



The Gainesville Iguana

*A progressive newsletter
and events calendar*

November/December 2022

Vol. 36, Issue 11/12

Blue dot report

What they did, how we did, and a look ahead

by Joi Rose

All over Florida, Democrats are scratching their heads and wondering what is happening to the state they have lived in for decades and what this means for their future

here. Unfortunately, the answer isn't cut and dried. Many factors played into the state's devastating red takeover: low registered Democratic voter turnout, lack of Florida Democratic Party enthusiasm and structural

organization, a deficiency in field coordination and Get Out the Vote volunteers, lackluster candidates, further gerrymandered districts, and massive amounts of Republican funding further bolstered by dark money Political Action Committees.

In Alachua County alone we saw close to half a million dollars poured into dark money PACs to fund the Alachua County Single-Member District Amendment campaign, a pet project by Clemons, Perry, and the REC intended to weaken our blue county.

The Republican strategy seems to be: if we can't win fairly then we will redistrict a win by breaking urban Democratic strongholds into multiple little pieces that each includes just enough rural Republican voters to outnumber the Democrats.

In order to pass single-member districts so they can use this strategy in Alachua County, they manipulated and misled voters. They used quotes and likenesses from community leaders out of context

See ELECTION, p. 18

'The community was backstabbed'

Ben Sasse and the War on Freedom at UF

The decision to appoint Republican Senator Ben Sasse from Nebraska as president of the University of Florida was a product of years of effort by the Tallahassee GOP

by Aron Ali-McClory

On Tuesday, Nov. 1, a Republican senator from Nebraska, Ben Sasse, was appointed unanimously by the University of Florida Board of Trustees to be UF's 13th president.

However, as much as this story has centered around Ben Sasse himself in the past month, it's deeply important to consider the context in which his coronation happened.

As the right-wing Tallahassee regime has flexed its muscle in Alachua County, the university has responded by falling into lockstep with their

See SASSE, p. 2



A protester at the Nov. 1 rally on campus holds up a sign illustrating Ben Sasse as a puppet of Gov. Ron DeSantis. Photo by Candi Churchill.

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From SASSE, p. 2

demands. Under the administration of UF President Kent Fuchs, the DeSantis-appointed Board of Trustees has all but made it their mission to wipe out the notion of academic freedom at the University of Florida.

Last fall, when three political science professors spoke out against being blocked from testifying against the state in a voting rights case, the university was quick to deny accusations of being against academic freedom.

Only after coordinated pressure from the United Faculty of Florida alongside other unions and progressive organizations did Fuchs reverse his decision. Further still, when the university avoided having its accreditation revoked following an investigation related to the prior incident, the Board of Trustees boasted that it had been vindicated, as if it was taunting the very community that sought to preserve its freedom and dignity.

And yet, as we speak, UF's team of lawyers is using your tuition and tax money to attempt to appeal the federal judge ruling that UF violated the First Amendment by preventing professors from giving expert testimony.

The hubris and fragile ego of UF administration and the Board of Trustees is on full display.

The Board of Trustees and university administration further turned a blind eye as professors spoke out about being pressured to destroy COVID-19 data, being told not to include the terms "critical" or "race" in their course titles, and more. Despite efforts to cover their tracks, that the university administration, led by Fuchs, and in lockstep with the right-wing of Tallahassee, was determined to wage an unrelenting war on freedom at the University of Florida. Their war, it would come to pass, would know no bounds, and succumb to no pressure as it had in the past.

As the University of Florida embarked on a search for a new president to succeed Fuchs, it was clear this would be the next stage in their war on freedom.

Using a recently passed state law, the university assured the community that it was taking input from a variety of sources. All the community could hope for is that the presidential search committee would stay true to its stated guidelines—which were clear about the need for finalists who were not only qualified, but demonstrated a commitment to core values like inclusion.

In at least three of the 16 listening sessions held by the search committee, stakeholders repeatedly commented on how they do not want this decision to be politically motivated. The committee said two or more finalists would be named when the time came. In practice, none of this was true.

Instead, on Oct. 6, the community was backstabbed. A senator from Nebraska whose troubling right-wing politics could be dressed up as "moderate" was announced as the *sole* finalist.

Seldom before had the university community come together so swiftly in opposition to the university as an institution; that evening, a vast coalition formed. Importantly, this coalition was not just of students — but of workers and faculty, too. Every campus union, including Graduate Assistants United, United Campus Workers, and United Faculty of Florida, worked alongside groups like the Young Democratic Socialists of America and the Change Caucus in UF's Student Senate to work on a response to the gross violation of trust that had been committed by the university. Independent and new organizers joined in as well, invigorated by the outright anti-democratic behavior of the Board of Trustees. By the end of the day, plans had been made.

It was immediately clear that the university community stood against Ben Sasse not only for his hate toward the LGBTQ+ community, horrible record on gun safety and reproductive rights, anti-labor sentiments, and other hallmarks of his political career, but also because of the process by which he was chosen.

The nomination of Ben Sasse was a product of an illegitimate selection process that generated no buy-in from the university community, simply due to the fact that the community had no real means of input. If the presidential search committee actually considered the opinions of the community it supposedly serves as anything but worthless, a man like Ben Sasse would have never been even close to a finalist decision.

It was clear that the given channels for providing feedback on the search were shams meant to merely pacify the UF community with the appearance of meaningful power. The only way to make the voices of the university community heard was to force the Board of Trustees and Ben Sasse themselves to hear us.

On Oct. 10, frustration boiled into a mass protest that drew hundreds of students, workers, and faculty to the plaza outside of Emerson Hall. Within those walls, the Board of Trustees held farce forums with Ben Sasse to try and placate those very community members. Hundreds of protestors, united in their cause, and with power in numbers, entered the building and continued to peacefully demonstrate outside the room where the forums were held. After Ben Sasse acknowledged the presence of the loud, powerful protests, the room was vacated, and protestors were allowed to take the stage. Where the Board of Trustees was trying to legitimize Ben Sasse as the next

See SASSE, p. 20

a celebration of quiet courage
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City of Gainesville
RTS
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Rosa Parks
a celebration of quiet courage

From the publisher ...

And here we are ...

We can look back on Election 2022, see how things went and where we are. We are done here in Florida but vote counting continues elsewhere, and happily the Nevada Senate just came in for the Democrats. Now Georgia remains on Dec. 6 to hopefully add an insurance vote. The hyped and feared "Red Wave" did not happen, and it appears the Democrats will hold the Senate. There seems to be a rebuke of election-denying Trumpers in many states. The strong Republican showing in Florida was actually an outlier nationwide. Our Blue Dot here held firm for the most part. It's a shame James Ingle lost, and then there's that "Single-Member District" vote ... ugh.

Poisonous dark money was prominent in our county this time. Tallahassee (and who knows from where) money attacked the more progressive candidates for City and County Commission, who mostly won anyway. But most egregious was the Republican drive for single-member districts (looking at you Keith Perry and Chuck Clements) which deceitfully targeted the Black community using out-of-context, old quotes and images of iconic local leaders like Rodney Long, Chuck Chestnut and the NAACP itself on mailers, signs, banners, and handed-out cards. Over \$250,000 was spent to promote this inflicted-from-Tallahassee referendum, and worst of all, people bought it, and it narrowly passed. It was a coldly calculated scheme, and is a case study in a ridiculously well-funded, unethical propaganda campaign convincing people to vote against their own interests.

Statewide the results were predictably horrible, with the entrenched power of the Republican party and the profoundly lame Florida Democratic party (see cover story page 1). And I must say, the DeSantis campaign made the most of what they had, slick pervasive messaging capitalizing on his risky Covid strategies regarding openings and masking, championing "freedom."

But look around the country: big statewide wins in Pennsylvania and Michigan. The states that did well had a commonality that we in Florida are not part of: progressive leaders to vote for, like Fetterman and Whitmer really driving idealism and the youth vote, and ballot initiatives that people wanted to come out and support. One example on this was abortion on the ballot in a number of states, which drove up both voter registration and turn out. Other states had referendums on minimum wage, marijuana decriminalization, and other topics that affect people's lives directly. People felt engaged and inspired; it wasn't just "vote for us because otherwise you get them."

If leaders want people to follow, they need to be going for what the people really want. But it takes more than candidates saying they are for it; they need grassroots work on the ground pushing them to do it. It takes committed civic engagement. There needs to be organized efforts on bringing issues into view: meetings, outreach, and communications to both voters and representatives, and thus changing the conversation as to what's important. Unions used to and still play a major role, but now advocacy organizations must engage in the process as well. Donors big and small must engage, because while we can't match Republican dollars, we have the issues and the numbers. People must understand what they stand to gain and that education needs financial support, too. Getting abortion rights on the ballot in 2024 would be huge, and the infrastructure needed to get it on the ballot is the heart of the democratic process.

This election nationally gives us hope that the system still works, that those who wished a coup will become increasingly marginalized as we move forward. But we are not out of the woods, far from it. I offer huge thanks to all who worked on local campaigns, from seasoned organizers to young interns heading up teams and learning the ropes knocking on doors, sealing envelopes, making calls, and going out of their comfort zones to do the work that a real participatory democracy requires.

In the 60s, "America: Love It or Leave It" was a slogan that was countered by "America: Change It or Lose It." We actually saw how close to losing it we came January 6. That's where we are. Onward to 2023. 🐢



Joe Courter

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

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Gainesville Iguana

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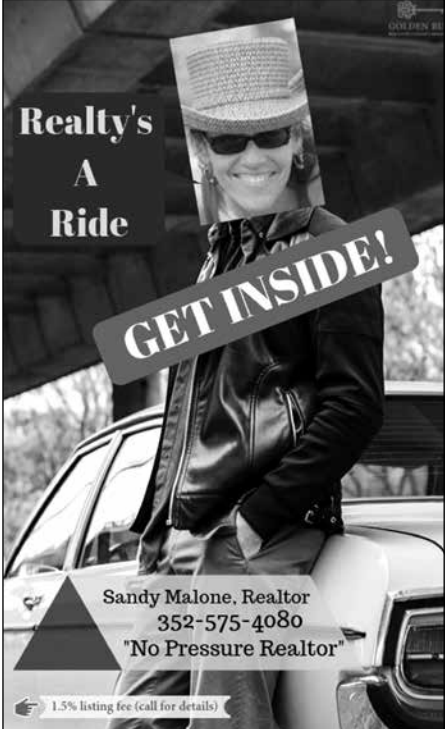
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Interfaith Friends resume visits to Baker County ICE detainees

by Greg Mullaley

Two or three years ago I wrote to tell all of you about some wonderful people who call themselves **Baker Interfaith Friends** (see tinyurl.com/Iguana1474).

Twice a month a couple of car loads of volunteers would travel the hour north to the Baker County Detention Center where people are being detained by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) pending deportation hearings.

We would visit with as many detainees as possible, but we were allowed only 15 minutes per person before we had to move onto others who desperately want to talk to someone on the outside. At times there were more detainees signed up to talk to us than we had people to speak with them. Our aim was to let these people know that they are not forgotten and that there are people on the outside who care about their well-being.

These visits came to a stop during the pandemic, yet some of our people were able to visit with some of detainees remotely. It was during the pandemic that many continued to complain about the poor quality of the food, lack of sanitation, disrespect from the guards and staff, and medical neglect (read more on the inhumane conditions and a other abuses at tinyurl.com/Iguana1475).

Since 2020, over 85 complaints have been filed about Baker with intimidation and harassment, access to counsel, and medical neglect being the top abuses detailed, according to the Florida Detention Database. It was this continued treatment that led to a hunger strike this past spring, which caught the attention of the American Civil Liberties Union. They began an investigation into Baker County and other jails ICE was using, and their finding of the detainees' complaints appeared to be valid.

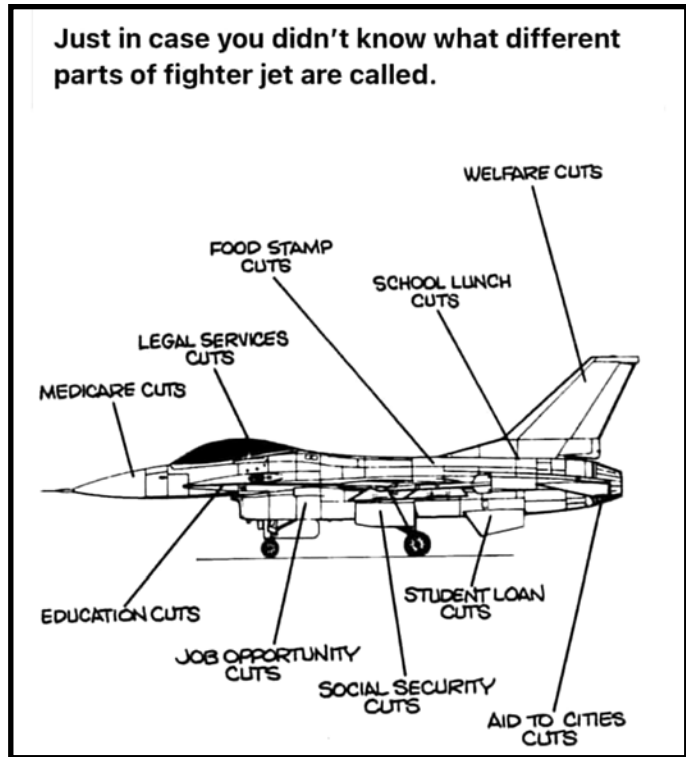
Since many of the allegations have become public, some progress has been made. At Baker the detainees are now allowed outside for exercise where before they couldn't even see outside. But now many of these people are waiting longer, sometimes a year or more, for their cases to be heard. These are men and women who were living and working in their local communities when they were picked up for nonviolent offenses.

Almost all of these detainees had jobs, homes, and even families they were supporting prior to their arrest for a civil violation of the law. It would be far more humane, and cost effective, to allow these detainees out with a summons for a court date than to waste away in jail while the county makes more money at taxpayer's expense.

On Nov. 7, Baker Interfaith Friends decided to resume our twice-monthly visits with ICE detainees. If you are interested in joining us or providing support, contact us at Bakerinterfaithfriends@gmail.com.

For individuals who need to report a complaint regarding their conditions of confinement, please contact the ACLU of Florida through the Florida Detention Database at 786-363-3095 or detectioncomplaints@acluf.org. Individuals can also contact the Florida Detention Database to schedule an initial consultation regarding an immigration case.

The ACLU's Baker Legal Assistance Program (tinyurl.com/Iguana1476) is also in need of additional pro bono attorneys. If you are interested in participating in the Program, please contact Katie Blankenship, deputy legal director with the ACLU of Florida, at kblankenship@acluf.org.



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Andrew Gude, the manager of this incredible refuge, will speak at the Nov. 16 meeting of the **Paynes Prairie Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society**. Also plan to join us Saturday, Nov. 19 for a trip to the refuge.

paynesprairie.fnpschapters.org
 for meeting times, location and carpooling.

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Rally: Time to retire the GPD K-9 unit



by Sheila Payne and Bobby Mermer, PhD,
Alachua County Labor Coalition

The Gainesville community has waited months after the mauling of resident Terrell Bradley to hear what the Gainesville Police Department and the Gainesville City Commission will do with the troubled GPD canine unit. Scheduled meetings for September and October were abruptly canceled.

In the interim, a highly stylized video produced by GPD excusing away any inconsistencies between the initial and final amended arrest reports was released, leaning heavily on 'procedures' being followed. That propaganda video also assassinates Mr. Bradley's character. The take-away: any terribly unfortunate incident happening to someone police interact with is always the suspect's fault, so long as procedures written and interpreted by the police are followed.

Everything that happened after GPD's initial contact with Bradley was the rotten fruit of what Bradley's family and community still feels was a racially profiled stop. After all, he was stopped for an alleged traffic violation (running a stop that did not exist) and Ofc. Milman escalated the encounter when he noticed "the smell of marijuana."

Big fanfare followed GPD canine Ranger suspension — a dog known by his handler Cpl. Meurer and other officers as eager to indiscriminately bite anyone including his handler. Ranger has since been reinstated after "further training." But you cannot retrain his level of aggression. It took two officers and a breaker bar to get the dog to release Mr. Bradley, and this was after he took out Mr. Bradley's eye and caused extensive nerve damage to his arm. Police dogs should be under voice control, as GPD expects suspects to be.

GPD's canine manual says: canine use is authorized to track for any felony which involves the use or threat of physical force ... K-9 use of force on suspects should only be deployed when necessary and that officers "will utilize all reasonable means to affect apprehension without incurring a bite." GPD is proud that only 11 percent of canine use results in a bite. If officers shot someone 11 percent of the times they are called out, those officers would not be on the force.

Two officers were suspended for taking and sharing photos of Mr. Bradley's injuries. All five officers who passed around the photos rather than enter them into evidence (as required) lied and did not have the gumption to admit to GPD during the investigation that they distributed the photos. They then erased the photos from their phones.

One officer stated, "the group believed that if they submitted the photo, it would be 'incriminating.'" Yet, they expect a Black man who told the police when asked why he ran that he was "afraid of getting killed" to comply with orders that seemed unreasonable and risky. As one officer said when Bradley screamed the dog was ripping his eye out, "Well, shouldn't have run from the police." Bradley's response: "I ain't doing s--- wrong. People getting killed by polices, what the f--- you mean I shouldn't be running?"

When you read text exchanges between two officers, including Ofc. Milman, the officer who initially stopped Bradley, it becomes clear that some GPD officers think it is fun to terrorize Black men and women on 'the East side.'

Milman described Bradley's condition as "the nastiest thing ever — his eye was split open and just hanging outside of his face."

Shott (the other officer) replied, "I saw the pictures, BRAVO."

Milman: "Maybe if these stories get around criminals will stop running from me ... That would take the fun out of this job ... now that you're back ... im going out east."

Another Milman text: "Im driving out east right now, Im still down to have some fun tonight ... on a scale of 1 to foot pursuit how bad do you want to chase someone today lol."

Milman and Shott explained their texting exchange as work banter.

Tellingly, Milman was the subject of three IA investigations this year. As with

Ranger, no amount of "retraining" can rid a person of deep racism and subsequent racial profiling. Gainesville has a long history of police targeting Black people, including egging them from the back of a truck, just for fun.

From the history of dogs being used by bounty hunters to capture and maul escaped enslaved persons, to the stark photos of police dogs on leashes attacking Black Civil Rights protestors in the 1960's, to now when an officer releases his uncontrollable K-9 partner on a suspect, these scenes are all egregiously the same and cannot be tolerated.

The symbolism of using dogs as a weapon of terror against Black people should be reason alone to eliminate the GPD K-9 unit.

Other cities and states have indefinitely suspended the use of K-9 programs after similar incidents of police dogs biting suspects who are on the ground.

We demand that the city commission eliminate the canine unit at GPD.

The ACLC will be holding a rally to abolish GPD's K-9 Unit at Gainesville City Hall Wednesday, Nov. 16 at 5pm. This is right before the Gainesville Commission holds a special meeting to discuss the unit. Speakers will talk about why the police dogs have to go. Following the speeches, rally participants will march into the Commission Chamber to let them know the community wants the unit abolished.

Please join us and consider speaking during the special Commission meeting to demand an end to this barbaric unit. 🐾



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Gun-less, not gutless: US foreign policy

by Larry Dansinger

Below is a transcript that aired on Larry Dansinger's weekly show, Outside the Box, on Nov. 1, on community radio station WERU in Maine. See more at tinyurl.com/Iguana1477.

What kind of foreign policy should we have in the US? What should our relationship be toward other countries in this world?

One policy we have now is based primarily on military might, being a cop to the world. We've done this since the end of World War II, when the US emerged with the least destruction and the most military power. And, we've been trying to maintain that dominance ever since.

Another policy has been one of economic advantage and exploitation, supporting US corporations in other countries. The companies usually pay inadequate wages to workers in those countries, or to subcontractors, that make products for the US market. Goods are cheap for us, but workers in countries with weak economies in Asia, Latin America, and Africa are struggling. The policy prioritizes US company interests over other countries and their workers.

But, the real questions are: Have these policies worked in the past, are they working now, and can they work in the future? My answer, in all three cases, is "NO!" We waste so much of our money! We look out for #1, the US, not what's mutually beneficial for everyone.

This failure impacts us in many ways. Almost two-thirds, of every income tax dollar we USers pay goes not for roads or healthcare or affordable housing but for weapons or interest on the national debt to pay for those weapons. Europeans, Canadians, Japanese, and Australians, who take advantage of US military might, can afford healthcare that is universal and comprehensive, safety net programs that provide affordable housing, childcare and various worker-friendly supports, and other social benefits, because they are spending very few tax dollars for weapons and interest.

An example of the failure of our economic foreign policy is immigrants clamoring at our borders. Instead of promoting democracy and human rights in other countries, our exploitive economic policies, that suck money out of local economies, are forcing massive immigration to the US and other wealthier nations and

corruption and poverty in host countries, throughout Latin America, Asia, and Africa. If our corporate presence in other nations brought as many economic rewards to those lands as to the US, we would have a much more mutually beneficial relationship with so much of the world.

What could be a different kind of foreign policy? One that depends not on a specific regime or government but rather on three concepts: reciprocity, human rights, and trust.

Trusting that we are peaceful and other countries are also, and not a threat, can reduce the perceived need for so many nuclear and conventional weapons. Russia's recent incursion into Ukraine was based on the fear of other countries ganging up on it thru NATO. A policy of trust depends on good political relationships between countries and heads of state. A first step in building trust is to reduce our stockpile of nuclear and conventional weapons and to stop selling them to other countries.

A foreign policy that elevates human rights above political expediency would be a game changer, but we must lead by example for other countries to follow suit. More openness to immigration would help, as would aid to those countries that send immigrants to our borders, so fewer people are forced to leave their homeland. More support for democratic movements,

even if anti-American, would help, rather than only those allied with the US. Insuring that US corporations support worker unions and follow rigorous environmental guidelines in other countries would demonstrate the primacy of human rights in our foreign relations.

A policy of reciprocity, rather than the US taking advantage of other countries for our benefit, would also promote greater trust and human rights. We don't want the US to benefit at others' expense—environmentally, economically, socially. Relationships must be mutually beneficial—or else re-negotiated. Requiring that US corporations pay a living wage to workers worldwide can begin reciprocal relationships.

Are these principles for a US foreign policy too naive, or too unrealistic? Perhaps, but we won't know without seriously trying them. Besides, our current foreign policies of policing, military deterrence, and "us first, everyone else second" have been hugely expensive and created homeland insecurity. We have little to lose and much to gain if our relationships can be based more on reciprocity, human rights, and international trust.

Do you think a foreign policy based on these three principles would be better for us and the world?

I'm Larry Dansinger, wanting different foreign policies everywhere. ✨



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SUNDAY DEC. 4

FIRST MAGNITUDE BREWING COMPANY
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10 AM TO 5 PM



Post Dobbs abortion care in Gainesville

by Bread and Roses staff

Whew, this year has been difficult. In the span of a few months, people seeking clinic based abortion care in Florida have had to reckon with a forced delay in care/24 hour waiting period (necessitating two appointments), a ban on procedures over 15 weeks, and the reversal of Dobbs.*

In addition, and directly due to the Dobbs decision, Bread and Roses now cares for people from six different states.

But there are ways you can show your support and help. Bread and Roses has the **Ain't No Shame** fund that financially supports people seeking care at our clinic.

If you'd like to support the ANS fund, you can purchase a Bread and Roses t-shirt for \$20. All proceeds go to the fund.

Another way to support people is with practical assistance through pre-paid gas cards, pharmacy cards, and/or grocery store cards. We collect and distribute these cards to those people who need assistance with exactly those things: gas, prescriptions, and food. (Call the clinic to find out best times for purchasing t-shirts or dropping of cards.)

Lastly, please send virtual hugs and support to your local abortion care provider workers and physicians. They are resilient and dedicated, but also tired and overwhelmed.

Donation can be sent to:
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* *The recent Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization Supreme Court case held that the Constitution of the United States does not confer a right to abortion. This June 24 ruling gave individual states the power to regulate aspects of abortion not preempted by federal law, thus overturning the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, which established a constitutional right to abortion.* ❧

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And the good news is ...

Voters overwhelmingly reject election-denying GOP newcomers: Analysis

Denying the results of the 2020 presidential election was not an effective campaign strategy for new GOP candidates

Two days after the 2022 midterms, results indicated that denying the results of the 2020 presidential election was not an effective campaign strategy for new GOP candidates.

“Of the 80 non-incumbent Republican election deniers who ran for House, Sen-

ate, governor, secretary of state, and attorney general, just 22 were projected to win (28 percent), while 49 (61 percent) were projected to lose, and nine were in races that had yet to be called,” reported *FiveThirtyEight*.

“Many of these losses were in races where

the Democrat had an advantage but were far from guaranteed slam dunks.”

This is a condensed version of an article by Bob Brigham published in Raw Story on Nov. 10. See the full article at tinyurl.com/Iguana1486

Michael Moore: Republicans tried to make America into a ‘theocracy’ – and it cost them big

Analysts didn’t capture the voter anger of the Supreme Court’s decision to eliminate abortion rights, he said

Liberal filmmaker Michael Moore — one of the few pundits to predict that Republicans would not experience a “red wave” in the 2022 midterms — broke down the key factor he believed made the difference, and made him suspect all along that Republican strength was not what it appeared.

Specifically, Moore suspected that analysts weren’t capturing the voter anger

over the Supreme Court’s decision to eliminate national abortion rights — and that that was the driving motivation of enough voters to make the difference.

“I knew that night when I went to bed on Supreme Court night, June 24th, I just — boy, I just relaxed. I thought, well, oh my god, there goes the red wave. You’ve told the majority gender — not a small clique

or not a small section of society — you’ve told the majority gender that we’re going to have an apartheid situation here, where the majority is going to be told by the minority how you’re going to live your life.”

This is a condensed version of an article by Matthew Chapman published in Raw Story on Nov 10. See the full article at tinyurl.com/Iguana1484

'Young people saved this election' for Democrats, say progressives

'Don't underestimate the power of a pissed off generation,' said NextGen America, the largest US youth voter organization

Young voters who turned out for Democrats on election day played a key role in blocking a “red wave” that had been anticipated based on previous midterm elections and widely predicted by political pollsters and pundits.

“The role of young people in this election cannot be understated ... Turnout delivered on many of these races,” said

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.). “We are beginning to see the political impacts of that generational shift.”

Though Democrats struggled across Florida on Election Day, progressive 25-year-old Maxwell Alejandro Frost won in Florida’s 10th Congressional District and is now set to be the first member of Gen Z in Congress. Edison Research National Election Pool

exit polling showed that 63 percent of voters ages 18-29 preferred Democratic U.S. House candidates while only 35 percent backed Republicans.

This is a condensed version of an article by Jessica Corbett published in Common Dreams on Nov. 9. See the full article at tinyurl.com/Iguana1487

Voters in four states approve bans on forced prison labor

'There should be no exceptions to a ban on slavery,' said Senator Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.)

Voters in Alabama, Tennessee, Oregon, and Vermont approved ballot measures that would bar forced labor as punishment for those convicted of crimes in those states — an effort to close what some characterize as a “slavery loophole” contained in many state constitutions as

well as within the U.S. Constitution’s 13th Amendment, which put an end to chattel slavery in 1865.

The approved measures, as *The Hill* reported, “are victories for advocates looking for states to revise language in their constitutions that allow forced labor in the

criminal justice system.” Senator Jeffery Merkley, from Oregon said, “There should be no exceptions to a ban on slavery.”

This is a condensed version of an article by Jon Queally published in Common Dreams on Nov. 9. See the full article at tinyurl.com/Iguana1483

Second oil company exits Arctic thanks to fierce Indigenous opposition

Drilling and infrastructure development in the Arctic would have significant impacts on the tundra

Knik Arm Services is the second oil company to cancel its oil and gas lease for a tract of land in the largest wildlife reserve in America, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, following fierce opposition by the Indigenous Gwich’in committee and environmental groups.

Drilling and subsequent infrastructure de-

velopment in the Arctic would have significant impacts on the tundra and would be disruptive to wildlife like caribou and polar bears.

“These exits clearly demonstrate that companies recognize what we have known all along: drilling in the Arctic Refuge is not worth the economic risk

and liability that results from development on sacred lands without the consent of Indigenous peoples,” said the Gwich’in Steering Committee in a press statement.

This is a condensed version of an article by Laurel Sutherland published in Mongabay on Sept. 7. See the full article at tinyurl.com/Iguana1485

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Editors' picks: News that didn't fit

• **Abortion is a bread-and-butter economic issue. We need to treat it that way**

by Rebecca Solnit | *The Guardian* | Nov. 3 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1481

Parenthood, criminality or death: these are now the all-too-expensive options for many women in the wake of the Dobbs decision. Abortion is an economic issue, a labor issue, a human rights issue and a healthcare issue.

• **Abortion rights won in every state it was on the ballot. Let's keep doing that**

by Joan McCarter | *Daily Kos* | Nov. 10 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1489

Abortion rights are six for six in 2022, with voters in three states enscorning the right and three fighting off efforts by Republican lawmakers to further restrict them.

• **An out trans man was just elected to a State Legislature for the first time ever**

by Anya Zoledziowski | *VICE News* | Nov. 9 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1490

The historic victory is part of a "rainbow wave." James Roesener, a trans man and a 26-year-old Democrat, won New Hampshire's 22nd State House District, Ward 8.

• **Iranian protesters deserve the unwavering support of the international left**

by Khosrow Golsorkhi | *Jacobin* | Nov. 8 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1480

The international left should affirm Iranian protesters' feminist and democratic message of "Women, Life, Freedom." If we don't, we risk ceding the public discourse to neoconservatives and liberal hawks who will use the protests for their own purposes.

• **Jon Stewart and advocates who pushed to aid veterans should get Presidential Medal of Freedom, Sen. Gillibrand tells Biden**

by *New York Daily News* | Nov. 10 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1492

Jon Stewart and fellow advocates who cajoled Congress into passing legislation to help veterans sickened by massive burn pits overseas deserve the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand said.

• **Lula must save Brazil from savage capitalism says Federal Deputy Juliana Cardoso**

by Vijay Prashad and Zoe Alexandra | *Independent Media Institute* | Nov. 10 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1478

Thirty percent of Brazilians live below the poverty line. They recently chose a new president, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, known as Lula, a former labor organizer and founding member of the country's Workers' Party. Will he be able to lead the charge to save Brazil from savage capitalism?

• **Republicans thought they were going to win big. Then they didn't.**

by Cameron Joseph | *VICE News* | Nov. 9 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1491

Democrats outperformed expectations and won nearly every tossup race as they fought to hang onto Congress.

• **The Dobbs effect is real: Voters, still angry about Roe overturn, turned out to protect abortion**

by Amanda Marcotte | *Salon* | Nov. 9 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1495

The results of Tuesday's midterm are a mixed bag. It's hard to discern definitive answers about much, since voters broke every which way all over the country. But one conclusion can be drawn without caveat: abortion rights are wildly popular. And Americans are still ready to step up and vote to protect them where they can.

• **The House is getting a bunch of new progressives**

by Paul Blest | *VICE News* | Nov. 9 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1493

Winners include the youngest person ever elected to the chamber and a Pennsylvania candidate who was heavily targeted by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

• **Trump's handpicked candidates just got destroyed - and screwed the GOP**

by Cameron Joseph | *VICE News* | Nov. 9 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1494

Democrats' surprisingly strong election night came because Trump backed a bunch of conspiracist duds.

• **"Women, life, freedom": The significance of Iran's women-led movement**

by Ava Torkaman | *The McGill International Review* | Nov. 7 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1479

On Sept. 16, a 22-year-old Kurdish-Iranian woman died after being taken away by morality police for improper wear of the hijab. Since then, Iran has seen the rise of a widespread protest: the "Women, Life, Freedom Movement." Iranians are vocalizing their frustrations to an unprecedented degree.

and **Check out Larkin Poe**

Gainesville hosted the BSH Fest Saturday, Nov. 12. Larkin Poe was a real highlight ... not a band of notoriety, but of immense talent and presence. So here you go. Check out a rocking 90-minute set of theirs from a Paris concert at tinyurl.com/Iguana1497 🐘



UF in the Mississippi Delta:

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UF SAMUEL PROCTOR ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM
Liberal Arts and Sciences

The University of Florida's Samuel Proctor Oral History Program (SPOHP) will host a multimedia presentation featuring UF students and community supporters from Arkansas and Mississippi, who will share lively stories of freedom struggles in the Delta region.

The event will take place in Pugh Hall on the UF campus on Wednesday, Nov. 16 at 5pm.

This is the inaugural event in the SPOHP's *Challenging Racism @ UF* public program series. These programs will showcase how diverse communities are challenging racism on campus, in Florida and throughout the country.

The first 100 audience members will receive a free copy of the Proctor Program's 50th anniversary of Mississippi Freedom Summer booklet featuring oral histories of civil rights movement legends in the Delta.

The Mississippi Freedom Project archive includes more than 350 oral histories, social movement symposia, organizing workshops, photographs and other materials highlighting the lives of civil rights activists, Black women mayors, labor organizers, educators, and history teachers on both sides of the Mississippi Delta.

Interviews contain stories from narrators who worked directly with Fannie Lou Hamer, John Lewis, Bob Moses as well as descendants of survivors of the 1919 Elaine Massacre.

Interested in joining MFP? Come and find out how! Refreshments and food will be provided. For information on MFP, visit oral.history.ufl.edu/projects/mfp/.

Facebook Event Page: fb.me/e/2PmliKBN.

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'Stripped' signing off WGOT after 15 years

By Fred Sowder
WGOT Station Coordinator

Prior to WGOT first going on the air in January 2008, I started attending meetings about its formation back when the Civic Media Center was still at 1021 West University Avenue. We had a crazy idea to start a low power FM radio station with two missions: to be the college radio station that Gainesville and UF didn't have, as well as to be a counterpoint to right-wing talk radio that still dominates those formats to this day.

That was well over 15 years ago. I started a one-hour show back then called Stripped, where I spoke of the issues of the day and anything else that was on my mind for a whole hour, with the exception of a song or two thrown in for variety.

CMC founding member Charles Willett gave me an unforgettable look of incredulosity when I told him that was how my show would go down. Well, 15 years later I'm still doing it, but I'll be bringing this show to a close on its 15th anniversary (which also coincides with WGOT's 15th birthday). My last live broadcast will be at 6pm on Thursday, Jan. 6, 2023.

I did not come to the decision to end the show lightly. There are simply too many forces at work that require my time in

other areas that leave me with insufficient time to put a show of this quality together each week.

WGOT increasingly needs a behind-the-scenes individual that I hope to be after taking a hiatus from doing a live radio program. My special needs son also needs more of my time and attention and has expressed interest in getting involved in Special Olympics. I want to be there for him to assure his dreams come to fruition.

Here's where you come in: WGOT needs you. Please consider volunteering to keep your community radio station on the air in whatever way you possibly can. You can find us on Patreon and GoFundMe for the usual financial assistance, but we need you to be part of our broadcast community. If you have an idea for a radio program, that's fantastic. We also need assistance in other ways such as promotions, production/recording, fundraising, and more. We'd love to hear about your vision for WGOT by emailing us at info@wgot.org.

As for me, I plan on taking more of a backup role, mainly consisting of paying our bills and fundraising. (Our 15th anniversary is coming up in less than two months and we need ideas!)

Although I may be hanging up the head-

phones for now, I hope to return to the airwaves again soon with a brand new program once the fancy strikes me. And hopefully this time with a co-host so things are more easily managed. I've enjoyed the last 15 years of community radio and hope you decide to join us soon to become a part of it. Go low. 🐸

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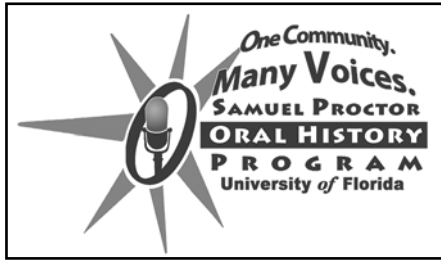
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History and the people who make it: William Atkins



This month, the SPOHP team is highlights two very important themes, antiracism and the political process.

This 2018 interview with Mr. William Atkins, former Director of UF's Multicultural Affairs focuses on the Black experience at UF, while exploring what student activism looks like. Mr. Atkins [A] was interviewed by Cheyenne Chang [C].

C: How did the UF community take your activism? What was the environment like for people of color and when things happened what was it like?

A: Directly connected to my experience, one of my favorite quotes by Nelson Mandela, "Education is one of the most powerful weapons you can use to change the world." To me, that's my approach to raising awareness around things and engaging with different people, using education as a tool. Not formal education like you gotta go to high school and college and get all these degrees, but this idea of lifelong learning as part of the education process.

To me, any way I can continue to learn and grow and help others learn and grow, that's my contribution to my progress and social change. My experience was heavily grounded in education as a means to raise awareness and engage people around change.

Another big thing that means a lot to me is being involved in civic and political processes. Not only registering to vote and going in regularly and of course, the national elections, but city, state, local elections. Those matter so heavily and making sure that my peers knew about what was going on.

It's actually one of my fraternity's national programs as well, a vote less people is a hopeless people, so we've been committed to voter and civic engagement for a while. It's not only important to be a regular voter but an informed voter and know who you're voting for, what you're voting for. We do forums to help raise awareness about what's

going on with different elections and political figures. I can go on and on.

C: I'm an ambassador for API which does the same thing but for the API community so I totally get it. What was it like your time in undergrad with the two houses? What was the environment like? You mentioned BSU meetings were on the second and they were always full. What was the environment of the houses?

A: As a first year student here, we knew about the history of the institutes and also knew about the history of Black UF through programs like the PAACT program, Pledging to Advance Academic Capacity Together. That brought in incoming first year students and we had faculty, staff, mentors helping us get adjusted to UF.

I remember Dean Shaw, he was in Liberal Arts & Sciences, and him coming into the room in Carleton Auditorium where we had our welcome kick-off meeting. He gave a history of Black UF and said whenever you see a Black person on campus, you speak. Whoever they are, whether it's faculty, staff. You always speak to people.

If you can't speak, you give the head nod, something to acknowledge people who look like you on campus because it's not often you're gonna see people who look like you. We can't silence each other, we have to make sure we acknowledge our existence.

I remember stories like that. I remember hearing about Black Thursday and hearing about protests and demonstrations. When I was a first year student, BSU would have meetings in the IBC. We didn't know anyone, we were just like, "Okay this is where we're going for these meetings."

If you got there late, you'd be standing or in the hallway or in the stairway around the corner. You had to be there because that's where family and community happened. That's where you knew about what was going on on campus.

I remember the BSU President when I was a first year student. I was actually just with her when in D.C. Even just those lifelong connections, we still have them. It was jam packed. We were on the second floor and the space was limited. Sometimes the AC didn't work, you just toughed it out and kept it moving.

Those memories, right? After the meeting we just hung out downstairs or upstairs, just seeing how everyone's week was going and how classes were going. Just

having that community meant the world especially as a first year student.

Similar things were happening with La Casita. I had some friends and they would invite me for different events over there. I never really felt like I couldn't go over there. Being a Black student on campus, the IBC was a hub for community.

C: How has the climate changed from being an undergrad at UF to being a staff member here?

A: The climate has changed in a couple of ways, particularly with the students.

It's a different generation. When I was here, millennials were the students on campus and now millennials are no longer students. It's Generation Z. It's a different lived experience that students in this generation have, compared to my generation and the one before me.

I think those transformations will always be there. That's the nature of education. While staff have been here for a while, the student population will for the most part be eighteen through twenty-two, and some nontraditional students as well which is something else we are needing to spend more time attending to.

The population and the makeup is a lot different than it was generations ago. The emergence and the permanence of social media and how information is communicated, disseminated, that definitely has changed the climate, not bad or good, it's just different.

I talk with a lot of alumni who were at UF from around the time I was here, and I'm like, "Were things this all over the place when we were here?" I think for us there were situations that happened and we knew we were students of color at a predominantly white institution. Navigating certain spaces came with some challenges and the need to be able to adapt and code switch in a way, but everyone is like, "What is going on now?" If something happened when we were notes, we would've looked at that like it's not good and we expect more from our university and this is not normal.

Today there are some things that are happening on a much more frequent basis of racism and discrimination, bias, specifically towards minoritized students. That's becoming normal and to me, that is disappointing and a reality we are grappling with on a daily, hourly basis.

C: And all these acts of racism that are occurring on campus. What is MCDA's role in the aftermath?

A: We do have some influence but if a student organization does something racist, I actually cannot kick a student organization off campus. As deplorable as something may be, I have to remember what my scope and expectations are along with the department.

I think before the people thought, well actually they should be holding people accountable. There's a way we can do that, but there are some things that are beyond our control. What we can do is influence in the areas that we have influence, and that's heavily in education. Last year, right around the time of Richard Spencer, we did do a lot around antiracism education.

We had events for that. We tried bringing students together to have space to process things, Together UF. Also if students want to mobilize through demonstrations, or protests, we helped students think about the history and educate them on the history of different social movements so that they're well informed and prepared for what could be outcomes or consequences.

Education is that big world that we do have influence over and can utilize. When things do happen, we do our best to be involved with the conversations. Relationships and partnerships we've built on campus help us with that. We've had to re-temper expectations around what we can do.

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/

"I was raised to believe that we are all each other's brother and sister, regardless of race, creed or color. That means if you want to ban Muslims, you are first going to have to ban me. And everyone else. We are all Muslim. Just as we are all Mexican, we are all Catholic and Jewish and white and Black and every shade in between."

- Michael Moore's "My letter to Donald Trump, Dec. 17, 2015"

Support Alachua County School Board swearing-in ceremony Nov. 22

by Tina Certain

Alachua County School Board District 1

It's hard to believe that the swearing in ceremony of the new Alachua County School Board members is just 12 days away, on Nov. 22. As I embark on my second term, I've done a lot of reflecting on where we have been and where we are going.

While there is still much work to be done, I'm proud of a new initiative that has taken place. I recently organized a New Board Member Orientation for the incoming board members which included Supt. Andrew and administrative staff.

We dedicated a day and a half to onboarding the new board members as well as providing the opportunity to build relationships and understand the current state of district operations. My goal was to get everyone off to a great start so we can all build a foundation to make informed decisions.

This is the first Alachua County School Board orientation effort that I know of, and I believe it will serve the community well as the new board will be ready to hit the ground running later this month.

I gave Each District Chief and administrator a questionnaire. The participants were asked a series of questions such as, "Purpose of position, measures of success, how their department/position is funded, recent wins/successes, and challenges."

Two intended outcomes of the orientation were collective learning and teambuilding. The ultimate goal was for the new board to gain knowledge of the district and to learn our role and responsibilities so that we can function as a coherent and unified governing unit able to provide direction to the superintendent.

While we all may not agree on how to approach every issue, what's important is that we all agree to work toward ensuring the best outcomes for ALL children in Alachua County Public Schools. To

achieve this, we need a high functioning board focused on student learning, growth, and success.

Some of the most critical issues we will be tackling are: improving student achievement, developing a new strategic plan, addressing school overcrowding, determining the most efficient use of existing school buildings, improving strategies to recruit and retain staff, and addressing financial inefficiencies.

Though we are committed to tackling these challenges, we all know the African proverb, "it takes a village to raise a child" to be true. We will need the community to collectively participate to ensure a greater future for our students.

Without partnership and collaboration, optimal progress will not be possible. Though there lie many challenges ahead, I am hopeful that with community support, we can enter a new paradigm.

On Nov. 22, at 10am, we look forward to joining the community at our swearing-in, which will be held outside on the west lawn of the District Office, 620 E. University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida. ✨



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From ELECTION, p. 1

and without their permission on mailers and digital ads. They specifically targeted minority communities with lies in order to gain the votes of people whose representation will ultimately be reduced by the passage of this amendment.

They did all of this with the help of the Florida Republican Party, Governor DeSantis, and a multitude of dark money Political Action Committees. This was not a small battle, this was an all-out war that they waged on Alachua County. They came well-prepared for this fight, and we were ultimately outmatched and grossly underfunded.

It's a sad defeat that will lead to the further erosion of our tiny blue island in the sea of red. However, I still remain hopeful. We still live in a county where, even after being forced to resign her seat, Mary Alford was re-elected to the county commission with roughly 58 percent of the popular vote.

Alford will rejoin her newly re-elected colleagues Ken Cornell and Marihelen Wheeler in January. I know that they and the other members of the county commission will do all they can to fight for Alachua County and against the constant attacks from Tallahassee.

Harvey Ward was elected as the next mayor of Gainesville with roughly 58 percent of the popular vote. Ward



Mary Alford, re-elected to the Alachua County Commission, District 1, has spent her career protecting the environment.

campaigning on the renovation of the MLK Center and Citizens Field, and the development of a medical complex on Hawthorne Road. At Ward's victory party he said of that initiative: "We are poised to start being able to do the renovation on that. I'm really excited about what that means for our whole community."

Ward also stated in his victory speech: "We need to focus on rebuilding the public trust and making sure that everyone is aware that, at City Hall, we care about every neighborhood and every neighbor, and that we are doing the best we can to make a great community here."



City Commissioner Harvey Ward is moving on as mayor after a decisive win with 57.6 percent of the vote.

I look forward to seeing the great work that he and newly elected city commissioners Ed Book, Casey Willits, and Bryan Eastman will do. They will join their already seated colleagues in January.

So, what happens to Florida and Alachua County from here? Well, 2024 is right around the corner, and if we want a better future for our community and state we need to get to work training the next set of candidates and building our campaign infrastructure. I hope you will join our efforts! 🐾

UF | Veterinary Hospitals UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



vethospitals.ufl.edu

Small and Large Animal Hospitals in Gainesville and Ocala

Gainesville area events

- Wed 11/16** **5pm:** Alachua County Labor Coalition Rally against Gainesville PD's K-9 Unit, City Hall (200 E Univ Ave) - see laborcoalition.org (see pg 7)
5pm: "UF in the Mississippi Delta" presentation by Samuel Proctor Oral History Program, UF Pugh Hall Ocora (296 Buckman Dr) (see pg 19)
- Thu 11/17** **6-8pm:** Three Rivers Legal Service, How to Avoid Foreclosure Workshop, Mt Carmel Baptist Church (2505 NE 8th Ave), free
6pm: The Iranian uprising and the nuclear threat: How should the West respond? talk at UF Pugh Hall Ocora (296 Buckman Dr), free
6:30-8pm: Nat'l Women's Liberation Gainesville chapter general meeting at Curia on the Drag (2029 NW 6th St) (no Dec meeting, resuming from Jan on at same time/location); www.womensliberation.org
- Fri 11/18** **7-10pm:** Sheba the Mississippi Queen & others in Blues Concert, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave)
7-9pm: Holiday Bazaar Opening Night, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church (100 NE 1st St) free (see pg 10)
- Sat 11/19** **9am-3pm:** Holiday Bazaar, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church (100 NE 1st St) free (see pg 10)
10am-5pm: Downtown Arts Festival, Bo Diddley Plaza area (111 E Univ Ave): see gainesvilledowntownartfest.net
10am-4pm: Food & Agriculture Festival, with food, educational displays, live music; Cade Museum (811 S. Main St) Festival & Museum entrance both free
3pm: "Billy & Tugboat SallyForth Storytime" at Third House Books (400 NW 10th Ave)
6:30-10:30pm: River Phoenix Beacebuilding Center Gala, Gvl Women's Club (2809 W Univ Ave), \$85 via Eventbrite
8pm: Live music at The Wormhole (1801 NE 23rd Ave)
- Sun 11/20** **10am-1pm:** Holiday Bazaar, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church (100 NE 1st St) free (see pg 10)
10am-5pm: Downtown Arts Festival, Bo Diddley Plaza area (111 E Univ Ave): see gainesvilledowntownartfest.net
11am: Dr. Barbara Oberlander, Sunday Assembly, Pride Center (3131 NW 13th St) on "Coming to the \$20 Bill - Harriet Tubman," free
5pm: Pop Punk Matinee, Loosey's Dntown (120 SW 1st Ave)
8pm: House That Will Not Stand final performance, Star Center Theatre (11 NE 23rd Blvd), \$15-22
- Tue 11/22** **10am:** Alachua County School Board Swearing-in, West lawn of the District Office (620 E. University) (see pg 17)
- Fri 11/25** **7pm:** Ones to Blame Reunion show, with Ninja Gun, at the Wooly (20 N Main St)
8pm: Murder for Two - Holiday Edition musical comedy opens at The Hipp (25 SE 2nd Pl), runs through 12/23; see thehipp.org
- Sat 11/26** **10am-5pm:** Craft Festival at UF O'Dome (250 Gale Lemerand Dr), \$3-6
noon: Small Business Holiday Market at Auk Market (Curia on the Drag, 2029 NW 6th St)
1 & 4pm: A Christmas Carol opens at The Hipp (25 SE 2nd Pl), runs through 12/23; see thehipp.org
7-10pm: Weeds of Eden at Rum 138 (Ft White)
- Sun 11/27** **10am-5pm:** Craft Festival at UF O'Dome (250 Gale Lemerand Dr), \$3-6
4-7pm: 4th Sunday Old Time, Bluegrass and Traditional Acoustic Jam, Civic Media Center (411 S. Main St), free
- Thu 12/1** **11am:** Rosa Parks Day - Rosa Parks Transfer Station (700 SE 3rd St), free (see pg 2)
- Fri 12/2** **7-10pm:** Artwalk Gainesville - see artwalkgainesville.com (pg 6)
8pm: Some Old Black Man opens, continues through 12/18, Actors' Warehouse (2512 NE 1st Blvd); see actorswarehouse.org/2022-2023-season
9pm: Live & Local Concert, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave), free (see pg 12)
- Sat 12/3** **7pm:** Shitty Beatles at Heartwood Soundstage (619 S Main St)
- Wed 12/7** **7:30pm:** Peace Activist George Lakey speaks at Civic Media Center (411 S. Main St), free (see pg 24)
- Sat 12/10** **10am-5pm:** Tuscawilla Pottery Holiday Celebration (650 Tuscawilla Rd, Micanopy) (see pg 12)
- Sun 12/11** **2-5pm:** Holiday Mingle, Prairie Creek Lodge (7204 SE County Rd 234) - no RSVP required
- Mon 12/12** **9am:** G'ville Cycling Club outreach ride on 2nd Saturdays, from Depot Park parking lot down Gainesville-Hawthorne Rd to Alachua Overlook, 9-mile round trip (helmet required, and a parent for riders under 16); info@gccfla.org
- Sat 12/17** **noon:** Small Business Holiday Market at Auk Market (Curia on the Drag, 2029 NW 6th St)
noon-5pm: Downtown High Springs Artwalk, High Springs, free
7pm: 36th Gainesville Veterans for Peace Winter Solstice Concert, Unitarian Fellowship (4225 NW 34th St), \$15-30 (see pg 8)
- Fri 12/18** **11am:** US Geological Survey avian ecologist Dr. Abby Powell at Sunday Assembly, Pride Center(3131 NW 13th St) on "Masters of Migration: Amazing Shorebird Journeys," free
- Tue 12/20** **6pm:** UCW's Union Social, First Magnitude Brewery (1220 SE Veitch St); (Tuesdays every month: dates vary) ☘

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!

From SASSE, p. 2

leader of the university just moments ago, protest organizers now stood, our chants and signs expressing the true will of the university community.

Later, when Ben Sasse was caught on film by a Young Democratic Socialists of America member fleeing into a cop car, which subsequently sped away, protestors cheered. It had felt like for the first time in years, that maybe the university wasn't going to just go along with the war plan laid out by Tallahassee.

However, the consequences of embarrassing the university on the 10th would be swift and harsh. UF administration would not take kindly to protests taking over the headlines not just across the state, but across the entire country.

Ever since Oct. 10, the University of Florida has dropped any pretense of being a free, inclusive community that was in any way independent of the right-wing in Tallahassee. Small groups engaging in direct actions, such as leafleting to donors at the Harn Museum of Art, or delivering the coalition's demands to Student Body President, were faced with dozens of militarized police officers and barricades.

Even as the overwhelming disapproval of the university community for both Ben Sasse and the presidential search process was institutionalized, first in a unanimously passed resolution in the Student Senate, and second in a near-unanimous vote of no confidence in the Faculty Senate, the administration made it clear that no dissent would be heard or considered in their decision making process.

As the clock ticked closer to Nov. 1, the repression became worse and more plain. Kent Fuchs, who had largely been absent in the collective outrage surrounding Ben Sasse, sent a fearmongering email to every single UF student that invoked a segregation-era code in the student code of conduct that bars students from protesting inside buildings.

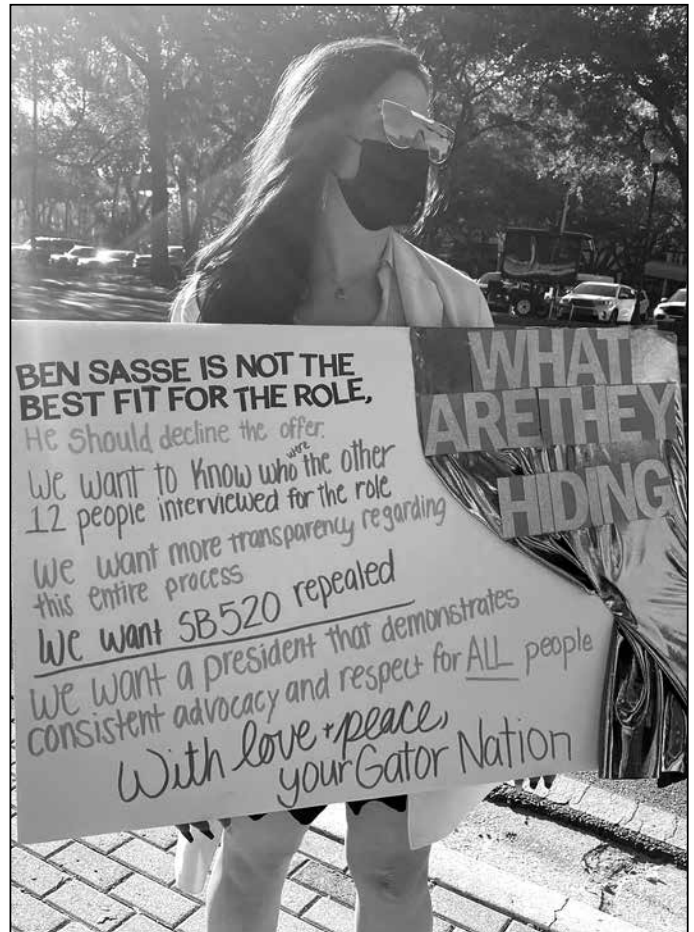
Fuchs dramatized the events of Oct. 10, and, as if he didn't make his position clear enough, related the peaceful Emerson Hall protest in an interview with the *Independent Florida Alligator* to the usurping fascists who violently stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

With no other option, the university community made itself heard, and in response, the administration didn't listen, but instead amped up its security, villainizing and threatening anyone who dared to dissent.

When the Board of Trustees interviewed and approved Ben Sasse to be the next president of the University of Florida, the community was still determined to make itself heard. A protest of considerable size still gathered outside Emerson Hall that morning, but university police and barriers kept the crowd pushed up against the dangerous and busy University Avenue, with no regard for the safety of the community outside as it remained focused on ensuring the coronation went smoothly inside.

Brave public commenters from across the UF community spoke directly to the Board of Trustees and to Ben Sasse, but to no avail. Despite perhaps one of the largest sustained collective outrages in recent memory, the Board of Trustees confirmed Sasse unanimously to his post.

The war for freedom isn't over, though. However much UF wants to smother progress and hope, we know and can see that it will not be able to do so forever.



UF Students and community members protested on the UF campus on Nov. 1 after learning that Ben Sasse was approved as the new president of the University of Florida.

Protesters said not only is Sasse an inappropriate choice based on his hate toward the LGBTQ+ community, his horrible record on gun safety and reproductive rights and his anti-labor sentiments, but also because of the secretive process by which he was chosen. Photo by Candi Churchill.

The coalition of unions and student organizers who came together against the administration has no plans to relent any time soon.

The Student Body President, Lauren Lemasters, who voted as a member of the Board of Trustees to confirm Ben Sasse to the presidency, is being subject to impeachment proceedings by the Student Senate on grounds of malfeasance.

What freedom we do have at the University of Florida must be protected and fought for at all costs, lest it be surrendered to the right-wing regime in Tallahassee.

If these protests have made anything clear, it's that together we have unimaginable power. As they recognize their loss of legitimacy, UF and the state of Florida are going to continue to issue threats. They are going to ask you to give away your power. Do not let them.

Bravery will be necessary, lest you do their work for them and begin to censor yourself. The rise of fascism will be slow, deliberate, and masked as a return to safety, civility, and order. If there was ever a time, we must stand up, and fight back! 🦋

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 Audubon Society's mission is to foster appreciation and knowledge of birds and other native wildlife, to protect and restore wildlife populations and their habitats, and to promote sustainable use of natural resources. We offer free birding field trips open to all, college internship experiences, birding for kids, conservation activism, volunteer opportunities. AlachuaAudubon.org | facebook.com/AlachuaAudubon/

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 | acomclinic.org

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

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

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

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

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://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

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

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

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

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

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

Continued on next page

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| 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@gainesvillerollerrebels.com | gainesvillerollerrebels.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 | ncpsm.org

National Lawyers Guild consists of lawyers, law students, legal workers and jailhouse lawyers who use the law to advance social justice, support progressive social movements. gainesvilleng@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

Paynes Prairie Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society promotes the preservation, conservation and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida. paynesprairie.fnpschapters.org | facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064434411932

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 | UFcollegedems.org

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

UF Young Democratic Socialists of America is a student-run socialist organization dedicated to organizing students to fight for the needs of workers and students while building the capacity to fight radical and structural changes. Weekly meetings. ufydsa21@gmail.com | facebook.com/ufydsa

United Faculty of Florida, UF chapter is run by and for faculty, and represents over 1600 faculty and professionals at UF. Its origins lie in efforts by faculty to protect academic freedom, defend civil liberties, end racial discrimination at UF. 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-USAGainesvillefl.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 | vfpgainesville.org

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

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

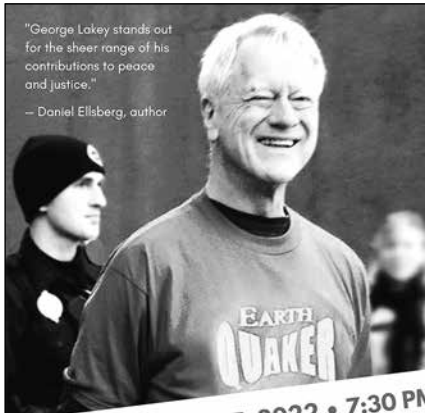


News from the Civic Media Center

Gainesville's alternative library and community center

by Joe Courter

"George Lakey stands out for the sheer range of his contributions to peace and justice."
— Daniel Ellsberg, author



PRESENTED BY
THE GAINESVILLE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

FREE • ALL AGES
BOOK DISCUSSION

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 7, 2022 • 7:30 PM


ACTIVIST & AUTHOR
GEORGE LAKEY

HOSTED AT THE
CIVIC MEDIA CENTER

433 South Main Street
GainesvilleQuakers.org
GainesvilleQuakers

In his new memoir *Dancing with History: A Life for Peace and Justice*, Quaker activist George Lakey circles back over seven decades, telling stories from the center of many history-making events — from his first arrest in the Civil Rights era to recent marches for climate justice, with actions for LGBTQ rights and labor justice in between. In 2018, Lakey published *How We Win: A Guide to Nonviolent Direct Action Campaigning*.

Scan the code to learn more, RSVP and share the event.



We are back alive after the Covid shutdown. We have a new coordinator, John Wright, and he has really jumped into the job after health issues and personal setbacks caused our recently hired coordinator Chris Overly to resign in September.

Our 29th anniversary at the Matheson Museum went well and we greatly thank them for having such a great space and their support.

We were the site of a successful Queer the Fest benefit show on the Saturday of Fest weekend, and then we were a Fest venue on Sunday, which went well.

Free Grocery store take over on Tuesdays doing both deliveries and in CMC pick-ups.

We will have a table at the Downtown Arts Festival Nov. 19 and 20, right between Maude's and the Hipp. There will be new stickers, an Art Raffle featuring a ceramics piece by Ana Varela and another piece by another CMC supporting artist TBA).

We will also have brand new 2023 Slingshot Organizers, which can also be ordered at www.civicmediacenter.com/store. On Dec. 7, we will host veteran peace activist George Lakey, in an event co-sponsored by Third House Books.

This is the beginning of our 30th year, and we hope to build up to a grand event in October 2023. We thank everyone who has supported us over the years, and for your continued support. 🐾

The Gainesville Iguana

Gainesville's progressive newsletter

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1986

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(or more if you can)

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Groups: \$20 a year

Gainesville Iguana

P.O. Box 14712, Gainesville, FL 32604

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

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Instagram: [gnv_iguana](https://www.instagram.com/gnv_iguana)

Articles from current and past issues since 1996, and PDFs since 2012 are available at www.gainesvilleiguana.org 🐾

Want your article, ad, event or PSA in the January/February 2023 issue of the Iguana?

Deadline is Wednesday, Jan. 11

Submit events, content, and questions to:
gainesvilleiguana@cox.net

Save UF Grad Housing



We are always looking for partners to help save UF's Maguire Village and UVS -- please join the fight!"

www.SaveUFGradHousing.com