



UN, world call for CEASEFIRE

Words of United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres delivered to UN Security Council, Oct. 24

Mr. President, with your permission, I will make a small introduction and then ask my colleagues to brief the Security Council on the situation on the ground.

Excellencies,

The situation in the Middle East is growing more dire by the hour. The war in Gaza is raging and risks spiraling throughout the region. Divisions are splintering societies. Tensions threaten to boil over.

At a crucial moment like this, it is vital to be clear on principles—starting with the fundamental principle of respecting and protecting civilians.

I have condemned unequivocally the horrifying and unprecedented 7 October acts of terror by Hamas in Israel. Nothing can justify the deliberate killing, injuring and kidnapping of civilians—or the launching of rockets against civilian targets. All hostages must be treated humanely and released immediately and without conditions. I respectfully note the presence among us of members of their families.

Excellencies,

It is important to also recognize the attacks by Hamas did not happen in a vacuum. The Palestinian people have been subjected to 56 years of suffocating occupation. They have seen their land steadily devoured by settlements and plagued by violence; their economy stifled; their people displaced and their homes demolished. Their hopes for a political solution to their plight have been vanishing.

But the grievances of the Palestinian
See CEASEFIRE, p. 12

**You take my water, burn my
olive trees, destroy my
house, take my job, steal my
land, imprison my father, kill
my mother, bombard my
country, starve us all,
humiliate us all but I am to
blame: I shot a rocket back.**

Noam Chomsky

Free Palestine



Young people and the fight for abortion access in Florida

by Ashley Sanguino

This op-ed originally appeared in the Independent Florida Alligator in October 2023. See more at alligator.org.

UF Planned Parenthood Generation Action, College Democrats, Young Democratic Socialists of America and other student organizations are getting involved with the statewide initiative to get abortion on the ballot for the 2024 election cycle.

The campaign behind the initiative is Floridians Protecting Freedom, a coalition of citizens and organizations across the state, including the American Civil Liberties

See ABORTION, p. 24

GRU takeover: It's getting real

by Robert "Hutch" Hutchinson

The new Utility Authority board met in October for swearing-in and getting organized. Their Nov. 1 meeting dealt with some sobering business.

The accumulated debt of Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) and the rates for electricity are two preoccupations of the Utility Authority, as they should be. Over the years, GRU has created one of the nation's most complicated financial portfolios, with a bewildering array of short- and long-term debt. Almost every day, large amounts of it roll over, and the companies that provide assurances to institutional investors are showing signs of concern. One "liquidity facility" has indicated they are discontinuing their coverage of GRU debt until governance issues are resolved.

In 2024, around \$400 million in various forms of debt will have to be re-financed. The attorneys who advise the City on financial matters have said the Utility Authority, as a new and

unique critter, has to go through a legal process called "bond validation." It's actually a trial in local court where the Utility Authority is the plaintiff and the State Attorney, representing the public's interest is the defendant, anybody else with an interest in the matter can join in. A judge examines the evidence, listens to the arguments, and issues a Pass/Fail verdict. A pass means two things—the bond markets can be confident that the validated organization is capable and motivated to repay loans. The other outcome is that most challenges to the Authority's authority disappear and cannot be raised again.

There are currently four active lawsuits that Gainesville Residents United, or people we know, have filed against the State or the City. Whether or not we decide to intervene in the bond validation proceeding, the impact of our litigation, which contains reams of legal arguments and case law about the unconstitutionality of this particular Utility Authority, will have an effect on the outcome.

At the Authority's meeting in November, Joe Little, attorney and/or plaintiff in three of the cases, told the Authority members that the very existence of their "unit" of City government is unconstitutional and that HB-1645 needs to be repealed immediately for the health of the City. As President of Gainesville Residents United, I took a different tack; I spoke three times to argue that the Utility Authority should re-write the bill to resolve the legal issues we have raised. The Authority responded that doing this was out of their lane—even though they were told by attorneys that the Utility's credit-rating is being damaged by the unprecedented law that created them. Gainesville Residents United might re-write the bill, and attempt to create a mediation environment where somebody can shuttle between the Utility Authority, our local Legislators, the Litigants, and other parties to come up with a solution that provides a form of governance we can all live with.

There was an interesting moment in the meeting when a person whose career was operating powerplants said she had been fired without cause from her brief employment at a GRU powerplant. She told the Utility Authority that she had discovered some safety issues, and had also asked other employees on their lunch break about joining the union—she speculated these might have been the reasons she was terminated. The Utility Authority Chair said dealing with personnel matters was not within the board's purview, and referred her to the Utility Manager. But it raises the question of what is her recourse if the Utility Manager does not give her a fair hearing. If the Utility Authority board won't hear complaints, then her next step would be the Governor. This is just one of the uniquely odd aspects of our governance.

People want to know what can they do, especially since these issues have rapidly evolved from being all about civic education and political activism into what is now inside baseball and legal wonkery. It is important to attend Utility Authority meetings, even if it's just for the first thirty minutes during citizen comment. The board is made up of people who really are trying to right a listing ship, and none of them had anything to do with the creation of the board they are now volunteering to serve on. It does help to amplify messages that Gainesville Residents United puts out on our website and social media, as the news coverage is scant.

For more info or to support our litigation fund: www.GRUnited.org. For more about the GRU Authority—board members, agendas, presentations, etc, see www.GRU.com. 🐢

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From the publisher ...

Passion and passivity

What a time we are in as we head into the end of 2023. The absolute horrors that are taking place following the events of October 7 are incomprehensible. Of course I must say that the pre-Oct. 7 situation in Gaza and the region is equally incomprehensible to me, watching this pressure cooker of a situation dating back over half a century get worse and worse until it finally blew up ... into what we don't know. At the time of writing this, November 2, there is no resolution in sight, just the horrors of collective punishment on the innocent civilians of Gaza. It is being watched by millions of anguished witnesses around the globe. I am too disgusted to say anything more. I am completely appalled.

Instead I want to reflect on feelings I had at Fest this past weekend. (www.thefestfl.com). Ten thousand music fans—lovers of loud hard punk rock, but also ranging from solo folkish, folk punk, ska, and metal—were in town. 350+ bands, 4 days, 12 venues. Short sets and a lot of mingling in between. I absolutely love it. A world class event run by volunteers with help from the City of Gainesville.

While I cannot say Fest is overtly political, there is within the music a passionate intensity that definitely leans away from business as usual acceptance and strongly radiating an anti-authoritarian spunk and as well a love of free expression and acceptance; a real sense of community, a coming together of a tribe. Mutual smiles among strangers. Respect even in super crowded spaces.

The shirt I was wearing Friday and Saturday was an old CMC shirt that has on the back the slogan "Another World is Possible," the slogan from the World Social Forum in Brazil 30 years ago. To me this is a profound hope, that we can see and build a better way for society to be. It says: reorder society, elect better people, and change the priorities so we can have healthcare, education, tolerance, and peace. This implies long term commitment to the struggle. That's all done in meetings, conferences and organizing.

That is not Fest (but that's how Fest happens). Fest is in-the-moment passion, an amazing celebration of mostly very aggressive sounding music, with crowds screaming the words right along with their favorite bands; not words of hate, but cathartic releases of commentary and opinion on the world we share, and getting along within it.

We all need a passionate release from the lives we lead, or better yet, feel passion within the lives we've built. For me, most passionate release involves adrenalin and sweat, which I get from physical activity, being at a good music show, biking, sports, even my house painting jobs (now mostly retired) and yard work. Hell, I can even passionately attack a pile of neglected dishes or an occasional housecleaning. Or producing this paper and getting it out.

"A life of purpose" is a slogan I got from Stetson Kennedy, but I am not sure that can be maintained without passion for what you have chosen to do. Passivity is no way to live, just marking time. Staring at your screens in mild amusement can pass some hours, bring fleeting joy, but there ought to be more. And now, as we transition to 2024, yet another pivotal election year, there are so many threats out there. Some may not personally affect us, but we need to be in there together.

This is real. Authoritarians are on the rise, in Florida, nationally, and around the world. The Republican Party has morphed into the party of Trump, election denying repressive Christo-nationalists ready to keep rolling back hard won rights. We can beat one of their leaders statewide in Florida by knocking out Rick Scott. We need to push and demand that the abortion referendum be on the ballot. Labor had a big win with the UAW strike; let's celebrate that and use their passion to fuel our own. Even if your passion is only to do things locally, positive engagement with friends is important. This is no time for passivity, and that is no way to live. Exercise your passions, and feel them, use them. And maybe go find some music and let it move you. I know that is what charges my batteries.

A productive and passionate 2024 to all of us! 🐢



Joe Courter

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When information is censored, thought is censored

UF student: 'Florida university instruction [is turning] into a censorship nightmare'

by Stevie Sanders

The day I opened my acceptance letter from the University of Florida was one of the happiest days of my life. I have dreamt of coming to UF since I was a bright-eyed nine-year-old screaming to Tom Petty at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium.

Imagine my despair when, within my first year at the university, outside forces would threaten to shatter that dream.

This university, my university, has now become a breeding ground for political conflicts and culture wars that are turning Florida university instruction into a censorship nightmare. The University of Florida is, or rather used to be, a hub for intellectual debate and conversation. That reality has recently been stripped from students and professors alike for the sake of opposing "wokeness."

What is education if not the expansion of ideas drawn from understanding other perspectives? Florida universities that previously celebrated alternative backgrounds and encouraged discussions are now being silenced for the political advantage of rapacious politicians.

When I accepted the offer to attend my dream university, I accepted the opportunity to hear all the opinions of world-class educational experts in their field, not just those that I agree with. Higher education is not merely an algorithm for enjoyable content. Higher education is supposed to be the match that ignites the burning passion inside of professors when they lecture on their field of study regardless of amiability.

Now, I sit in the front row of my classes and watch my professors pause with uncertainty in their eyes as they struggle for the next "politically safe" sentence.

Decades of thesis papers and research articles should be flowing into these professors' curricula, not tentative, lukewarm instruction, designed to keep everyone content. I long for the days when professors would share personal opinions and ask students, "What do you think?" without fear of retribution. True education cannot afford the luxury of comfort.

I am heartbroken that I will never be able to meet the versions of my professors I have admired for years.

In high school, I perused the world-renowned research and community work imagining one day I would join them in their endeavors. Instead, I found these experts in an altered state of educational instruction, with noticeably decreased veracity founded upon fear and retribution.

These giants of education, who have given their entire lives to the mission of knowledge, are terrified of being terminated if they express a disagreeable thought, or utter a pronoun that is preferred by a student. I have personally seen thought-provoking curricula stripped from my courses because professors are unsure if discussion topics cross into the gray area of "wokeness."

New legislation, HB 999, holds that the Board of Governors annually ensures there are "diverse viewpoints" in Florida universities. From the perspective of a student, I question the inherent biases

of these "diverse viewpoints." Under the guise of "protecting students," HB999 is going to instigate professors to seek employment in states with fewer restrictions, thus reducing the available courses at universities and minimizing accreditation.

This legislation claims to protect students against partisanship at universities while in turn producing more biases because those who decide what is "partisan information" come with an agenda: to propose education from a perspective that solely aligns with their political views. Supporters of HB 999 do not base their decisions on the best interest of the students or the professors, rather their decisions are based on the intention to gain power over a system and create a monopoly void of critical thought.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion programs, also under attack by HB999, encompass so much more than what has been deemed as "woke" by the right-wing side of Florida politics. DEI programs allow international students to seek accommodations for language if English is not their primary communication. DEI defends the right of all students to embody their heritage and identifications in a system that was not built to incorporate them. This support provided by DEI programs is intended to increase the success of those marginalized and does not decrease the resources of others. These programs simply level the playing field for generationally discriminated against minorities supplying them with the same opportunities as those who have not experienced similar hardships.

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As a first-generation American, education has been the stepping stone for my family to achieve the “American Dream.” My parents crossed oceans and made sacrifices so that I may have the opportunity to create a future in this country. It is my purpose to continue their quest through academic pursuit, but this mission is being strangled to submission by current political powers.

The United States must defend We the People per the First Amendment where every person on American soil may hold and voice opinions as they see fit. However, when political tides change and universities are actively muted to uphold a constrained and distorted version of the First Amendment, we border on dystopian realities that formerly only existed in science fiction writings like *1984*.

The issue Florida universities are currently facing is not whether every piece of information is agreeable, but whether the disagreeable information should be stripped from the narrative.

The inherent beauty of education is found in its ability to provoke thought, but these thoughts are only provoked when students step out of their echo chambers and challenge alternative viewpoints. Critical thinking is then instilled when students learn to defend their beliefs by being exposed to varying opinions. If one disagrees with a stance, removing it from history is not a solution. History risks writing an unfortunate narrative when unchecked powers begin censoring thought and debate.

To those in power, your opinions about education are secured by the Bill of Rights, but your current encroachment on others’ access to education is a dangerous misstep into unconstitutional territory. Knowledge, education, and information are not guaranteed in many other countries, but this is America, we are different, we are a democracy of the people, and we are a place where citizens can instigate the change they want to see. 🐢

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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023, IGUANA, PAGE 5

A Bradford County clustermuck: *Comp Plan, commissioners and Chemours Mining*

by Carol Mosley

After a seven-year struggle to put a phosphate mining plan to rest, Bradford County is trying to update (hopefully upgrade) the Comprehensive Plan on mining. They've been trying to get this done since 2019, but were continually stymied by mining issues. This time it is Chemours FC that is throwing monkey wrenches in the gears.

Chemours mines along the trail ridge between Bradford and Clay counties. The discharge eventually flows into the Santa Fe River. They mainly produce titanium dioxide from the minerals obtained, which is used to make things white.

Chemours, an international entity that manufactures a multitude of chemicals, including PFAS, "forever chemicals," was spun off from Dupont to take on the liability. They are strapped with hundreds

of millions of dollars in lawsuits and settlements over contamination of rivers and water supplies.

Though PFAS chemicals are not produced here, the TT (titanium dioxide) division was recently absorbed into the FC (fluorocarbon) division with the lawsuits and settlements.

Now, they have garnered a seat at the table in deciding the regulations to include in Bradford County's Comp Plan.

Two workshops were held that included Chemours, the NCF Regional Planning Council and a couple of active community members, including me. We couldn't get beyond the "no mining in wetlands and surface waters" and some of the proposed buffer zones. Chemours says they can't make money if they can't mine the wetlands. And by the way, according to the clerk's office, we're not making tax income from mining.

Even though the workshops have been stalled, Chemours has been busy. Our county manager and county commission

chair were taken on a tour of the facility and a "restored" wetland. We've asked for the same tour, but Chemours has not responded.

Meanwhile, the Bradford County Commission has decided to rethink their contract with the Regional Planning Council. The county manager is out looking for private consultants to consider.

The Planning Council is a regional non-profit entity not beholden to making profit for a company. A private entity could run into conflicts of interest.

At the risk of showing my age, in my head I keep hearing Oliver Hardy tell Stan Laurel, "This is another nice mess you've gotten us into, Stanley."

Let's see how the Bradford Commission untwists themselves from this knot.

An earlier version of this article was written for the Sierra Club. Carol Mosley is a member of the Suwannee-St. Johns group and is a recipient of the 2022 Panther Award. She is a co-founder of Bradford Environmental Forum and Bridges Across Borders. ✨

"Water and air, the two essential fluids on which all life depends, have become global garbage cans."

- Jacques-Yves Cousteau

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And the good news is ...

Academic freedom or state control:

Court hearing will consider blocking key higher education law (SB 266) in Florida

A federal judge heard arguments in a lawsuit filed by professors and students at New College of Florida against a new state law that attempts to squelch progressive subject matter, including “critical race theory” or gender studies, plus diversity efforts in public universities.

At issue before U.S. District Judge Mark

Walker in Tallahassee was a motion to block implementation of the law pending a ruling on the group’s constitutional challenge to it in whole or part.

Represented by NCF Freedom Inc., the group alleged in an August complaint that SB 266, passed earlier this year, imposes viewpoint-based discrimination against

protected speech in violation of the First Amendment and is unconstitutionally vague under the Due Process Clause of the Fourth Amendment, in that it fails to sufficiently specify what behavior will draw punishment.

Condensed from an article by Michael Moline in the Florida Phoenix on Oct. 23. See full article at tinyurl.com/Iguana1721.

Announcing the winners of the 3rd annual Keeley Schenwar Memorial Essay prize

The prize honors the work of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated authors who are writing toward a more just world

The Truthout Center for Grassroots Journalism announced the winners of the 2023 Keeley Schenwar Memorial Essay Prize. They are Tracy McCarter, author of “As a Black Woman Accused of Killing a White Man, I Was Never Innocent Until Proven Guilty,” and Elizabeth Hawes, author of “As Incarcerated Women, We’re Subjected to State Rape.”

The Prize, awarded to two formerly or

currently incarcerated people for essays related to imprisonment or policing, is given in memory of Keeley Schenwar (1990-2020), who was a devoted mother, daughter, sister, friend, writer and advocate for incarcerated mothers.

Each winner receives \$3,000 and publication in *Truthout*. McCarter’s essay chronicles her experience of being criminalized as a survivor of gender-based violence —

and how the consequences of criminalization extended beyond the brutal conditions of imprisonment. Hawes’s essay, “As Incarcerated Women, We’re Subjected to State Rape,” confronts the fact that strip searches — a procedure that incarcerated people are subjected to on a routine basis — are a form of sexual violence.

Condensed from an article in Truthout on Oct. 1. See full article at tinyurl.com/Iguana1722.

First Amendment advocates fight growing number of U.S. book bans

More than 40 percent of book bans occurred in Florida, with 1,406 book bans in the state

One of Thomasina Brown’s favorite books is a memoir about a girl who deals with the grief of losing her father and struggles with her sexual identity.

Brown, a 16-year-old high school student, said that she felt a connection with the book, as she grieved the loss of her own father and came to terms with her own queer identity. *Fun Home: A Family Tragicom-*

ic, is one of the more than 3,300 books that have been banned during the 2022-2023 school year (a 33 percent increase from the previous school year, according to a report by PEN America, a group dedicated to fighting book bans and advocates for the First Amendment).

To combat this, and in celebration of

Banned Books Week on Oct. 1-7, PEN America has launched online training for students to fight book bans, and more recently, teamed up with bestselling authors to fight against book bans in Florida and across the country.

Condensed from an article by Ariana Figueroa in the Florida Phoenix on Oct. 5. See full article at tinyurl.com/Iguana1725.

Forty-one states (and D.C.) sue Meta over features that keep kids addicted to social media platforms

‘Meta has been harming our children and teens, cultivating addiction to boost corporate profits’

The majority of U.S. states banded together Oct. 24 against tech giant Meta, the owner of Facebook and Instagram, in the largest state-led legal challenge against a social media company as state attorneys general sought to protect children from features allegedly designed to keep them hooked on the firm’s platforms.

Thirty-three states filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, arguing that Meta has violated consumer protection laws by designing apps to be addictive to users with features such as “infinite scroll” and constant notifications. Attorneys general in eight other states and D.C. are filing lawsuits in their jurisdictions.

“Our bipartisan investigation has arrived at a solemn conclusion: Meta has been harming our children and teens, cultivating addiction to boost corporate profits,” California Attorney General Rob Bonta, said.

Condensed from an article by Julia Conley in Common Dreams on Oct. 24. See full article at tinyurl.com/Iguana1724.

Legislators in 49 states ask SCOTUS to preserve access to abortion pill

In almost every state, legislators say their ability to protect their community should not be interfered with

A group of more than 600 Democratic legislators from 49 states have signed an amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court urging the justices to overturn an appellate court decision that would roll back access to mifepristone, one of two drugs used to safely terminate early pregnancies and treat miscarriages.

The amicus brief, also called a “friend of the court” brief, was organized by State Innovation Exchange’s Reproductive Freedom Leadership Council. The State Innovation Exchange, also known as SiX, provides tools and resources for state legislators to advocate for progressive public policies after being elected

to office. Every state, with the exception of Mississippi, had Democratic legislators who signed their names to the brief, with the highest number of participants from Illinois.

Condensed from an article by Kelcie Moseley-Morris in the Florida Phoenix on Oct. 12. See full article at tinyurl.com/Iguana1723. ✨

Gerrymandering in Alachua County

'We have to behave as what we are: citizens engaged in a struggle for democracy'

by Donna Waller, Retired SFC Political Science professor & community activist

On Oct. 25, I sat for 3.5 hours at the Alachua County Legislative Delegation's annual public meeting. Watching and listening to everyone gave me a lot to think about, but the longer I stayed, the more I focused on the issue of gerrymandering. The word dates back to the dawn of the republic when a Massachusetts Governor, Elbridge Gerry, created a district in the form of a salamander in order to give his party an advantage in the legislature. Drawing districts in an odd shape in order to help or harm a candidate or group is a time-honored American tradition, but so is the belief that it is a negative one that makes a mockery of our historical drive toward political equality.

In the last 30 years, gerrymandering has been a practice of many state legislatures, and in Florida, its impact has been enormous and has engendered a continuous political battle. Alachua County provides one of the state's prime examples.

Our county is one of the most gerrymandered in the state. We are represented by three different members in the Florida House and two in the Florida Senate. Next year, our delegation will be chaired and co-chaired by two people who do not live here, Rep. Chuck Brannen of Macclenny and Senator Jennifer Bradley of Fleming Island. Only one member of the current delegation resides within the city of Gainesville, the region's population center.

Both the county and city have been dismembered, with 34th Street as the dividing line between House District 21 (Yvonne Hinson) to the east and House District 22 (Chuck Clemons) to the west. District 10 (Chuck Brannen) covers the northern tier of the county. The county is also divided into two state Senate districts. These districts were created in the wake of the 2010 US census. The districts created by Gov. Desantis and approved by the Florida Legislature in 2021 are even more clearly designed to weaken the political power of Alachua County and the city of Gainesville. Sen. Keith Perry, who is term limited, has stated openly that he believes that after the new district maps are implemented that there will never be another state Senator from Alachua County.

The purpose of all this is clear. It is to keep

the county and the city, both of which have Democratic majorities, from acting as a political unit and retaining any power at all. It has worked, too. Out of the five legislators who theoretically represent the county, only one is a Democrat. This is not just our problem. It is the method by which the Republican Party has gained control of 37 state legislatures. So, why isn't it illegal and why are the people who are denied adequate representation not fighting back? The answer is, it is, and they are.

If you ask people how they know whether a governmental system is democratic, they will usually answer something like "Free and fair elections." That usually means two things: everyone has the right to vote and all votes carry equal weight. Over the last several decades, both of these fundamentals have been under attack.

The issue of attempts at voter suppression deserves more time than I can give it here and an article all its own. In the American legal system, the rules for votes carrying equal weight are two basic ones: fair apportionment and no gerrymandering.

The US Supreme Court declared gerrymandering designed to deny African Americans political power to be unconstitutional in 1948. It has also declared that legislative districts should be drawn with geographical rationality, meaning they should follow geographical or political borders like county lines.

Clearly, what has gone on here and in other parts of the country is in defiance of this basic rule. In Florida, that defiance has become even more egregious since the passage of the Fair Districts Amendment in 2010, in which the citizens of the state affirmed their desire for fair representation. This was ignored in the reapportionment in 2011 and again in 2021, with the results I described above.

The Florida Republican Party has simply marched forward to entrench itself in power with no regard for legality or equity, much less political equality. It is clear that it is prepared to deny many citizens any real representation for partisan purposes.

So, what can we do about this? First, we must understand that there are non-profits which struggle continuously and often effectively against this behavior. The League of Women Voters and Common Cause are the two of the most prominent.

They have taken gerrymandered legislative maps to court in many states and forced the redrawing of maps in a number of places, especially where the gerrymandering of Congressional seats is at issue. Such a case is being argued before the Florida Supreme Court right now. We should join and support groups that are carrying on these legal battles on behalf of the citizens.

Second, those of us who live in gerrymandered districts must continue to show up and confront our "representatives" who do not represent us and remind them constantly that we are their constituents. We should write to them, talk to them, and lobby them at every possible opportunity. We should remind them constantly that we understand the game, and we should show up and do that everywhere the legislative delegation appears publicly, as several hundred people did on Oct. 25.

Of course, we have to vote. We have to behave as what we are: citizens engaged in a struggle for democracy. It requires attentiveness, time, energy and patience; however, the stakes have never been higher. Fighting for democracy is a noble cause, and it is a fight Floridians can't afford to lose. 🐸



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Editors' picks: News that didn't fit

Big 3 buckled as stand-up strike spread

The Auto Workers (UAW) now have agreements with each of the Big 3 automakers

by Dan DiMaggio | *Labor Notes* | Oct. 31 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1737

A roundup from Labor Notes on the end of the strike and what's in the tentative agreements.

Gaza and the Empathy Gap

How we Americans feel about Gazans living under Israeli bombs does matter, since we're the ones financing it

by Ryan Grim | *The Intercept* | Oct. 23 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1717

Hamas's attack on Oct. 7 was terrible and should be condemned, but Israel's response has been horrifying. Even so, many Americans, and the White House, unwaveringly support Israel. But what if we put ourselves in the shoes of Palestinian civilians? To imagine how it feels to see unconditional support being given to a military operation that is killing thousands upon thousands of innocent people, how it must feel to see calls for a humanitarian ceasefire attacked as not just wrong but "repugnant" — not from a college student group, but from the podium at the White House. How we Americans feel about all this does matter, since we're the ones financing it.

If the GOP speaker circus fails Trump, this centrist group has a plan to save him in 2024

Trump has convinced these supposedly principled centrists that corrupting the election is perfectly reasonable

by Heather Digby Parton | *Salon* | Oct. 25 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1719

The GOP has an array of dirty tricks ready for the 2024 elections. One that hasn't had much attention (yet) is running a strong (enough) third party to keep anyone from winning 270 Electoral College votes, in which case the President would be picked by the House of Representatives, on a state-by-state basis (meaning a Republican-dominated vote) — and a false-front group called "No Labels" has a plan to do just that.

Laura Jane Grace receives key to the City

City of Gainesville, Florida held presentation at the City Hall Plaza on Oct. 27

video (14:00) by City of Gainesville | YouTube | tinyurl.com/Iguana1736

Laura Jane Grace of AgainstMe! receives the key to the City of Gainesville. In her acceptance speech, she gives a shout out to Joe Courter and the Civic Media Center.

Speaker of the House

is the manifestation of exactly what MAGA Republicans want

video (4:15) by PoliticsGirl | YouTube | tinyurl.com/Iguana1727

Who is Mike Johnson? The manifestation of the MAGA Republicans' ideal candidate — average, white, male, conservative, Christian, inexperienced — and he's now third in line for the presidency. PoliticsGirl provides a crisp four-minute analysis.

The case for re-writing the Constitution

If the left doesn't seriously consider updating the country's founding document, it will bind us to an undemocratic future

by Chris Edelson | *The Progressive* | Oct. 18 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1729

The current Constitution was enacted more than 230 years ago, so it's no surprise it is in need of an overhaul. It failed to prevent Trump's authoritarian threat and, more broadly, it makes the federal government unable to act as truly representative of the people. It's time to outline a bold, long-term vision aimed at advancing equality and social justice.

The Dean Obeidallah Show

Mary Trump discusses Donald's mental decline, his fear of prison and more

video (25:36) by Dean Obeidallah and Mary Trump | YouTube | tinyurl.com/Iguana1728

Mary Trump discusses Uncle Don's dangerous mental decline, his fear of prison, why he cares about the NY fraud case, and more.

'The world is failing forests': Report finds leaders way off track from halting deforestation by 2030

'We are investing in activities that are harmful for forests at far higher rates than ... in activities ... beneficial for forests'

by Olivia Rosane | *Common Dreams* | Oct. 24 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1730

Despite promising to halt global deforestation by 2030, world leaders have not done enough to protect forests, a new report found. The 2023 Forest Declaration Assessment calculated that human activities destroyed 6.6 million hectares of forests in 2022, which means the world is 21 percent off track from meeting the 2030 deadline.

We can't fight the Republican party's 'big lie' with facts alone

Agreeing to Donald Trump's claims about the 'rigged' 2020 election ensures your fealty by making you complicit

by Peter Pomerantsev | *The Guardian* | Oct. 29 | tinyurl.com/Iguana1726

Do people fall for conspiracy theories (such as Trump's Big Lie™ of a stolen 2020 election) because they lose their roots in local community? 🐸



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Commission will cut Social Security; HB 4583 will secure it

by Mary Savage

Earlier this year, Congress voted to increase the debt ceiling and gave relief to senior citizens, and those approaching retirement age, knowing that Social Security and Medicare were safe from cuts. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) then announced plans for a commission to cut these programs behind closed doors. McCarthy understood the only way to cut our owed benefits is to make a secret deal and present it to the American people under the guise of being "bipartisan, on both sides of the aisle." This would give cover to members of both major political parties. Then, voters won't know who to blame at election time. But Americans know the only way to win at this is not to play.

Now, newly elected House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) wants to push for the same social safety net-cutting commission that would, of course, meet in secret. The American people must speak up and say that any debate on Social Security and Medicare's future must be done in the open. The working public then will see and compare the Democratic Party's plans to expand Social Security (Google 'The Social Security 2100 Act: A Sacred Trust' - HB 4583, introduced by Rep. John Larson, D-Ct) with the Republican Party's plans for cuts.

Let's tell Congress to stand united and refuse to serve on any Social Security/Medicare-cutting commission. Instead, tell them to support Larson's bill, HB 4583. Call the Capitol switchboard to be connected with your House representative: 1-202-224-3121. Find your House representative on the website: www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative. Be civil, and know that you speak for the majority because the American people want to keep these programs strong. 🐉



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Veterans for Peace Winter Solstice Concert, Dec. 9

Veterans for Peace welcomes all to attend their 37th annual Winter Solstice Concert, a community celebration of peace and light, singing, dancing, and fellowship, on Saturday, Dec. 9 at 7:30pm at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at 4225 NW 34th Street in Gainesville.

The show will feature performances, including a Cherokee Peace Chant, from Drums for Peace, John Chambers & Friends, David Beede & Janet Rucker, Quartermoon, Other Voices, and a Choir of Heavenly Semi-Angels. And of course Master of Ceremonies Bob Treadwater, with signing for the deaf graciously provided by Diane Delage. Pre-show music by Cathy DeWitt and Mark Billman starts at 7:30pm.

Tickets can be purchased online at tinyurl.com/Iguana1738, available on a sliding scale from \$20 to \$40 each. Pay what you can.

For the safety of all guests and performers, masks will be required inside.

Questions? Contact vfpgnv.donations@gmail.com. 🐢

"Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding."

- Albert Einstein

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From CEASEFIRE, p. 1

people cannot justify the appalling attacks by Hamas. And those appalling attacks cannot justify the collective punishment of the Palestinian people.

Excellencies,

Even war has rules. We must demand that all parties uphold and respect their obligations under international humanitarian law; take constant care in the conduct of military operations to spare civilians; and respect and protect hospitals and respect the inviolability of UN facilities which today are sheltering more than 600,000 Palestinians.

The relentless bombardment of Gaza by Israeli forces, the level of civilian casualties, and the wholesale destruction of neighborhoods continue to mount and are deeply alarming.

I mourn and honor the dozens of UN colleagues working for UNRWA—sadly, at least 35 and counting—killed in the bombardment of Gaza over the last two weeks. I owe to their families my condemnation of these and many other similar killings.

The protection of civilians is paramount in any armed conflict. Protecting civilians can never mean using them as human shields. Protecting civilians does not mean ordering more than one million people to evacuate to the south, where

there is no shelter, no food, no water, no medicine and no fuel, and then continuing to bomb the south itself.

I am deeply concerned about the clear violations of international humanitarian law that we are witnessing in Gaza.

Let me be clear: No party to an armed conflict is above international humanitarian law.

Excellencies,

Thankfully, some humanitarian relief is finally getting into Gaza. But it is a drop of aid in an ocean of need.

In addition, our UN fuel supplies in Gaza will run out in a matter of days. That would be another disaster. Without fuel, aid cannot be delivered, hospitals will not have power, and drinking water cannot be purified or even pumped.

The people of Gaza need continuous aid delivery at a level that corresponds to the enormous needs. That aid must be delivered without restrictions.

I salute our UN colleagues and humanitarian partners in Gaza working under hazardous conditions and risking their lives to provide aid to those in need. They are an inspiration.

To ease epic suffering, make the delivery of aid easier and safer, and facilitate the

release of hostages, I reiterate my appeal for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire.

Excellencies,

Even in this moment of grave and immediate danger, we cannot lose sight of the only realistic foundation for a true peace and stability: a two-State solution.

Israelis must see their legitimate needs for security materialized, and Palestinians must see their legitimate aspirations for an independent State realized, in line with United Nations resolutions, international law and previous agreements.

Finally, we must be clear on the principle of upholding human dignity. Polarization and dehumanization are being fueled by a tsunami of disinformation. We must stand up to the forces of antisemitism, anti-Muslim bigotry and all forms of hate.

Mr. President, Excellencies,

Today is United Nations Day, marking 78 years since the UN Charter entered into force. That Charter reflects our shared commitment to advance peace, sustainable development and human rights. On this UN Day, at this critical hour, I appeal to all to pull back from the brink before the violence claims even more lives and spreads even farther.

Thank you very much. ✨

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End genocide in Gaza

At this moment, we are witnessing crimes against humanity in Gaza. More than two million people are being denied food, water, and electricity, and their hospitals are being bombed and infrastructure destroyed, all with the express purpose of ethnic cleansing—to push the population of Gaza into the Sinai.

Innocent Israeli lives were lost on Oct. 7 and should be mourned, but as Stefanie Fox, the director for Jewish Voices for Peace, stated, “Reality is shaped by when you start the clock, you know, and while the Israeli government may have just declared war, its war on Palestine started 75 years ago.”

Just before the official creation of the state of Israel in May 1948, Zionist paramilitary groups murdered hundreds of Palestinians in Deir Yassin and terrified surrounding villagers enough that 750,000 Palestinians fled from their homes. They were never allowed to return.

In 1967 Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza and subjected the population to an apartheid system with massive restrictions on movement, imprisonment without any charges (called administrative detention), destruction of homes, and torture. After the election of Hamas in Gaza in 2006, Israel completely sealed Gaza’s borders and blockaded the travel of people and goods to and from Gaza, effectively rendering it an “open air prison.”

There is no military solution for peace because there can be no peace in a settler colonial state. As the rabbinical council for Jewish Voices for Peace stated, “We look to a future of peace, justice, freedom and dignity. This means, among other things, that Israel ends the blockade of Gaza, ends the occupation of the West Bank, takes down the walls, and dismantles the apartheid system.”

Palestine, like Algeria, Angola, and Vietnam, nations that have decolonized, is on the right side of history. South Africa became a democratic nation in 1994 without the expulsion of any population and so can Palestine and Israel.

Please call your local representatives in Congress and the Senate and ask them to stop supporting the genocide in Gaza.

- Submitted by a UF faculty member who wished to remain anonymous for fear of repercussions ☹️

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¡Cuba Sí, Bloqueo No!

A report back from the first ever Democratic Socialists of America delegation to Cuba, and how it ties into DSA's broader program of anti-imperialism

by Aron Ali-McClory
National Co-Chair of the Young
Democratic Socialists of America

"I feel human again."

Those were the words of a delegate from Michigan who was visibly emotional after Mariela Castro, the Director of Cuban National Center for Sex Education, led

some 43 DSA members in both a minute of silence for Gazans, but also in chants of "Free Palestine!"

Castro's response to the delegate: "We all have family in Palestine."

This highly emotional exchange of solidarity and humanity represented a broader set of themes that I and others experienced on DSA's first delegation to Cuba, at the tail end of this past October. On a fact-finding mission to examine the conditions in Cuba that had been created by decades of an illegal embargo imposed by the United States, we exchanged with Cubans at all levels of society, from deputy ministers to workers at local bars, and everyone in between.

Forty-three members of DSA traveled to Cuba with the delegation, including elected officials, labor organizers, Cuba solidarity activists, and general members. As a national Co-Chair of the Young Democratic Socialists of America, I not only stood as one of six members of DSA's highest elected leadership

(the National Political Committee) in attendance but also as one of four YDSA members chosen to represent a youth perspective on the delegation.

The purpose of our delegation was simple, albeit transformative: to not only stand in solidarity with the Cuban people against the blockade, but to ultimately model what a normalization of relations could look like between the people of the United States and Cuba.

To me, this delegation represented a deeply powerful manifestation of DSA's ongoing anti-imperialist and socialist internationalist program, which has included solidarity with movements from Japan to Palestine and everywhere in between. In Havana, I was able to see firsthand both the successes of the ongoing albeit imperfect Cuban Revolution, but also the inherent contradictions of trying to build a better world just 90 miles from the most powerful empire in history.

The takeaways were remarkable. The Cuban healthcare system — free for all

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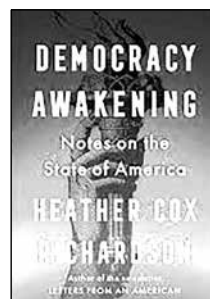
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citizens — is deeply integrated into the community-centered society. Despite the illegal U.S. embargo, Cuba continues to innovate at a breakneck pace. Delegates heard from Cuban scientists about their extremely effective COVID-19 vaccines, lung cancer treatments, and much more.

We heard from various figures about the ongoing reforms in Cuba, including the recently passed family code and constitution which gave Cubans unprecedented LGBTQIA+ rights and empowered women and children within domestic situations.

We also exchanged with various Cubans about their response to the climate crisis, how their education system works, how they prepare for and respond to national disasters, and so much more.

Though, these exchanges didn't only highlight the successes of the Revolution—but the shortcomings it has suffered as a result of the illegal embargo.

The combined impact of the pandemic and the U.S. embargo have caused deep economic pain in Cuba, which was reflected not only in the visible lines for gasoline that we saw, but also high prices for goods we take for granted here in the U.S., like canned tomatoes.

We heard stories from the Cuban height of the pandemic in 2021, where the U.S. actively prevented Cuba from importing

oxygen and ventilators from foreign countries and companies, threatening them with sanctions. It was clear that despite the resilience of ordinary Cubans and achievements of the Revolution, that the U.S. embargo still had deep seated effects on the entire country. After just five days in Cuba, it was clearer to me than ever that we *must* end the illegal U.S. embargo on Cuba.

My experience as a delegate to Cuba — a place I had heard so much about, but as it turns out, knew so little about — transformed my vision for what freedom from capitalism could look like, but also how we can begin to dislodge the imperialism that emanates from the heart of empire in which we live, work, and play. There is a blueprint for how this work can be done, thankfully, and DSA is helping to lead the way.

In the few weeks before our delegation, the genocide of Palestinians in Gaza rapidly intensified after the events of Oct. 7 in Israel.

DSA — harnessing its unique status as the largest socialist organization in the country — was able to rally over a hundred thousand phone calls to Congress demanding a ceasefire in Palestine and the end of U.S. military aid to Israel.

This campaign, dubbed *No Money for Massacres*, has tangibly shifted Congressional opinion on the war, especially as it

becomes more evident that the situation in Palestine is not only caused by Israeli apartheid, but is increasingly what can only be characterized as a genocide.

This kind of anti-imperialist work is core to an effective and rigorous program of socialist internationalism, and it is exactly the type of work that can help end other projects of U.S. imperialism around the world, especially the illegal embargo on Cuba.

Indeed, the gears of change are already turning. Following anti-embargo resolutions passed in major cities from Chicago to Minneapolis, New York state legislators sent a letter to the Biden Administration on Oct. 30 calling for an end to the embargo. This effort, of course, was spearheaded by DSA legislators and allies.

Emotionally, being able to travel to Cuba was like a breath of fresh air. This isn't to say that Cuba is a utopia, but rather that the general tone of the country is a step ahead of our conditions in the United States. We may have the excesses of a capitalist empire, but it cannot make up for the solidarity, compassion, and drive for betterment that I found constantly throughout my time in Cuba.

I am hopeful that this delegation not only represents an important inflection point in the movement against the embargo, but against imperialism generally. ¡Cuba Sí, Bloqueo No! 🇨🇺

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With no reform caucus, auto workers would not be on strike



by Jane Slaughter

This article was originally published by Labor Notes on Sept. 26. See more at labornotes.org.

What can workers seeking to reinvigorate their unions learn from the new spirit in the United Auto Workers?

Start with what you've got

One lesson is that member power does not have to start from a supermajority; that's unlikely. UAW members are on strike today, with inspiring levels of rank-and-file energy, because four years ago a small group of activists founded a new reform caucus. That caucus, Unite All Workers for Democracy (UAWD), boldly took advantage of an unexpected opportunity, organized like crazy, and won elections. Its candidates are now leading the union.

If UAWD had not existed and organized hard, this current fight that has potential to change the stakes for the entire labor movement would not be happening. At the top, the UAW would still be a pretty bad business union, intent on negotiating a cheap contract (perhaps with a b.s. strike), and members would be in the dark.

When the Justice Department began

investigating the UAW for corruption, a few longtime activists saw the opening. In 2019, they founded UAWD and began a campaign — which seemed quixotic at the time — to change the UAW's constitution so that members could vote directly for top officers.

Since the union's founding in the 1930s, convention delegates had chosen the officers. From the 1940s until this year conventions were tightly managed by the aptly named Administration Caucus, founded by Walter Reuther. The process for amending the constitution is byzantine, but in a short time UAWD was approaching its goal of getting the required 15 locals representing 79,000 members on board to call a special convention. Then Covid hit, canceling local union meetings and closing plants.

UAWD rebounded, though, and was soon making its views known to the Justice Department: the way to clear out corruption was to let the members vote. This was the same tack taken by Teamsters for a Democratic Union in the 1980s, when their union was under investigation. TDU rejected the idea of a federal takeover, as many in government had advocated, and said instead: "Let the members decide." The feds authorized a rank-and-file vote, Ron Carey was elected

president with TDU's support, and he went on to lead a stunningly popular and successful strike in 1997.

Eventually the Justice Department's Monitor said he would let UAW members decide whether they wanted to decide. In fall 2021, they voted whether to keep the old convention system or switch to one-member-one-vote. Turnout was light — only 14 percent of the 400,000 members and 600,000 retirees, indicating both the high degree of member cynicism and the sorry state of the union's address book — but the direct elections option won by 63.6 percent.

The Administration Caucus, who at that point still ran the union, tried to pretend the vote was not happening, but UAWD campaigned hard, with members building contact lists, distributing leaflets, phonebanking, talking with co-workers and the media, getting pledges signed, doing social media, and holding online events. They got UAWD members elected as convention delegates and managed to turn the 2022 convention from a ceremonial snoozefest and rubber stamp to a site for debate. The convention raised strike pay and had it start on a strike's first day instead of its eighth — ensuring that the union's \$800 million strike fund could be used to make the decision to strike less painful for members.

UAWD, which by this time included both factory workers and members from the union's newer higher ed locals, then nominated seven people for a slate called UAW Members United to run for the 14-member executive board. Again members campaigned hard, taking road trips around the Midwest and holding Zoom events in addition to all their other tactics. The Administration Caucus, accustomed to total control for nearly 80 years, still did not take the UAWD threat seriously. When members voted in fall 2022, again with a very low turnout, five Members United candidates and one friendly independent were elected outright and the other two, including presidential candidate Shawn Fain, went to a runoff.

At this point, the AC woke up and threw everything it had into holding on to the presidency. But Fain was finally elected by a slim margin in March



2023 and sworn in just hours before the union's scheduled bargaining convention.

Have faith in the members

UAWD did not represent a supermajority of the members and only a bare majority of those who voted. Yet Fain and his allies on the board and in the rank and file believed they could win over and activate members who had been uninvolved, skeptical, or even despairing about their union.

So despite the deep muck at union headquarters and the fact that local officers were almost uniformly allied with the Administration Caucus, they set to work building a contract campaign — strike pledge cards, practice picketing, lots of communication, lots of media — that built to the strike that started two weeks ago. Despite their slim majority, they took their mandate seriously and pushed hard to do what they had promised. They went directly to rank-and-file members.

The results have been stunning. Members at the Big 3, whether they voted for UAWD or for no one, are thrilled that their president is actually sharing the union's demands, speaking to them regularly via Facebook Live (and responding in real time to comments in the chat), and calling out the CEOs who make up to \$14,000 an hour, with class-struggle language seldom heard outside a Bernie Sanders rally.

The excitement on the picket lines and the creativity of the slogans and tactics members are inventing are something not seen in the union in many decades. Members have rediscovered respect for their union and for themselves as auto workers and union members.

Seize the moment

That brings up a second lesson, which is for workers to grab their chance even if they're not completely ready. In a perfect world, UAWD would have grown through the years to represent a majority of well-organized members, proving itself through practice at the local level. Instead, a random corruption investigation, initiated during the Trump years, changed everything.

Lesson three, then, could be that it's worthwhile to keep the spark of reform alive even when it's tiny. Some of the UAWD founders were part of Autoworker Caravan, a group founded in 2008 to respond to the Chrysler bankruptcy. Caravan was never large — at some points attracting more retirees than active members — but it analyzed contracts, agitated to vote them down, and distributed information.

Some of its leaders had been part of socialist groups in the 1970s. And the Caravan in turn incorporated veterans of the New Directions Movement of the 1980s, which had galvanized factory workers (especially in Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas) but was eventually beaten down by the Administration Caucus.

Some UAWD leaders today go back as far as New Directions. The politics of union reform were kept alive even when hopes were bleak.

Now UAWD is helping workers develop into organizers. It's shown them how to call 10-minute meetings in their plants and how to organize practice pickets, flying squadrons, and overtime refusals. Leaders are well aware that despite the tremendous victory of winning at the top, their work to transform the union is just beginning.

For a complete list of all Labor Notes' coverage of the UAW strike, check out <https://labornotes.org/uaw>. 🐢



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Thanksgiving Together, Nov. 23

By Drake Cromer-Moore, Outreach Pastor, Meizon Church

During the global pandemic of 2020, Meizon Mission started as an online church creating services and devotionals for people displaced by the many disruptive events of that year. In 2023, Meizon Mission found alignment with First Christian Church of Gainesville, a church that has been actively present in our city for over 100 years. Affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), First Christian Church merged with Meizon Mission and together we look into the next century, unified together, as Meizon Church.

At Meizon Church, we believe, just like the Backstreet Boys, that no matter who you are, where you're from, or what you've done, that you deserve to belong. One of Meizon Church's core values is "Belong." While a lot of churches and organizations use "belong" in their outward facing media and marketing, seldom do they grasp what belonging truly means. At Meizon, we believe you belong with no strings attached, you don't need to believe exactly what we do, or become anything special before you belong.

As social and political tensions have risen across the state, these tensions have been especially felt within the LGBTQIA+ community. From bills that determine where people may use the bathroom to bills which legislate which pronouns we may use, it has been a rough year for many people. We feel that Christian churches are called to unity and love. We also recognize that the Church has not always provided a safe space for the LGBTQIA+ community. We also acknowledge that not

all churches currently provide safe spaces. At Meizon Church, we strive to be on the frontlines, standing against injustice. Hopefully, our efforts might begin to change the perspective of the LGTQIA+ community within the Church and of the Church within the LGBTQIA+ community.

As a community at Meizon, we are celebratory of LGBTQIA+ persons and the queer community. With LGBTQIA+ folks in our leadership, in vital volunteer positions, and in attendance, we recognize just how painful the holidays can be for those who have nowhere to go. Many members of the LGBTQIA+ community are disinvited and left out of their family's gatherings, simply for being themselves. If this happens to be part of your story, we are so sorry that you've had to face that kind of rejection. You deserve so much more. You deserve to belong, just as you are. There's a seat for you at our event, Thanksgiving Together. Maybe this type of rejection isn't something you've faced, but you'd like to help create a place for others who may have experienced this. We invite you to pull up a chair.

The Bull, located at 18 SW 1st Avenue, on the brick streetery between Main St and 1st St in downtown Gainesville, has graciously agreed to host Thanksgiving Together. Rain or shine, a traditional Thanksgiving dinner will be provided in this untraditional space from 4-6pm on Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 23). Then, from 6-8pm, the event will showcase local bands and vendors. It is our hope that you will laugh, smile, and grow closer to the Gainesville community at Thanksgiving Together. We are aiming to feed up to 300 people. If you would like to attend, let us know you're coming! Click the "Let's have thanksgiving together button" on the Thanksgiving Together Website (Meizonchurch.com/Together).

We want to give back to our community by providing a space for everyone to belong this Thanksgiving, and we need your help! If you're a business owner who would like to sponsor the event, or an individual who'd like to volunteer, please reach out to Drake@MeizonChurch.com. Thanksgiving Together isn't solely aimed at the LGBTQIA+ community, it's also for the college kid who just can't make it back home and the single person who is new in town, anyone who needs a place to be. It is our hope that through this event, folks who otherwise would be alone on Thanksgiving day, will find a chosen family and community.

We can't wait to have Thanksgiving Together! 🐮

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Learn Your Part. Do Your Part

The pig is landing

The world's first Flying Pig Parade is a people-powered "un-parade"

by Glenn Terry

Gainesville is getting a performance like it's never seen. The world's first Flying Pig Parade will take wing on Saturday, December 30, at 2 p.m. The downtown satire of a traditional holiday procession will feature a unique brew of home-grown talent. It'll include hip musicians, dazzling performance artists, towering puppets, and a dozen dancing mosquitoes.

It will be a lot like Coconut Grove's King Mango Strut Parade, which has produced cascades of laughter since 1982. I co-founded the Strut and ran the show for 30 years. I live here now and am working with a group of talented locals to make the pig fly in G'ville. Ours is a grassroots operation and we volunteer our time. Everyone is welcome to march or join the parade production crew.

We chose the name because aerial

oinkers have represented achieving the impossible since Roman times. It also fits in with what many consider Gainesville's original name, "Hogtown."

Like the Strut, it'll be a short parade encouraging participants to slow down and perform for their roadside audience. It begins at Bo Diddley Plaza and marches south to the Hippodrome Theater. The "Pig" will then takes a couple of left turns before returning to the Plaza for a post-parade party.

Ours is an "un-parade." It will have no commercial sponsors or politicians waving from cars. The Pig will be people-powered. Motorized vehicles will be discouraged except for a few bands playing from flatbed trucks.

Come see us take over the streets to celebrate all that is wild and wonderful about G'ville.

We will also poke fun at all the weird

stuff we've been through in 2023. You might see presidential contenders in a pillow fight or Elon Musk's self-driving (cardboard) Teslas colliding with the crowd. Are you passionate about something? Form a group. Angry about book banning? Fire up your banned book barbecue.

Anyone can be in it as long as they're colorful and entertaining. Participants — and parade day volunteers — can sign up by going to our website, www.FlyingPigParade.org. We encourage you to apply soon as we can only accept the first thirty applicants. Should you have any questions, drop us a line at FlyingPigParade@gmail.com.

It's time downtown Gainesville got its own, original, awesome parade. If it's anything like the King Mango Strut, thousands of people will be delighted by our funny, festive, end-of-the-year celebration. 🐷



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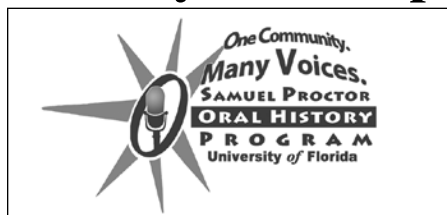
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History and the people who make it: Scott Camil (Part 2)



This month, we continue highlighting a Gainesville activist, veteran, honored hero, and friend of SPOHP, Scott Camil. Scott is a member of the Gainesville Eight: the group of seven Vietnam War veterans and one civilian caught in a conspiracy by the FBI, who attempted to frame them for terroristic threats.

In this 2005 interview with John Averson (A), Scott Camil (C) shares about his upbringing, his time in the Marine Corps from his training to engagements in combat, and touches on how he became an antiwar activist. Be advised this includes profanity and graphic descriptions of war. Transcript edited by Donovan Carter.

A: How long after basic training were you sent to Vietnam?

C: I graduated boot camp in September of 1965. Then I went to ITR, for October of 1965 and November of 1965, that's infantry training. It is like boot camp but not as strict except now you are learning tactics, mountain climbing and that kind of conditioning. I arrived in Vietnam on something like March 20, 1966.

A: How could you best describe your first few days in Vietnam?

C: This first thing was a kind of disbelief because growing up as a kid you see all these war stories [and] all these war movies and it is all WWII and Korea. It is all the boats coming up, the guy is running through the water and getting on the beach [and] having to fight your way. Going to war and getting off a plane at the airport just seemed strange to me.

The second thing would be the heat. Walking down the ramps of that plane the heat was just overwhelming. That was really my first impression. Then you get your job specialty and mine was direct fire artillery. Then I get my first duty, and as the new guy in the unit, my first duty is guard duty. So, I have thirty days guard duty. That was my first month.

On April 18, which was like my third week there, we were attacked and overrun. In less than a month I was in my first

battle, [and] the enemy won. I was on guard duty when they attacked and they came through our position and they destroyed camp.

That is a huge, traumatic event for a person. It was a learning experience, a growing up experience. For me it changed who I was. The day before that I was a boy with Marine training and the day after that I was a man, in the sense of how men were looked at then.

I pulled the ponchos off each of the Marines to see who they were, and I saw one of them was Manes [a fellow Floridian Camil met while in the service]. I was 19 years old, and I thought this is really real. There are people whose job it is to kill me and they are allowed to do that. There is no timeout and there is no second chance. This is a really serious thing I got myself involved in and I have to really pay attention if I want to be alive.

The people who attacked us were called sappers. They were suicide bombers. They had explosives strapped on their bodies and they just jumped into the bunkers and blew themselves up. I thought that I was there because the South Vietnamese were being invaded by the North Vietnamese. So, I decided at that moment, when I was looking at Manes, that I hated the fucking Vietnamese. So I was not a nice person after that.

Then we followed the blood trails trying to find the ones that got away. We came upon this man sowing a field in a rice paddy. [He] was an old guy, and he had black pajamas, pants rolled up so they would not be wet, he had a long mustache, hair coming out of his chin [and] he had a white turban on.

I went up to him and I said where did the VC go. He said "cambiet," which means I do not understand. I went to Vietnam without learning one thing about their culture, without learning the language, without learning the history of Vietnam. Anyway, I asked him a second time, where did the VC go? And he said "cambiet." I pulled out my bayonet and slit his throat. [He was] an unarmed old man, but I was really pissed about what happened that night. I just had become a different person.

Technically, there are rules of war about what you are supposed to do, about what you are not supposed to do. But there are no referees out there throwing a flag giving you fifteen yards because you clipped.

The job of the Marine is to destroy the will of the enemy to resist and you do that by making the price he is willing to pay, more than he is willing to pay. So, we just fucked these people.

Sometimes they were rounded up and we gave them to somebody else and I do not know what happened to them. Sometimes we just killed them. We burned down villages, we burned the crops so there would be no food for the guerrillas, we threw the dead bodies into the wells so there would be no water for the guerrillas. Now you are not supposed to do that kind of stuff.

You are measuring your success by who can pile up the most dead bodies, [then] you end up with lots of dead people. To me, now that I look back on that it was extremely barbaric. What is civilized about that? How can you call yourself a civilized world, when you are measuring success by who can kill the most human beings.

But at the time I did not see it that way. At the time they were like bowling pins. I wanted to have a high score. That is how Marines are measured, you win medals, you kill the fucking enemy. The more ruthless you are the more you are looked up to.

The way that we acted to those people, I would not want another country to come into the United States and do to us. I guarantee you that. So that means it could not have been right. A lot of the guys I know are pissed at what the Vietnamese did to us. Well, I was wounded twice and I was pissed about it when it happened. But now I think, what was I doing there?

I was really occupying their country, trying to force my will upon them, my brutality. What would happen if somebody did that to the United States?

Nobody wants to be occupied. I would not want it, why would I think that they want it? Why does anybody think the Iraqi's want it? The paper calls them insurgents. They are anti-occupation forces. They have a right to self-determination and to run their country their own way. Just because we do not agree with their form of government, who made us God? Why does everybody have to do what we say?

When I think about Vietnam I would say, what did we buy with the sacrifices that we made? We got a black marble wall in Washington. To me, the only way that it would be worthwhile, that it would have been a sacrifice that was worth it, was if my country would have learned from it

and would not have done it again. So, the fact that they are doing it again, to another generation, is like kicking sand in my face. It is like shitting on all those guys' names that are on the wall. It really disturbs me a lot.

A: I know eventually you became a forward observer. What would you say was an average day for you as a forward observer?

C: Normally when I talk about Vietnam, I talk about the worst days. So, I spent about 600 days there and I probably talk about the twenty worst days and all those other days I really do not think about.

Basically, as a forward observer I am attached out to an infantry company, and that company is part of an infantry battalion. So somewhere out in the middle of Vietnam, in the jungle, is a battalion headquarters and there is a map and that map has what is called a TAOR, the total area of responsibility.

We are responsible for everything in that area, so the main battalion CP is in the middle, let's say, and then there are four companies to a battalion, so one company stays in the battalion area, they provide security for the battalion and all of the motor pool, and sick bay and all the stuff that takes place. The other three companies each go out to someplace in that map and they are called company areas. You got a map and you have been assigned to checkpoint A, checkpoint B, checkpoint C and you walk around and look for people to kill, and that is what you do.

So, in the daytime you are walking through the jungle, looking for people to kill [and] at nighttime you set up a pe-

rimeter and you also send out a squad patrol. So you are always basically walking around looking for people to kill and 80 percent of the time, even more than that, nothing is going on as far as enemy contact with people.

But, everyday as you are walking along, people are stepping on things and blowing up. So you got to stop, you got to stop the bleeding, you have to setup a perimeter of security [and] you have to call in a Medivac helicopter to come in and get the wounded guy. And that goes on every day.

To me, everyone who did that deserves the Congressional Medal of Honor. Just for that. I cannot tell you how fearful it is walking around places where you have see your friends being blown up.

Then every once and a while, we would run into some of them and fight them. They would ambush us, or we would have a nice ambush and ambush them, or we would have what is called an operational intelligence that sighted a bunch of them somewhere, and we would go with a bunch of guys and attack, and have a big battle.

Out of those 600 days there may have been twenty battles, but all those battles were horrific kind of battles.

In one of them I was on a nineteen-man patrol, twelve of them died, and everyone else was wounded except for three of us. Actually they sent people out to rescue us and those people took casualties.

So when I think about Vietnam, I think about that. I do not think about when nothing was happening or when I was washing my clothes in the river, or sitting down eating a meal, or reading mail from home.

A: What made you sign up for a second tour? Could you have gone home?

C: Yes. I could have gone home, but some of what I am going to say may seem contradictory. You get kind of drunk on power, you get kind of addicted to adrenaline. It is not fun when you are losing, but it is really exciting when you are winning, and I am a little ashamed to say that I found it exciting killing other people.

But, I am telling you the truth, but my values have changed some and I doubt you could change the feelings I had when I was over there. It was sort of like when you are bowling, and you throw the ball and you get a strike, and it feels good inside.

When you get someone in your cross hairs, and you squeeze that trigger and you see then fall down, you feel good.


There is also a kind of camaraderie, which you cannot understand. Police would understand, firemen would understand, [but] not to the extent of another soldier.

To be continued in the Jan-Feb 2024 Iguana. For the full interview, see tinyurl.com/Iguana1734.

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

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In memoriam:

Rest in Power, Garrett Quinlivan

by Marilyn Eisenberg

Garrett Quinlivan left for Germany in the early '70s and returned to the United States in 2011. He could not believe how much the country had changed in his absence (for the worse) and joined many activist groups here in Gainesville to find out why and what he could do.

Garrett originally went to Germany just on a tour, but fell in love with a woman on the tour, married her, and raised three children in Hamburg. He was trained as a librarian, but joined the staff at the university in Bremen, Germany, as a tutor and teacher of English for German engineering students. There he wrote a German/English dictionary geared especially for engineering students.

Several years after his wife died and at the end of his career there, he returned to the States. In our locale, Garrett was an active member of Move to Amend, Yes to Second Choices, Just Health Care Committee of the Alachua County Labor Coalition, and the Green Party, for the latter of which he was



Garrett Quinlivan. Photo courtesy of Marilyn Eisenberg.

treasurer. He attended countless meetings of both the City and County Commission. Garrett was also very active in the Bernie Sanders campaign. He attended all these groups on his beloved bicycle.

While attending demonstrations and such with all these organizations, his great passion was building a passive house, following strict German environmental standards. He had it designed by a University of Florida architect, and it was completed in 2016.

Garrett loved attending biweekly luncheon meetings of a men's group of retired professors and scientists, called The Martians.

In the summer of 2014, he attended a Single Payer Conference in Oakland, California, with Labor Coalition comrade, Marilyn Eisenberg. He came back with brochures and a romance on his hands. The couple held a Commitment Ceremony late in 2015, and thereafter attended events of progressive organizations together till his sudden death of a stroke on Oct. 4. As per his desire, Garrett was buried in the beautiful woods of Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery, surrounded by his children and his many good Gainesville friends. ☘

Rest in Power, Paul L. Doughty

Paul Larrabee Doughty, an Emeritus Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Florida and recipient of the Malinowski Award from Society of Applied Anthropology, passed away Sept.



Paul L. Doughty. Photo from profile on Research Gate.

27, at the age of 93, while under hospice care in Gainesville.

Born on Feb. 27, 1930, in Beacon, New York, Paul led a remarkable life that left

an indelible mark on countless individuals and communities. From a young age, Paul's love for sports, fishing, and scouting ignited his adventurous spirit. He explored the picturesque Mount Beacon and scoured the area's creeks and empty lots for scrap metal to support the USA's World War II effort. Paul's formative years were spent at Oakwood Friends School, where he graduated in 1948. Little did he know that his experiences at this Quaker-based institution would shape one of the defining chapters of his life.

A man of unwavering principles, Paul chose the path of conscientious objection rather than participating in the Korean War and devoted his service to the Friend's Service Committee, focusing on rural community development in Mexico and El Salvador. This transformative experience fueled his passion for anthropology, ultimately leading him to earn a Ph.D. from Cornell University. His research and fieldwork in the Andean Highlands of Peru left an enduring impact on the communities he lived and worked with, and he continued to maintain strong ties with them throughout his life.

After a seven-year association with the Latin American Studies program at Indiana University, Paul and his family made Gainesville their home in 1971. Starting as Chair of the Anthropology Department, Paul embarked on a long career at the University of Florida, where he dedicated himself to teaching and research. His commitment to academia and his students was unwavering, and he retired in 1995, leaving behind a legacy of knowledge and inspiration.

Paul was a strong advocate and supporter of the peace and justice movement in Central America during the 1980s and '90s. He was one of the founding members of the Gainesville-Matagalpa Sister City Project, which sought to strengthen ties between residents of Gainesville and Matagalpa at a time when the U.S. administration was involved in a campaign of economic and military aggression against the government of Nicaragua.

As part of the sister city initiative, Paul led Gainesville delegations to Matagalpa, Nicaragua, and organized fundraisers to support a number of projects in solidarity

with the people of Matagalpa. One of Paul's favorite projects was the Casa Materna that provided pre- and post-natal care for women with high-risk pregnancies from rural areas of Matagalpa. Paul also led election observation delegations to Nicaragua for the Latin American Studies Association in 1984 and the U.S.-Nicaragua Sister Cities organization in 1990. All of these efforts helped to raise awareness about the human impact of US foreign policy in the region.

He was involved in many Gainesville organizations, including the Florida Free Speech Forum, Altrusa International (through work with Altrusa House in Gville), the Alachua County Democratic Party and the UN Association.

Even in retirement, Paul has maintained his commitment to forms of informal

and personal humanitarian action. He organized a reunion in the original communities of the volunteers who worked in the 1950s with the American Friends Service in Mexico and El Salvador. During the reunion, the volunteers became aware that the communities in El Salvador where they had worked were in danger of losing lands promised them after the war to encroaching agribusiness in collusion with government departments. Paul organized a fund raising effort that generated enough capital for the communities to purchase the lands and thus retain sufficient holdings to sustain themselves. This informal organization of ex-volunteers from the 1950s continues to maintain ties and work with the communities currently.

Paul's passing leaves a void in the hearts of those who knew and loved him. His

legacy of intellectual curiosity, dedication to community, establishing scholarships for higher education students, and unwavering commitment to family will continue to inspire generations to come.

He is survived by his son, Thomas Doughty, daughter-in-law Lianne, son-in-law Bo Nilsson, and loving grandchildren, Maya, Nico, and Lua and a host of friends and colleagues who will forever remember him as a welcoming and generous soul.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to The Paul and Polly Doughty Scholarship via The Chijnya Foundation in Paul's memory.

Victoria Condor-William, Phillip Williams, Tony Oliver-Smith, and Thomas Doughty all provided information for this article. 🐸

Conditions 'intolerable' at Baker County Detention Center **Detained and degraded with taxpayers' dollars**

by Pierce Butler

The US Dept of Homeland Security continues to hold Latinx immigrants at the Baker County Detention Center in Macclenny, FL, and the American Civil Liberties Union, after filing multiple complaints on behalf of the detainees, continues to find their conditions intolerable:

- Medical care denied, including blocking medication for a woman who suffered an epidemic seizure at BCDC;
- Inedible food, dirty and stinky clothing and bedding (which has caused numerous infections);
- Beatings, pepper sprayings, racial slurs, excessive use of solitary confinement, voyeurism on female detainees; and
- Blocking access to lawyers and visitors.

DHS inspectors found conditions at BCDC and Glades County Detention Center "unsafe" in 2019, but only Glades lost its federal contract, and only in 2022. Many Glades detainees were transferred to Baker County, where conditions have not improved. Formal grievance procedures, protests, and hunger strikes alike have made no difference.

Though President Biden campaigned in 2020 on fixing immigration policies, after almost three years in office he has done little to change Donald Trump's abusive and xenophobic approach. Unsurprisingly, he still endures dishonest attacks by

Republican politicians who mislead the public by claiming Democrats pamper "illegals" (a term they apply to all darker-skinned non-citizens, even those who apply for asylum using legally-defined processes).

Will Biden ever learn that meeting fanatics and racists "in the middle" does not work?

The ACLU of Florida and many other organizations have filed suit to end the Immigration and Customs Enforcement contract with Baker County, supported by a petition drive (which the public can sign on to at tinyurl.com/Iguana1749, and also get more information on treatment of immigrants and on volunteering to improve their conditions and the policies affecting them. 🐸



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From ABORTION, p. 1

Union of Florida, Planned Parenthood, Florida Rising and Florida Women's Freedom Coalition.

The initiative, titled "Amendment to Limit Government Interference with Abortion," proposes an amendment to the constitution that would be voted on during the November 2024 election. If passed, the amendment would enshrine protections for abortion access in the state.

The amendment's text is brief and direct in its purpose: "No law shall prohibit, penalize, delay, or restrict abortion before viability or when necessary to protect the patient's health, as determined by the patient's healthcare provider. This amendment does not change the Legislature's constitutional authority to require notification to a parent or guardian before a minor has an abortion."

Why Floridians are taking action

The campaign was launched in May, soon after Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a six-week abortion ban into law, which is, at the time of publication, awaiting a decision from the Florida Supreme Court's ruling on the 15-week ban. The six-week ban sparked strong reactions from activists, lawmakers and concerned Floridians.

In a public statement, Congressman Maxwell Frost, U.S. Representative for Florida's 10th congressional district, spoke in opposition to both the 15- and six-week bans, which he said are "radical attempts to control Floridian's bodies and healthcare decisions."

The six-week ban is an escalation in the series of legislative battles concerning reproductive rights that have been increasing at the state level and the national level since the fall of *Roe v. Wade*, which rolled back federal protections for abortions.

With only two other states in the nation with a six-week ban in place, putting this ban into effect would make Florida part of the country's most aggressive in limiting reproductive health care. The ban prohibits abortions after six weeks from the last menstrual period and offers limited exceptions for victims of rape, human trafficking, incest or instances of fetal abnormality.

There are also additional requirements, including that Florida patients attend two in-person appointments, at least 24 hours apart. With considerations to the limited availability of appointments, and the complications for patients to take time off work or find transportation to the clinic,

restrictions like this 24-hour window only add further barriers for Floridians seeking abortion care.

Critics of the ban argue this is too little time for some to even recognize that they are pregnant, much less with all the restrictions and barriers to access that the Florida legislature has created.

A group of abortion providers, including Planned Parenthood, are currently challenging the constitutionality of the 15-week ban through the state Supreme Court. The group argues that the ban violates the right to privacy outlined in Article 1, Section 23 of the Florida Constitution, a clause voters passed in 1980. The legal precedent of this case is a 1989 Florida Supreme Court ruling where the Court determined that the privacy clause does protect abortion.

Oral arguments for the hearing began Sept. 8, and there is no set date for decisions.

The 15-week ban is currently in effect as it awaits a ruling. If the Supreme Court decides to uphold the ban, then the six-week ban would also take effect.

As the state legislature has rolled back abortion rights, and the path through the Supreme Court is unclear, Floridians are now using a different avenue, through the ballot initiative, to protect abortion.

What it takes to get abortion on the ballot

According to the Florida Constitution, amendment proposals must collect as many signatures as 8 percent of the voting population in the last Presidential election, meaning the Floridians Protecting Freedom campaign must accumulate a minimum of 891,523 petitions signed by Floridian voters, with 8 percent of those voters being from half of Florida's congressional districts.

To account for those petitions that may be rejected due to mistakes in the form or invalid signatures, the campaign has set a goal of approximately one million petitions to be collected by the Feb. 1 deadline.

In August, the campaign announced that it had collected over 600,000 petitions, meaning it has collected more than half of its goal in just three months of the campaign having been launched.

More recently, the campaign validated enough petitions with the state, over 25 percent of the required signatures, to trigger a review from the state Supreme Court on the amendment's language.

This is a significant milestone for the

campaign and puts the initiative closer to reaching the 2024 ballot.

Organizing at the Swamp

While the campaign has hired petition collectors to help with its goal, a large portion of its work has been fulfilled by volunteers, reporting 117,502 petitions being submitted or directly mailed by Floridian voters. In Gainesville, student and community organizations have taken to the streets to get involved.

UF Generation Action, the student affiliate organization of Planned Parenthood that extends its advocacy works on college campuses, has aligned much of its resources this semester on promoting the campaign. Tabling on campus to speak with students about the petition, hosting special events both on campus and throughout Gainesville to platform the issue and facilitating online discussions are some ways that Generation Action and other student organizations have been mobilizing to get abortion on the ballot.

Student organizers have expressed how this initiative has allowed Floridians to make healthcare decisions on their own account and presents a possible turning point in the state's political landscape.

Paulina Trujillo, political director of UF Generation Action and public relations director of UF College Democrats, emphasized how "the ballot initiative serves as a beacon of hope within the whirlwind of Florida politics." She asserted that this beacon is especially relevant with the past losses that progressives have experienced in the state and can provide optimism for reproductive organizers who feel that "we can do nothing against the machine of Florida's Republican supermajority."

Other states, like Kansas, have already passed a ballot initiative to protect abortion rights. Trujillo highlights this win as a reminder that this change is possible and has been done before, further accentuating the possibility of change in Florida.

Looking towards the future

As the state currently awaits a decision from the Supreme Court on the legality of the 15-week ban, there is much uncertainty about reproductive rights.

Organizers like Trujillo have remained positive and have continued focusing efforts on the ballot initiative. If the campaign succeeds, Floridians can expect to decide on this issue in November 2024.

Following are frequently asked questions (and answers) about the petition.

Frequently asked questions on the abortion/ballot petition

Who can sign the petition?

Anyone registered to vote in Florida is eligible to sign the petition. To verify voter registration status, please refer to: tinyurl.com/Iguana1731

Where can I access the petition?

You can print the petition through tinyurl.com/Iguana1732. The PDF is fillable, but the signature and date signed must be handwritten.

I don't know my voter registration number. Can I still sign the petition?

Yes. You can use either your voter registration or your date of birth.

How do I submit the petition?

You can mail the completed petition to:

Petition Collection
Post Office Box 4068
Sarasota, FL 34230

Or you can submit it to a local petition hub. The Civic Media Center is currently serving as one of Gainesville's petition hubs. You may also fill out and submit the petition through volunteer collection organizations.

Some UF organizations working on petition collection include:

- UF Generation Action (@ppgenactionuf on Instagram),
- UF College Democrats (@ufcollegedemocrats on Instagram), and
- UF Young Democratic Socialists of America (@uf_ydsa on Instagram).

I've already signed the petition, can I still sign?

No. Petitions can only be signed once. Please call your local supervisor of elections to confirm if you have filled out a petition/your petition has been received.

When is the deadline for collecting petitions?

All petitions must be processed by Feb. 1, 2024. To allow sufficient time for processing and verification, petitions should be signed and submitted by the end of December 2023.

Tips for Signing the Petition

Use only blue or black ink to sign.

A common error is that people confuse the section that says

"County" with "Country." Please fill in with the county you are registered to vote in (e.g.: Alachua County, Miami-Dade County, etc.). Do not write "USA" or "United States of America." To verify which county you are registered to vote in, please refer to: tinyurl.com/Iguana1733

If you make a mistake, do not cross it out. Start a new petition.

No abbreviations for the county or city. For example, do not write GNV for Gainesville.

Write as clearly as possible. Your petition may not be counted if some information cannot be read. 🐢

Ready to help us get abortion on the ballot?

For trainings, events, petition information, FAQs, and more, go to the Floridians Protecting Freedom website at: tinyurl.com/Iguana1750

Join the local coalition in the fight for abortion rights!

Email Laura at nwl@womensliberation.org 🐢

**The FL Supreme Court will soon
rule on the abortion ban.**

Gainesville will respond!

**Saturday after the decision @ 1pm
SE corner of Univ. Ave & SE 1st St.**

**Picket & petition signing
Let's get abortion on the ballot!**



Paid political advertisement
provided in-kind by National
Women's Liberation, P.O. Box
14017, Gainesville, FL 32604

Alachua's Queer History Gallery

Matheson History Museum Main Gallery

513 East University Avenue, Gainesville

Wed.-Sat., Oct. 14- Nov. 22, 11am-4pm

Admission free, but donations encouraged

mathesonmuseum.org/current-exhibitions/

**Reduce
Reuse
Recycle**

Gainesville area events

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 7-11

- Tue 11/7 **Peace Picketing** resumes, 4:30-5:30pm, corner of NW 43rd St & 16th Ave
- Thu 11/9 **"Black Seine, White Masks"** 6:30pm talk on Paris & Blacks at Cotton Club (837 SE 7th Ave), free
- Fri 11/10– **Annie Jr Musical (Cast A)**, 8-9:15pm (also Sat & Sun - & see 11/17), Star Center Theatre (11 NE 23rd Ave), \$15 (students \$12); starcentertheatre.org
- Sat 11/11 **Grow Hub Pop-up Shops**, 9am-3pm at Grow Hub (2900 NE 8th Ave), vendors, live music, kids' activities
- Sat 11/11 **Veterans Day Celebration**, 9:30am-noon at Veterans Memorial Park (7400 SW 41st Pl), with live music, skydivers, UF Drill team, etc
- Sat 11/11 **Cycling for Our Springs**, 10am-5pm, 5-mile & 16-mile rides cohosted by Alachua Conservation Trust & 1st Magnitude Brewery starting at 1st Mag (1220 SE Veitch St), \$15-40: tinyurl.com/Iguana1739

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 12-18

- Sun 11/12 **Bacopa Literary Review Reading**, 2:30-4pm, Millhopper Branch Library (3145 NW 43rd St), free; pg 6
- Sun 11/12 **"Junk Jam! (Instrument Making)"**, 12-2pm, Repurpose Project (1920 NW 23RD AVE), free; tinyurl.com/Iguana1740
- Sun 11/12 **"Plantsgiving"**, 12:30-4pm, plant swaps & sales, Roots Plant Studio (4780 NW 39th Ave), free
- Sun 11/12 **Gvl Community Band Veterans Concert**, 4-5:15pm, 1st Presbyterian Church (300 SW 2nd Ave), free
- Sun 11/12 **Next Generation Showcase** of music & dance, 4pm, Eastside High School Theatre (1201 SE 43rd St), \$5-15
- Mon 11/14 **Florida Free Speech Forum**, 11:30am, Dr. Dakeyan Chá Dré Graham speaks on Equity, free (w/out lunch)
- Mon 11/14 **"Springs Stresses"**, noon-1pm, lecture at Fla Springs Inst (18654 Main St, High Springs) & on Facebook video, free; tinyurl.com/Iguana1741
- Thu 11/16 **Thelma Boltin Center**, time uncertain (10am-10pm) discussion by Gvl City Commission (200 E Univ Ave); info elmhurst50@gmail.com
- Thu 11/16 **Anti-Thanksgiving Potluck**, 6-8pm, Civic Media Center (433 S Main St); civicmediacenter.org
- Fri 11/17 **"Pause to Play Gathering"**, 4pm through 11/19, therapeutic retreat at Fla Coalition for Peace & Justice (10665 SW 89th Ave), \$?; florida4peace.org/calendar
- Fri 11/17 **Annie Jr Musical (Cast B)**, 8-9:15pm (also Sat & Sun - & see 11/10), Star Center Theatre (11 NE 23rd Ave), \$15 (students \$12); starcentertheatre.org
- Sat 11/18 **Survivors of Suicide Loss Day Vigil**, 10am, at Judy Broward SoSL Memory Garden., Cofrin Nature Park (4810 NW 8th Ave) sponsored by Alachua County Crisis Center
- Sat 11/18 **Palatka Environmental Justice Tour**, 10am-?, Suwannee-St Johns Sierra Club; Contact: Jyoti Parmar for more information at jyoti.parmar@sierraclub.org
- Sat 11/18 **Downtown Festival & Art Show**, 10am-5pm (also Sun 11/19), Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave); pg 6
- Sat 11/18 **Fla Tiny House Festival**, 10am-5pm (also 11/19), Gvl Raceway (11211 N County Rd 225), \$20 (\$15 before 11/17); tinyurl.com/Iguana1742
- Sat 11/18 **Gainesville Free Store**, 2-5pm, masks required, Civic Media Center (433 S Main St); civicmediacenter.org
- Sat 11/18 **Mama's Broke**, 4-5pm, folk duo performs at Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave), free

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 19-25

- Sun 11/19 **Sunday Assembly**, 11 am, David Dale leads participatory assembly at Pride Ctr (3850 NW 83rd St); sagainesville.weebly.com
- Sun 11/19 **Chicago Blues with Lurrie Bell**, 6-9:30 pm, Heartwood Soundstage (619 S Main St), \$20
- Sun 11/19 **Food Not Bombs Benefit**, 7-11pm, Civic Media Center (433 S Main St); civicmediacenter.org
- Mon 11/20 **Democratic Women's Club**, 11:30 am at B'Nai Israel (3830 NW 16th Blvd) 3rd Mondays (except Dec & Jan)
- Mon 11/20 **"Scene Queens"**, 7pm, drag show for 18 & over at Hipp Basement (25 SE 2nd Pl), \$12; thehipp.org
- Fri 11/24 **"The Ultimate Christmas Show (abridged)"**, 8-10pm (through 12/21), The Hipp (25 SE 2nd Pl), \$55; thehipp.org/the-ultimate-christmas-show-abridged
- Sat 11/25 **"A Christmas Carol"**, 1 & 4pm (through 12/23), The Hipp (25 SE 2nd Pl), \$50 (students \$20); thehipp.org/a-christmas-carol-2023

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 26-DECEMBER 2

- Sun 11/26 **Bluegrass, Old-Time, & Traditional Jam**, 2-5pm at Civic Media Ctr (433 S Main St), donation requested; civicmediacenter.org
- Wed 11/29 **"Unlitter"**, 7-9pm, Sabina Osman on #UNLITTER organization at Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), free (also on Zoom); tinyurl.com/Iguana1743
- Wed 11/29 **Wynton Marsalis**, 7:30pm, Phillips Center (3201 Hull Rd), \$45-75 (UF students \$20); tinyurl.com/Iguana1744
- Fri 12/1 **Artwalk** moves to Dec 1 for the holidays; pg 4 & artwalkgainesville.com
- Fri 12/1 **World AIDS Day**, 6:30pm, author Margaret Galvan booksigning & discussion, 3rd House Books (400 NW 10th Ave), free; pg 28
- Fri 12/1 **Paula Poundstone**, 7:30pm, Phillips Center (3201 Hull Rd), \$30-50 (UF students \$12); performingarts.ufl.edu/events/paula-poundstone-3/
- Fri 12/1 **Twelfth Night**, 8pm, through 12/17, Shakespeare's rom-com via Acrosstown Rep (3501 SW 2nd Ave, Suite O), \$?; acrosstown.org/2023-2024-season
- Sat 12/2 **Craft Festival 2023**, 10am-5pm (also Sun 12/3), O'Dome (250 Gale Lemerand Dr), \$6; oconnellcenter.ufl.edu/craftfestival
- Sat 12/2 **"A Very Gainesville Holiday Parade"**, noon, downtown, free - followed by —
- Sat 12/2 **Bo Diddley Plaza Kids Holiday Dance Party** (111 E Univ Ave), 3pm, free
- Sat 12/2 **Clothing Swap**, 4-6pm, 1st Saturdays at Repurpose Project (1920 NW 23rd Ave), \$5-10 donation requested; tinyurl.com/Iguana1745

WEEK OF DECEMBER 3-9

- Sun 12/3 **GLAM Craft Show**, 10am-5pm, 1st Magnitude Brewing (1220 SE Veitch St), free
- Sun 12/3 **Civic Media Center 30th Anniversary Celebration**, 3-5pm, Cotton Club (837 SE 7th Ave), pg 32; civicmediacenter.org
- Thu 12/7 **Annie Warbucks**, 2pm, sequel to *Annie*, through 12/7, Star Center Theatre (11 NE 23rd Ave), \$?; starcentertheatre.org
- Sat 12/9 **"Ask a Lawyer"**, 9:30am-12:30pm, Civic Media Center (433 S Main St)
- Sat 12/9 **Tusawilla Pottery Open House**, 10am-5pm, Ana Varela's studio (650 Tusawilla Rd, Micanopy); pg 11
- Sat 12/9 **Swamp Rats, Glizzy Gillespie**, 7-10pm, show at Civic Media Center (433 S Main St); civicmediacenter.org
- Sat 12/9 **Veterans for Peace Winter Solstice Concert**, 7:30pm, Unitarian Fellowship (4225 NW 34th St), \$20-40 slide; pg 11

WEEK OF DECEMBER 10-16

- Sun 12/10 **ACT Holiday Mingle**, 2-5pm, Prairie Creek Lodge (7204 SE County Rd 234), family celebration of conservation victories, free; tinyurl.com/Iguana1746
- Sun 12/10 **"La Florida"**, 7-10pm, author Dr. Kevin Kokomoor on Spanish roots of US history, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), free w/ registration at tinyurl.com/Iguana1747
- Mon 12/12 **"Springs Advocacy"**, noon-1pm, lecture at Fla Springs Inst (18654 Main St, High Springs) & on Facebook video, free; tinyurl.com/Iguana1748
- Sat 12/16 **"Dashing through History"**, 12-4pm, live music & holiday history, crafts, &c, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), \$20 (\$10 for ages 5-18, \$16 for members); mathesonmuseum.org/events

DECEMBER 17-JANUARY 6

- Sun 12/17 **Sunday Assembly**, 11 am, Public Defender Stacy Scott speaks at Pride Ctr (3850 NW 83rd St); sagainesville.weebly.com
- Wed 12/27 **"An History of Kwanzaa"**, 7 pm, A.Quinn Jones Museum & Cultural Center (1013 NW 7th Ave), free; facebook.com/AQuinnJonesMuseum/events
- Sat 12/30 **Flying Pig Parade**, 2pm, downtown Gainesville, free; pg 19 & flyingpigparade.org
- Sat 1/6 **Camellia Show**, 1-5pm (also 1/7, 9am-4pm), Kanapaha Botanical Gardens (4700 SW 58th Dr), \$10 (ages 5-13, \$5); kanapaha.org

RECURRING EVENTS

Monday Farmers Market

4-7pm: Cypress & Grove

Wednesday Farmers Market

4-7pm: Bo Diddley Plaza

Thursday Farmers Market

4-7pm: Heartwood Soundstage

Thursday evening Poetry Jam

8pm at CMC 🐉

OTHER EVENT LISTINGS

Please support Gainesville live music venues, they all have calendars:

- Boca Backyard, Cypress & Grove, First Magnitude, Heartwood Soundstage, Loosey's, One Love Café, Satchels, the Woolly, Wormhole, etc.
- See visitgainesville.com/events for a weekly event list, updated Thursdays; also try 352arts.org; and don't forget civicmediacenter.org

Support live music, theater, and festivals! Get out into nature! Leave the freakin' house and have fun! 🐉

Meet the author event in honor of World AIDS Day

In honor of World AIDS Day (Friday, Dec. 1), join author Margaret Galvan in conversation with UF professor Kenneth Kidd at 6:30pm at Third House Books, as they talk about photographer Nan Goldin's HIV/AIDS activism that Galvan writes about in her new book, *In Visible Archives: Queer and Feminist Visual Culture in the 1980s*.

The book examines the artwork of eight

women and how their work intersects with cultural touchstones like the feminist sex wars, the HIV/AIDS crisis, and counter-cultural grassroots periodical networks.

Margaret Galvan is Assistant Professor of Visual Rhetoric in the Department of English at UF. Her archivally-informed research examines how visual culture operates within social movements. See margaregalvan.org for more information.

Kenneth Kidd is Professor and Associate Chair of English at UF. He's the author of three books and co-editor of five more.

There is free parking available in the shopping plaza and there's also street parking.

Books will be available for purchase and signing. Third House Books is at 400 NW 10th Ave. in Gainesville. ☼

Online blogs/resources

Do you follow reliable but underreported Web resources Iguana readers might appreciate? Tell us: gainesvilleiguana@cox.net. ☼

Beau of the Fifth Column

Beau is a YouTube journalist based in NW Florida.

He posts multiple short pieces every day covering foreign policy, education, security, politics, and human rights. He can be ironic, dead serious, a bit whimsical, and/or analytical. He also produces longer form videos.

Check him out at:

youtube.com/@BeauoftheFifthColumn



democracynow.org

or listen at:

WGOT.org / WGOT 100.1 FM

Mon - Fri, 8am and 1pm



Letters from an American

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

heathercoxrichardson.substack.com

Iguana Directory

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

Readers: If there is inaccurate information here, 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 internships, birding for kids, conservation activism, volunteer opportunities. AlachuaAudubon.org | facebook.com/AlachuaAudubon/

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

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

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

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

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

Alachua NAACP – With 2+ million activists across the country, we work to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic

equality of rights of all people and to eliminate racial hatred and discrimination. Everyone invited to join. [Facebook.com/alachuaNAACP](https://facebook.com/alachuaNAACP) | NAACPacb.org

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

Avian Research and Conservation Institute is a non-profit research group working to stimulate conservation action to save threatened bird species in the southeast. 352-514-5606 | arcinst.org

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

Central Florida Democratic Socialists of America is a chapter of DSA focusing on

local social and political activism issues to better our community. Meetings are the 4th Monday of the month on Zoom. centralfidsa@gmail.com | facebook.com/NCFloridaDSA

Citizens Climate Lobby builds awareness and lobbies for sensible climate policies. 352-214-1778 | btancig@gmail.com | citizensclimatelobby.org/chapters/FL_Gainesville | facebook.com/CitizensClimateLobbyGainesvilleFL

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 | civicmediacenter.org | coordinators@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 | facebook.com/GlobalClimateEducation | ClimateRealityProjectGNV.wordpress.com | 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 | chispasuf.com | facebook.com/chispasUF

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

Community Spring is a local organization to help 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

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

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

Current Problems cleans up waterways across north Florida, removing over 1,000,000 pounds of trash (& recycling/reusing 63% of it) since 1993, and finding ways to reduce pollution sources; volunteers welcome. 352-222-6727 | currentproblems.org

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

Divest Gainesville advocates divesting City financial assets from fossil fuel industries and educating on racial justice and climate change. youngersn@outlook.com | facebook.com/DivestGainesville

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

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

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

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

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

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

Florida Defenders of the Environment works to protect freshwater resources,

conserve public lands, provide quality environmental education. 352-475-1119 | FloridaDefenders@gmail.com | FlaDefenders.org

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

Floridians Protecting Freedom is a campaign of allied organizations and concerned citizens working together to protect Floridians' access to abortion as reproductive health care and to defend the right to bodily autonomy. Contact Laura at 617-767-6664 or go to floridiansprotectingfreedom.com.

Gainesville Area AIDS Project, a program of Pride Community Center of North Central Florida, 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 addresses the climate crisis for future generations. The chapter mobilizes people to become powerful activists and push for aggressive climate action. The hope is to transform society and to change the world. climateralityprojectgnv@gmail.com | @climateralityprojectgnv | climateralityprojectgnv.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

Continued on next page

Spotlight on ...

Jewish Voice For Peace



Inspired by the JVP actions nationwide calling for ceasefire in Gaza, a Jewish Voice for Peace pod is forming here in Gainesville. Jewish Voice for Peace is the largest progressive Jewish anti-Zionist organization in the world. We're organizing a grassroots, multiracial, cross-class, intergenerational movement of U.S. Jews into solidarity with the Palestinian freedom struggle, guided by a vision of justice, equality, and dignity for all people. We envision

a world where all people—from the U.S. to Palestine—live in freedom, justice, equality, and dignity. Like generations of Jewish leftists before us, we fight for the liberation of all people. We believe that through organizing, we can and will dismantle the institutions and structures that sustain injustice and grow something new, joyful, beautiful, and life-sustaining in their place.

For more info, please see <https://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/resource/our-vision/>.

To connect with the local JVP pod, please reach out on Instagram @jvp_gnv or email us at jvp_gnvpod@gmail.com.

Please join us in demanding the U.S. government to call for a CEASEFIRE NOW! jvp.org/ceasefire. 🕊️

Continued from preceding page

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 Residents United educates, advocates, negotiates, and litigates issues of community concern – currently the State takeover of Gainesville Regional Utilities. www.GRUnited.org

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

Gainesville Stamp Club, established in the 1960's, is open to all interested in philately. Auction held every meeting. Advanced level program occasionally included. Under 18 must be accompanied by adult. First and third Tuesdays starting at 7:30pm; no meetings in December/holidays. For meeting locations and info. call 352-371-1991 | Stamps4Laffs@yahoo.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 the community to create/manage engaging, educational, locally-generated programming promoting music, visual arts, humanities for enrichment of the 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 folks 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 promote secular, humanist, atheist and agnostic social influences. Facebook.com/humanistsocietyofgainesville | gainesvillehumanists@gmail.com | 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

Jewish Voice For Peace in Gainesville was inspired by the JVP actions nationwide calling for ceasefire in Gaza. JVP envisions a world where all people live in freedom, justice, equality and dignity. jewishvoiceforpeace.org/resource/our-vision | Instagram: @jvp_gnv | jvpgnvpod@gmail.com

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

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

MindFreedom North Florida is a human rights group for psychiatric survivors and mental health consumers, working to educate the public about harmful psychiatric practices and about humane alternatives to those harmful practices. 352-328-2511 | facebook: MindFreedom Florida

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America is a grassroots organization working to end gunviolence by electing gun sense

candidates, advocating for policies that save lives, educating parents on responsible gun storage. Alachua County events listed at momsdemandaction.org/events

Move to Amend, Gainesville is an organization dedicated to amending the US Constitution to establish that money is not speech, and that only human beings have constitutional rights. Contact Alachua County Green Party for information. Facebook.com/MoveToAmendGainesvilleFL

National Alliance on Mental Illness | Gainesville offers support, education and advocacy for families and loved ones of persons with mental illness and/or brain disorders. 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. Marion.Co.FL.1590@gmail.com | ncpssm.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

PFLAG Gainesville is a local chapter of Parents and Families of Lesbians and

Gays, the nation's foremost family-based organization committed to the civil rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. 352-340-3770 | info@pflaggainesville.org | pflaggainesville.org

Planned Parenthood Clinic at Gainesville Health Center is a full-service health center for reproductive and sexual health care needs. Offering pregnancy testing and options counseling. 914 NW 13th St., Gnv. | 352-377-0881 | plannedparenthood.org (enter Gainesville FL in "find a health center" box)

Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery promotes natural burial practices that conserve land and reunite people with the environment. 352-317-7307 | info@prairiecreekconservationcemetery.org | prairiecreekconservationcemetery.org

Pride Community Center of North Central Florida has resources for the LGBT+ community, open Sat. 2-4pm: and by appt. 3131 NW 13th St., Suite 62, Gnv | 352-377-8915 | pccncf@gainesvillepride.org | GainesvillePride.org

Repurpose Project, a nonprofit junk shop/ community center, diverting useful resources from landfill and redirecting items to the public for art and education, inspiring creativity, and rethinking what we throw away. Help protect the planet and buy used. Check website for hours. 1920 NE 23rd Ave, Gnv | 352-363-8902 | info@RepurposeProject.org | repurposeproject.org

River Phoenix Center for Peace-building 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 | 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 animals 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 with talk, music, sing-along, discussion, fellowship. Meets the 3rd Sunday of the 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 Students for Justice in Palestine: In stark recognition of the failure of modern society to produce a just and reasonable solution to the Palestine-Israel conflict, Students for Justice in Palestine promote public awareness and activism in our community. We promote international law, human rights, and justice for all affected by this conflict. We welcome a diverse membership from all faiths and nationalities who believe in the attainability of peace. sjpuflorida@gmail.com

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/UNAUSAGainesvilleFICChapter | UNA-USAGainesvillefl.org

United Way Information & 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/understand our democratic system, including demands such as voter registration at Freshman Preview, classes cancelled on election days, more transparency on how our tuition money is spent on lobbying and political influence. Go to: un-pac.org, @un_pac_uflorida, or email un.pac.uf@gmail.

Veterans for Peace Gainesville Chapter is an anti-war organization that raises awareness of the detriments of militarism and war, as well as seeking peaceful and effective alternatives. 352-375-2563 | Facebook.com/VFPchapter14 | vfpgainesville.org

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

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

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

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

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

You're invited, Dec. 3: CMC turns 30!

by Joe Courter

We had postponed the marking of the Civic Media Center's 30th birthday back on Oct. 18 because, frankly, October had big events every dang weekend. As an active part of the CMC all these years, and well aware of the date, I have, however, been flooded with memories and reflections on the last three decades as we lead up to our Dec. 3 celebration.

Regardless of when in that entire span, we were and are a hub of progressive minded people looking for connection and purpose beyond their regular lives. These people, meeting and working together, showing up to staff, helping organize events, or even just coming to the events as audience or performer, they got to be in a volunteer-run, community-supported, overtly politically conscious, audacious space. Some dabbled around the edges, but nonetheless had a spark of awareness, of inspiration land on them.

One example: There was a woman who came by on a day when her younger brother was enrolling at UF, specifically to let me know that her seeing a couple films we showed made her change her major toward a public health career. How many people had that happen that we never hear about?

Other people really got involved and actually took on the coordinator job, at least three of them were still in their teens ... we were trusting enough to be driven by the will and interests of the volunteers and the coordinators. To do that job you needed to do the work of maintaining the space, creating events, building visibility and outreach, delegating, overseeing, and fundraising: that is learning the skills of organizing and planning that you don't get in the "real world."

The recent credit bestowed on the CMC by musician Laura Jane Grace upon her receiving the Key to the City on the first day of Fest, that it was a really important part of her life and gave her space to develop as a person as well as in her art, was very gratifying. But I know, just from people I am around or in touch with, that their lives, too, were changed by the CMC. Some, quite profoundly to me, have said it was a literal lifeline.

I have not done a lot of searching out old CMC volunteers, but among the ones I am aware of, I do know that we have produced a good percentage of very useful people. There are a number of authors, medical workers, labor activists, and of

course artists and musicians. There are people who first dared to read poetry or perform music in public at the CMC, who now have that as a valued part of their lives. Many loving relationships and life-long friends have had their start there.

There an organic quality to the CMC, and the years have seen it evolve. In the '90s it was just finding its way. Poetry jam came to us. After the Hardback Cafe closed, we picked up the slack with a lot of music shows.

The library function provided all sorts of video and audio tapes (things we now have in storage because, well, technology) as well as books and magazines (although, of course, technology is kinda shoving them back, too).

In the mid-2000s, we celebrated our 10th anniversary bringing Noam Chomsky before 6,000 people in the O'Dome, and also brought historian Howard Zinn and writer Michael Parenti to town among many other events.

We were closer to campus at our 1021 W. Univ. Ave. location, both physically and in our volunteer base. With our move to S. Main St. in 2010, we became less connected to campus, but were still actively drawing in varied people and their interests.

We did pull off bringing Chomsky for our 20th in 2013, this time at the Performing Arts Center. And when alt-right racist a-hole Richard Spencer came to town, we were a hub of activism and organizing, from both campus and community, and were key to the great protest that was nationally noted.

Covid shut our doors to events in 2020, but community support (thank you stimulus checks being shared) and intrepid coordinator JoJo Sacks kept us solvent.

During that time the next evolution became organizations directly working out of the CMC as their hub. Mondays there is a book reading group. The Free Grocery Store grew into major food distribution on Tuesdays. Tuesday evening alternates with Books to Prisoners and folks interested in other incarceration issues. Live music is happening at least once a week. There are both occasional and regular meetings and events. And through it all, Poetry Jam still owns every Thursday evening, and the library functions continue offering the book and zine collections.

It has been the most meaningful thing in my life to have been a part of the Civic

Media Center, coming a long way from the living room meetings in Charles Willetts's house in the early '90s, where the concept of such a space arose. Come help me celebrate, share your own stories and memories, or just hear others' tales. So, so many people have supported the CMC, this will be a thank you to them all.

Dr. Paul Ortiz will be there to talk about the value of community spaces and organizing as well, so please take a piece of your Sunday, Dec. 3 afternoon, 3-5 pm, at the fantastically restored Cotton Club Museum and Cultural Center, 837 SE 7th Ave. We're asking for donations of \$30 for 30 years (or whatever you can afford). Donations can be made to the CMC via Paypal, Venmo, or old-fashioned check mailed or brought to the CMC.

The website, www.civicmediacenter.org, has the PayPal button; the Venmo is venmo@CMC4ever, and the CMC is at 433 S. Main St., Gainesville, FL 32601.

Thank you. 🐢

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