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# The Gainesville Iguana

April 2023  
vol. 37, issue 4

# Keep GRU local

## GRU Takeover Bill: Continue public pushback, it does have an effect

by Janice Garry, League of Women Voters

At the local legislative delegation meeting on March 17, some thirty people traveled to Tallahassee to attend and speak at the meeting to oppose the GRU (Gainesville Regional Utilities) Takeover Bill.

Although, predictably, the vote did not go our way, it did not go down without articulate voices (Alachua County Labor Coalition, union members, League of Women Voters of Alachua County, Sierra Club and GRU customers) identifying how state takeover of our local governance would affect our community. The five legislators voted 4-1 to move the bill forward. Rep. Yvonne Hayes Hinson was the dissenting vote.

The next step in the process of the bill is that on April 10 it will go to an unnamed committee, receive a specific bill number and then go to no more than two other committees for approval before going to the House floor, then the Senate floor on a

See GRU, p. 2



This art is from the March 30 FreeGNV blog authored by longtime Gainesvillian Ron Cunningham. In his own words, "Ron Cunningham is a sometime journalist who used to string words together at the Gainesville Sun before I retired to free lance and blog."

The blog entry addresses the potential powergrab of Gainesville's publicly owned Gainesville Regional Utilities engineered by Florida State House Representative Charles (Chuckles) Clemons, who doubtless is acting in consort with the governor, and no doubt has friends at Florida Power and Light. Find Ron's blog at [www.freegnv.com](http://www.freegnv.com).

## 'Eradicating transness': GOP's assault on LGBTQ rights

Following is a partial transcript of a March 6 Democracy Now! interview by Amy Goodman with Chase Strangio, deputy director for trans justice with the ACLU LGBTQ&HIV Project. The entire segment can be found at [tinyurl.com/Iguana1594](http://tinyurl.com/Iguana1594)

**AMY GOODMAN:** Chase, talk about what happened in Tennessee, and talk about what's happening across this country.

**CHASE STRANGIO:** I mean, I've been coming on this show for the last

seven years to talk about this very issue. And I think, taking a step back, what we have to acknowledge is how quickly this has escalated.

In 2016, in the wake of marriage equality, we saw the first aggressive contemporary backlash against trans people in the form of the wave of anti-trans bathroom bills, and that rhetoric escalated to attacks on trans participation in sports, attacks on

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**From GRU, p. 1**

consent agenda. That means that it would be bundled with other bills and voted on in bulk, without discussion.

The end of the legislative session is May 5, so this will all happen rapidly.

I have been told by more than one person that the public pushback is having an effect. Legislators are considering a more collaborative approach. That's why I'm sending this message. We need to continue pressing and communicating.

Pertinent tidbits:

- A draft of this bill was presented on the first day of the legislative session, without the required 30-day public notice about its content. The Legislative Delegation dismissed the necessity of the 30-day notice without explanation for why it is not needed in this instance.
- During the Legislative Delegation meeting, when questions were asked about the details of the bill that was voted on that day, the questions were dismissed because the bill was presented as a draft and the content of the actual bill is unknown. We will not know the actual content of the bill until April 10, when it will be introduced at an unstated committee.
- The above two points display a disregard for home rule, for public/voter input and for democratic processes. Our local government, and we, the residents, are not included in a meaningful way in a bill that would have wide-ranging effects on our community, from economic stability to first responders to environmental sustainability.
- For example, Gainesville is a Tree City. GRU manages the tree canopy around power lines with a modest requirement for

tree and branch set-backs beside power lines. State criteria require greater tree set-backs. A governor-appointed GRU board could change the set-back requirements to the detriment of our tree canopy.

- For example, Depot Park and the Sweetwater Wetlands Park are gems of Gainesville that offer recreational areas while filtering our stormwater. A similar wetlands park is planned for west Gainesville. This effort is a collaboration between GRU and other city and county entities. A governor-appointed board would have no obligation to continue a collaborative relationship between the entities nor would they have the historical background of how to create the recreational/water filtration system that has been so successful.

A new website has been created to inform the public of the GRU Takeover Bill process. It is [nogrutakeover.com](http://nogrutakeover.com). Additionally, the Take Action link on the website will take you to the League of Women Voters of Alachua County website, Action Alert page at [tinyurl.com/Iguana1583](http://tinyurl.com/Iguana1583).

On that page are the email addresses of the five Legislative Delegation members, and there is suggested verbiage for email messages. Use those or compose your own message. Often, email messages' subject lines are the only part that is read, so when you send a message, put the essence in your subject line.

This is a legacy moment for Gainesville. Whatever the outcome, each of us can do our part to try to protect our city and our home rule. Whatever the outcome, we can act now and not regret that we did not speak out. Call and email the legislators listed below. Be courteous but assertive. Thank you.

**Legislative Delegation members:**

Sen. Jennifer Bradley  
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Rep. Chuck Clemons  
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Rep. Yvonne Hinson  
District: (352) 264-4001  
[yvonne.hinson@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:yvonne.hinson@myfloridahouse.gov)

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From the publisher ...

# A rant ... sorry, not sorry

Like many of you I am not feeling so sunny about the state of politics in the world. We see the growing power of authoritarian leaders, using the combined power of repression, corrupted electoral processes, and false narratives enabled by social media and/or corporate money.

There are wars and conflicts supplied by weapons industries which have bottomless access to funds, a blank check, when other funds to help the poor and needy are denied. Where have the ideals of diplomacy and cooperation gone? Where has the leadership of outside nations gone – to step in and facilitate negotiations, to help oversee elections, create cease-fires? Wouldn't that be cheaper and better?



Joe Courter

The ideals of the UN and its brilliant Declaration of Human Rights seem to be shelved. As Spock might say... "Illogical." Here we are, climate change staring us in the face, a world refugee crisis right here and now, and the astounding potential of the internet being perverted into a tool for propaganda and a means to gain or retain power by those who do not value truth, or even more crassly, just to make gobs of money and create ego-tripping projects.

Here our state of Florida has been very intentionally taken control of by the Republican Party through gerrymandering, and exploiting the incompetent state Democratic party. We can hardly begin to address the horrors this super majority Republican legislature is ramming through. As it looks now, there is no stopping them. We are numb in the face of it all. For now...

There are many fighting back in Gainesville. Organizations like the Alachua County Labor Coalition working on a number of fronts, there are food justice and environmental education efforts, people fighting off the Tallahassee power grab of our utility company, GRU. There's direct aid to the poor and disadvantaged. People defending immigrant rights, and even old oak trees!

What's going on here is laudable, and thank you to all who step up, but dammit, we humans are making a worldwide mess! 🐜

## A decade of Publisher's Notes:

April 2012-March 2023

In 2012, *Iguana* editors Jessica Newman, Beth Grobman, and I sat down outside Boca Fiesta to plan the future of the *Iguana*.

Both Jess and Beth were leaving town, but we thought we could continue with them working remotely. They said they could continue as editors, but suggested my title should be listed as publisher, and I should write a Publisher's Note every issue.

That began with the April 2012 edition. And that is how we have proceeded.

It has been 10 years' worth of *Iguanas* since then, and we are putting out a

collection of all those columns, paired with an article from each issue, a sort of time travel from mid-Obama, the 2016 campaigns and election, Trump, the 2020 election, Covid, and everything in between.

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It has been a pleasure and honor to write them. Your feedback will tell us how many to print. Send your response to [gainesvilleiguana@cox.net](mailto:gainesvilleiguana@cox.net). 🐜



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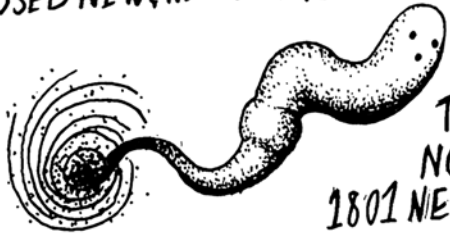
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*From TRANS, p. 1*

trans youth in schools, using the restroom, participating on sports teams.

And how quickly have we gone from that rhetoric — which was understood to be false, including by proponents of it — to this current climate in which we are criminalizing trans adults going to the bathroom, where we are banning evidence-based medical care that is supported by every major medical association, where we are criminalizing gender expression in drag performance, and now we hear the rhetoric behind all of this, which at its core has always been about pushing trans people out of public life and eradicating transness.

We see it so clearly. And if we look over the course of seven years, this arc brings us to this moment where we are absolutely in crisis.

**AMY GOODMAN:** So, talk specifically about Tennessee and Governor Bill Lee.

**CHASE STRANGIO:** Yeah. So, a few things have happened in Tennessee, and I will say Tennessee has often been a site of pushing anti-trans legislation.

I've spent a lot of time there over the last seven years testifying against bills and supporting the incredible community there. What happened over this last week was S.B. 1 and S.B. 3 were both signed into law. S.B. 1 is the law that categorically bans gender-affirming care for trans adolescents, which, in essence, will have the effect of shutting down some of the most robust and important sites of gender-affirming care in the South.

And then we also have S.B. 3, which is the intended prohibition on drag performance. It is, in fact, a relatively narrow law, and if it is properly enforced, and I think there's a real question about whether that is anything that we could trust, that it is intended to ban drag performance. The governor signed both bills. He has come under fire for the hypocrisy, because he himself has presented in drag.

And then, of course, the reality is that these bills aren't about banning drag performance. They are not about banning expressions of gender nonconformity, as long as those expressions are seen as serving the *status quo*.

What these bills are about is policing that which is seen as deviant and disruptive of the *status quo*, policing transness, policing communities coming together to support and celebrate their histories and legacies.

They cannot be understood as separate from the many attempts to ban curricula, curriculum connections to historically accurate movements of resistance.

This is a part of a national effort to cut off communities from their history, whether those histories are histories of drag, whether those histories are histories of other resistance.

We have to understand the bans on drag performance as central and connected to the bans on what we're seeing in the curriculum, what was categorized as so-called critical race theory. And, in fact, these two movements, to ban drag and to ban so-called critical race theory, which is really just a banning of accurate history, came from the same sources.

These are dynamic processes coming from the right that are designed to control and regulate our bodies and our understanding of our lineages....

I think it's very clear that in every instance of what we're seeing in state legislatures, we can identify the hypocrisy.

We have lawmakers who consider themselves pro-life who are introducing bills that would punish abortion with the death penalty.

We have individuals who are claiming that they are concerned about protecting children, when the leading cause of death among children is death by firearms, and that they are focusing their energy on cutting off healthcare, removing children from loving homes, banning drag performance, and doing nothing to prevent the actual harms that are coming to our children, at a time when, by the way, there is substantial evidence that our young people are facing significant mental health crisis across the country.

And that crisis is not borne of the fact of their transness. It is not borne by the fact that they are connecting to their histories or they have more diverse experiences. We know that that's not the reality.

The reality is, is that young people have more anxiety. They've been living in a pandemic. They have witnessed gun violence for the entirety of their lives. And we have real, real problems when it comes to what our young people need. And we are legislating in areas that are designed to eradicate populations, to harm young people, and the hypocrisy is staggering....

We are having healthcare that is evidence-based, that is being recommended by doctors in consultation with parents for

young people who are suffering and struggling. And this care works. And what we're seeing now is the legislatures intruding upon the decision-making of doctors, parents and young people, to take away the only evidence-based treatment that transgender people have when they are suffering and there are no other options. And in state after state, we're seeing these bills moved.

And I must say that they are being fueled in part by a public discourse that has allowed there to be a legitimate debate over whether there are too many transgender people, over whether we have too much access to healthcare.

And I urge people to take a step back and use information you already know about how healthcare works in this country. It is not easy to access. It is, in fact, incredibly difficult. And it is particularly difficult when it is stigmatized healthcare, that a population that faces so much stigma and discrimination needs.

We are in a position now — I just got out of a two-week trial in Arkansas over a very similar piece of legislation that we're now seeing in Tennessee and South Dakota and Utah and Mississippi and elsewhere. We had a two-week trial.

When tested, when the evidence goes before the court, there is absolutely no basis for these categorical bans.

And we should be concerned for everyone, if every time a group of lawmakers believes that it is a conspiracy for a group of people to thrive, that they start taking away our healthcare, with nothing more than ideological opposition and unverified accounts of things that are simply not happening.

We've seen it with abortion, and we're seeing it now with trans-affirming healthcare. And this is a crisis for our communities. Families are fleeing their states, but they don't know where to go.... ✨



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# St. Patrick's Day tribute to Social Security, Medicare/Medicaid: A whimsical report

by Mary Savage

"No Cuts!" and "Hands Off!" were the theme at what could have been called the "You Got Lucky Sign-Wave and Sidewalk Stroll Supporting Social Security and Medicare" at the Social Security Administration building on St. Patrick's Day. The weather was sunny and warm at the tribute to these two great American programs that benefit so many.

But who would have thought that the combination of musician Tom Petty, U.S. President Joe Biden, former President and First Lady Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt and the great Democratic Party achievements of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid would be part of an hour-long protest against cuts?

Long-time North Floridians may remember Dub's Lounge where Tom Petty and Mudcrutch performed six nights a week in the 1970s. Mudcrutch included several members of what later became Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers. Dub's Lounge was torn down in 2014 to make way for the Social Security building on that old 441. The dozen retired social workers and others showed that we "won't back down" when it comes to advocating for our earned benefits—Social Security and Medicare. March 17 also is the wedding anniversary of Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt, who signed Social Security into law in 1935. Tom Petty even has a song called "The Poorhouse" that features the name of the dreaded place where the elderly poor went to die in their retirement years, if they were lucky—the poorhouse.

Of course, the waiting is the hardest part, but Social Security and Medicare is something to look forward to and we have to fight to keep them preserved, protected and expanded. Today, we're all lucky to have Social Security and Medicare. They are Americans' pot of gold reward for a life's work. As for detractors and



Supporters of Social Security and Medicare/Medicaid celebrated the two great American programs in front of the Social Security Administration building on St. Patrick's Day." Photo by Mary Savage.

the GOP, they need to be told "don't come around here no more!" And thanks to President Biden for defending our earned benefits during his State of the Union speech on Feb. 7.

Participants were generous and brought a carload of non-perishable food donations for the Alachua County Elder Care's food pantry.

Thanks to all who participated. 🐾

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# And the good news is ...

## Appellate ruling means professors are free to teach about race, sexism, as they see fit

*US District Judge: This [law] is positively dystopian ... liberty means ... the right to tell people what they do not want to hear*

College professors can continue to teach hard lessons about race and sexism notwithstanding Gov. Ron DeSantis' "Stop Woke" act, his attempt to dictate how educators handle these topics.

In a terse order issued March 16, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit rejected requests by Florida's Board of Governors and top

state education officials to lift an injunction against enforcing the law imposed in November by U.S. District Judge Mark Walker in Tallahassee.

In his opinion blocking the law's enforcement, Walker wrote: "Defendants argue that, under this act, professors enjoy academic freedom so long as they express only those viewpoints of which

the state approves. This is positively dystopian. It should go without saying that if liberty means anything at all it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear."

*This is a condensed version of an article by Michael Moline published in The Florida Phoenix on March 16. See the full article at [tinyurl.com/Iguana1581](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1581)*

## Bush, Pressley to Co-Chair New Congressional Equal Rights Amendment Caucus

*It's been 100 years since the ERA was first introduced in Congress ... that is far too long... we refuse to wait any longer*

A coalition of Democratic U.S. lawmakers led by Reps. Cori Bush and Ayanna Pressley announced the launch of a new caucus aimed at realizing the centurylong goal of adding an Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution.

"It has been 100 years since the Equal

Rights Amendment was first drafted and introduced in Congress, and more than a half century since both chambers passed it," Bush (D-Mo.) said in a statement announcing the founding of the Congressional ERA Caucus. "That is far too long for women, Black and Brown folks, LGBTQ+

people, and other marginalized groups to wait for constitutional gender equality—and we refuse to wait any longer."

*This is a condensed version of an article by Chris Walker published in Common Dreams on March 28. See the full article at [tinyurl.com/Iguana1585](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1585)*

## Florida Senate unanimously approves \$700 million plan to address affordable housing

*A main focus is to increase the amount of safe affordable housing for Floridians*

Saying that it's the time to address the housing crisis in Florida, the state Senate unanimously passed a more than \$700 million affordable housing package on the second day of the 2023 regular legislative session.

The Live Local aims to create affordable housing by providing major tax breaks to

homebuilders and hundreds of millions of dollars in direct funding to the state's housing programs.

"One of the main focuses is to increase the amount of safe affordable housing for Floridians ... but also to plan with the enormous growth that we're experienc-

ing every day," said Miami-Dade County state Sen. Alexis Calatayud, who sponsored the measure in the Senate.

*This is a condensed version of an article by Mitch Perry published in the Florida Phoenix on March 8. See the full article at [tinyurl.com/Iguana1587](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1587)*

## Gen Z congressman says Ron DeSantis is governing Florida like a fascist

*Florida Rep. Maxwell Alejandro Frost condemned DeSantis' policies attacking LGBTQ and Black youth in the state*

The youngest member of Congress has condemned Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) for actions that he describes as fascist.

Rep. Maxwell Frost (D-Florida), a Gen Z member of the House of Representatives, appeared on CNN on Sunday to discuss DeSantis, who is viewed as a potential contender for the Republican Party's presidential nomination in 2024.

DeSantis is "acting on scapegoating vulnerable communities due to his failures," Frost said, noting that it was important to address the threat head on by "being bold in our messaging and calling it out for what it is."

The Florida governor's actions — particularly those targeting LGBTQ and Black youth in the state — are deeply troubling, Frost continued.

DeSantis "is abusing his power and using the state to target political opponents and political enemies," Frost said. "And there's a word for that, and it's fascism, and we have to be honest about it."

*This is a condensed version of an article by Chris Walker published in Truthout on March 6. See the full article at [tinyurl.com/Iguana1584](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1584)*

## Teachers union leader calls for defending public education from 'dangerous' GOP attacks

*A great nation does not fear people being educated, said American Federation of Teachers president Randi Weingarten*

American Federation of Teachers president Randi Weingarten defended the egalitarian legacy and goals of public education and outlined a participatory plan to strengthen it nationwide as right-wing lawmakers intensify their long-standing assault on the institution.

"Attacks on public education are not new," the leader of the 1.7 million-member union

said in an address to the National Press Club. "The difference today is that the attacks are intended to destroy it. To make it a battlefield, a political cudgel."

"We will continue to fight this defunding of our public schools and this dividing of our communities," said Weingarten. "But we also must do better to address the learning loss and disconnection we

are seeing in our young people. And we can. We can make every public school a school where parents want to send their kids, educators want to work, and all students thrive."

*This is a condensed version of an article by Chris Walker published in Common Dreams on March 28. See the full article at [tinyurl.com/Iguana1586](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1586)*

# SFC police chief facing dual-office allegations

by Alex Hood, Staff Reporter  
*The Saint Bernard*

The Saint Bernard is a new student-run newspaper out of Santa Fe College in Gainesville. The article below appeared in their first issue, published in March.

Recently elected Gainesville City Commissioner and Santa Fe College Police Chief Ed Book is under scrutiny after a complaint was filed against him with the Attorney General's office for dual officeholding.

Article II, Section 5a of Florida's Constitution states that "No person shall hold at the same time more than one office under the government of the state and the counties and municipalities therein."

The complaint, which was filed in January of this year and was previously reported on by the *Gainesville Sun*, has also been sent to the Alachua County Supervisor of Elections and the Florida Secretary of State.

According to guidance on dual officeholding from the Attorney General's Office, both the positions of police chief and city commissioner are considered to be sworn "offices." Florida Statutes further specify that police officers of public colleges are considered officers of the state.

The provision is meant to prevent potential conflicts of interest, and ensure that local public officials are not permitted to consolidate local power. Another concern—the job of Gainesville City Commissioner, while technically listed as a part-time job, requires full-time attention.

Commissioner Desmon Duncan-Walker stated in a Dec. 1 city commission meeting, "Contrary to how (the job) is listed, it is not part time. It is full-time; it is overtime. It is all day, it is all night, it is all consuming." Commissioners recently voted 4-3 to raise their own salaries by over 90% in order to reflect that sentiment, with Mr. Book voting against the increase.

Although Mr. Book has continually maintained that the situation is a "non-

issue," similar cases in the past have caused problems for dual officeholders.

In 2013 in Miami, Luis Cabrera was prevented from taking the office of Acting City Manager, a temporary position which would've lasted just 10 days in the absence of the City Manager, due to his other position as Deputy Chief of Police. In 2007, current Alachua County Sheriff Clovis Watson, Jr. willfully resigned from his position as police commissioner after being appointed city manager for the City of Alachua.

Another issue which is not specifically mentioned in the complaint, is that Mr. Book may have also violated Florida's "Resign-to-Run" law, which states that "An elected or appointed 'officer' may not qualify as a candidate for another state, district, county or municipal public office if the terms or any part of the terms would overlap with each other if the person were to be elected or appointed and did not resign from the office the person presently holds."

The Resign-to-Run law indicates that Mr. Book may have needed to resign from his position as an appointed officer (Police Chief) before even qualifying to run for municipal public office. The State Attorney General's office has previously ruled that even a reserve police officer should resign before running for city commission.

Mr. Book claims that he was cleared to run for office by a Feb. 9, 2022 letter from the Florida Ethics Commission, which stated that it would be appropriate for him to run. *The Saint Bernard* was able to obtain a copy of that letter through a public records request, and found that it only discusses potential conflicts of interest, specifically covering voting on issues concerning Santa Fe College.

Although Mr. Book has previously claimed that the Ethics Commission is "the highest law of the land on issues like this," the footnotes of this letter indicate that Mr. Book should have further consulted with either the State Attorney General's office or Division of Elections. Furthermore, it explicitly mentions both the aforementioned resign-to-run law and constitutional dual officeholding prohibition as potential sources of conflict.

What might be most concerning to the community is that one of Mr. Book's central campaign messages was an emphasis on commitment, service, and community

engagement, and he was absolutely right to point out the city commission has been lacking in that area.

It remains unclear if Mr. Book will be able to deliver on that promise while balancing his position as Chief of Police. The inverse also remains unclear: What effect, if any, will Chief Book's new position have on the rest of his department, or the overall safety and policing of the campus as a whole?

It's worth pointing out that fellow City Commission newcomer Casey Willits has taken a smaller role at his previous job, and commissioners former and current such as David Arreola have spoken publicly about having to do the same.

Gainesville residents should have confidence in Mr. Book as a city commissioner and as a police chief, individually. Based on his short time as a city commissioner, he has been very reasonable, open-minded and questioning in meetings and he has (in my opinion) voted the right way on most issues.

A recent vote to approve a building development that would provide about 20 units of affordable housing in University Heights was a pleasant surprise. More importantly, he is both valued and respected in his position as Santa Fe Police Chief, and it is a shame that in any case we may potentially lose him.

Truthfully, the most reasonable conclusion to this situation would be for Mr. Book to take a smaller role within the department. However, the Constitution and previous case law doesn't really allow for that—it seems he may have to resign completely from one of his jobs.

It seems unclear what the 'right' thing to do in this scenario is, but very few things are more frustrating than seeing someone in a position of power, especially a police officer, act as though they are above the law.

To be part of a judicial system which imprisons people for years of their life even for minor and non-violent violations of the law, while simultaneously violating the Constitution which vests in you the power to imprison ... feels hypocritical.

Our elected officials and police officers need to be held accountable for their actions, and the standard is going to be even higher if you check both of those boxes. I am calling on Mr. Book to address this issue, and I expect that soon he will do so. 🍀

Want your article, ad, event or PSA  
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# Editors' picks: News that didn't fit

- **An American Tragedy, Act III: The indictment begins a perilous new phase in the Trump saga**  
by David Remnick | *The New Yorker* | March 30 | [tinyurl.com/Iguana1593](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1593)  
Former President Donald Trump, twice impeached, yet impervious to shame, was indicted on criminal charges related to the payment of hush money to a porn star. Now we have entered a new act in the saga, one in which Trump contemplates turning a potential perp walk into a campaign opportunity. Who else could envision fingerprints, a mugshot, and cuffs as tools in an effort to “consolidate the base?”
- **CPNN - Culture of Peace News Network**  
**The Culture of Peace News Network** website at [cpnn-world.org/new/](https://cpnn-world.org/new/) provides reports, mostly from NGOs (as you'd expect from a project begun in UNESCO), about efforts and successes in pro-peace programs from around the world. Readers exchange information about events, experiences, books, music, and web news that promote a culture of peace.
- **DeSantis lets electric companies hide their dirty work**  
by Matthew Cunningham-Cook | *The Lever* | March 6 | [tinyurl.com/Iguana1580](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1580)  
As more than \$9 million in utility and utility-connected cash flooded the coffers of Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis' campaign and the state Republican party he controls, his appointees to a little-known body allowed utility companies to stop disclosing information about how they are shutting off the power for thousands of struggling Florida residents.
- **FBI bookstore spying in Chicago eyes abortion rights, cop city, anti-development activists**  
by Ryan Fatica, Dan Feidt | *Unicorn Riot* | March 14 | [tinyurl.com/Iguana1572](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1572)  
The owner-workers of Pilsen Community Books – a bookstore in Chicago – acknowledge that their store is “very cute” with vintage items and Tarot decks with wood-cut illustrations on display. But the FBI, reminiscent of the Red Scare, calls them “anarchist violent extremists.” They disagree.
- **Florida abortion clinics hit with thousands of dollars in fines over GOP-backed 24-hour law**  
by Maya Boddie | *AlterNet* | March 27 | [tinyurl.com/Iguana1582](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1582)  
More than a dozen Florida abortion providers are facing fines under an eight year old law making “pregnant patients wait 24 hours before getting the procedure.” Abortion-rights advocates say providers were given little chance to prepare for the law. In some cases, clinics were not in compliance with the law because of paperwork or computer issues.
- **Hear GOP lawmakers speak on gun laws after Nashville shooting** (video)  
*CNN* | March 28 | [tinyurl.com/Iguana1591](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1591) (*Click icon on lower right of screen to skip ads*)  
GOP lawmakers talk about gun reform following the school shooting in Nashville that killed six people. Republican lawmakers still resist gun reform, despite 130 mass shootings in the US during the first three months of this year. They say it infringes on American's constitutional rights, that the real problem is mental health, and that it is President Biden's fault.
- **It's not just Stormy Daniels. Here are ongoing criminal investigations Trump faces**  
by Becky Sullivan | *NPR* | March 30 | [tinyurl.com/Iguana1589](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1589)  
Never before has a former president been charged with a crime. A New York grand jury has indicted former President Donald Trump on charges related to hush money payments he made to the adult film star Stormy Daniels to cover up an alleged affair he denies. But that's not the only investigation he's facing.
- **Margaret Atwood on the rise of real world authoritarians** (video)  
*Offline with Jon Favreau* | March 12 | [tinyurl.com/Iguana1571](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1571) (*Click icon on lower right of screen to skip ads*)  
Margaret Atwood, famed author, poet and “dystopia prophet,” talks about fighting tyranny and finding hope. Favreau and Atwood discuss censorship, religion, parenting and how to listen for what you can't hear.
- **Russian war crimes in Ukraine 20 years after US criminal invasion of Iraq**  
by Phyllis Bennis | *Common Dreams* | March 23 | [tinyurl.com/Iguana1588](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1588)  
How can there be real accountability for war crimes when international law is replaced by an undefined “rules-based order”? Accountability doesn't happen on its own, it must be fought for – in all cases.
- **The invasion of Iraq wasn't a 'mistake.' It was a crime**  
by Ben Burgis | *Jacobin* | March 20 | [tinyurl.com/Iguana1579](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1579)  
On the 20th anniversary of the invasion of Iraq, we should never forget and never forgive the architects of that evil war. It was a calculated, premeditated crime perpetrated on a massive scale. Thousands of Americans and hundreds of thousands of Iraqis died in a war premised on transparently nonsensical lies.
- **The silence of Florida's [public college] presidents**  
by Josh Moody | *Inside Higher Ed* | March 31 | <http://tinyurl.com/Iguana1593>  
Forty public college presidents in Florida were asked to weigh in on state higher education reforms. None were willing to speak, even when offered anonymity. None have publicly challenged DeSantis as he has gone after diversity, equity and inclusion efforts; sought data on health care for transgender students; and pushed HB999, legislation to remake Florida higher education. 🐸



SCAN ME

Scan this code for a full list of Editors' Picks with easy links to the articles themselves.

# Nature Day at Little Orange Creek Nature Park

Alachua Conservation Trust,  
Friends of Little Orange Creek,  
Alachua County Library District -  
Hawthorne Branch  
& the City of Hawthorne, FL

## Nature Day at Little Orange Creek

Join us for a day out at the park with live music, vendors, live wildlife demonstrations, a guided hike, family-friendly nature activities & more!

Grab a bite from **DB's Rolling Dough Food Truck** and a sweet treat from **The Hyppo**

Live musical performances from **The Weeds of Eden** and **Clay Dixon and the Picadillies**

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Saturday, April 15, 2023  
10 AM - 3 PM  
Little Orange Creek Nature Park  
24115 SE Hawthorne Road  
Hawthorne, FL 32640  
**FREE EVENT!**

**Contact us:**  
(352) 373-1078  
info@alachuaconservationtrust.org

Come on out to Little Orange Creek Nature Park, Saturday, April 15, 10am-3pm, to celebrate nature and conservation.

The Nature Day event is a collaboration between Alachua Conservation Trust, Friends of Little Orange Creek, and the City of Hawthorne.

There will be live music, good food, native plants, guided hikes, nature based activities for the kids, and did we say pizza, well, there you go!


The event is free of charge. Check out the pizza by the Rolling Dough Food Truck, native plants by Natural Treasures, handmade soaps, stained glass by Lovelight Glass, desserts by Hibiscus Pastries, coffee by Opus, and much more.

There will be sessions in creek dipnetting, insect sweepnetting, and guided hikes throughout the day. You can see arts and crafts vendors as well as representatives from community organizations who can provide information and perhaps give inspiration for volunteering.

If you're interested in helping us out for the day with set up, sign in, and/or clean up, we'd be happy for that. If you're interested in making a donation to Little Orange Creek Nature Park toward our Creekside Environmental Ed for Kids (CrEEK) Program, let us know, and if you are interested in applying to join the board of Friends of Little Orange Creek, let us know at the FLOC / sign in table.

Hope to see you!

Contact: Randi Cameon, Pres., Friends of Little Orange Creek, rcameon@cox.net; Cell: 352-359-2603 🐾



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# Repurpose Project Community Center NOW OPEN!

by Megan Flynn, *The Repurpose Project*

The Repurpose Project reopened their Community Center and Event Space in January. So far they have held several great events: monthly clothing swaps, weekly kids craft, sci-fi scratch building, mosaic workshops, emergency vehicle maintenance classes, candyshoppe windchimes workshops, and a junkyard plantwalk.

They will be hosting a variety of other workshops and events in the upcoming months, including a celebration for Earth Day on April 22.

The Community Center aims to bring Gainesville together in creativity, art, music, and play, that has been disappearing in our modern world full of technology and consumerism.

For event and workshop information, follow the Repurpose Project on Facebook and Instagram (@TheRepurposeProject). You can also look for the calendars both inside the store near the register, and the red door of the event space.

If you are interested in sharing your knowledge about fixing or making, please email [Events@RepurposeProject.org](mailto:Events@RepurposeProject.org).

The Repurpose Project folks are excited to work with you in creating a space to share the craft you love. If you would like to help improve the Repurpose Project's Community Center and environmental educational efforts, please consider donating to the cause. They are a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and your donation is tax deductible. ♻️

**COMMUNITY CENTER  
NOW OPEN!**

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& EVENT CALENDAR**

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

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 • [reuseplanet.org](http://reuseplanet.org) • 352-647-5112

**Repurpose Project** • 1920 NE 23rd Avenue, Gainesville  
 • Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10am-6pm, Sunday noon-5pm, Monday closed  
 • [repurposeproject.org](http://repurposeproject.org) • 352-363-8902

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## BINGO DELI & PUB



Daily/weekly farm to table specials (check IG/FB for updates) - Great sandwiches - Delish beer & wine (full bar coming soon) - Homemade items for sale, like Bingo's chili sauce, pickled veggies, & sauerkraut - Options for kiddos - @ historic South Main Station with Heartwood Soundstage across from Depot Park - Plenty of parking on the property & outdoor seating - Pet friendly - Vegetarian & vegan options

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# *Gainesville Roller Rebels are back and better than ever!*



Come watch the All-Stars take on Orlando Roller Derby on Saturday, May 13, at 6pm at the MLK Jr. Multipurpose Center at 1028 NE 14th St. in Gainesville.

Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. Kids 12 and under get in free. Pick up tickets from Loosey's or purchase online at Brown Paper Tickets.

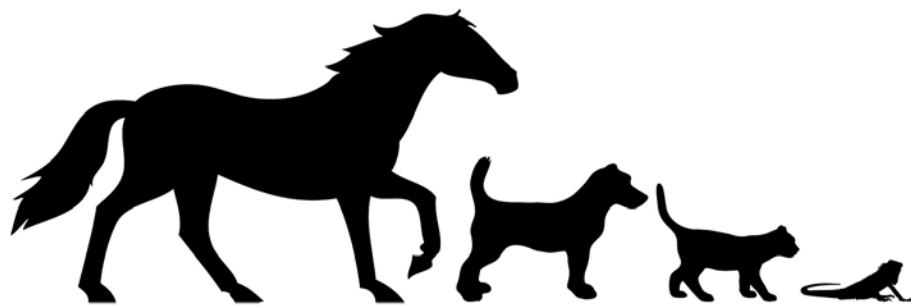
Follow Gainesville Roller Rebels on Facebook or Instagram for more information about upcoming events.

Doors open at 6pm and the action starts at 6:30pm. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. There will be a raffle with proceeds going to a local charity.

Interested in volunteering?

All of the volunteers get free admission on the day of the bout, free food at the after party, and a free entry into the raffle. They will also receive a volunteer punch card to get Gainesville Roller Rebels swag after volunteering at multiple bouts. Contact [Volunteer@GainesvilleRollerRebels.com](mailto:Volunteer@GainesvilleRollerRebels.com) for more information. 🐾

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*Small and Large Animal Hospitals in Gainesville and Ocala*

# BIG SHO' in Gainesville: music, art, street culture

**Who:** Carnival w/Madwoman, Twelve'len, and more  
**When:** April 15, 3pm-2am  
**Where:** Celebrations Warehouse, 317 NE 35 Ave, G'ville  
**Cost:** \$45 + \$3.375 sales tax (general Admission)  
 \$75 + \$5.625 sales tax (VIP)  
 age 5 and under free  
 under 16, 18+ year old guardian required  
**Parking:** Parking options limited; using Uber/Lyft suggested

by Illyssa Mann

Artists such as Madwoman and Twelve'len are preparing for their performances at the BIG SHO' on April 15 at Celebrations Warehouse.

The BIG SHO' festival is more than a hip-hop show; it's an experience, according to Dion Dia: "A mixture of music, art, and street culture, showcased through the framework of the circus."

Madwoman is a five-person alternative music band performing in Gainesville for eight years.

"To be included in this very monumental experience that [Dion Dia] is curating for the community feels like such an honor," Sammie 'Leni' Daigle, 28, Madwoman's lead singer and vox player, said.

Madwoman's guitar player Chandler McFarland, 27, notes the festival's circus theme fits their band's style well.

"The BIG SHO' is a carnival. It's in your face. It's loud. It's beautiful. It's mesmerizing, strange and exciting," McFarland said. "We are inspired by those themes and try to bring them to life in our sets and music."

Artist Twelve'len, 30, will perform at The BIG SHO', specializing in a blend of rock, rhythm and blues (R&B), and soul music. He said the theme "creates a mark where people can come together and celebrate life, art and the growth of a city."

"It's amazing what Dion Dia is doing, creating a moment entirely by giving it a theatrical theme. It gives the festival a moment that people can remember," Twelve'len said.

McFarland said when The BIG SHO' was pitched to their band, they were "stoked," and they didn't need much convincing to jump at the opportunity.

"This show, specifically, is other-worldly. Having a show we are excited about is one thing, but then it's curated for a specific cause. We couldn't ask for more," he said.

The band started out playing shows at a local cafe in Gainesville in 2014. Since then, McFarland said watching the "constant tides" of bands and music entering the local scene has been interesting.

"I've seen Dion Dia and How Bazar pushing for diversity and hip-hop. As a spectator, hip-hop was missing from the scene prior, and it's interesting to watch the ebb and flow of great music," he said.

Twelve'len noted the importance of creating such a space for music to thrive. When he first performed in Gainesville in 2016, Twelve'len said there wasn't a lot of alternative R&B or hip-hop—instead, mainly rock, indie, and folk bands performed in the scene.

"Gainesville has always been one of my favorite places to perform because every time I come back, I see the growth of the rap scene," Twelve'len said.

McFarland said he feels blessed by the Gainesville music scene, and it's always a homecoming whenever the band travels for performances and comes back to perform here.

"I feel that the artists here help support and foster new bands," he said.

Daigle continues on this note. "There is a large concentration of musicians here, making for a very rich community," she said. "Whenever we come back to Gainesville, it's very significant. We're always grateful for the diversity of our community."

When performing, Daigle spoke about the power of music to transport you into another world. She said the band puts effort and intention into the show's flow.

"We can take people on a ride, a journey, through the ebbs and flows of the performance. There are elements of connection and allowing people to tap into the present through music," she said.

When it comes to performances, Twelve'len noted that "music is like glue" because it brings the community together in a particular way.

"When you have these alternative artists, whose music isn't traditional to areas of today, there's inspiration," he said. "Music has the ability to gather people and inspire them." 🐾



# Matheson History Museum's April events

This month the Matheson History Museum has two programs scheduled: "*The poetics of resistance in Gainesville*" and "*The Swamp Peddlers: How lot sellers, land scammers, and retirees built modern Florida and transformed the American dream.*" They are closing the exhibition "*We Are Tired of Asking: Black Thursday and Civil Rights at the University of Florida*" on April 22.

**Friday, April 14, 7pm**

*The Poetics of Resistance in Gainesville and the States*  
with Alejandro Aguirre

This workshop explores the place of poetry in response to a history of segregation. Following a discussion of examples, visitors will compose a collaborative poem via the "exquisite corpse," a technique invented by the surrealists. Alejandro Aguirre was a finalist for the Atlanta Review's Dan Veach Prize for Younger Poets. See: [alejandromaguirre.com](http://alejandromaguirre.com)

Free registration at: [tinyurl.com/Iguana1575](http://tinyurl.com/Iguana1575)  
Zoom Registration: [tinyurl.com/Iguana1576](http://tinyurl.com/Iguana1576)

**Thursday, April 20, 7pm**

*The Swamp Peddlers:  
How lot sellers, land scammers, and retirees built modern Florida and transformed the American dream*  
with Jason Vuic

Historian Dr. Jason Vuic will talk about his book *The Swamp Peddlers*, including the "installment land sales industry," which seemingly appeared out of nowhere to sell billions of dollars of Florida residential property, sight unseen, to retiring northerners.

For \$10 down and \$10 a month, working-class pensioners could buy a piece of the Florida dream: a graded homesite waiting for them in a planned community. The result was Cape Coral, Port St. Lucie, Deltona, Port Charlotte, Palm Coast, and Spring Hill, among others—sprawling exurban communities with no downtowns and little industry but millions of residential lots.

These communities allowed generations of northerners to move to Florida cheaply, but at a price: high-pressure sales tactics begat fraud; poor urban planning begat sprawl; developers cleared forests, drained wetlands, and built thousands of miles of roads in grid-like subdivisions, which, fifty years later, played an inordinate role in the 2008 subprime mortgage crisis.

Free Registration: [tinyurl.com/Iguana1577](http://tinyurl.com/Iguana1577)  
Zoom Registration: [tinyurl.com/Iguana1578](http://tinyurl.com/Iguana1578) ✈

## 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Alachua County Peace Poetry Contest 2023



PUBLIC READING AND RECEPTION

SATURDAY, MAY 6

2:00 PM

FREE! MUSIC! REFRESHMENTS!

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville

4225 NW 34<sup>th</sup> Street, Gainesville

Gainesville Veterans for Peace invited all students, K-12, in Alachua County to submit one poem on the subject of peace and social justice. Out of hundreds of entries, winners were selected by a panel of judges. Winners are invited to read their poems aloud at the public reading on May 6 and poems are also published in the 2023 Peace Poetry book.

For more information, email [vfpeacepoetrycontest@gmail.com](mailto:vfpeacepoetrycontest@gmail.com).



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# History and the people who make it: Dr. Ronnie Z. Hawkins

This month, April, The Samuel Proctor Oral History Program invites and encourages you to be mindful of the environment. As Earth Day approaches (April 22), we're sharing a portion of an interview



with environmentalist scholar Dr. Ronnie Zoe Hawkins (H) conducted by Clarence Walter Thomas (T) on April 2, 1989. Excerpts collected/edited by Donovan Carter.

Ronnie Zoe Hawkins, a medical doctor and environmental activist, was a doctoral student specializing in environmental studies at the University of Florida Department of Philosophy, at the time of this interview. She was born in California and was reared in St. Petersburg; at the time of this interview she lived in Alachua County. She is now retired from the Department of Philosophy at the University of Central Florida.

**T:** Ronnie, I would like to begin by having you tell us what you think the important issues or the important components are of growth vs. no-growth.

**H:** I think the concept of growth, first of all, is something people need to think a lot more about than they have up to this point. It gets thrown around as a slogan. "Oh, we want growth. How can you possibly be against growth?" But you have to look at the word growth and ask what is it that is growing.

I remember being at a conference about this a couple of years ago, and they started off by posing the question, "What is growth?"

The first answer they got from the audience was, "It is getting larger. Something is getting bigger." But when you apply growth to Alachua County or the state of Florida, the state of Florida obviously is not getting bigger. We have a finite land area, so we are not getting bigger. Alachua County is not getting bigger. There are different types of growth. If you are talking about population growth, you are talking about a higher density of human beings per unit area of land.

It seems to me that it is very important for us to try to separate out the two concepts of population growth and economic growth, but very few people – and very few politicians – seem to want to do that. I think it is very important that we do. I do not feel like I can speak as an expert about how to do that, but I think we have certainly gotten to the point in the county, in the state, and globally where we are going to have to recognize the fact that increased human population growth per se is not going to be a good thing. How that separates out from improving the standards of living for individual human beings is something I am interested in. I want to look into that further, but I have to begin looking into it by realizing that these are things that need to be teased apart and separated.

**T:** What is your stand on the growth vs. no-growth issue?

**H:** As far as locally, statewide, and globally, my personal stand is that it is time to turn around most of the trends we see. Personally, I would like to see fewer people in my immediate environment. I would like to see fewer people globally. I am not talking about some sort of extermination, but I am talking about over the long haul.

We have to realize that it is important for things to level off and

reach some sort of sustainable balance. In the long run, it might be better if the population were smaller than it is. That is something that could be attained over a number of generations, and I think it is important that at least a few people have the guts to say that might be a reasonable goal.

**T:** In terms of economic growth, what would your stand be?

**H:** Economic growth. I do not even like these terms because they seem so vague. I am all for improving the standard of living for everybody. In the ideal sense, I would like to see people in Third World countries having a very good standard of living and a high level of education. All these things are very important.

People who are living in this country, in this state, and in this county ought to be considered part of the democratic process that is going on and ought to be living well, however you want to define that. But if you are talking about numbers of people and about those people dividing up some sort of economic pie of goods or whatever it is that fulfills their needs, the more people you have to divide things up among, the less individuals are going to have, in most cases.

Maybe that is not true with something like education or higher values, but it is certainly true of material things. It is certainly true of land. I think as we get farther from our biological base and we get into these abstract concepts that we get when we talk about economics, we tend to forget that there are certain limitations. I think it is very important that we realize there are certain limitations.

Take full employment, for instance. If we want to talk about getting full employment, it seems important that we know how many people we want to employ. If that number is always increasing, it seems very difficult to deal with that. There is just this concept of finiteness that I think is very important. The way people tend to want to stand on this growth/no-growth issue right now, it sounds like there are people for unimpeded growth, and then there are people who say they want some kind of managed growth, but they still want growth; they still want increase.

Well, I personally do not. If we are talking about an increase in numbers of individuals, I do not see that that is a beneficial thing at all right now, certainly not to the things I care about. Like I said, the concept of quality of life has a lot of components to it, of which material goods is just one component...

It is really strange that most people do not have a good handle on exponential growth. It is the kind of situation you get where you have doubling. If you take a course in microbiology, you deal with a monoculture, a single bacterial species on a petri plate. There is a certain lag time while this population slowly increases, but you have organisms that are doubling at a certain rate. At the very end, they are still doubling, but you build up a large base in terms of numbers of these monocellular organisms. Suddenly, in just one doubling, you have a huge number.

If you look at a bacterial population growth curve in a closed, finite system, like a petri dish, it shoots up, and then it starts shooting down.

Now, the human species is smarter than bacteria growing in a petri plate, and I think that we can come to terms with this. We can realize that it is not in our best interest – it is not in the best interest of the ecosystem – for us to have this kind of growth. A lot of people are realizing that. What seems strange to me is that people here in this country at this time in history tend not to want



to deal with it and face it. I feel like we have a big responsibility to start dealing with that.

Twenty or fifty years ago, people were more interested in talking about it than they are now. We had the [President Ronald] Reagan era when [the thinking was] “Oh, we are going to have a good time. We are not going to think about the serious problems we face.” Meanwhile, those problems are growing and growing and growing. So I think it is very frustrating.

**T:** Are you concerned about the exponential growth because as the species begins to grow there is poorer quality of life for all, or because after it reaches a peak it begins to drop drastically, as you said, as with bacteria?

**H:** Well, all of those things, and more. I think at some point you are going to get poor quality of life for all. One thing that is happening now, unfortunately, is there is a great polarization. There are the haves and the have-nots in terms of countries and in terms of human population groups and things like that.

In one of the readings in the economics class that I am taking right now, there is an offhand statement made about the world’s continued human population growth: it may present some problems for feeding all these people, but we think we can overcome those problems. This provides a wonderful marketing opportunity for us. You can have all these Third World people, and we can sell them lots of things, while we in the developed world will make lots of money in that process.

I find that appalling. Never mind the human suffering that may result from having all those people. Never mind the nonhuman suffering and the nonhuman extinction that is going to result. This is a wonderful thing for the capitalist system in the short run. In the long run, even the people who are padded by more money and a developed society are going to feel the effects. I think that is happening here in Florida. I think Florida is going to be one of the places where we in the developed world are really going to come to terms with what growth, as far as human population growth, really is going to mean for individual people.

**T:** Ronnie, how did you become interested in environmental issues?

**H:** Well, in a way, I have to say that it is kind of a life-long interest. It is funny in that, as I was growing up, I was responding to lots of things that were going on [without being aware of what they were]. I grew up in Pinellas County down around St. Pete. in the 1950s, and there were lots of rapid changes going on, things that are in some ways just getting underway up here in Alachua County.

I had a very negative emotional response to that kind of thing going on. I would come home from school, and all the beautiful oaks that I used to climb in were suddenly lying down on the ground. I did not really understand why that was happening, but it was pretty awful to see it going on ...

Personally, when I started getting active, it was really a revelation for me. I had always been very quiet and shy and unwilling to speak out about things. When I went through school, I would do anything to get out of giving a report in front of the class or anything. But suddenly the things I really cared about were very clearly being threatened, and I was amazed at myself to find that I could get up and speak in front of the county commission or I could get up and speak at a meeting of the [Florida] Game and Freshwater Fish Commission or at a number of different places.

I was not thinking about myself anymore; I was thinking about these creatures and the land and the issues. Somebody has to

say these things; somebody has to do it. It may be an unpopular position, but damn it, somebody has to do it.

*It is interesting to see how long the fight for climate and environmental justice has been going on. We hope Dr. Hawkins’ words inspire you to take care of the place we all call home. You can find the interview at UF’s Digital Collections at: <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1573>*

*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. ✨*

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WHO KILLED TWO MEN

NOTHING NEW IN THE  
KISSIMMEE TRAGEDY

Assistant Postmaster Collins  
Is Said to Have Dodged  
From Public Anger

### Film Premiere

## The Life of Oscar Mack

April 13th | 5PM

Pugh Hall 296 Buckman Dr,  
Gainesville, FL 32611

Join us for the world premiere of *The Life of Oscar Mack*, a documentary film by Deborah Hendrix, celebrating the remarkable life of Oscar Mack—who challenged the Florida Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s. Descendants and researchers will lead a discussion of the film after the screening.

**| TICKETS FREE |**  
<https://bit.ly/3Z1FVWb>



**| ZOOM LINK |**  
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Questions about the event? Reach us @[spohp@clas.ufl.edu](mailto:spohp@clas.ufl.edu) or call at (352) 392-7168

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## *In memoriam: Rest in power*

### **Longtime local activist Bob Karp's impact to last generations, friends say** *'Our city is poorer for having lost him ...'*

by Andrew Caplan

*This article originally appeared in the Gainesville Sun on March 6. See more at Gainesville.com.*

Friends and family said goodbye to longtime Gainesville activist Bob Karp this past week after he lost his battle with cancer.

Karp, 63, was known for his activism in local government policies, transportation safety and LGBTQ rights. The former campaign manager was buried at Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery in southeast Gainesville Friday.

"He was an incredibly decent person," Mayor Harvey Ward said. "There was probably nobody who was a more knowledgeable advocate on transportation."

Born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, Karp came to Gainesville to attend the University of Florida, where he earned a degree in sociology. He studied political campaigning with the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund and worked for LGBTQ+ rights, protections and progressive causes everywhere he went.

He briefly attended graduate school in Bloomington, Indiana, but came back to the Sunshine State where he was heavily involved in local politics.

For approximately 30 years, Karp helped several Democratic leaders win elected positions, including managing each of former mayor Pegeen Hanrahan's campaigns.

"Bob Karp was one of my very favorite people and a mentor to me and others," Hanrahan wrote on Facebook. "He has left this earth and my heart hurts. This season of loss is too hard to walk through."

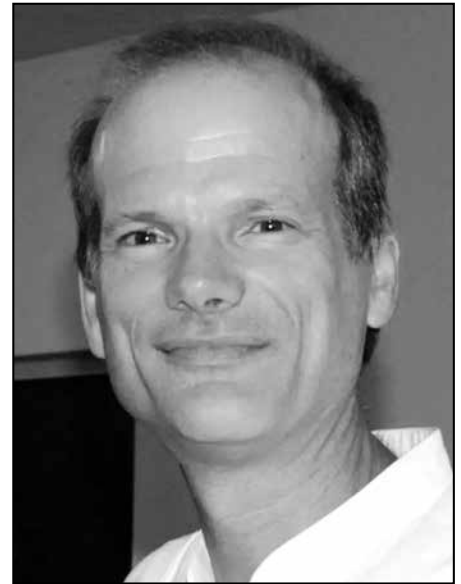
But his reach in the community stretches further than just those elected to office.

He was a founding member of the Board of Directors of the Gainesville Citizens for Active Transportation and believed in the growth of downtown Gainesville. He championed bicycle safety efforts, the use of public transit and the importance of walking. He believed in the cause so much that he intentionally didn't even own a car, Ward said.

"... Our city is poorer for having lost him, but blessed for having had him with us," Ward wrote on Facebook.

Greenspace, greenways, parks and clean energy were also among Karp's passions. He was a proponent of urbanism that improves the quality of life through new initiatives, including the redevelopment of South Main Street and the 20-year planned Depot Park.

He was an outspoken proponent of basic human rights for the LGBTQ and under-represented communities, work that includes being a founding member of Gainesville and Alachua County's annual Pride celebrations. Attendees of the inaugural celebration included a mixed crowd that included late rock 'n' roll legend Tom Petty and the Ku Klux Klan.



*Bob Karp*

Those who knew him say his impact will impact the community well into the future.

"As a leader and supporter of many local campaigns for public office, Bob set a standard of decency, honor, and truth by encouraging candidates to explain why they love Gainesville and for what they stand for, rather than whom they were against," said Warren Neilsen, a former city commissioner. "His example of constructive citizenship with a commitment to civility is a model for all who participate in public life."

While in hospice care before his death, Ward and others showed up to see their friend and presented him with a proclamation.

He is survived by his partner of more than 40 years, Tim Martin, his mother Dorothy, his brother Scott and sister-in-law Diane. ✨

 East End Eatery



**LUNCH: M-F / 10-2**  
inside & carry out  
patio seating  
(weather permitting)

**DINNER: M-W-F / 5-6** - carry out only

1202 NE 8th Avenue • 378-9870

*Gainesville Quaker Meeting*

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

[www.gainesvillequakers.org](http://www.gainesvillequakers.org)  
352-372-1070  
702 NW 38th St.  
Worship each Sunday @ 11 am.



# Gainesville area events

## WEEK OF APRIL 2-8

- Tues 4/4 10am-5pm, "Survivors of Violence Art Exhibit" runs through 4/30, Harn Museum (3529 Hull Rd), free; [harn.ufl.edu/](http://harn.ufl.edu/)
- Fri 4/7 7-9pm, Teen Showcase (Free Friday concert series), Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave), free
- Sat 4/8 9am, O'Leno Olé Chili Cookoff and Springs Celebration, with chili, live music, kids' activities, art; O'Leno State Park (410 SE O'Leno Park Rd, High Springs); \$7 for chili tasting
- Sat 4/8 2-4pm: LGBTQ+ Seniors Meet-Up, Pride Community Ctr (3131 NW 13th St)
- Sat 4/8 7pm, Jacaré Brazil at Afro Roots Fest, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave), free
- Sat 4/8 4-6pm: Free Second Saturday Street - yes, pro circus acts, 2nd Saturdays, the Streatery (10 SW 1st Ave), outdoors all-ages free show; see [gainesvillefl.gov/street-shows](http://gainesvillefl.gov/street-shows)
- Sat 4/8 American Dream Survivors in concert, Civic Media Center (433 S Main St), details TBA

## WEEK OF APRIL 9-15

- Mon 4/10 11:30am, Brechner Ctr award winner at Fla Free Speech Forum, Aloft Hotel (3743 Hull Rd), see <https://www.floridafreespeechforum.org/> to pre-register; talk free, lunch \$20
- Tues 4/11 12-1pm, "Springs Biology" talk by Dr. Steve Walsh on Fla springs, Howard T Odum Fla Springs Institute (99 NW 1st Ave, High Springs), free
- Fri 4/14 11am-5pm & Sat 4/15 9am-3pm, Wilmot Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale (UF, 2023 Mowry Rd), free
- Fri 4/14 6pm, "Shakespeare in the Park: *The Tempest*," presented by Acrosstown Repertory Theatre, Thomas Center (302 NE 6th Ave) (also 4/15; 4/22 at Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave); and location tba 4/29)
- Fri 4/14 7pm, Laura Jane Grace with Weakened Friends and Mike & the Nerve at High Dive (210 SW 2nd Ave), \$25
- Sat 4/15 9am-noon, Community Reuse & Recycle Day (collecting good-condition clothing, housewares, school/art supplies, also household hazardous waste), Santa Fe NW Campus Construction Inst. Parking Lot 9 on North Rd (3000 NW 83rd St); see [alachuacountyrecycles.com](http://alachuacountyrecycles.com)
- Sat 4/15 1-4pm, "Viva Europe" music, puppets, kids' crafts, food, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave), free

## WEEK OF APRIL 16-22

- Sun 4/16 11am, "Book Banning: Who, What, Where, When, How" talk by Janet Tucci, Sunday Assembly at Pride Center (3131 NW 13th St); free
- Wed 4/19 7pm, "Silent Sky" play on life of astronomer Henrietta Leavitt, runs through May 7; \$25-50; <https://thehipp.org/silent-sky/>
- Thur 4/20 7pm, "Words on the Paper" 3rd Thursdays Writing Workshop, A. Quinn Jones Museum & Cultural Center (1013 NW 7th St), free
- Fri 4/21 5pm, Alachua County Arts Council Artists Conference application deadline ([gpeebles@alachuacounty.us](mailto:gpeebles@alachuacounty.us)); see 5/5
- Fri 4/21 9pm, Crash Pad, The Rennys at Civic Media Center (433 S Main St), \$5-10 sliding scale
- Sat 4/22 12-11 pm, Tree Fest 2023 with food trucks, family activities, beer; Swamp Head Brewery (3650 SW 42nd Ave)

## WEEK OF APRIL 23-29

- Wed 4/26 7-8pm, Gender Affirming Voice Care Seminar, Civic Media Center (433 S Main St)
- Fri 4/28 6-8pm, LGBTQ+ Students (middle- & high-schoolers) Meet-Up: Pride Community Ctr (3131 NW 13th St); see [gainesvillepride.org](http://gainesvillepride.org)
- Sat 4/29 11am-6:30pm, 5th Avenue Arts Festival opens (also Sun 4/30, 11am-6pm), 401 NW 6th St, with art/crafts vendors, music, food, community organizations; free

## WEEK OF APRIL 30-MAY 6

- Sun 4/30 4-7pm, Old Time, Bluegrass and Traditional Acoustic Jam, Civic Media Center (433 S Main St)
- Fri 5/5 9am-4pm, Alachua County Arts Council Artists Conference, free, Cuscowilla Nature & Retreat Center (210 SE 134th Ave, Micanopy); see <https://alachuacounty.us/Arts-Council/Pages/default.aspx>

## WEEK OF MAY 7-13

- Tues 5/9 12-1pm, "Springs Stresses" talk by Dr. Robert Knight on Fla springs, Howard T Odum Fla Springs Institute (99 NW 1st Ave, High Springs), free
- Fri 5/12 12-11:30pm, The WomBash, 2-day festival, Heartwood Soundstage, \$50 for both days, see: [heartwoodsoundstage.com/event/the-wombash/](http://heartwoodsoundstage.com/event/the-wombash/)
- Fri 5/12 6-11pm, The WomBash at First Magnitude Brewery, \$15 Friday only
- Sat 5/13 12-11:30pm, The WomBash, 2-day festival, Heartwood Soundstage, \$50 for both days, see: [heartwoodsoundstage.com/event/the-wombash/](http://heartwoodsoundstage.com/event/the-wombash/)
- Sat 5/13 Free 2nd Saturday Street Circus - see 4/8
- Sat 5/14 4pm, "The Water State: Exploring Florida's Interconnected Waterways" talk by Vasilios Kosmakos at Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), free; see [mathesonmuseum.org/events](http://mathesonmuseum.org/events)

## RECURRING EVENTS:

- Monday Farmers Market, 4-7pm: Cypress & Grove
- Thursday Farmers Market, 4-7pm: Heartwood Soundstage
- Thursday evening Poetry Jam, 8pm at Civic Media Center

- ☛ Please support GNV live music venues, they all have calendars:  
Heartwood Soundstage, Satchels, Loosey's, Boca Backyard, the Wooly, Wormhole, One Love Café, etc.
- ☛ See [visitgainesville.com/events](http://visitgainesville.com/events) for a weekly event list, updated Thursdays; also try [352arts.org](http://352arts.org); and don't forget [civicmediacenter.org](http://civicmediacenter.org)
- ☛ Support live music, theater, and festivals! Get out into nature! Leave the freakin' house and have fun! ☛

# ALACHUA COUNTY LABOR COALITION

The Alachua County Labor Coalition is composed of individuals, unions, & pro-worker organizations committed to the economic, environmental, civil, & social rights of working people, their families, & communities, & to the ecological systems that sustain us.

**JOIN THE MOVEMENT!**  
**BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!**



Join us in the fight for justice!

We currently have committees working on these policies & projects: Safe & Affordable Housing for All, Justice Transformation, & Just Health Care.

# LABORCOALITION.ORG

Visit us online or find us on Facebook @LaborCoalition for meeting updates.

Protesting the mistreatment of OPS Workers by UF at the President's Mansion



# Iguana Directory

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

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

**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](http://AlachuaAudubon.org) | [facebook.com/AlachuaAudubon/](https://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](http://AlachuaConservationTrust.org)

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

**Alachua County Labor Coalition** organizes to support local labor and advance the Medicare for All and A Living Wage campaigns. Meets monthly on the 4th Tuesday at 6pm: on Zoom. 352-375-2832 | [info@laborcoalition1.com](mailto:info@laborcoalition1.com) | [LaborCoalition.org](http://LaborCoalition.org)

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

**American Civil Liberties Union** has a new Alachua County chapter. For info on forming a new chapter, or for ACLU info, contact the Northeast Chapter at [firstcoastaclu@gmail.com](mailto:firstcoastaclu@gmail.com) | [northeastflorida.aclufl.org](http://northeastflorida.aclufl.org)

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

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

**Avian Research and Conservation Institute** is a non-profit research group working to stimu-

late conservation action to save threatened bird species in the southeast. 352-514-5606 | [arcinst.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:centralfldsa@gmail.com) | [facebook.com/NCFFloridaDSA](https://facebook.com/NCFFloridaDSA)

**Citizens Climate Lobby** builds awareness and lobbies for sensible climate policies. 352-214-1778 | [btancig@gmail.com](mailto:btancig@gmail.com) | [citizensclimatelobby.org/chapters/FL\\_Gainesville](http://citizensclimatelobby.org/chapters/FL_Gainesville) | [facebook.com/CitizensClimateLobbyGainesvilleFL](https://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](mailto:coordinators@civicmediacenter.org) | [civicmediacenter.org](http://civicmediacenter.org)

**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](mailto:ClimateRealityProjectgnv@gmail.com) | [facebook.com/GlobalClimateEducation](https://facebook.com/GlobalClimateEducation) | [ClimateRealityProjectGNV.wordpress.com](http://ClimateRealityProjectGNV.wordpress.com) | [ClimateRealityProject.org](http://ClimateRealityProject.org)

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

**Community Spring** is a local organization dedicated to helping people get a step up on re-entering society after incarceration with financial and housing assistance as a means of overcoming structural poverty. 352-363-1259 or [info@csgnv.org](mailto:info@csgnv.org)

**The Community Weatherization Coalition's** mission is to help their neighbors save energy and water and reduce utility bills by engaging volunteers, building community, and learning

together. [info@communityweatherization.org](mailto:info@communityweatherization.org) | 352-450-4965 | [communityweatherization.org](http://communityweatherization.org)

**Conservation Trust for Florida, Inc.** is a Gainesville non-profit land trust working to protect Florida's rural landscapes, wildlife corridors and natural areas. 352-376-4770 | [info@conserveflorida.org](mailto:info@conserveflorida.org) | [conserveflorida.org](http://conserveflorida.org)

**Democratic Party of Alachua County** meets monthly on the second Wednesday at 6pm: on Zoom. 352-373-1730 | [alachuadems.org](http://alachuadems.org)

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

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

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

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

**Families Against Mandatory Minimums** works to reform Florida's sentencing laws and restore fairness to Florida's criminal justice system. PO Box 142933, Gainesville, 32614 | [gnewburn@famm.org](mailto:gnewburn@famm.org) | 352-682-2542 | [FAMM.org](http://FAMM.org)

**Final Friends**, run by volunteers, helps families learn how to accomplish legal home funeral care as an alternative to a commercial funeral home. 352-374-4478 | [FinalFriends.org@gmail.com](mailto:FinalFriends.org@gmail.com) | [FinalFriends.org](http://FinalFriends.org)

**The Fine Print** is a quarterly magazine based in Gainesville providing political, social and arts coverage through advocacy journalism. [TheFinePrintUF.org](http://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](http://florida4peace.org)

**Florida School of Traditional Midwifery** is a clearinghouse for information, activities, educational programs regarding midwifery. 352-338-0766 | [info@MidWiferySchool.org](mailto:info@MidWiferySchool.org) | [midwiferyschool.org](http://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](mailto:FloridaDefenders@gmail.com) | [FlaDefenders.org](http://FlaDefenders.org)

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

**Gainesville Area AIDS Project** is a program of Pride Community Center of North Central Florida that provides toiletries, household cleaners, hot meals, frozen food at no cost to people living with HIV/AIDS. 352-377-8915 | info@GAAPonline.org | Facebook.com/GAAPonline | gainesvillepride.org

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

**Gainesville Citizens for Alternatives to Death Penalty** works to abolish the death penalty. Join vigils when Florida has an execution. 352-378-1690 | mark1343@juno.com | www.fadp.org

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

**Gainesville Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice** organizes faith communities to work together for immigrant justice. Meetings are the second Monday of the month on Zoom. Richard@371-6772 | Gainesvilleiaij@gmail.com | gainesvilleiaij.blogspot.com

**Gainesville National Organization for Women** focuses on reproductive rights, ending sex discrimination, constitutional equality, promoting diversity, ending racism, economic justice, stopping violence against women, lesbian rights including marriage equality. Contact Lisa@352-450-1912 for meeting info | info@gainesvilleNOW.org | facebook.com/gainesvilleNOW

**Gainesville Quakers** have a 350-year tradition of working peacefully for social justice. Silent, unprogrammed worship Sundays at 11, followed by potluck. Visitors welcome. 702 NW 38th St., Gainesville | 352-372-1070 | GainesvilleQuakers.org | facebook.com/GainesvilleQuakers

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

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

**Graduate Assistants United** union represents UF grad assistants by fighting for improved working conditions, community involvement and academic freedom. 352-575-0366 | organizing@ufgau.org | UFGau.org

**Grow Radio**, a non-profit podcast station, provides opportunities for community members to create and manage engaging, educational, locally-generated programming to promote music, visual arts, humanities for enrichment of the Gainesville community. 352-219-0145 | Bryson66@gmail.com | growradio.org

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

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

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

**Industrial Workers of the World (IWW)** Gainesville General Membership Branch Union represents all workers, regardless of industry, trade, job, employment status. gainesvilleiww@gmail.com | iww.org

**Institute for Tropical Ecology and Conservation** is an academic nonprofit that provides undergraduate field courses in tropical marine and terrestrial ecology, hosts biology-based study abroad programs, provides a venue for researchers, conducts conservation and community service programs. 352-367-9128 | itec1@itec-edu.org | itec-edu.org

**League of Women Voters of Alachua County** Nonpartisan grassroots political group of women and men who fight to improve our system of government and impact public policies such as fairness in districting, voting and elections, through citizen education and advocacy. info@lwv-alachua.org | LWValachua.org

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

**MindFreedom North Florida** is a human rights group for psychiatric survivors and mental health consumers, working to educate the public about harmful psychiatric practices and about humane alternatives to those harmful practices. 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. gainesvillenlg@gmail.com | nlg.org

**National Women's Liberation** is a feminist group for women who want to fight back against male supremacy and win more freedoms for women. Inequalities between women and men are political problems requiring a collective solution. 352-575-0495 | nwl@womensliberation.org | womensliberation.org

**North Central Florida Association for Women In Science** is an advocacy organization championing the interest of women in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) across all disciplines and employment sectors. ncfawis@gmail.com | leanin.org/circles/ncfawis

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

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

**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 | pccnfc@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. Meets on the 3rd Sunday of every month. 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

**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/

UNAUSAGainesvilleFLChapter | 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 | vfp Gainesville.org

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

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

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

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

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

# 'The Movement and the Madman' on PBS

by Joe Courter

If you want to know what made Joe Courter who he is, who does the community things he does, I would ask you to go to PBS.org and watch *The Movement and the Madman* on American Experience. It is free to watch by anyone until April 25, and up on multiple streaming services as well.

It is a direct parallel to my life, freshman year of college, with

the Oct. 15, 1969 Moratorium Day, and then the March on Washington on Nov. 15. About 500,000 of us went to Washington, preceded by demonstrations all across the country, and forced Nixon to back off an escalation of the war.

It was the killings at Kent State the following spring that solidified my commitment to activism, but Fall '69 was where the die was cast. 🐢

## Hakeem Jeffries's alphabet soup

The text below was taken from a Facebook post by Matthew Dicks.

When U.S. House of Representatives Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries delivered his first speech as leader of the Democratic conference, near the end of the speech, he offered a series of alphabetic comparisons between his Democratic conference and that of the Republicans. Normally I'd say that a contrived bit of wordplay like this is a bad idea. Hokey and too clever by half. Impossible to do well. But I have to say: It was brilliant... the list works. There isn't a single alphabetic comparison that feels forced. Admittedly, I'm not sure how many people know the definition of the word "xenial," but I do, and I suspect that, given the context, you do, too.

Hakeem Jeffries: "We'll always put American values over autocracy, benevolence over bigotry, the Constitution over the cult, democracy over demagogues, economic opportunity over extremism, freedom over fascism.

"Governing over gaslighting, hopefulness over hatred, inclusion over isolation, justice over judicial overreach, knowledge over kangaroo courts, liberty over limitation, maturity over Mar-a-Lago, normalcy over negativity, opportunity over obstruction, people over politics, quality of life issues over Qanon.

"Reason over racism, substance over slander, triumph over tyranny, understanding over ugliness, voting rights over voter suppression, working families over the well-connected, xenial over xenophobia, yes we can over you can't do it, and zealous representation over zero sum confrontation." 🐢

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