awarded an implementation grant from Gateways for Growth to enact a few of the steps outlined. With the grant, GINI will be able to provide free community resources to the public and local organizations:

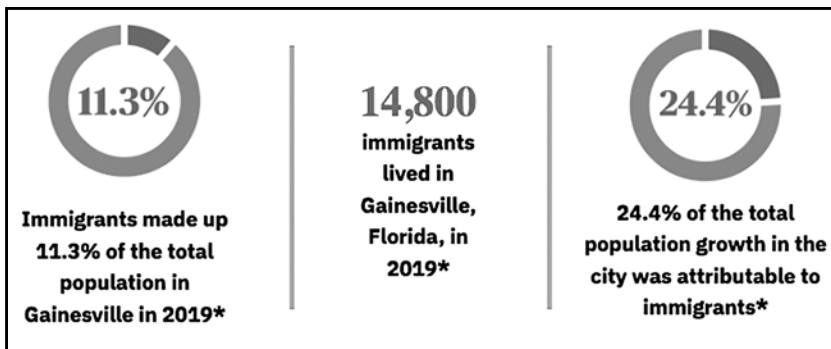
- Language Access Institutes: This fall, in coordination with Language Access Florida, GINI will provide free workshops to organizations and agencies interested in increasing their language access and clientele. Participants will learn the many different factors that go into building language access and the nuances to the different strategies organizations can use. Participants will also learn how to create their own language access plan, with guidance from Dr. Laura Gonzales, director of Language Access Florida and facilitator of the workshops.

- Language Identification Guides: A card organizations can use to find the primary language of patients/clientele who have limited English proficiency and also serves as a guide to effectively use an interpreter/interpretation services. (See example on page 6.)

- "I Speak" Cards: Get these free Informative pamphlets for Limited English Proficient speakers, with a removable "I Speak" card. The pamphlet provides the holder with critical phrases in English and includes the directions/reasons for using the detachable card. The "I Speak" card informs whoever the cardholder is communicating with what their primary language is and their need for an interpreter. The card also acknowledges their legal right to an interpreter at any organization receiving federal funds. These cards will be available in Spanish, Mandarin, Vietnamese, Portuguese, and Haitian Creole. (Example to the right.) The fight for a safe and inclusive community all our neighbors can enjoy requires we work together. If you or someone you know has connections into any immigrant communities, whether it's a faith institution, restaurant, or friend group, please reach out to us.

The success of our Initiative is dependent on the diversity of our members and our ability to work collaboratively with the many immigrant groups in the community. If you are interested in working with us or would like to learn more about one of our free resources, please reach out!

Share your questions, ideas or time with GINI! Order Language Access Cards or sign up for a Language Access Institute workshop at GINI@rwhp.org/gini.html. ✨



* Data comes from 5-year samples of the American Community Survey from 2014 and 2019 and figures refer to Gainesville, Florida.

Cómo usar la tarjeta "I Speak"



Esta tarjeta dice que usted está ejerciendo su derecho a conseguir información en su propio idioma. La ley garantiza ayuda en su idioma nativo en determinados lugares en la lista de abajo.

Llévela con usted cuando vaya a:

- hospitales
- escuelas
- la policía
- clínicas públicas
- oficinas gubernamentales
- centros y albergues para sobrevivientes de violencia doméstica
- ambulancias
- bibliotecas
- los bomberos

Quando lo necesite, muéstrela esta tarjeta a una persona para que pueda recibir asistencia en su idioma.

Si usted no habla inglés y solicita asistencia en su idioma, sepa que:

1. Es su responsabilidad avisar a las personas que usted necesita información en su lengua materna.
2. Las empresas privadas no están obligadas necesariamente a cumplir con la provisión de interpretación.
3. Tenga paciencia y trate de colaborar con la persona que lo está ayudando. Es posible que sea la primera vez que esta persona vea una tarjeta de este tipo, o que tenga que ayudar a una persona que no habla inglés. Sepa que esta es una situación nueva. Trate de mantenerse firme y tranquilo.



Hello, I speak _____
Please find a qualified interpreter who can speak my language so that we can communicate with each other. Please note my native language in your records.
-Thank you.

On a just energy transition in Florida ...

Energize Alachua! Energy Justice and Savings Fair

by Michelle Rutledge & David Hastings

What does a Just Clean Energy Transformation look like in Florida?

Climate change is the defining crisis of our age. Each day brings more news about sea-level rise, extreme heat, and climate change-fueled disasters.

“The unprecedented scale of climate impacts means that we must quickly transition to a clean energy economy. But this transition must be just.”

- Rep. Yvonne Hayes Hinson, District 20

There are solutions to the climate crisis. “Amid crisis, there is opportunity,” said

Albert Einstein. Reduced manufacturing costs for solar and wind power means that new renewables are now cheaper than burning fossil fuels. It does not take a genius to realize that solutions are clear: switch to solar and wind energy.

The principles of environmental justice include that one or some communities should not endure most of the burden of industrial or energy infrastructure, through policies and practice. The Justice40 initiative is an effort to make good on President Biden’s promise to deliver at least 40 percent of the benefits from federal investments in climate and clean energy to disadvantaged communities.

Environmental racism is a form of systemic racism where communities of color are disproportionately burdened with the hazards of nearby sources of pollution and toxic waste. As a result, these communities suffer more economic, social, and health problems. Historically, polluting industrial facilities have been placed disproportionately in or near communities of color making race a leading indicator of the negative impacts.

In practice, environmental racism can take many forms. Recent examples of environmental racism can be found in Alachua County.

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THOM HARTMANN
MON - FRI: 7 AM

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and others!

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Two different sites proposed for large-scale utility solar power plants in the heart of historically Black areas failed to consult or make accommodations with the affected communities. Both proposals were denied the Special Use Permit by the County but now these review provisions have been removed from the County's authority by preemption at the Florida state legislature.

While large solar or wind projects do not have the same harmful pollution as fossil energy generation, the construction and maintenance of these facilities still impacts those living nearby.

Sierra Club has long been a leading advocate for the transition to clean, renewable energy. As part of this transition, it is essential that we listen to people living in communities where solar power plants are proposed, especially when these are historically disadvantaged.

We need to put the well-being of people first as we shift to clean energy. Engaging meaningfully with potentially impacted communities early in the process is fundamental. Otherwise, there is no just transition.

"The climate emergency is a race we are losing, but it is a race we can win," said United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres.

We will win if we are all on the same team, collaborating and working together. We need everyone on our side to fight for climate justice, and for the transition to clean energy.

To learn more, join us at the Energy Justice and Savings Fair.

Energy Justice & Savings Fair

DATE: Sat., Nov 12

TIME: 10:00am-2pm (time may change)

WHERE: Santa Fe College, Blount Ctr., 401 NW 6th St., Gainesville (#5 bus line)

The Energy Justice and Savings Fair is a premier one-day event to engage energy-burdened households with energy saving information and activities that reduce energy costs and increase efficiency.

- Tips and training on how to reduce your energy costs.

- Demonstrations on how to best weatherize your home to save money and energy.

- Hands-on, interactive and creative presentation

- Rep Yvonne Hinson speaking on the Energy Equity Task Force, and the Inflation Reduction Act.

- Catered complimentary lunch

- Drawing for energy rebates, gifts, cost saving gift bags, and door prizes

- Childcare and energy related activities provided for the kids

For more info contact: [jyoti.parmar@sierraclub.org](mailto: jyoti.parmar@sierraclub.org) or at 908-720-6584.

The event is sponsored by the Sierra Club - Florida Chapter, Sierra Club Suwannee-St Johns Group, and Bailey Learning and Art Collective, Inc.

About the Sierra Club

Sierra Club is America's largest and most influential grassroots environmental

organization, with over 225,000 members and supporters in Florida and 3.5 million nationwide. In addition to protecting every person's right to get outdoors, we work to promote clean energy, safeguard the health of our communities, protect wildlife, and preserve our remaining wild places through grassroots activism, public education, lobbying, and legal action.

The Suwannee St Johns Group is one of 17 local entities of the national Sierra Club in Florida.

Get In Touch

Reach out to us! We are a volunteer-led and volunteer-run organization. An article is available as an educational document to encourage continued conversations about these important issues. Get in touch to learn about many volunteer opportunities: [ssjsierra@gmail.com](mailto: ssjsierra@gmail.com)

Resources for Learning and Practice

- Energy Justice Scorecard: IEJUSA.org/ Scorecard

- Energy Democracy Scorecard: SC.org/ Scorecard

- Sierra Club Shared Accountability

Framework and Guide

- A Transformative Climate Action Framework: Putting People at the Center of Our Nation's Clean Energy Transition report: UCSUSA.org/Resources/Clean-Energy-Transformation

- The Justice40 initiative

- North Central Florida Indivisible

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KenCornell.com

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

Ken Cornell

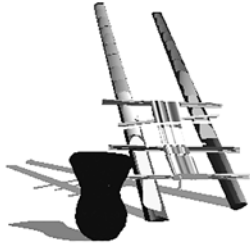
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Student loan game

by Mary Jacob, from Facebook

My final attempt to help those who don't understand the student loan game.

Mortgage: At closing, you know exactly what you will pay back. Interest is calculated monthly. Extra payments pay down principal. My mortgage was \$135k for a 30-year loan in 2004. Refinanced once for lower interest rates and terms. We made a couple of lump sum principal payments and the house was paid off in 2021. That's 13 years early.

Student Loan: Interest is compounded daily. Extra payments go toward future payments, not to pay down the principal. If you don't make a monthly payment because you are paid up in advance, your interest is still calculated daily. I was told if I made my payments on time (I never missed a single payment nor paid late) loan would be paid off in 20 years. I won't say the college financial aid rep lied to me. What I will say is she probably didn't understand it herself. I was also told about the Public Service Forgiveness. Make 10 years of payments and the rest is paid off. Well, when I applied, I was told my loans weren't eligible.

I borrowed \$45,000 in student loans. First 10 years I paid \$275/month = \$33,000. Next 15 years I paid \$550/month = \$99,000. I final lump sum payment = \$16,000 Total \$148,000

Mortgage \$135k paid off in 17 years for a total of \$183,000.

Student Loan \$45k paid off in 25 years after making a final \$16k payment for a total of \$148,000.

Yes, you can say everyone should know better, but chances are you wouldn't have known any better either. We are told over and over that your way out of poverty is through education. Yet, the poorest, most vulnerable, first-generation college students are just happy to be living their dream and trying their hardest to escape the cycle of poverty.

What the government should do is take every penny people have paid toward interest and apply it to the principal and preferably stop charging interest. This would probably pay off many loans. At the most, the loans should be set up like a mortgage. Anyone who reads this and doesn't understand the system is broken doesn't want to understand. 🦋

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Gainesville area events

- 10/6 5-7pm: **Oral History Program open house**, Pugh Hall Ocora, UF, <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1469>
- 10/7 2-4:30pm: **Radical Rush**, Civic Media Center (433 S. Main St); civicmediacenter.org
7pm: **The Band's Last Waltz**, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E. University Ave); free; tinyurl.com/Iguana1452
- 10/8 **UF Homecoming** - Parade, football (vs Missouri) at noon, partying all over: join in or stand clear!
- 10/9 11am-4pm: **Soma Art Market** (435 S. Main St); www.facebook.com/somaartmediahub
12:30-4:30pm: **Candidate Forum** for local & national candidates, Pugh Hall, UF; tinyurl.com/Iguana1453
- 10/11 5pm: **Hickory Sink 4000-acre development review**: Alachua County Administration Building, 12 SE 1st St; online at tinyurl.com/Iguana1454
- 10/13 7pm: **"An African American and Latinx History of the United States"** with Paul Ortiz, Ph.D., Matheson Museum (513 E. University Ave); free with advance registration: mathesonmuseum.org/events
- 10/14 8pm: **Running Mates political comedy** opens at The Hipp (25 SE 2nd Pl), runs through 10/30; ticket prices vary; thehipp.org/running-mates
8pm: **A Visit with Quentin Crisp** opens at Actors' Warehouse (2512 NE 1st Blvd), runs through 10/23; www.actorswarehouse.org/
- 10/15 Time TBA: **UF football vs LSU (& Tom Petty Day)**, The Swamp
7pm: **CMC Anniversary at Matheson Museum** (513 E, Univ Ave); see pg 24
7-10pm: ***!#@ Nestlé Springs Legal Fund Benefit for Save Our Springs**, Heartwood (619 S. Main St), \$10-15, heartwoodsoundstage.com
- 10/16 4-7pm: **Tribute to Life and Music of Bob McPeck**, Heartwood (619 S. Main St), heartwoodsoundstage.com; see pg 17
10am-3pm: **Pride at Prairie Creek** - live music, food, crafts, nature walks, more, Prairie Creek Lodge (7204 Co. Rd 234); tinyurl.com/Iguana1455
11am: **Sunday Assembly speaker Henri Pellissier** on "Humanist Global Charity-Humanitarian Atheists Helping Internationally"; Pride Center (3131 NW 13th St).
12-8pm: **We're Here, We're Queer-Loud and Proud! Pride festival & concert**, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E. University Ave); gainesvillepride.org
6 pm: **Spirit of Pride Community Awards Dinner**, with Nikole Parker, Equality Florida director of Transgender Equality, Sweetwater Branch Inn (625 E. University Ave); gainesvillepride.org
- 10/17 7-9pm: **Pride Adult Social Mixer**, Pride Center (3131 NW 13th St)
- 10/18 6-7:15pm: **Environmental Leadership as the Clean Water Act Turns 50 talk & panel**, Pugh Hall, UF, free; tinyurl.com/Iguana1450
- 10/19 7pm: **"Play All Night! Duane Allman and the Journey to Fillmore East"** with Bob Beatty, Ph.D., Matheson Museum (513 E. University Ave); free with advance registration: mathesonmuseum.org/events
- 10/20 Late afternoon or evening: **Gov. R. DeSantis in Alachua** - He deserves a hearty blue dot welcome!
- 10/20 6pm: **Pride Film Fest**, titles TBA: Civic Media Center (433 S. Main St); see CMC on Facebook
- 10/20 6-7pm: **Investigative reporter Jason Leopold speaks**, Pugh Hall Ocora, UF; free; calendar.ufl.edu/event/25233-brechner-speaker-series-investigative-reporter
7pm: **Tom Petty Weekend** w/ 17 performers/bands kicks off at Heartwood Soundstage (619 S. Main St); free-\$125 with registration at heartwoodsoundstage.com/event/tom-petty-weekend-2/
- 10/21 1-3pm: **Pumpkin Spice & Everything Nice** - pumpkin carving and tasty treats, Rockwood Park (2221 NW 2nd St), free; tinyurl.com/Iguana1456
- 10/22 9am-5pm: **Friends of the Library Book Sale** opens, endless goodies, amazingly cheap, runs 5 days - 430 N. Main St; folacld.org/
- 10/22 10am-5pm: **Florida Bat Festival 2022**, Lubee Bat Conservatory (1309 NW 192nd Ave), w/bat experts, music, kids' games, more; kids \$5, adults \$8, unlimited-sample beer garden \$28; <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1458>
9pm: **Music show**, acts tba, at Civic Media Center (433 S. Main St); civicmediacenter.org
- 10/23 11am-1pm: **Pride Brunch**, Paramount Grill (12 SW 1st Ave), \$33.46/person (purchase by 10/17); tinyurl.com/Iguana1459
4-7pm: **Old Time Bluegrass & Traditional Music Jam**, Civic Media Center (433 S. Main St); civicmediacenter.org
- 10/28-30: **The Fest 20**: at damn near every downtown venue; thefestfl.com
- 10/29 **Queer the Fest!** - details announced soon via Civic Media Center Facebook page
- 11/3 7pm: **"Writing a Florida Novel"** with Rebecca J. Johnston, Matheson Museum (513 E. University Ave); free with advance registration: mathesonmuseum.org/events
- 11/4 8pm: **New Works Festival** opens at Hipp (25 SE 2nd Pl) w/ 4 original plays Nov 4-5; thehipp.org/new-works-festival-november-2022
8pm: **A Night of Literary Horrors** opens at Acrosstown Repertory Theatre (619 S. Main St), runs through 11/13; www.acrosstown.org/2021-2022-season/
- 11/6 7pm: **"Dreams in the New Century: Instant Cities, Shattered Hopes, and Florida's Turning Point"** with Gary Mormino, Ph.D., Matheson Museum (513 E. University Ave); free with advance registration: mathesonmuseum.org/events
- 11/12 All day: **Energize Alachua! Energy Equity and Savings Fair** - how to save energy & money, with job fair, gifts, complimentary lunch, childcare & kids' activities - Santa Fe College Blount Ctr, 401 NW 6th St; www.sierraclub.org/florida/suwannee-stjohns (see page 8)
- 11/13 7pm: **"Native American Heritage Month: Indigenous Florida"** with Nicole Nesberg (Migizi Miigwan), Matheson Museum (513 E. University Ave); free with advance registration: mathesonmuseum.org/events
- 11/16 5-7pm: **15th Mississippi Freedom Project Trip 2022** - reflection & celebration of Samuel Proctor Oral History Program research into civil rights campaigns, UF Pugh Hall Ocora, UF; webpage & livestream fb.me/e/2PmlilKBN
- 11/19-20: **41st annual Downtown Festival & Art Show**, gainesvilledowntownartfest.net/ ↗

Want to stay current on local live music, events?

Go to visitgainesville.com and click on "What's Good"! It's a weekly listing that comes out online every Thursday, you can even have it emailed to you. Without a *Gainesville Sun* Saturday paper or Friday Scene magazine, this is the best way to know what's happening in Alachua County.

Support Live Music, Theater, and Festivals! Get out into Nature! Leave the freakin' house and have fun!

Factor by which Americans over 65 are more likely than those under 30 to worry about the future of democracy: 2

- Harpers Index, Sept. 22

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



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Editors' picks: News that didn't fit

Co-founder of election org Black Voters Matter says when it comes to voting, 'we won't Black down'

by Rebekah Sager | *Daily Kos* | Sept 26 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1464

You may not have heard of Black Voters Matter (BVM). Their work has brought millions of dollars to grassroots election organizations and mobilized countless Black and brown voters in the last six years. The group works year-round to increase voter registration, advocates for policies around voting rights, and funds and inspires civic engagement in marginalized communities nationwide.

Federal judge clears UCF prof Robert Cassanello to sue over DeSantis's Stop Woke Act'

by *FlaglerLive* | Sept. 9 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1460

A federal judge cleared the way for a UCF professor to continue challenging a new state law (Gov. Ron DeSantis' "Stop WOKE Act") that restricts the way race-related concepts can be taught in classrooms. The professor, Dr. Robert Cassanello, will speak at the CMC's anniversary event on Oct. 15. See page 24 for details. Cassanello and other plaintiffs argue that it violates First Amendment rights and is unconstitutional vague.

It's time to prosecute Ron DeSantis: As migrants confirm they were misled, calls for prosecution of DeSantis (and Abbott) grow

by *Common Dreams* | Sept. 19 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1463

As Republican Governors Ron DeSantis of Florida and Greg Abbott of Texas continued to defend their plot to put refugees and migrants from Latin America on planes and busses to northern cities and communities, critics of the 'cruel' and 'immoral' actions have said the two should face investigation and ultimately criminal prosecution for misleading and mistreating the people at the center of their political gamesmanship.

MSNBC host explains why Trump's chances of facing federal prosecution have 'skyrocketed'

by Alex Henderson | *AlterNet* | Sept. 21 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1465

Twenty months after leaving the White House, former President Donald Trump continues to be the subject of a variety of investigations — from Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis in Georgia to New York State Attorney General Letitia James to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's January 6 select committee to the U.S. Department of Justice. During a Sept. 19 commentary on DOJ's Mar-a-Lago/documents probe, MSNBC's Lawrence O'Donnell argued that Trump's chances of facing a federal prosecution have "skyrocketed."

Providers make their case to Florida Supreme Court on preserving abortion access: Lower court violated their right to sue on patients' behalf, they argue

by Michael Moline | *Florida Phoenix* | Sept. 1 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1466

The Florida Supreme Court should take up an appeal against the state's 15-week abortion ban because of a lower appeals court's disregard of settled law allowing abortion providers to challenge restrictions on behalf of their patients, a group of clinics argued.

"Statewide book bans" are coming to Florida's classrooms, enforced by the far right

by Kathryn Joyce | *Salon* | Oct. 1 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1461

In March, Gov. Ron DeSantis signed into law a policy that bans schools from using any books that are age inappropriate and allows parents broad access to challenge all books and materials used for instruction or in school libraries. Over the last month, Florida teachers have been sharing examples of the culling process on social media, with multiple examples of books featuring Black characters being cut, while books about Thanksgiving, the Pilgrims, Dick Cheney and Pope John Paul II are allowed. Florida Republicans were asked to promise that the banned books would not literally be burned. They voted that down.

'The best economic choice': Switching to renewable energy could save the world \$12 trillion by 2050

by Jessica Corbett and *Common Dreams* | *Alternet* | Sept. 14 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1467

Peer-reviewed research released Tuesday by a team at the University of Oxford reveals that transitioning to 100% clean energy within the next three decades could save not only lives and the planet but also \$12 trillion. "There is a pervasive misconception that switching to clean, green energy will be painful, costly, and mean sacrifices for us all—but that's just wrong," an Oxford professor said.

USDA to spend \$500 million extending high-speed internet to rural America

by Jacob Fischler | *Florida Phoenix* | Sept 22 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1470

The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture will spend more than \$500 million in loans and grants to telecommunications providers to bring high-speed internet to rural areas across 20 states. "We now have for the first time a genuine opportunity to literally cover all of America," a former Iowa governor, said.

Visa is going to track gun store sales. Republicans are furious.

by Sam Sutton | *Politico* | Sept. 23 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1471

The new merchant code would identify retailers that sell firearms and ammunition. Democrats and activists pushing for gun restrictions say it will help law enforcement spot suspicious transactions that contribute to mass shootings/illegal firearms trafficking. Republican lawmakers are inflamed.

What to know about the new surprise medical bills law

by Carol Levine | *Next Avenue* | Jan. 3 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1473

The No Surprises Act took effect in January. For years, millions of Americans who experienced a medical emergency could get a bill from a doctor they did not choose and who did not accept their insurance. The "No Surprises Act" makes those bills illegal.

Zeezenia International Market to reopen after fire: The Middle Eastern market will return after more than three months


by Erina Anwar | *Alligator* | Sept. 21 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1462

The store, one of the only Middle Eastern and Mediterranean markets in Gainesville, was forced to close down in June after a fire. The Gainesville community's support prompted the owners to work non-stop to reopen so soon after the fire. 🐊



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Learn Your Part. Do Your Part



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

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

For more info: Facebook: [freegrocerystore](https://www.facebook.com/freegrocerystore)
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And the good news is ...

80 percent of US voters want Congress to enact national paid family leave

'Paid family and medical leave is a critical support that families need, it is what Americans want, and it is what they deserve'

A whopping 80 percent of voters in the U.S. want the federal government to create a paid family and medical leave program.

Navigator, a progressive polling firm, found that 89 percent of Democrats, 76 percent of Independents, and 70 percent of Republicans support the establishment of a federal program that would enable people to take paid time away from work

to attend to serious illnesses or provide care for loved ones, including sick or disabled family members and newborn or newly adopted children. Just 12 percent of voters are opposed.

A majority (52 percent) of voters—including 68 percent of Democrats, 57 percent of Black Americans, and 61 percent of Hispanic Americans—would be more likely

to vote for a candidate who publicly supports paid family and medical leave.

Also, over half of voters would be more motivated to vote if Congress supported the passage of a national paid family and medical leave program.

This is a condensed version of an article by Kenny Stancil published in Common Dreams on Sept. 23. See the full article at [tinyurl.com/Iguana1438](https://www.tinyurl.com/Iguana1438)

Abigail Disney rats out Mickey Mouse in new documentary

The heiress follows the lives of low-wage Disney workers, examines role of her family's empire in late capitalism

For dissident heiress Abigail Disney, inequality is, well, goofy. And for the many underpaid Disney employees, we learn in her new documentary *The American Dream and Other Fairy Tales*, the Magic Kingdom is more miserable than magical.

The film is an excoriating critique of the ruling class and the predatory profiteering of contemporary capitalism, as filtered through the quintessentially all-American lens of her family business, the Walt Disney Company. That's part of what gives this expose weight: it was co-made by the

granddaughter and grandniece, respectively, of Roy and Walt Disney — creators of Mickey Mouse and an animated film legacy that has morphed into a multinational corporate empire.

In the film, Abigail blows the whistle on Disney's enrichment of its CEO at the expense of impoverishing workers at the so-called "happiest place on Earth," criticizing the chief executive's \$66 million salary. "A [Disneyland] custodian would have to work for 2,000 years to make what Bob Iger makes in one."

The documentary follows four Disneyland staffers as they struggle to make ends meet in pricey Orange County, California, on \$15-an-hour wages. Before and during the pandemic (which led to mass layoffs at Disney parks) the workers were forced to rely on food banks and government services to survive, as Disney corporate bigwigs raked in the kingdom's treasure.

This is a condensed version of an article by Ed Rampell published in The Progressive on Sept. 16. See the full article at [tinyurl.com/Iguana1439](https://www.tinyurl.com/Iguana1439)

Young voters are the superheroes of democracy

In 2020, young voters saved the country from a second Trump term

The midterms are coming up and democracy is on the line. It may be our last chance to save democracy from the rise of rightwing authoritarianism.

For the past two election cycles, young voters have been the superheroes of our democracy. In 2018, they turned out in record numbers to take back Congress from Trumpism. In 2020, in the midst of a global pandemic and widespread economic uncertainty, half of all young peo-

ple aged 18 to 29 voted, an increase of 11 percent from 2016. Young voters saved the country from a second Trump term, and then helped put two Democrats from Georgia into the U.S. Senate.

But we did not stop there: Young people worked incessantly to protect democracy. Through efforts like the Alliance for Youth Action's "Democracy Done Right" campaign, youth organizers have passed voting rights legislation and ex-

panded youth voting options throughout the country. During the 2018 midterms, Engage Miami fought for and won early voting sites at Miami college campuses, while both New Era Colorado and Washington Bus secured ballot drop-off boxes on campuses across their respective states.

This is a condensed version of an article by Dakota Hall published in The Progressive on Sept. 16. See the full article at [tinyurl.com/Iguana1440](https://www.tinyurl.com/Iguana1440)

'Huge victory': Starbucks agrees to begin contract talks with 230+ union stores

'Now we're operating together on a national level to make sure all of our voices are heard, together.'

Starbucks Workers United celebrated a "huge victory" after the coffee giant committed to begin the bargaining process with nearly 240 unionized stores across the U.S., progress that organizers attributed to relentless grassroots pressure from employees as the corporation dragged its feet.

Starbucks announced it sent 238 letters inviting Workers United — the union representing Starbucks workers — to join

management "at the table and negotiate in good faith."

Starbucks Workers United noted that "some workers have been waiting over five months to discuss even the most basic of proposals with the company," including "dignity and respect in the workplace," "protection from discrimination," and "worker safety and emergency response."

Yet, the company is continuing its unlaw-

ful union-busting campaign across the country, firing organizers, slashing hours, denying union workers new benefits, and even closing entire stores — allegedly to prevent employees from organizing for better pay and conditions.

This is a condensed version of an article by Jake Johnson published in Common Dreams on Sept. 26. See the full article at [tinyurl.com/Iguana1441](https://www.tinyurl.com/Iguana1441)



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Join the Paynes Prairie Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society's monthly meeting with speaker Lee Bloomcamp on:

Wednesday, Oct. 19 at 6:30pm.

Bats are popular this time of year, but how much do you really know about them?

Many natural and human ecosystems are dependent on bat activity for plant health and biological diversity, but bat populations are declining globally due to many factors. We'll discuss this and other aspects of bats in the modern world at the Florida Native Plant Society meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 19 at 6:30 pm at the Unitarian Universalist church, 4225 NW 34thSt., GNV. Check "Paynes Prairie Chapter of FNPS" on Facebook or our website paynesprairie.fnpschapter.org for more information.

www.paynesprairie.fnpschapters.org



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Tribute to Bob McPeek

'He changed live music in Gainesville forever'

Bob McPeek was a founding partner (with Ric Kaestner) of Hyde & Zeke Records, founded Mirror Image Recording Studio, and is a founding partner of Heartwood Soundstage. He is a husband, friend, musician, producer, singer, and social scientist.

He has written hundreds of songs and has produced and recorded thousands more.

These last few years, Bob has gone through a number of serious health issues, and his current prognosis does not give him much time here with us. His friends, in conjunction with Heartwood Soundstage, are producing a tribute and celebration to Bob's life and music.

Many of his friends and musical associates will participate in song or story in this event. Bob requests that if people want to support his art they go to BobMcPeekMusic.com.

Below, a few of his friends share some words about Bob as a person and what he means to them. To see more from those who know Bob, check out: gainesvilleiguana.org/2022/articles/tribute-to-bob-mcpeek/

Hoch Shitama:

Bob McPeek is the reason that Heartwood Soundstage was built and changed live music in Gainesville forever.

Bob McPeek is the reason that local groups like Sister Hazel and Less Than Jake were able to make serious recordings in their hometown at Mirror Image.

Bob McPeek is the reason that there was a Woodstock revival that lit the fuse for Free Fridays to become a major player of live music in Gainesville.

Bob McPeek's songs have enlisted numerous musicians and touched countless souls (and funny bones).

We love you, Bob.

Gary Gordon:

Smart, clever, generous, kind, witty, sincere, dedicated, hardworking, honest, humorous, articulate, talented, inventive, funny, appreciative, creative, thoughtful, reliable – those descriptors come to mind as I think about Bob McPeek, a good friend since I met him when he and Ric Kaestner opened Hyde & Zeke Records & Tapes in early 1977.

I walked into the store and heard "Hello."

I turned and saw no one who said it. Then, again, "Hello." They were playing a record titled "How To Teach Your Parrot To Talk."

In 1980 Bob and Ric hired me to manage the store. Along the way, we hired Bill Perry, Chaz Scales, and other characters.

In 1986, as I went through one of the worst times in my life, Bob suggested

I come into Mirror Image and record a cassette (in the pre-CD era). That project, along with his friendship, helped pull me through.

Bob changed my life, and many others. It's evident he's had a positive impact on so many people.

Humble. I left out humble. I don't know that he's comfortable with all the praise, but he loves love. And I love him. We love him.

Cathy DeWitt:

I met Bob McPeek when he first came to Gainesville. He and Ric Kaestner had opened Hyde & Zeke records practically across the street from the record shop where I worked, Strictly Folk, so I went over to say hello. We became fast friends and got involved with many local music endeavors, playing benefits for the Hogtown Granary Co-op and other places. Bob and Ric's musical duo was also called Hyde & Zeke, and they were great. They wrote many local hits, including the hilarious "Hunting Tigers" and "Pasta Man," a favorite Reggae singalong. Those were special times in Gainesville, a lot of fun was had, and we were lucky to be part of it!

Bob soon created a recording studio in his house, and I remember doing some sessions and hearing lots of great music there. This begat Mirror Image Studio, which eventually begat Heartwood Soundstage. When Mirror Image first moved to the Baird Center, it was in the building where Heartwood is now, as well as in a little room across the parking lot where they



sold cassettes and reel to reel recordings of some of their work. Ray Valle ran this part of the business, but Bob also managed to record some live shows next door at the Acrosstown Theatre, including the first album (a cassette) by my group Patchwork.

Bob continuously came up with creative ways to expand his business for both himself and his customers, but in recent years he's gotten much more serious about his songwriting, forming his originals band The Erasables, bringing 25 musicians together during the pandemic to create the poignant and powerful video of his original "On the Other Side," and releasing his primo solo recording "Mixing Metaphors" this past year. The album is a treasure chest of incredible songs. My fervent hope is that one of the greatest of them, "Still Looking (for America)" finds its way to Paul Simon so he could talk with Bob about it.

Bob, I am so grateful that we met when you moved across the street, and for all the things that have grown out of our friendship since then. And, for all the amazing you've done for our community.

I love you. 🐢

A Tribute to the Life and Music of Bob McPeek

Heartwood Soundstage
Sunday, Oct. 16, 4-7pm
Music and tributes

History and the people who make it: Sue Gunzberger



During the contentious Bush/ Gore presidential election of 2000, Sue Gunzberger served as county commissioner for Broward County Florida. On Dec. 19, 2001, Julian M. Pleasants, as representative for the University of Florida's Samuel Proctor Oral History Program, interviewed Commissioner Gunzberger about her experiences as part of the historical ballot recounts. The following excerpts are part of that interview.

To read the full interview, visit the UF digital collections at tinyurl.com/Iguana1447 and click the document image on the upper right. Use the double arrow keys to advance pages.

JP: Give me some idea of what Election Day was like for you.

SG: It was the longest day of my life, because I was on the canvassing board. I started with a commission meeting at 10 [a.m.] and by 7 [p.m.] I had to be at the warehouse to start supervising the counting of all the ballots. Usually on an election that large, it is finished by 2 in the morning. We finished at around 7 in the morning, knew that there was less than [a] one percent margin of difference and that we would have to have a recount. We had to be back at the warehouse by about 1 p.m., I believe.

JP: Did you have any idea at that point what an extraordinary event this was going to be?

SG: No, I just thought it would be a routine recount and that would be the end of it.

JP: Once you get the notification that the statewide election is one-half of one percent, which triggers an automatic recount, what did you do, precisely, under those conditions?

SG: We sent all the ballots through the machines again and had a recount, as the law prescribed.

JP: I am sure you are aware that something like forty-two counties did not recount the ballots, merely tallied the totals

of each machine, which by my understanding, is not what the law requires.

SG: We did what the law required.

JP: At this point, there was some talk about missing ballots.

SG: That was fallacious. There were never any missing ballots. There were ballots that came in later because of some transportation problem, but the ballots that were so-called missing never were.

JP: Do you think that Jane Carroll, who is the election supervisor for Broward County, was prepared for the tremendous number of voters that turned out?

SG: I do not think that certain precincts were adequately staffed and in that [respect] she was not prepared. Especially in the southwest where they had hundreds of thousands of voters in a precinct that people were in line for two and three and four hours.

JP: One of the issues, always, is the law itself. The argument was that you could not have a hand recount unless there was an error in vote tabulation.

SG: Between the original vote and the automatic recount, they were not the same, so we already knew there was an error in tabulation. We had met the legal definition of the reason to have a hand recount.

JP: You have in the past, as I understand, always favored hand recounts as a more accurate way of determining the correct vote.

SG: Yes, and I am disturbed now that we are going to touchscreen voting. At this point it has not been certified that the voters will be given a printed ballot of what they voted for on the touchscreen that would then be deposited in the ballot box, so that if we needed a recount, we could have an accurate hand recount again. Instead, we will have to rely on mechanisms within the touchscreen system itself.

JP: Is there a fail-safe mechanism, so that if someone casts an over-vote, the machine will notify them of that?

SG: They cannot and we sure had a lot of over-votes.

JP: How well do you think your voting machines operated? How much error would there have been due to machine failure?

SG: I would say that there was one precinct [where] it was very evident that there was machine failure, because most

of the ballots from that precinct looked like a Braille card on the reverse side.

JP: They were miscalibrated somehow?

SG: Yes. None of them got into the proper hole, so that we knew that that precinct had a problem, so their votes were never counted on the first go-around.

JP: Could you count them at all?

SG: It was real easy because they were right by. There is a big enough square that you could see who they were voting for. They never got through the hole to dislodge a chad. They were on top, they may have been on the bottom, but you knew who the votes were for.

JP: How many voters would you say voted incorrectly in terms of voter error as opposed to machine error?

SG: I wish I could give you a number. The number of people who voted for more than one presidential candidate were in the hundreds. I had people who voted for eight out of nine in the presidential race.

JP: What was the general strategy of the Republicans during all of this counting?

SG: The Republicans brought in an awful lot of people from very far away. They tried to intimidate us. Each of us had a Republican and a Democrat [observing] each member of the canvassing board.

JP: There were, at least in the press and from the Democratic attorneys that I talked to, Republican attorneys whose job was to do nothing more than delay the process. Were you aware of that?

SG: Yes. They came in a couple of times, they dragged us into court once during the process and then we were going back and we were told to turn around. Judge Lee found a way to keep the counting going while we were dragged into court one time. He got so mad at Bill Scherer that he threw him out and told him he could not come back in. We got it done, no matter how much they tried to delay, we just pushed forward. We never stopped. We had a resolve to get the job done and get it done within the time.

JP: As you were counting, were they making comments? Were they threatening in any way? How did they respond? Let us just say you counted a disputed ballot for Gore, would the Republicans protest?

SG: They did not protest, they wrote it down. They did not delay us that way.

They talked to themselves. Look, we had all of the big Republicans sit at the table while we were counting, pretending that they were interested. A whole bunch of them. They would come up there and frankly they were very sweet and nice to us. Then they would go down and then they trashed us on TV when they were agreeing with everything we said.

JP: I do remember one case that Engler was shown a vote and agreed with a vote, went outside and said they are miscounting.

SG: So did Dole. You know what? It meant nothing to us. We discounted all the publicity. I think the hardest thing was getting used to being in a fishbowl. Everything we did was observed by the press and TV. We did not have one minute of solitude. When we would eat our supper, take a twenty-minute break, the TV cameras would be on us then. Talk about reality TV.

One day I was so tired of never seeing fresh air, I started to sneak out the back door to go out and feel what daylight feels like and the darn press starts following me and peppering me with questions, at which time I fled right back in, because we only let a certain amount of press into the room where we were doing our canvassing.

JP: Were you aware of how much impact all of these negative comments were having on the entire race?

SG: I was not aware of the impact. I was aware of what was going on. I have a spouse, I have a son, both of who kept me informed what was going on in the outside world. In fact, I have a son who is very politically astute. When I started getting death threats on the internet, he was the one who called the FBI. When it was over, I had 45,000 hateful e-mails at my office. It had gotten so bad that both judges and myself ended up with 24/7 police protection.

JP: Everywhere you went, you had protection?

SG: I had two sheriff's deputies with me from the day before Thanksgiving until it ended. It had gotten very bad in terms of threats.

JP: Did other people get similar threats? Did Judge Lee receive threats?

SG: Yes.

JP: How did you respond to election supervisor Carroll leaving? Some people in the press said that she had abandoned her post.

SG: I do not think it was my place to respond or to make a judgement. That was her decision. I much would have preferred Jane to stay. She did not delay things at all. Judge Rosenberg had a tendency to delay the proceedings as we went through it. He was very slow, very deliberate. I thought [he was] exceedingly slow, hoping not to finish the job on time. At lunchtime, all of us would sit together and have lunch and he would go off with operatives from the Republican party.

JP: Do you think you were treated fairly by the press, both local and national press?

SG: I think they saw me differently than I see myself. Some of them saw me as very partisan. I did not see myself that way. I thought I was being very fair in my deliberations.

JP: Obviously, in the very emotional political climate, every partisan will see the opposition as partisan.

SG: Right. I felt that besides the internet sites I told you about, Fox TV was very negative when it came to me as well and I felt it was unfair.

JP: There were two circumstances, one in Seminole, one in Martin County where the elections supervisors allowed Republicans to come in and put in voter identification numbers.

SG: Yes, I thought that was absolutely wrong. Republicans did all sorts of illegal maneuvers and they got away with it.

JP: The argument is that the Republicans won the public-relations battle and that they were better organized.

SG: They sure were. I never saw so much money. When I told you that they got a hotel, they had people fly in from all over at

their own expense to stay there and work the campaign, and they were so programmed. It was unbelievable. You looked at these people, you saw how well-dressed they were. You understood what was behind them, and then you looked at the Democrats. What was it that Will Rogers said?

JP: "I am not a member of an organized party, I am a Democrat."

SG: That is right and it made me think of Will Rogers. I mean, they were not as well-dressed, they were not organized.

I was already getting nervous. The time that I knew it was over, it was not the second vote of the U.S. Supreme Court, it was the first vote, when they stopped the counting. I thought all this work, all this effort, all this time, all for nothing.

JP: Did you feel at that point that the U.S. Supreme Court had denied the voters their rights as citizens?

SG: I felt that every vote did not count. Only some votes counted.

Excerpts compiled by Brenda Withington

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

SPOHP needs the public's help to sustain and build upon its research, teaching, and service missions: even small donations can make a big difference in SPOHP's ability to gather, preserve, and promote history for future generations. Please click on the following link to provide a donation: uff.ufl.edu/giving-opportunities/000613-sam-proctor-oral-history-program/

The image is a campaign logo for Harvey Ward for Mayor. It features the name "Harvey" in a white serif font above "WARD" in a large, bold, white sans-serif font. Below this, there are five white stars on a black background, followed by the text "for Mayor" in a white serif font, and another five white stars. At the bottom, the website "WARDFORMAYOR.COM" is written in a bold, white sans-serif font. Below the website, the text "Paid for and approved by Harvey Ward for Gainesville Mayor" is written in a smaller, white sans-serif font.

From ABORTION, p. 1

rights and racial justice, largely separate campaigns were built around each of them, and the common denominators were seldom articulated.

This time around – well, as I wrote when the news broke: “First they came for the reproductive rights (Roe v Wade, 1973) and it doesn’t matter if you don’t have a uterus in its ovulatory years, because then they want to come for the marriage rights of same-sex couples (Obergefell v Hodges, 2015), and then the rights of consenting adults of the same gender to have sex with each other (Lawrence v Texas, 2003), and then for the right to birth control (Griswold v Connecticut, 1965).

“It doesn’t really matter if they’re coming for you, because they’re coming for us.”

“Us” these days means pretty much everyone who’s not a straight white Christian man

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We thank you very much!

with right-wing politics. They’re building a broad constituency of opposition, and it is up to us to make that their fatal mistake.

It’s all connected. If Texas wasn’t suppressing voting rights so effectively, right-wing politicians might not be running the state. If non-Republican turnout can overcome the restrictions, Texas itself – now leading the attacks on abortion rights and trans rights – could elect Beto O’Rourke governor in November and turn Texas Democratic.

O’Rourke tweeted today: “If they want states to decide, then we must elect a governor who will protect a woman’s right to abortion.”

The right knows that it represents a minority and a shrinking minority as Americans as a whole become more progressive and as the country becomes increasingly non-white. They have made a desperate gamble – to rule via minority power, for the benefit of the few, which is why voter suppression is so crucial a part of their agenda.

It cannot be a winning strategy in the long run. But in the short run it can perpetrate immense damage to too many lives and to the climate itself.

The revelations should strengthen our resolve to resist by remembering our power and strengthening our alliances, winning elections, and keeping eyes on the prize.

This article was originally published by The Guardian on May 4. See more at theguardian.com.

From ELECTION, p. 1

- J. Wayne Reitz Union: 655 Reitz Union Drive, UF Campus, Gainesville

- Alachua County Agriculture and Equestrian Center: 23100 W Newberry Rd, Newberry

Vote Democrat

It is a longish ballot. Some of this is easy, considering how the Republicans have gerrymandered and gained control of this state, and the type of candidates they attract, We say vote Democrat every chance you get on the ballot. Whether with joy or out of practical duty, just do it. Trust me, they are better than the Republicans. Go with the D’s, and don’t be snookered by the Repubs’ nice guy ads on TV; most also have money to burn! The D vs R races are throughout the ballot it as you go down the list.

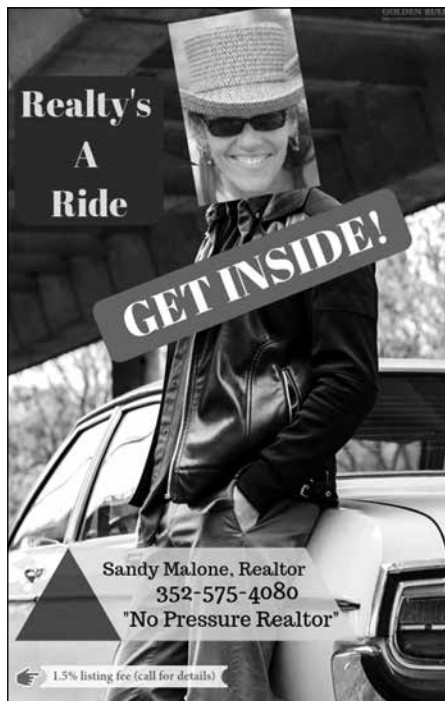
There are a bunch of judges up for retention. None have major complaints against them, so do what you want.

There are five slots to be filled for the Soil and Water Conservation District, and they need some new blood. **Vote #1 Vinson, #2 Trowell, #3 Boyer, #4 Renwick, and #5 Lee.**

Non-partisan races are on the ballot in the City of Gainesville run-offs if you live there. **AuBroncee Martin for circuit judge.** We like **Ward for mayor,** and **Ingle and Willits for city commission.**

There are also state amendments on the ballot. We say **YES on #1** (Limitation on the Assessment of Real Property Used for Residential Purposes), and **NO on #2** (Abolishing the Constitution Revision Commission) **and #3** (Additional Homestead Property Tax Exemption for Specified Critical Public Service Workforce).

There are two county referendums at the very end, both very important: **NO on the first** (Single-Member Districts in County Commission Elections), and **YES on the second** (Wild Spaces, Public Places).



“Frankly, I adore your catchy slogan, ‘Adoption, not Abortion,’ although no one has been able to figure out, even with expert counseling, how to use adoption as a method of birth control, or at what time of the month it is most effective.”

-Barbara Ehrenreich

The logo for "Democracy Now!" features a silhouette of the Statue of Liberty holding a torch. Below the logo, the text reads: "MONDAY thru FRIDAY 8 AM and 1 Pm: WGOT.org / WGOT 100.1 FM Gainesville's Community Radio".

Spotlight on ...

UN-PAC

UF Un-PAC is a non-partisan organization working to reform our democracy and get

big money and lobbying out of our politics. Our Youth Power Campaign is working to make UF work better for students to participate in and understand our democratic system, including demands such as voter registration available at Freshman

Preview, classes cancelled on election days, and more transparency about how our tuition money is spent on lobbying and political influence. For information, go to: un-pac.org, @un_pac_florida, or email un.pac.uf@gmail.com.

Iguana Directory

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

Readers: If there is inaccurate information here, please let us know. If you are connected to an organization listed here, please check and update your listing so others can be accurately informed. Readers should confirm times of meetings with individual organizations.

Alachua Conservation Trust, Inc. has been protecting North Central Florida's natural, scenic, historic and recreational resources for over 25 years. 352-373-1078 | AlachuaConservationTrust.org

Alachua County Greens is part of a worldwide movement built out of interrelated pillars that support its politics: the peace, civil rights, environmental and labor movements. Meetings are the 1st Sunday of the month @4pm, for location contact 352-871-1995 | alachuagreens@gmail.com | GainesvilleGreens.webs.com

Alachua County Labor Coalition organizes to support local labor and advance the Medicare for All and A Living Wage campaigns. Meets monthly on the 4th Tuesday at 6pm: on Zoom. 352-375-2832 | info@laborcoalition.org | LaborCoalition.org

Alachua County Organization for Rural Needs Clinic is a not-for-profit in Brooker providing low-cost, high-quality dental care for people with and without health insurance to Alachua, Bradford and Union County residents. The Clinic fulfills its mission with the help of volunteers. 352-485-2772 | acornclinic.org

American Civil Liberties Union has no Alachua County chapter. For info on forming a new chapter, or for ACLU info, contact the Northeast Chapter at firstcoastaclu@gmail.com | northeastflorida.aclufl.org

Alachua NAACP – With 2+ million activists across the country, we work to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all people and to eliminate racial hatred and discrimination. Everyone invited to join. [Facebook.com/alachuaNAACP](https://www.facebook.com/alachuaNAACP) | NAACPacb.org

American Promise Association is a cross-partisan, citizen-powered endeavor to amend the US Constitution to ensure We The People – not big money, corporations, unions, or wealthy special interests – govern the United States of America. americanpromise.net

Avian Research and Conservation Institute is a non-profit research group working to stimulate conservation action to save threatened

bird species in the southeast. 352-514-5606 | arcinst.org

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

Central Florida Democratic Socialists of America is a chapter of DSA focusing on local social and political activism issues to better our community. Meetings are the 4th Monday of the month on Zoom. centralfldsa@gmail.com | [facebook.com/NCFloridaDSA](https://www.facebook.com/NCFloridaDSA)

Citizens Climate Lobby builds awareness and lobbies for sensible climate policies. 352-214-1778 | btancig@gmail.com | 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 | 352-373-0010 | coordinators@civicmediacenter.org | civicmediacenter.org

Coalition of Hispanics Integrating Spanish Speakers through Advocacy and Service is a UF student-run group focusing on immigrant rights and immigrant advocacy. chispasuf@gmail.com | chispasuf.com | [facebook.com/chispasUF](https://www.facebook.com/chispasUF)

Code Pink: Women for Peace is a women-led grassroots peace and social justice movement utilizing creative protest, non-violent direct action and community involvement. [Facebook.com/CodePINKgainesville](https://www.facebook.com/CodePINKgainesville) | CodePink4Peace.org

The Community Weatherization Coalition's mission is to help their neighbors save energy and water and reduce utility bills by engaging volunteers, building community, and learning together. info@communityweatherization.org | 352-450-4965 | communityweatherization.org

Conservation Trust for Florida, Inc. is a Gainesville non-profit land trust working to protect Florida's rural landscapes, wildlife corridors and natural areas. 352-376-4770 | info@conserveflorida.org | conserveflorida.org

Democratic Party of Alachua County meets monthly on the second Wednesday at 6pm: on Zoom. 352-373-1730 | alachuadems.org

Divest Gainesville advocates divesting City financial assets from fossil fuel industries and educating on racial justice and climate change. youngersn@outlook.com | [facebook.com/DivestGainesville](https://www.facebook.com/DivestGainesville)

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

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

Edible Plant Project is a volunteer-run, non-profit Gainesville collective aiming to create positive alternatives to the unsustainable food system in this county. [facebook.com/groups/edibleplantproject](https://www.facebook.com/groups/edibleplantproject)

Families Against Mandatory Minimums works to reform Florida's sentencing laws and restore fairness to Florida's criminal justice system. PO Box 142933, Gainesville, 32614 | gnewburn@famm.org | 352-682-2542 | FAMM.org

Final Friends, run by volunteers, helps families learn how to accomplish legal home funeral care as an alternative to a commercial funeral home. 352-374-4478 | FinalFriends.org | org@gmail.com | FinalFriends.org

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

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

Florida School of Traditional Midwifery is a clearinghouse for information, activities, educational programs regarding midwifery. 352-338-0766 | info@MidWiferySchool.org | midwiferyschool.org

Florida Defenders of the Environment works to protect freshwater resources, conserve public lands, provide quality environmental education. 352-475-1119 | FloridaDefenders@gmail.com | FlaDefenders.org

Continued on next page

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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. 352-377-8915 | 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. 352-378-1690 | 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@352-450-1912 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 | 352-372-1070 | GainesvilleQuakers.org | facebook.com/GainesvilleQuakers

Gainesville Stamp Club, established in the 1960's, is open to anyone interested in philately. Auction held every meeting. Advanced level program occasionally included. Under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. First and third Tuesdays starting at 7:30pm; no meetings in December nor holidays. Contact us for meeting locations and info. 352-371-1991 | Stamps4Laffs@yahoo.com

Gainesville Roller Rebels, a women's Flat Track roller derby team, needs skaters and volunteer assistance. join@gainesvilleroilerrebels.com | gainesvilleroilerrebels.com

Graduate Assistants United union represents UF grad assistants by fighting for improved working conditions, community involvement and academic freedom. 352-575-0366 | 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. 352-219-0145 | 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. 352-367-9128 | itec1@itec-edu.org | itec-edu.org

League of Women Voters of Alachua County Nonpartisan grassroots political group of women and men who fight 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. 352-328-2511 | 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. 352-320-0457 (information) | 352-335-7770 (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. 352-575-0495 | 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 Santa 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. 352-340-3770 | 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. | 352-377-0881 | 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. 352-317-7307 | 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 | 352-377-8915 | 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 | 352-363-8902 | info@RepurposeProject.org | repurposeproject.org

River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding provides solution-based innovative ways to resolve conflicts, and offers related services such as mediation, communication skill building and restorative justice. 352-234-6595 | 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 @ 352-372-1095 | 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. 352-376-8600 | 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 | UFFcollegedems.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. 352-519-4130 | 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/UNAUSAGainesvilleFIChapter | UNA-USA Gainesvillefl.org

United Way Information and Referral is a human-staffed computer database for resources and organizations in Alachua County. 352-332-4636 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/toiletry items, health education, events, support groups. 352-294-4880 or healthstreet.program.ufl.edu/

UF Un-PAC is a non-partisan organization working to reform our democracy and get big money/lobbying out of politics. Our Youth Power Campaign works to make UF work better for students to participate in and understand our democratic system, including demands such as voter registration at Freshman Preview, classes cancelled on election days, and more transparency on how our tuition money is spent on lobbying and political influence. For information, go to: un-pac.org, @un_pac_uflorida, or email un.pac.uf@gmail.

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. 352-375-2563 | 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@stevellittler.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 that’s been created by capitalism, into a democratically arranged world society of equality. wspus.org. 🌐



CMC to celebrate 29th anniversary and you're invited

Speaker instrumental in challenging DeSantis' 'Stop WOKE Act'

WHEN: Sat., Oct. 15, 7-9:30pm

WHERE: Matheson Museum, 513 E. University Ave.

SPEAKER: Dr. Robert Cassanello

COST: \$15-20

by Joe Courter

The Civic Media Center will mark its 29th anniversary on Saturday evening, Oct. 15, at 7pm in the Matheson Museum, 513 E. University Ave. The guest speaker will be Dr. Robert Cassanello, an associate professor at the University of Central Florida, and the head of the UCF faculty union. He has served on the board of the Florida Historical Society, and has a research background on voter suppression and the Jim Crow era.

Most recently, Cassanello and other plaintiffs, including public school teachers and a student, filed a lawsuit in April after DeSantis signed the law the "Stop WOKE Act" (HB 7) arguing that it violated First Amendment rights and was unconstitutionally vague. This case is moving forward after an appeal to end it by the governor's office was rejected by a judge (see Editors' Picks, item 2 on page 15).

The event at the Matheson will run from 7 to 9:30 pm and will offer light food and refreshments. It will be a nice chance to get together again. The Matheson has parking, with overflow across the street at the School Board offices.

Admission will be \$15-\$20 with tickets at the door, or by mailing in a check in advance (CMC, 433 S. Main St. Gainesville, FL 32601), or with a donation to [paypal.me/CMC4ever](https://www.paypal.com/CMC4ever) that is designated "for anniversary tickets." Low-income people and students can pay a reduced rate if they need to. For more info, call Joe at 352-378-5655. 🐢

In memoriam:

Honor her memory ... by fighting like hell:

Barbara Ehrenreich dies at 81

"We've lost a gifted writer and a relentless fighter for the working class," said one admirer of the journalist, author, and labor rights champion.

Barbara Ehrenreich, whose books about economic inequality include *Nickel and Dimed* and *Bait and Switch*, died on Thursday, Sept. 1 at the age of 81.

Her death was announced on Twitter by her son, Ben Ehrenreich, and daughter, Rosa Brooks.

"She was never much for thoughts and prayers, but you can honor her memory by loving one another, and by fighting like hell," Ben Ehrenreich wrote. Ehrenreich wrote on her personal website that she went through a "political, as well as a personal, transformation" in 1970 when she gave birth to her first child in a public health clinic in New York where she was "the only white patient at the clinic" and learned how many poor women are treated when seeking healthcare.

"They induced my labor because it was late in the evening and the doctor wanted to go home," she later said. "I was enraged. The experience made me a feminist."

"I have never seen a conflict between journalism and activism. As a journalist, I search for the truth. But as a moral person, I am also obliged to do something about it."

She wrote columns for *Ms.* and *Mother Jones* and published several books about the healthcare industry, feminism, and the economy before writing one of her best-known works, *Nickel and Dimed*, an examination of the working poor in the United States. In a review of the book, *The New York Times* said *Nickel and Dimed* helped solidify Ehrenreich as "our premier reporter of the underside of capitalism."

This is a condensed version of an article by Julia Conley published in Common Dreams on Sept. 2. See the full article at [tinyurl.com/Iguana1446](https://www.tinyurl.com/Iguana1446) 🐢

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

Deadline is Wednesday, Nov. 9

Submit events, content, and questions to:
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Comments, suggestions, contributions (written or financial) are welcome.

To list your event or group, contact us at:

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