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The Gainesville Iguana

October 2024 - vol. 38, issue 10

'a soapbox for Alachua County activists'

LET THE STATE DECIDE? NO, LET WOMEN DECIDE!

Medication vs. surgical abortion, YES on 4 vs. further organizing

by *The Gainesville Radical Reproductive Rights Network*



In 2022, the story of the Jane Collective experienced a resurgence in popularity. Read about them and ask yourself whether they did anything wrong, or if the state did. Abortion has long been under attack. Anti-choice actors worked for 50 years to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, which overturned abortion bans in several states. That includes Tex-

as, where *Roe* was filed, and partly from where a 2023 Supreme Court case targeting access to Mifepristone originated. *Dobbs* led to Florida's bans and our ability to vote Yes on Amendment 4 in November.

Defending abortion access in the face of the 6-week ban, we're forced to weigh the options we have left. Naturally, we might ask whether abortion is better via pill or surgery, or perhaps, does medication abortion replace surgical abortion? As reproductive rights advocates who support the Amendment to Limit Government Interference, we also ask ourselves: how does Yes on 4 comport with further organizing?

The short answer to the first question is "no"; both are safe and legitimate, and we deserve all options for self-determination surrounding our abortion care. Factors influencing that decision-making include access, cultural practices, finances, and personal preference.

If one successfully ends a pregnancy, the other is not necessary. Medication is now the more popular option for U.S. abortion-seekers. However, about 1-2% of people who take abortion pills remain pregnant. In those cases, a person may repeat the process of taking abortion pills after ten days. Alternatively, if a person decides they don't want to try another pill regimen, they can



inquire about a surgical procedure by contacting their medication provider or the M+A Hotline. The M+A hotline connects people to clinicians and healthcare professionals who provide medical help.

Between eight and 12 weeks of gestation, pills are very effective but efficacy decreases. After about 12 weeks, efficacy decreases further, however, research shows medication abortion could occur at 13 weeks and beyond! Because there is a 6-week ban and abortion pills are only viable until about 12 weeks, increasing medication abortion access is imperative, but it doesn't obviate the need for the surgical option.

There are different medical considerations when choosing between the two. Abortion pills should come with the expectation of some bleeding, cramping and pain, and the process may be

See YES ON 4, p. 25

On keeping the Streatery

by Joe Courter

Back in 2020, during Covid, the city of Gainesville created a walkable area downtown on SW 1st Ave from Main Street to where it ends at the base of the parking garage at SW 2nd Street. This allowed for outdoor seating and strolling, and by

lifting the open container laws, allowed downtown bars and restaurants to stay open instead of shutting down. It became known as The Streatery.

The initial hope was to have landscaping and planters put in, but that never happened. To this day there are activities going on that would not be happening otherwise. One or two nights a week there a hundred or more people doing Latin and salsa dancing, the Bull has an outdoor stage which gets regular use, and also provides seating. Further west by the garage, Loosey's has outdoor seating and tables, and every Monday those tables are packed for the weekly trivia night, and it is otherwise an outdoor dining or socializing area.

More recently the folks at How Bazar have been creating regular large market events which have about a hundred vendors set up over the whole area, and has included skateboarding, car shows, live music and/or dj's. Many younger folks are drawn to the vibrant scene these markets create.

While it is true that a lot of the time there is nothing but empty brick streets and unused former car parking spaces, it still has great potential as a downtown park. Yes, there is a parking problem downtown, and the new parking regulations are not helping, where you must use a phone app to pay. But killing off this endeavor is a heavy handed response, and that is what some local downtown businesses in the area want. Not sure where this stands at press time — the city meeting to address it was cancelled due to Helene.

Enjoy it while we have it, and let's hope we can keep it. There will be live music during the Fest on Oct. 25-27 at The Bull stage, free, with local and touring performers. Two events are happening on Sat., Nov. 2. From 11am to 4pm the Gainesville Global Festival: World Beats & Eats will be hosted by Greater Gainesville International Center in the Streatery. That evening, from 6 to 11pm, Bazar À La Carte: A Night Market will be hosted by How Bazar, in the Streatery and the closed 2nd Street.

And now if we can just save those five beautiful old live oaks in lot 10, across from Loosey's, from being destroyed so another big hotel can plop down amid the struggling local businesses ... I can dream. 🐢



In this issue ...

Let women decide	1
On keeping the Streatery	2
From the publisher: Please cast your vote	3
Vote YES for Local Public Utilities	4
The FEST	5
Vote YES on At Large Districts, here's why	6
A new vision for safety in Alachua County	8
Speaker on six Amendment proposals	9
Limiting government interference with abortion	10
Know your rights while voting	10
And the good news is	11
Vote NO on Amendment 2	12
Take this to the ballot box	14
Editors' picks: News that didn't fit	15
Cut the B__S__! Tell it like it is!	16
'It Can't Happen Here,' a play about democracy	19
Snubbed at the Democratic National Convention	20
In memoriam: Kris Kristofferson	22
Gainesville area events	26
Iguana directory	28
Spotlight on Sister City Program of Gainesville	28
UF faculty supports the UF 9	32

The Iguana mission:

We believe in advocacy journalism and strive to deliver grassroots progressive news written by those on the ground. We aim to engage readers, get them thinking critically, and ultimately join the activists who fill our pages in the fight for a more just, equitable world. We're also a community calendar, promoting cultural events, because we believe having fun and enriching the heart and soul are as important as engaging the mind when it comes to community building and solidarity.

Hey, Readers!

We have switched to Venmo for online donations and payments. Find us under our username **gnv-iguana** or scan the QR code to the right.



Want your article, ad, event or PSA in the next Iguana?
Deadline is Wednesday, Nov. 13
 Submit events, content, questions to:
gainesvilleiguana@cox.net

From the publisher ...

Please cast your vote

November 5th is fast approaching and the outcome of it will be important to all of our futures. When I think ahead to Election Day, what worries me is not the voters who will choose to vote for Trump, but the non-voters who, for whatever reason, choose to stay home. It is those citizens who truly have the impact to decide elections, and even as access to voting is expanded in time and method, still they choose to stay home. Who recognizes their significance? Republicans, whose efforts to make voting harder through harassment, misinformation, and registration hurdles strive to keep likely Democratic voters home.

I know why I vote. I want people in office who will make the lives of disadvantaged folks better, who will “promote the general welfare” through better education, better healthcare and stronger human rights to all people. The Democrats ain't perfect, but they are the better option our entrenched current duopoly offers us, because with them we have a better chance at moving toward healthcare for all, women's and LGBTQ rights, taxing the rich and other ideals many of us want. This is especially true now with the Republicans becoming the party of MAGA Trumpism. What we face with this election is the specter of Project 2025 being put into action, and the undoing of years of progress in so many ways.

What we are up against is the cultivation of a movement to take us backwards, and it is actively getting people to vote that way. Trump's creation of scapegoats and vilification of opponents is straight out of the authoritarian, fascist playbook. When the press condemns him for these outrageous claims, it becomes a rallying cry for his base who are in his thrall, and who feel that those criticisms are an attack on them, too. From that he can offer retribution, as both are victims of this attack from the elites, and he is the one to fight back against those elites, as he has said, “I will be your retribution.” As our media sources have lead us into a much more polarized mindset, we have abandoned trying to understand other points of view, seeing people with different views as opponents, or enemies. Polarization trumps empathy and understanding; this is not a healthy state of affairs. (These concepts I got from Arlie Hochschild, author of “Stolen Pride: Loss, Shame, and the Rise of the Right”).

This month marks 38 years since this humble little publication started in October of 1986 as a photocopied newsletter mailed out to 600 people; it expanded to newsprint in 1990, with thousands of copies printed, in very much the same form you have in your hands now. It was and is powered by a sense of purpose believing that if people are better informed and learn that positive things are happening, and the opportunity is given to have people plug into these efforts, good things will materialize. It promotes civic engagement and a more vibrant participatory democracy. That has never been more true than right now.

The fact is our democracy is in danger of unraveling with this election. We have an unhinged cult figure running for president, along with his smooth-talking vice presidential candidate who, before the nation's eyes during the VP debate, refused to acknowledge that Donald Trump lost the 2020 election. Vance has said that, had he been in Mike Pence's shoes, would not have certified the 2020 election. Yes, your vote matters, your friends and families votes matter, your social media's contacts and co-workers votes matter. We need an overwhelming turnout, and perhaps a bit of luck that the vote counting in the various states goes well.

When I set out to write another publisher's note in November, I hope it can reflect on an overwhelming rejection of Donald Trump, a defeat of Senator Rick Scott, an affirmation of a woman's right to control her body, and whatever else we can get through. **VOTE!**

P.S. Articles in this issue covering voting topics are marked with a large check mark. The Iguana voter's guide, which lists our voting recommendations, is on page 14. You can cut it out and take it with you to your polling place. 🐢

Subscribe!

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

Individuals: \$15

(or more if you can)

Low/No income: what you can

Groups: \$20

Gainesville Iguana

P.O. Box 14712, Gainesville, FL 32604

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

- 352-378-5655
- GainesvilleIguana@cox.net
- www.gainesvilleiguana.org
- facebook.com/gainesvilleiguana
- Instagram: gnv_iguana

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Publisher:

Joe Courter

Editors Emeriti:

Jenny Brown
Mark Piotrowski

Editorial Board:

Pierce Butler
Joe Courter
Beth Grobman
Jessica Newman

Production work, contributors:

Joye Barnes
Danny Hughes
Steve Kaishman
Vickie Machado
Bobby Mermer
Jenn Powell

Distribution:

Joe Courter
Susan Kaar
Alex Leader
Leon Plympton
Jon Reiskind
Anita Sundaram

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Paid political advertisement paid for by Let The Voters Decide, 235 S Main
Street #206 Gainesville, FL 32601

Vote YES for Local Public Utilities



*Kick DeSantis out of town and
put the ratepayers back in charge*

*by Dr. David Hastings, Suwannee St. Johns Sierra Club and
Jyoti Parmar, Sierra Club of Florida*

It's impossible to ignore the upcoming election, which may be the most important vote we will ever cast. At the top of our ballots, we are choosing between a Black and South Asian woman who worked for McDonalds as a teen, and a chaotic candidate who has called climate change a "hoax."

At the bottom of your ballot, the last item on the back page is an important reminder to Think Globally and Act Locally. It is a referendum to remove the DeSantis appointed "GRU Authority" and return decision making to ratepayers in Gainesville.

When the Florida Legislature last year transferred authority over GRU from the City Commission to a board hand-picked by Governor Ron DeSantis, it pulled the rug out from under Gainesville voters. They care about what DeSantis wants, not what you want.

What's more, this so-called "Authority" is prohibited by law

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State Rep.
Yvonne Hinson



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Gainesville, FL 32601

from considering the climate crisis or our neighbors' energy burdens. Your vote this November will determine how Gainesville manages our response to the rapidly changing climate. Last week, the massive climate impacts from Hurricane Helene reminded us of the enormous costs of continuing to burn fossil fuels.

Dissolving the GRU Authority is a necessary first step toward reversing the implementation of several controversial bad decisions made by the GRU Authority. These include:

- firing the Chief Sustainability Officer;
- ending net-metering and thus raising electric rates for new solar customers;
- reducing ratepayer support for low-income households;
- abandoning the process of the Integrated Resource Plan, an industry standard practice for utility planning.

These highly unpopular decisions are both anti-equity and anti-environment in their impact. The so called "Authority" is committed to continuing to burn fossil gas rather than make the smart switch to solar + battery energy storage. Utility-scale solar is about a third cheaper than gas-fired power in the US; in Florida, costs can be even lower.

GRU isn't perfect. More needs to be done to move to renewable energy. And more

needs to be done to address high energy burdens in Gainesville faced by some ratepayers. While some spend 1 or 2 percent of their household income on energy costs, those with low and very low incomes spend more than ten times that portion of their income on energy. High energy burdens force difficult survival decisions: spend money on heat and keep the lights on? ... which means cutting back on basic necessities including food, clothing, and medicine.

We have zero chance of making progress on these issues with the state in charge. We need to push the reset button on GRU. We can do that by voting YES to restore local control to our Public Utility.

The Sierra Club position on the Gaines-

ville Charter Amendment is joined by many other community groups including NAACP, Alachua County Labor Coalition, Democrats of Alachua County, League of Women Voters, Community Weatherization Coalition, and North Central Florida AFL-CIO.

To ensure meaningful climate action and meet the City's resolution to achieve 100 percent renewable energy by 2045, we must return control of GRU to the citizens of Gainesville who can prioritize clean, affordable, and equitable energy.

Voting Yes for the GRU referendum is a decisive move towards these goals.

Vote YES for Local Public Utilities in Gainesville. It is the last item on your ballot. 🗳️



2024 GENERAL ELECTION

Early Voting:

October 21-November 3

Vote-By-Mail Request

Deadline: October 24

Election Day: November 5

QUESTIONS?

**CALL 352-374-5252 OR VISIT
VOTEALACHUA.GOV**



The FEST

The annual multi-day event, The FEST, is in its 22nd year. The website is astoundingly well done. Almost all the bands playing (close to 300!) have a sample video as well as description. All venues are listed with times. Note that all shows at the Bull are outside and free. Here is the website, have fun surfing around: thefestfl.com. 🗳️

Vote YES on At-Large Districts, here's why



by Susan Bottcher, One Alachua County
In last month's issue of the Iguana, we laid out the reasons why restoring At-Large Districts (ALD) voting for county commissioners is better for democracy in Alachua County.

In short, it increases your chances of having a majority voice and broader representation on county issues. The newly implemented Single Member Districts (SMD) model is now in place which is why you

can vote for only one county commission seat this year. If you live in Districts 2 or 4 you don't get to vote for any county commissioner this election cycle.

As you'll recall, in 2022 local Republican operatives used a dark money funded campaign to spew lies and disinformation about what SMD is and what it means to you, as a voter. They claimed it would provide "equal representation, equity, and end racism". Their ruse worked on just enough people to pass.

We responded with two years of citizen outcry to the county commission asking they place a referendum on the 2024 ballot to return to ALD voting. They heard us and agreed: People need to hear the truth about ALD so they can be fully informed and vote accordingly.

Now that ALD is on the ballot and voters are being educated with actual facts, Sen. Keith Perry has filed a lawsuit to prevent your vote on ALD from being counted. That's right. You can vote, but he wants the courts to prevent your vote from being counted. And when the Supervisor of Elections does count your votes, Perry is asking the courts to prevent ALD from being implemented.

Perry knows people will vote to restore ALD so is using his power to interfere in a free and fair election. This desperate act to silence you is an abuse of power and a betrayal of the public trust.

In the meantime, they are launching their disinformation campaign, so be prepared.

They claim that under ALD we won't be able to elect minority candidates to public office. They'll say there is a better chance of Black representation on the county commission under SMD. The bitter irony and ugly hypocrisy is this comes from the same people who voted to ban books about Black history and critical race theory in Florida.

It's stunning and disrespectful that they turn a blind eye to all the people of color already in office who have been elected throughout Alachua County. Our school board is elected by ALD and is majority-minority.

Our Supervisor of Elections and Property Appraiser are Black women overwhelmingly elected countywide. We elected a Black judge to the 8th Judicial Circuit. The citizens of Hawthorne and Micanopy elected Black women to serve as their mayors. The towns of Archer, High Springs, Alachua, Waldo, and Gainesville have elected Black commissioners.

The system of ALD we have had in place for decades, prior to this new SMD, worked well.

It proved that voters throughout Alachua County will elect people they believe reflect their values and will represent their voices best in all areas of government, especially elevating those from the Black

CHAD SCOTT FOR Alachua County Sheriff

Paid for by Chad Scott, Democratic candidate for Alachua County Sheriff

Let's Re-Elect Mary To the Alachua County Commission!

MARY ALFORD FOR ALACHUA COUNTY COMMISSION, DISTRICT 1

Paid for and approved by Mary Alford, Democrat for Alachua County Commission District 1

community. Perry and his group want to tell you not believe what you see with your own eyes.

Furthermore, they're not just trying to interfere with your voting on ALD.

Perry and the wider Republican forces, including Gov. DeSantis, have been working to use the courts to block your right to vote on other citizen-led initiatives.

This specifically includes the referendums that will be on your November ballot to amend our city and county charters and our state constitution: They're suing to block the Local Public Utilities (LPU) referendum for Gainesville voters and are sending cops to intimidate voters from supporting Amendment 4 that will protect women's reproductive rights.

Instead of allowing these issues to be settled fairly at the ballot box, they are seeking to use intimidation and the courts to interfere with the democratic process by delaying and blocking the counting of your votes.

Just like your YES votes on Local Public Utilities, your YES vote on ALD must be heard. An overwhelming turnout in favor of these issues will send a strong message.

If we pass ALD this year, in 2026 when two county commission seats are up for consideration, you get to vote for both. Then, in 2028 when three seats are up, you get to vote in all three for a total of five over those two election cycles. More representation is better than less representation.


The campaign for YES on At Large Districts is proud of the endorsements we've earned. More are coming in every week and so far include: Alachua County Chapter of the NAACP; Alachua County League of Women Voters; Rep. Yvonne Hinson; Alachua County Central Labor Coalition; Alachua County Democratic Party; North Central Florida AFL-CIO; Tax Collector John Power; School Board members Leanetta McNealy, Tina Certain, and Sarah Rockwell; County Commissioners Anna Prizzia, Mary Alford and Ken Cornell; and former Newberry City Commissioner Alena Lawson Bennett.

You can help increase awareness and build support by putting a YES on At Large Districts sign in your yard. And as with any campaign we need funding to get the truth out. The Perry GOP machine has deep resources, so every dollar you can donate to ALD is meaningful and will be put to good use.

You can request a yard sign and make a


donation by visiting OneAlachuaCounty.com or send a check to One Alachua County P.O. Box 358986, Gainesville 32635. Yard signs for ALD and LPU are now available for free at the Democratic Party office 901 NW 8th Ave. 🐘

Re-Elect Anna Prizzia to Alachua County Commission District 3!



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“ I want every community in the Eighth Judicial district to feel protected under the law in equal measure. ”



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Prevention first

A new vision for safety in Alachua County

by Pamela Koons, Candidate for Alachua County Sheriff



“Great peace have they which love thy law, and nothing shall offend them.” Psalm 119:165. This verse is the first line in the book I wrote, “The Art of Forgiveness - An Expression of Peace.” Little did I know it would become my mantra during this campaign for Alachua County Sheriff. It

reminds me to stay grounded, focused on serving the public, and to seek peace even in the midst of challenging moments.

With over 30 years of public policy experience - working on transportation, healthcare, housing, and economic development initiatives and serving as Chief of Staff for the Mayor in one of the nation’s largest counties - I’ve seen firsthand what it takes to run an efficient, safe, and fiscally responsible operation. I helped to manage a \$1.2 billion budget, but my key takeaway has always been about people. We must put people over politics. Which is why I chose to run as an independent candidate. Safety isn’t about politics, it’s about protecting people. It’s a fundamental issue that affects us all. This campaign has only reinforced that belief.

At 19 years old, I became the youngest person to anchor the news at my local TV station, covering crime, politics, and the pressing issues of our daily lives. But running for Sheriff has given me a closer look at the stories that don’t make the

headlines - families quietly grappling with mental health crises, veterans battling invisible wounds, and the systemic challenges that our most vulnerable citizens face every day.

These stories don’t always get the attention they deserve. We’ve become desensitized to the harsh realities or feel powerless to address such monumental societal issues. But we can make a difference, just as Dorothea Dix did in the 1850s. She saw the horrific conditions in which veterans and the mentally ill were kept, especially in jails. Her determination led to the establishment of the first mental health hospitals in America, even though as a woman, she didn’t even have the right to vote. Dix’s efforts remind me that real change often comes from those willing to stand in the gap for others.

This issue is deeply personal for me. My son, a Navy veteran, suffers from PTSD and military traumas. He raised his right hand to protect my freedom, but in doing so, he lost his own. He’s been in and out of jail because he struggles with mental health. It’s a heart-wrenching reality I know all too well. Veterans like him deserve our support, not incarceration. As Sheriff, I will work tirelessly to ensure we take the right steps, through prevention and treatment, to address these issues before they spiral out of control.

I’ve spoken with countless individuals, parents, veterans, and business owners, revealing a more complex reality about safety in Alachua County. For example, a father shared his fear of what might happen to his autistic son after he passes. “I’m not afraid to die,” he said, “I’m scared to die because of what might happen to my son.” This sentiment echoed across many conversations I’ve had. What proactive plans do we have in place for adults with autism, Alzheimer’s, and other mental illnesses? We cannot continue to ignore the profound impact of doing nothing. It’s time to step up, learn from history, and act now to ensure the safety, well-being, and dignity of every individual in our community.

Our jail is overpopulated with people who need help, not incarceration. The men and women of law enforcement do a great job keeping dangerous criminals off our streets, but more than half of our jail population struggles with mental health issues.

Gun violence cannot be solved with handcuffs alone. We must be proactive by addressing the root cause of homicides and gun related suicides. How can we continue to ignore the fact that twice as many Americans are dying from gun related suicide as homicides? I believe we can do better.

We need to focus on prevention first. Mental health crises should be met with trained professionals, not just jail cells. Law enforcement must partner with healthcare providers, mental health specialists, and community leaders to prevent crime while ensuring officers are trained and supported. Most importantly, we must guarantee that those who serve to protect us make it home to their families.

It’s time for us to be proactive by investing in sustainable solutions that address the root causes of crime and building a Sheriff’s Office that our community can look to for help before a crisis.

I know we can do this because I’ve done it before. I’ve navigated

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Political advertisement paid for and approved by Pamela Marshall-Koons, Independent for ALachua County Sheriff

political and financial roadblocks, secured millions of dollars to keep vital healthcare facilities open, and always prioritized the needs of the community.

If not now, when? I'm asking for your vote for Alachua County Sheriff because you deserve leadership that prioritizes prevention and protection. Together, we can build a brighter, safer, and more secure Alachua County for ALL.

Let's seize this moment to create lasting change for today and for future generations!

To donate go to [Pamela4sheriff.org](https://pamela4sheriff.org)

Email: united@pamela4sheriff.org

352-359-VOTE ☎

Candy Birch, of League of Women Voters, to speak on six Amendment proposals to Florida Constitution

by Jay Whitehead, President, Florida Free Speech Forum



We hope everyone made it through the storm safely. We hope you will join members of the Florida Free Speech Forum for our Oct. 14 meeting, full of important information just in time for the upcoming election. We will again be meeting at the Institute of Culinary Arts at Eastside High School at our usual time, 11:30am.

Our speaker this month will be Candy Birch with The League of Women Voters of Alachua County. She will discuss the six Amendment proposals to the Florida Constitution that will appear on the Nov. 5 ballot.

Here's how to drive there:

Go east on East University Avenue, past the Cone Park Library, and turn right onto SE 43rd Street (just after the Sunoco Gas Station), drive less than a mile south and turn left into the main entrance of Eastside High School (big sign and guard house). Tell them you are attending the "Free Speech Forum." At the first fork, turn right into the Teachers Parking Lot. Park and walk back across the road and to the Culinary Building (signs will be posted).

While you're at it, please consider helping the FFSF by renewing (or begin) your membership. Better still, become a patron or sponsor! Thanks. ☎

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YES on 3

Florida's ballot Amendment 4: 'Limiting government interference with abortion'

NOVEMBER
ELECTION



by *ACLU Florida*

The "Amendment to Limit Government Interference with Abortion" will be on your ballot

this November 2024, as "Amendment 4." Voters will be able to vote YES or NO on the amendment.

What is Amendment 4?

Amendment 4 is a citizen-initiated ballot initiative regarding abortion access that will appear on your ballot in the Nov. 5, 2024 election.

What will Amendment 4 do if it passes?

It will limit government interference with abortion in Florida.

What impact will Amendment 4 have on Florida's abortion ban?

If passed, Amendment 4 will nullify the current Florida's abortion ban.

If Amendment 4 passes, when will it go into effect?

If Amendment 4 passes, it will go into effect on Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2025.

What does a "YES" vote for Amendment 4 mean?

A "YES" vote means that abortion will be legal before viability or when necessary to protect a patient's health, as determined by their healthcare provider.

What does a "NO" vote for Amendment 4 mean?

A "NO" vote means that Florida's abortion ban will remain in effect.

How many voters are needed to pass Amendment 4?

Amendment 4 requires 60 percent of voters voting on the Amendment to vote YES in order to pass.

What will happen if Amendment 4 does not pass in November 2024?

Florida's abortion ban will stay in effect, requiring most pregnant people to carry pregnancies to term or to travel out of state to obtain an abortion.

How do I know if I'm already registered to vote in the November 2024 election?

You can check your registration status at <https://registertovoteflorida.gov> by clicking on "Am I Already Registered."

OCT 13TH 10AM-7PM

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Know your rights while voting

What if I'm a student?

What if I'm homeless?

What if I've moved?

What if I've changed my name?

When are the polls open?

Can I get time off from work to vote?

Where do I vote?

What if I am disabled and my polling place is not accessible?

Can I get my ballot in my native language?

What if I need help in the voting booth?

Find answers to these questions and more at ACLU Florida's web page at tinyurl.com/Iguana2096.



And the good news is ...

Activists ‘fight against censorship’ in the largest US book bans: prisons

The issue of book bans has become a major story in the US, often driven by socially conservative pressure groups, but nowhere has the impact of bans been felt more acutely than in America’s enormous prison population, activists and campaigners say. Books can serve as vital

connections to the outside world for incarcerated individuals, yet they are frequently censored in US prisons. Tens of thousands of titles, from dictionaries to Leonardo, are restricted across prisons – and its impact is palpable. Policies vary widely among states. The Marshall Proj-

ect found Florida bans more than 20,000 titles. Campaigners are advocating for public library catalogs to be accessible on carceral tablets.

From an article by Olivia Empson in The Guardian on Sept 27. See the full story at: tinyurl.com/Iguana2060

Florida Court expedites case alleging DeSantis interference on abortion-rights amendment

The Florida Supreme Court agreed to fast-track a lawsuit filed by a South Florida attorney alleging that Gov. Ron DeSantis and other state officials are interfering with the campaign for the abortion-rights amendment. Adam Richardson filed a petition with the court claiming that Florida’s top leaders are misusing and abusing

their offices in opposing Amendment 4, which would protect abortion access until the point of viability. The court told DeSantis, Attorney General Ashley Moody, and Jason Weida, secretary of the Florida Agency for Healthcare Administration, to submit their response by Sept. 23. Richardson wrote in his plea asking the jus-

tices to expedite the case, “Every day Respondents can act unlawfully is another day they abuse state resources and sully the election for Amendment 4. The matter cannot wait.”

From an article by Jackie Llanos in the Florida Phoenix on Sept. 11. See the full story at: tinyurl.com/Iguana2067

Meet the students learning to organize for Amendment 4

Florida A&M University senior Lindsey LaRose greeted her peers as they entered the Florida People’s Advocacy Center in Tallahassee on a Saturday; about half were there because LaRose had convinced them to devote four hours of their weekend to an organizing boot camp intended

to mobilize their campus to help pass the abortion-rights amendment. Campaigning in favor of the amendment that would protect access to abortion in the Florida Constitution is nerve-racking, LaRose said. The aspiring social worker is the student leading the Yes on 4 efforts at the

historically Black university. “Without young people turning out to vote, Amendment 4 does not have a shot of passing,” said Gabriel Gomez.

From an article by Jackie Llanos in the Florida Phoenix on Sept. 18. See the full story at: tinyurl.com/Iguana2085

Rejecting Trump’s ‘failed trickle-down’ policies, 400+ economic experts endorse Harris

Progressive economists were among more than 400 policy experts who signed onto an endorsement of U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris, arguing that the Democratic presidential candidate’s proposals for an “opportunity economy” would improve the financial well-being of families across the country. “It is a choice between ineq-

uity, economic injustice, and uncertainty with Donald Trump or prosperity, opportunity, and stability with Kamala Harris, a choice between the past and the future,” wrote the experts. The economists noted that while working with President Joe Biden—who set out to be the “most pro-labor president” in U.S. history and has

enacted numerous pro-worker policies—Harris “has taken action to strengthen sectors critical to the US economy by increasing investment in small businesses, clean energy, and domestic manufacturing.”

From an article by Julia Conley in Common Dreams on Sept. 24. See the full story at: tinyurl.com/Iguana2078

Second legal challenge filed to state agency’s campaign against abortion amendment

The ACLU of Florida and Southern Legal Counsel filed a joint lawsuit against the Agency for Health Care Administration, seeking an order for it to cease efforts on its agency website and other media to persuade voters to oppose Amendment 4. That’s the proposed constitutional amendment on the November ballot to restore the

abortion rights that were available under Roe. v. Wade; it’s sponsored by a group called Floridians Protecting Freedom (FPF). The state now forbids abortions after six-weeks’ gestation with few exceptions. Gov. Ron DeSantis has defended the postings as in the interests of transparency. The venue for the case is a state trial court

in Leon County. The Florida Supreme Court has agreed to expedite a separate petition filed directly with it asking the court to block the DeSantis administration’s campaign against the amendment.

From an article by Michael Moline in the Florida Phoenix on Sept. 12. See the full story at: tinyurl.com/Iguana2080

University union sues State of Florida over membership threshold

The union representing Florida’s public colleges and universities and its FAMU chapter have filed suit against the state, claiming a law requiring 60 percent membership for a union to maintain certification violates the Florida Constitution. The Florida A&M University chapter of the United Faculty of Florida’s lawsuit names as defendant the Public Employee Rela-

tions Commission and cites SB 256, approved during the 2023 legislative session, and SB 1746, approved in March. SB 256 prohibits agencies from deducting union dues from paychecks, requires organizations to go through recertification if their membership drops below 60 percent, and imposes other restrictions on unions. The law took effect in October. The union

says it is threatened with decertification under the threshold law, which requires a membership count above the “arbitrarily set” 60 percent of any bargaining unit. Previously, the threshold was 50 percent.

From an article by Jay Waagmeester in the Florida Phoenix on Sept. 9. See the full story at: tinyurl.com/Iguana2084

Vote NO on Amendment 2

by Tim Martin



With so much at stake in this upcoming election, it's understandable if Amendment 2 hasn't caught your attention. This proposal seeks to enshrine the right to hunt and fish in Florida's state constitution. While it might appear to be a harmless endorsement of outdoor traditions, a closer examination reveals significant concerns that should prompt you to vote against it.

Potential Opening of Conservation Lands

One of the most concerning aspects of Amendment 2 is the

potential pressure to open public conservation lands to hunting. Currently, many state parks, preserves, gopher tortoise mitigation areas, some state forest lands, and water management district (WMD) lands are off-limits to hunters. This amendment could create legal and public pressure to allow hunting in these areas, jeopardizing the safety and tranquility of spaces crucial for wildlife preservation. Non-hunting outdoor enthusiasts such as hikers, bird watchers, and families seeking recreational activities would likely face increased risks and reduced enjoyment if these areas are opened to hunting.

Potential Conflicts with Private Property Rights

Another major concern is the potential conflict with private property rights. Critics argue that the amendment could be interpreted to allow hunting on private lands without the owner's

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consent, infringing on property rights and leading to legal disputes. The original proposal included language stating it would not modify laws related to trespass or property rights, but this was omitted from the final version. This omission has led to fears that the amendment could prioritize hunting rights over property rights, making it difficult for landowners to restrict hunting on their property.

Conflicts with Wildlife Management Goals

Amendment 2’s declaration of making hunting and fishing the “preferred means” of wildlife management could lead to increased pressure on species currently protected by state regulations. This might include lifting bans on certain wildlife species, increasing bag and creel limits, and extending hunting seasons beyond what is ecologically sustainable. Thoughtful sportsmen and women should see this as an obvious risk. Florida’s Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission does a commendable job managing wildlife species for hunting so that people can enjoy these activities responsibly. Such changes could disrupt delicate ecosystems and lead to the overharvesting of vulnerable species, threatening Florida’s biodiversity and long-term ecological health.

States like Alabama, where hunting is constitutionally protected, have faced similar challenges. This amendment could undermine Florida’s ability to adapt its wildlife management strategies to meet conservation goals and respond to changing environmental conditions.

Reintroduction of Harmful Hunting Practices

A reference to “traditional methods” of hunting in the amendment’s wording is not clearly defined, opening the door to potentially harmful and outdated practices. This could include the reintroduction of inhumane methods like steel jaw traps and gill nets, which have long been criticized for their cruelty and ecological impact. For example, hound hunting for the Florida Black Bear involves using packs of dogs to chase and corner bears, causing extreme stress and exhaustion to the animals. In November 2019, three people were arrested in Florida for using dogs to hunt and kill a Florida black bear in the Ocala National Forest. Amendment 2 could encourage others to adopt these dreadful methods.

Conclusion

Amendment 2, with its broad and ambiguous language, poses significant risks to Florida’s wildlife and public lands. The potential opening of conservation lands to hunting, the increased pressure to hunt protected species, and the reintroduction of harmful hunting practices are all serious concerns that voters need to consider. Instead of enshrining hunting and fishing rights in the state constitution, Florida should focus on balanced, scientifically informed wildlife management policies that ensure the long-term health and sustainability of its natural resources.

Furthermore, the motivations behind this amendment appear politically driven rather than based on genuine conservation needs. Some analysts suggest that the amendment is designed to mobilize a particular voter base by falsely suggesting that hunting and fishing rights are under threat. This tactic diverts attention from more pressing issues and risks enshrining poorly conceived policies into the state constitution.

For these reasons, voters should vote “No” on Amendment 2.

Tim Martin is the former Conservation Chair for the Florida Sierra Club, and a member of their committee to oppose Amendment 2. He also manages 20 forested acres for wildlife conservation in north Alachua county. 🐾

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Take this to the ballot box!



Here is your helpful guide to voting. Please vote all the way down the ballot, your voice is loudest the more local you get. We strongly lean Democrat in party races.

Note that Alachua County Commission races are newly single district, so you may have no County Commissioners, or one of the two we list. Later in the ballot you have the chance to vote on returning us to at large voting for County Commission.

You will also find two names under Sheriff, the Democrat, Chad Scott, and No Party Pamela Marshall-Koons. Pam has a mental health and social justice background, and has added a lot to our community, and to the candidate forums, and should be recognized for that.

President/VP: Harris/Walz
Senator: Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
US Representative: Tom Wells
State Attorney: Yvens Pierre-Antoine
State Senator: Sylvain Dore
State Representative: David Arreola
Sheriff: Chad Scott or Pamela Marshall-Koons
Supervisor of Elections: Kim Barton
Alachua County Commissioner: Mary Alford, Anna Prizzia
Judges: All okay, DeSantis would appoint worse ones.

Amendments:

1. Partisan School Board Races **NO**
2. Hunting and Fishing **NO**
3. Marijuana legalization **YES**
4. Abortion Rights **YES**
5. Homestead Exemption Adjustment **NO**
6. Public Financing in Elections **NO**

County Charter Amendments:

At Large Districts **YES**
 School Board one mil increase **YES**

City of Gainesville:

GRU Local Control **YES**

INFORMED VOTERS' GUIDE TO THE AMENDMENTS ON THE FLORIDA BALLOT

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THE SIX AMENDMENTS ON YOUR BALLOT

THIS IS WHAT THEY WOULD DO

AMENDMENT 1
Brings politics into local school boards by changing their elections from non-partisan to partisan.

AMENDMENT 2
Establishes a constitutional right to fish and hunt, already state law, and makes it the "preferred means" of managing fish and wildlife.

AMENDMENT 3
Legalizes the recreational use of marijuana for adults 21 and over.

AMENDMENT 4
Limits the ability of politicians to interfere in the private health care decision to have an abortion.

AMENDMENT 5
Increases the homestead tax exemption annually based on inflation. Cuts funding communities utilize for programs and services.

AMENDMENT 6
Ends Florida's public campaign financing program that provides an incentive for candidates to seek support from everyday citizens, not just wealthy donors and powerful special interests.

	League of Women Voters of Florida	NAACP Florida State Conference	Mi Familia en Accción	Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Florida	ACLU Florida	Florida For All	Common Cause Florida	Equality Florida	Florida National Organization for Women	Equal Ground	National Council of Jewish Women
AMENDMENT 1	NO	NO	NO	NO		NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
AMENDMENT 2						NO			NO		NO
AMENDMENT 3		YES		YES	YES	YES			YES	YES	YES
AMENDMENT 4	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES		YES	YES	YES	YES
AMENDMENT 5		NO				NO			NO		
AMENDMENT 6	NO	NO		NO		NO	NO		NO	NO	

YES = SUPPORT NO = OPPOSE BLANK = NO POSITION

Editors' picks: News that didn't fit

Cornell Graduate Students United demands university bargain with union over pro-Palestine international student's suspension

by Gabriel Muñoz ~ *The Cornell Daily Sun* ~ Oct. 3 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2094

Approximately 180 Cornell Graduate Students United members and supporters gathered to protest for the University to bargain with CGSU over international graduate student Momodou Taal's suspension. The graduate student union is demanding the University rescind Taal's suspension under a Memorandum of Agreement reached in July 2024. The agreement gives CGSU the right to bargain over the effects of academic discipline of graduate students as long as it affects their working conditions. The union suspended Taal for his involvement in a Sept. 18 disruption of a career fair attended by defense contractors L3Harris and Boeing. If Taal is withdrawn from the University, he will be in violation of his F-1 visa status, likely leading to his deportation.

Julian Assange makes first public statement since prison release

Assange says he was freed after years of incarceration because he 'pled guilty to journalism'

by SBS News (video) ~ Oct. 1 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2092

Julian Assange, the Australian WikiLeaks founder addressed the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France, his first public remarks since he was released after spending five years in a British prison. He has been giving evidence to its Parliamentary Assembly, which includes parliamentarians from 46 European countries, on his detention and conviction and their effects on human rights. "I am not free today because the system worked," he said. "I pled guilty to seeking information from a source ... I pled guilty to journalism."

Port strike ends, workers win \$24 wage increase

Longshore workers are returning to work with big wage gains promised

by Jenny Brown ~ *Labor Notes* ~ Oct. 4 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2093

East Coast Longshore workers with the International Longshoremen's Association are returning to work, after three raucous days on the picket lines. They received a promise of a \$24-an-hour pay raise over six years, bring top pay from \$39 to \$63. The strike paralyzed shipping in huge port complexes like Newark, Houston, and Charleston, stopping loads of fruit, vehicles, and heavy equipment. It was the first coastwide strike for the ILA since 1977. The sides will return to bargaining on the other big issue of the strike, automation, extending the old agreement to Jan. 15.

Strike threat wins boarding and retro pay at American Airlines

The first flight attendants to receive boarding pay in a union contract

by Jenny Brown ~ *Labor Notes* ~ Sept. 24 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2090

Flight attendants at American Airlines were celebrating September 12 after approving a new five-year agreement by 87 percent, with 95 percent turnout. They won a big retroactive pay package and an immediate wage increase of 20 percent. They also became the first flight attendants to nail down boarding pay in a union contract. Flight attendants typically are not paid until the aircraft doors close. All that greeting, seating, sorting out problems, and assistance with bags is off the clock. The Association of Professional Flight Attendants's three-year contract campaign included systemwide picketing, popular red "WAR" (We Are Ready) pins and T-shirts, seven marches on the boss, pop-up pickets at the White House and Wall Street, and last year, a 99.47 percent "yes" vote to strike.

The first wave of Florida's post-tenure review results are here

The process continues to be a point of contention while sniffing out underperformers

by Annie Wang ~ *Independent Florida Alligator* ~ Sept. 24 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2089

The Florida Board of Governors applauded the first cycle of post-tenure review for its productivity and success. Gov. Ron DeSantis previously said unproductive faculty are a significant deadweight cost, and tenure (an indefinite appointment to a position that is guaranteed and can only be revoked in exceptional circumstances) should not be used to shield them from accountability. Since its inception in 2022, post-tenure review has been a source of considerable debate and controversy. The process requires 20 percent of tenured professors across Florida to be evaluated every five years for an assessment of their job performance. According to the board's Sept. 18 meeting, 91 percent of reviewed faculty met or exceeded expectations, and 9 percent of faculty did not meet expectations or were unsatisfactory.

UF cuts sexual assault resources, outsources others, continuing Sasse agenda

Title IX and disability administrators now operate through out-of-state consultants

by Zoey Thomas ~ *Independent Florida Alligator* ~ Sept. 23 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2088

Fewer than 9 percent of cisgender female UF students reported feeling very safe walking on campus at night, compared to the national average of 19 percent, according to a Spring 2022 survey. Yet UF has recently renamed, outsourced and cut several sexual assault resources. UF hired a private California-based company to manage Title IX reports, stopped using two campus-wide violence prevention programs, and renamed and moved its gender equity office, all in the past two years. Also in the past year, UF ended its Green Dot Gators program, a bystander training aimed at reducing campus violence. The university additionally decided not to renew its three-year trial with uSafeUS, a sexual assault prevention and response mobile app, in June. 🐘



SCAN ME

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Cut the B__ S__! Tell it like it is!

by Bill Gilbert

Our Republic does not have a people's representative democracy!

If we did, we would not have the following protracted economic, environmental, and social problems.

Among the industrialized nations we are: number one in prison population with 2.3 million people incarcerated, first in teen birth rates, and some of the highest rates of STD's, first in illiteracy, poverty, racism, homelessness, income disparity, child hunger, child poverty, drug use and drug related deaths, use of antidepressants, vio-

lence, firearms deaths, not providing access to health care for all of our citizens, not providing child care for working parents, the most military spending, hazardous waste production, recorded rapes, and the poor quality of its public schools, and lowest in life expectancy. This is warp-speed decline.

A run-away, exploitive capitalism and a broken political system are killing us.

Starting in 1981 with Ronald Reagan's "tax reform" legislation, more of the tax burden was shifted from the wealthy to the middle and lower-income level taxpayers.

During the last 42 years, there has occurred the greatest transfer of wealth in the history of our country. No other democratic nation takes as large a portion of its revenue from working people at the lower ends of the economic spectrum and as little from persons who have property or high incomes. In 41 states, the richest 1 percent pay lower tax rates than everyone else. (Source: www.aclu.org/equalitynow/)

The present form of capitalism is built around organized theft — the theft of the value of what workers produce by the people who employ them. Perhaps someday we can have democratic capitalism where everyone benefits.

Presently we have a corporate-congressional-security-state. Its priority now, spearheaded mostly, but not entirely, by the Republican Party, is straight-forward: (a) Do away with taxation of the wealthy, (b) Do away with regulations, (often adversely affecting the public's health and safety) and (c) Take over all public services of water, schools, utilities, and public lands by: de-funding them, declaring them non-functional, and then privatizing them – transferring more wealth to the 1 percent.

We are being overwhelmed by our failure to keep up with change. And, we are being overwhelmed with problems that have not been adequately dealt with by our broken political system/government and those who profit from the status quo.

Let's take a look to see how we got here.

1. In 1886 the Supreme Court decision of Santa Clara v. Southern Pacific Railroad mistakenly gave corporations the "rights of human beings." This ruling should be overturned.

2. In 2010 the Supreme Court decision of Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission made the bribery of our politicians of both political parties legal. Unlimited amounts of money can be given even in secrecy. This ruling must be overturned.

In a 1938 speech to Congress, President Franklin D. Roosevelt said, "The liberty (freedom) of a democracy is not safe if the people tolerate the growth of private power to a point where it becomes stronger than their democratic state itself ... That is in essence, fascism – ownership

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'It Can't Happen Here,' a play about democracy

Oct. 7, 14, and Nov. 4

You are invited to attend a performance of "It Can't Happen Here," a radio play based on the 1935 book by Sinclair Lewis. The production is produced by Actors' Warehouse and sponsored by the Social Justice Council of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville.

Performances on Oct. 7 and 14 and Nov. 4, starting at 7:30, will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville at 4225 NW 34th Street.

Tickets can be purchased by donating at the door on a sliding scale from 10 to 30+ dollars. Proceeds will fund the work of Actors' Warehouse and the UUFG Social Justice Council. Reserve tickets at <https://www.actorswarehouse.org/>

Described by Actors' Warehouse as "a cautionary dark satire about the fragility of democracy and how fascism can take hold even in the land of liberty," "It Can't Happen Here" follows the ascent of a demagogue who becomes president of the United States by promising to return the country to greatness.

The play was initially produced as part of the WPA Federal Theater Project's "Living Newspaper" series and was performed simultaneously in eighteen cities in the 1930s. A new adaptation was written by Tony Ciconne and Bennett Cohen and performed at the Berkeley Repertory Theater Company in 2016. A staged reading was performed via Zoom in 2020, and more than 100 theaters across the country were named broadcast partners for the production. 🦄

Actors' Warehouse
PRESENTS

IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE

A Radio Play
by **Sinclair Lewis**

Adapted by **Tony Ciconne & Bennett S. Cohen**
Directed by **Lola Bond**

*A cautionary dark satire about the fragility of democracy
and how fascism can take hold...*

Oct 7, 14 & Nov 4, 2024

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Snubbed at the Democratic National Convention

Following is a speech that could have been given at the Democratic Convention, but was turned down by the convention organizers. The proposed speaker is an elected Georgia State Representative. It is understandable that allowing her to speak would have been a bold move, as there is a strong conservative pro-Israel influence in the Democratic Party from AIPAC, which manifested in huge financial backing of challengers to “The Squad” in their democratic primaries (both Cori Bush and Jamaal Bowman were defeated). It should be noted in hindsight that any mention of a cease fire was roundly cheered by the people on the floor, and Rep. Romman’s words would also have been well received. More importantly, it would have been received well by the many mostly younger generation protesters around the country for whom the genocide in Gaza is a major issue. It was a lost opportunity to what otherwise was an amazing, powerful convention.

- Joe Courter

My name is Ruwa Romman, and I’m honored to be the first Palestinian elected to public office in the great state of Georgia and the first Palestinian to ever speak at the Democratic National Convention.

My story begins in a small village near Jerusalem, called Suba, where my dad’s family is from. My mom’s roots trace back to Al Khalil, or Hebron. My parents, born in Jordan, brought us to Georgia when I was eight, where I now live with my wonderful husband and our sweet pets.

Growing up, my grandfather and I shared a special bond. He was my partner in mischief—whether it was sneaking me sweets from the bodega or slipping a \$20 into my pocket with that fa-

miliar wink and smile. He was my rock, but he passed away a few years ago, never seeing Suba or any part of Palestine again. Not a day goes by that I don’t miss him.

This past year has been especially hard. As we’ve been moral witnesses to the massacres in Gaza, I’ve thought of him, wondering if this was the pain he knew too well. When we watched Palestinians displaced from one end of the Gaza Strip to the other I wanted to ask him how he found the strength to walk all those miles decades ago and leave everything behind.

But in this pain, I’ve also witnessed something profound — a beautiful, multifaith, multiracial, and multigenerational coalition rising from despair within our Democratic Party.

For 320 days, we’ve stood together, demanding to enforce our laws on friend and foe alike to reach a ceasefire, end the killing of Palestinians, free all the Israeli and Palestinian hostages, and to begin the difficult work of building a path to collective peace and safety.

That’s why we are here—members of this Democratic Party committed to equal rights and dignity for all. What we do here echoes around the world.

They’ll say this is how it’s always been, that nothing can change. But remember Fannie Lou Hamer—shunned for her courage, yet she paved the way for an integrated Democratic Party. Her legacy lives on, and it’s her example we follow.

But we can’t do it alone. This historic moment is full of promise, but only if we stand together. Our party’s greatest strength has always been our ability to unite. Some see that as a weakness, but it’s time we flex that strength.

Let’s commit to each other, to electing Vice President Harris and defeating Donald Trump who uses my identity as a Palestinian as a slur. Let’s fight for the policies long overdue—from restoring access to abortions to ensuring a living wage, to demanding an end to reckless war and a ceasefire in Gaza.

To those who doubt us, to the cynics and the naysayers, I say, yes we can—yes we can be a Democratic Party that prioritizes funding our schools and hospitals, not for endless wars. That fights for an America that belongs to all of us—Black, brown, and white, Jews and Palestinians, all of us, like my grandfather taught me, together. ✨

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 ● The Coca-Cola Company \$4.6B ● Mars \$4.7B ● Mondelez \$3.6B ● Danone \$3.0B
 ● Kraft-Heinz \$2.7B ● Associated British Foods \$2.4B ● General Mills \$2.0B ● Colgate-Palmolive \$1.9B



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To see a larger version of this chart, please go to: tinyurl.com/Iguana2097.

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- Michael Moore

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In memoriam: Kris Kristofferson

Kris Kristofferson: Scholar, Veteran, Activist, Icon

by Amanda Gardner

Editor's Note from Joe Courter:

This article was originally published on April 27, 2016, from Inquisitr.com. Kris Kristofferson (June 22, 1936 - Sept. 28, 2024) was an American country music singer, songwriter, and actor. His life experiences were so vast that every obituary was way too long to be reprinted in the Iguana. Go find some of them. But this being a political paper, this outline of his activism from 2016 seemed appropriate. The irony of the first sentence I think Kris would have liked.

Kris Kristofferson may not exactly be a trending topic at the moment, but in the midst of the overwhelming negativity that accompanies every campaign season, I decided today was a good time to write about an American who deserves respect — an American who is a scholar, a veteran, an activist, and after decades in the public eye, an icon.

Kris Kristofferson has lived a life that only an American can live, and he deserves everyone's respect, regardless of whether one agrees with his politics. The story of Kris Kristofferson's life, especially as an activist, is a reminder that the freedoms we enjoy as Americans come with a responsibility — the responsibility to try to effect positive change in the world.

Kris Kristofferson, known for writing a string of hits, including "Sunday Morning Coming Down" and "Me and Bobby McGee," is so much more than a talented songwriter, singer and actor. Kristofferson was a Rhodes Scholar who studied at Oxford University's Merton College, earning a master's degree in English literature. He went on to serve as a captain in the U.S. Army, where he became a helicopter pilot, in addition to having completed U.S. Army Ranger School.

While Kristofferson's resume is indeed impressive, it is his willingness to speak out against injustice that earns him the most respect. In the 1980s, Kris Kristofferson traveled to Nicaragua and spoke out vehemently against the U.S. government involvement in the Sandinista Revolution. Kristofferson still speaks about that time regularly, as he did during an ap-

pearance on "Enough Rope with Andrew Denton" in 2005.

"I made a couple of trips down to Nicaragua and I got exposed to information that I thought was not what I had been brought up to believe that my government stood for, you know. I came from a background of duty, honor and country and I felt it was my duty to tell what we were doing down there."

Kris Kristofferson's attention to the problem in Central America during the 1980s was the result of the tragic stories told by an El Salvadoran woman who worked for him. In an interview with Rosa Jordan published in *The Progressive* in 1991, Kristofferson clearly summarized his reaction to the stories of horrors inflicted by the death squads.

"The more I learned about what we were doing down there, the more horrible it seemed."

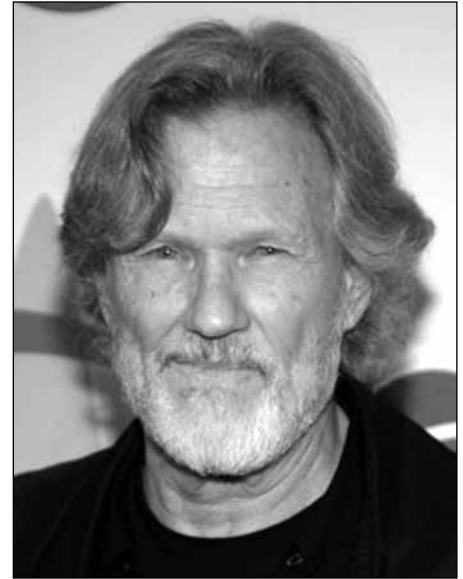
Kris Kristofferson became an outspoken ally of the people of both countries, and his continued support for the people in the region resulted in an invitation to play at the 8th anniversary of the Nicaraguan revolution — Kristofferson's invitation came directly from Daniel Ortega, who, today, is the president of Nicaragua. The end of the revolution in Nicaragua did not bring an end to Kris Kristofferson's political crusade. The Iran-Contra Affair disgusted him, and he believed American targets were not soldiers as Oliver North claimed, but instead schools and clinics. Many of Kristofferson's fans were not pleased by his political position, but he never let people's feelings deter him from speaking his mind.

"The most opposition I ever had was in Atlanta when Oliver North was on trial and the Iran-Contra hearings were turning out to be nothing but a commercial for the Contras."

In a 2008 interview with *The Guardian*, more than 20 years after the hearings, Kris Kristofferson's disgust with the entire affair was still evident.

"Iran-Contra! We should have jailed all those guys for ever back then, and we wouldn't be where we are right now — because it's the same guys now, the same 20 guys!"

During Operation Desert Storm in the early 1990s, Kris Kristofferson continued to speak out against U.S. government



involvement in the Middle East. As a result of his stance, his shows were picketed, and some Americans labeled him a traitor. In a 1993 interview with the *Los Angeles Times*, Kristofferson explained his view of the Gulf War.

"We bombed a defenseless population for 44 days around the clock. We're holding these people responsible for what their government did or didn't do. It's just too evil for words."

Today, Kris Kristofferson shows no signs of slowing down professionally. He is currently preparing to release a new double album on June 17 titled "Cedar Creek Sessions," and he is in the film "Traded," which is set to be released this summer. In addition to celebrating his 80th birthday in June, he is scheduled to perform three shows that month.

As for Kris Kristofferson's political side, his most recent involvement in a cause has been as an advocate for industrial hemp and sustainable agriculture. He threw his support behind The California Grange and Hempstead Project Heart by playing the 2014 Hemp Aide concert in Sacramento.

Although Kris Kristofferson appears to have mellowed a bit with age, supporting agricultural causes instead of revolutionaries, don't count him out yet. A man like Kris Kristofferson, armed with intelligence, talent and a platform, can't ever stop taking advantage of opportunities to try, right or wrong, to make the world a better place. ✨



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Beau has stepped away from personally doing his commentaries, and his wife has taken them over. Her softer presentation still conveys great information and analysis on the turbulent times we are in as a country. The available online archive is a valuable resource of Beau's prior programs regarding politics, foreign policy and human rights.



Check them out at:

youtube.com/BeauoftheFifthColumn

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From UF 9, p. 32

on campus, surrounded the students, some with batons drawn, and began their arrests.

The UF 9 were taken to the county jail, where they were held until the next afternoon. They were charged with various crimes, including trespassing (UF Students on UF's campus, TRESPASSING!), resisting arrest without violence, wearing masks in public (during Covid!) and one was charged with battery on a law enforcement officer.

All were trespassed from campus, and six were placed on interim suspension. Following "conduct hearings," all students were suspended for three years by the Dean of Students, Chris Summerlin, despite conduct committees recommending less severe punishments.

The students appealed their suspensions. The Appeal Committees found that Dean Summerlin did not have the right to overrule the Hearing Committee's findings that the students "were not responsible" for various violations they were accused of. Despite this, Summerlin has held to his excessively punitive three-year suspension.

Again, we must ask, WHY? WHAT ARE THEIR CRIMES?

We know all too well the answer! Their crime was to protest a genocide perpetrated by Israel against the Palestinian people living in Gaza.

UF is trampling these students' constitutional rights to defend the settler-colonial apartheid state of Israel that is carrying out a live televised genocide of the Palestinian people in Gaza.

We also must ask, who is really behind this outrageous punishment. Are there big money donors that UF is attempting to appease? Who are they? Why do they support genocide? Why does Dean Summerlin support genocide?

As a result of these unconstitutional violations of our students First Amendment Rights, they face financial turmoil after losing their student aid, losing their right to education, losing their housing, losing job opportunities, and being subjected to doxing and defamation campaigns.

In one case, a graduating senior was prevented from graduating or receiving her diploma for three years!

The students and we, their supporters, have not given up. We have a petition we want you, who are reading this, to sign calling on the State Attorney's Office and UF to drop all charges against the students. You can visit our Instagram site: @UF9ForPalestine and sign it there.

The UF 9 are gravely in need of legal services and funds for legal aid. Please donate your time (if you are a lawyer) or funds to the UF 9 Legal Fund. Also, call Dean Chris Summerlin at (352)392-1261 or email him at Chris.summerl@ufl.edu and demand he drop these expulsions!

Our students need our Help! Several organizations are helping already, they include: current UF faculty, Retired UF faculty, Faculty and Staff for Justice in Palestine, many student organizations, the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, and the ACLU.

We need additional Gainesville/Alachua County religious, civic, and social organizations to join us in this fight for free speech! Do not let our students down! Join us in the fight against suppression of free speech and our first amendment rights!

WE MUST KEEP UP THE PRESSURE AND NOT ALLOW THE STATE TO PUNISH STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS FOR SPEAKING OUT AGAINST GENOCIDE, APARTHEID, AND COLONIALISM!

- Gwendolyn Zoharah Simmons, Ph.D.
Professor Emerita African American Religions & Islamic Studies,
University of Florida

For a student perspective on the UF 9 and their call to drop the charges, read "Drop the charges for the UF 9: Seeking justice: The Repercussions of our peaceful protest against genocide" by Parker Hovis and Keely Gliwa at: tinyurl.com/Iguana2091 ✨



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From YES ON 4, p. 1

more painful later in gestation. Clinician support and instruction is available if pills are procured in-clinic; Mifepristone can be taken at the clinic, with the patient taking Misoprostol at home. Both pills can be taken at home as long as the patient is two hours from a hospital. Complications are rare, but may be difficult to interpret because of the side effects.

Patients must weigh their comfort level with self-managing their abortion, especially if contraindications like severe anemia or hemophilia are present. Research may be done at plancpills.org or abortiononourownterms.org, and people can call the M+A hotline should complications occur. But remember: abortions done at home don't have to be abortions done alone. Having a support network of friends and caretakers can make the transition easier to navigate.

Medication abortion networks are expanding, especially in response to increasingly hostile abortion bans. Many communities have care networks, providing logistical, financial, emotional, and physical support for people using medication abortion at home. Digitally, all medication abortion sources on Plan C's website are vetted and the M+A hotline provides all types of support and directs people to even more resources. Networks which provide surgical abortions are also robust, accountable, and offer a comprehensive array of services alongside the procedure.

Plan C and Abortion On Our Own Terms also offer legal and financial assistance. Everyone capable of pregnancy should learn about their state's laws surrounding abortion medication. Folks using online networks to access abortion should familiarize themselves with security culture to avoid criminalization. Those seeking abortions and those aiding and abetting should be free from that threat; however, our reality is one of state repression and a system that benefits from high rates of incarceration.

We need to prioritize protecting ourselves and each other. Abortion funds, the sites above, and clandestine networks, which often overlap with other channels of mutual aid, are full of advocates who work to provide low- or no-cost options.

There are good reasons most people who have abortions in the U.S. use pills but there are different considerations with medication and surgical abortion. Both must be accessible.

Enter Amendment 4. Given the opportunity in November to overturn the extreme ban, we must vote YES. A Yes vote is not everything but is necessary; we need a Yes And approach. The Amendment reads:

"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."

We don't have to explain why the six-week ban is bad. Again, abortion pills can be obtained and stored for some time, but as aforementioned, are only effective until a point in pregnancy, around 12 weeks or possibly beyond. Amendment 4 would protect people's right to choose for about twice as long, except in cases of threats to life or health of the pregnant person. In those cases, abortion will be allowed whenever necessary, as determined by their healthcare provider, as it is now.

The Amendment would not allow abortion "up until the moment of birth". We have feelings on that. It's the first thing GRRR! considered when deciding to take up this initiative last May.

Abortion should be allowed at any time, for any reason, without apology! There should be no bans, and exceptions don't change that but further stigmatize abortion. We dreaded promoting "before viability." It's a double-whammy when antis lie and say this amendment would allow for elective abortions in the third trimester. GRRR! wishes it did; it does not.

Then antis claim any healthcare provider would be allowed to perform abortions. We're not going to get into the weeds on why that's dumb and untrue. In the spirit of the Janes, we wish the amendment allowed for anyone to perform abortions; it doesn't. Abortions must be performed safely but the state should not determine who can or can't. The way to mitigate concerns of there not being a central authority is to educate prospective providers and patients.

The state currently dictates who can perform abortions partly by controlling where they happen. Abortion providers should be able to work from home. Would they lose their commitment to safety outside of a clinic? Think of all the people worldwide who perform safe abortions. Are they registered with the AHCA? Do they pay taxes to a racist state that imprisons people and supports genocide of indigenous peoples, at home and abroad?

The building of what shouldn't have to be underground networks is vital for liberation from imperialism. That will have to happen if the amendment doesn't pass, and even if it passes. It cannot and does not address issues outside of its text, per the single-subject requirement for amendments. It won't change existing laws requiring parental notification, or have any real financial impact. It also will not itself create free community-supported abortion; we still have to do that.

Abortion access will always be a community responsibility. Part of that is voting Yes on 4.

We still have much to do including supporting abortion funds and clinics, repealing the Hyde amendment, providing comprehensive sex education, sustaining period pantries, distributing repro kits, prioritizing aftercare for abortions, creating space for abortion doulas as necessary care providers, and ensuring access to birth control emergency contraceptives.

The work goes on.

Follow the GRRR! Network at: [instagram.com/thegrrrnetwork](https://www.instagram.com/thegrrrnetwork).

Learn more about Amendment 4 from Floridians Protecting Freedom at: floridiansprotectingfreedom.com.

Find medical, legal, and financial support on abortion pills at: abortiononourownterms.com, <https://www.plancpills.org>, and <https://mahotline.org/>. ☘

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Gainesville area events

WEEK OF OCT 6-12

Wed 10/9 – “What the Constitution Means to Me” preview, 7pm through 10/27, Hippodrome Theatre (25 SE 2nd Place), award-winning memoir & commentary, \$10-30; tinyurl.com/iguana9086

Wed 10/9 – David Sedaris, 7:30pm, Phillips Ctr (3201 Hull Rd), humor & storytelling, \$35-55 (UF students \$12); tinyurl.com/iguana9085

Thu 10/10 – Tom Petty Weekend opens, 7pm, Heartwood Soundstage (619 S Main St), >16 bands, \$30-350; tinyurl.com/iguana9083

Thu 10/10 – “Every Brilliant Thing” preview, 7pm (through 10/16), Hippodrome (25 SE 2nd Pl), play of good things in life, \$30; tinyurl.com/iguana9084

Fri 10/11 – Thyme, 7pm, How Bazar (60 SW 2nd Ave), EP release concert; thehowbazar.com

Fri 10/11 – Johanna Warren, 6:30-8:30pm, The Bull (18 SW 1st Ave), also The Housing Crisis, \$20; musicgnv.com

Sat 10/12 – Rancho La Chua, 9 pm, Boca Fiesta Backyard, other bands; tinyurl.com/iguana9087

Sat 10/12 – CMC Music, 9pm, CMC (433 S Main St), Confession Kids, Rent Strike, & American Dream Survivors, \$10; civicmediacenter.org

Thu 10/10 – Learn to Compost workshop, 6-7pm, SW Community Garden (2947 SW 40th Place), free; tinyurl.com/iguana9088

Sat 10/12 – Soil Collection ceremony, 10am, Historic Saint Peter-Pinesville Community (17026 SW 83rd Ave, Archer), for Truth & Reconciliation display of lynching history, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9089

Sat 10/12 – Anniversary Bash, 12am-5pm, AUK Market (2031 NW 6th St), Danscompany, vendors, food, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9090

Sat 10/12 – “Fannie Lou Hamer’s America”, 2-3pm, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), civil rights hero’s story, free (bring blanket/chair); <https://mathesonmuseum.org/events>

WEEK OF OCT 13-19

Sun 10/13 – Pride at Prairie Creek, 10am-3pm, Prairie Creek Lodge (7204

SE County Rd 234), LGBTQ+ outdoors, music, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9091

Sun 10/13 – Ripple Fungi Fest, 10am-7pm, Rum 138 (2070 SW CR 138, Ft White), 4 bands + fungi experts, \$25 adv; rum138.com

Sun 10/13 – Antiques & Collectibles Market, 11am-5pm, Artisans Guild Gallery (224 NW 2nd Ave), free; tinyurl.com/iguana9092

Sun 10/13 – Tom Petty Historic Marker dedication, 12-1pm, Tom Petty Park (NE 13th Ave & 5th Terr), free; tinyurl.com/iguana9093

Sun 10/13 – Jazz, 4-5:30pm, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave), Alex Kaufman Big Band, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9094

Sun 10/13 – Circa Humans 2.0, 7:30 pm, Phillips Ctr (3201 Hull Rd), dance/gymnastics/theater, \$25-45 (UF students \$12); tinyurl.com/iguana9095

Mon 10/14 – John Lewis talk, 5:30pm, UF Pugh Hall Ocora (296 Buckman Dr), author Prof Raymond Arsenault speaks, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9096

Mon 10/14 – Fla Free Speech Forum, 11:30am, Eastside High School Inst. of Culinary Arts (1201 SE 43rd St), talk on 6 Fla amendments on 11/5 ballot, free; pg 9 & <http://floridafreespeech.org>

Mon 10/14 – “It Can’t Happen Here”, 7:30pm (also Nov 4), Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (4225 NW 34th St), play based on 1935 Sinclair Lewis novel, \$10-30 sliding scale; pg 19 & actorswarehouse.org

Tue 10/15 – Science Journalism talk, 4pm, UF Pugh Hall Ocora (296 Buckman Dr), WaPo reporter Christian Davenport on space program & more, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9097

Tue 10/15 – Yes on 4 fundraiser, 6-8pm, address shared on registration, League of Women Voters event, \$100+; tinyurl.com/iguana9098

Wed 10/16 – “Presidential Elections in the Sunshine State”, 7pm, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave - also on Zoom), Florida’s role in national elections, 1876-2016, free w/ registration; <https://mathesonmuseum.org/events>

Wed 10/16 – Othnell Moyo, 1-2pm, Harn Museum (3259 Hull Rd), Zimbabwean musician & musicologist, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9099

Thu 10/17 – Moonlight Festival, 6pm, Heartwood Soundstage (619 S Main St), bands include Prizilla, Savants, Kristopher James, \$15; tinyurl.com/iguana9100

Fri 10/18 – UF Homecoming - detour around (or join in) downtown-campus area (includes Saturday football game)

Fri 10/18 – Jazz Bandits, 7pm on 3rd Fridays, Cypress & Grove (1001 NW 4th St), free; tinyurl.com/iguana9041

Fri 10/18 – “The Nightmare Before Christmas”, 7pm, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave), free; tinyurl.com/iguana9101

Sat 10/19 – Free Store, 2-5pm 3rd Saturdays, Civic Media Ctr (433 S Main St), free stuff open to all; civicmediacenter.org

Sat 10/19 – United Nations Day, 9:45am-1pm, Oak Hammock (5100 SW 25th Blvd), theme: Global Food, free; una-usagainesvillefl.org

Sat 10/19 – Horticulture Expo & Sale, 9am-4pm, County Ag & Eq Ctr (23100 W Newberry Rd), w/ kid zone, Smokey Bear, food trucks, 2pm speaker, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9102

Sat 10/19 – Orchid Show, 9am-4:15pm + Sunday, Kanapaha Botanical Gardens (4700 SW 58th Dr); competition & plant sale, free; <https://kanapaha.org/fall-plant-sale>

WEEK OF OCT 20-26

Sun 10/20 – Sunday Assembly, 11am on 3rd Sundays, Pride Ctr (3850 NW 83rd Blvd, Ste 201) talk on Children’s Trust of Alachua County, free; sagainesville.weebly.com

Sun 10/20 – Pumpkin Spice & Everything Nice, 1-3pm, Rockwood Park (2221 NW 2nd St), treats & pumpkin carving, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9103

Sun 10/20 – Bob Fest, 5pm, Heartwood Soundstage (619 S Main St), Bob McPeck tribute, \$10-200; tinyurl.com/iguana9104

Mon 10/21 – Pearl & the Oysters, 8-11:30pm, The Wooly (10 N Main St), plus Gabriel Da Rosa & RM 13, \$20 adv, \$25 door; tinyurl.com/iguana9105

Mon 10/21 – Early Voting begins, 9am-6pm through 11/3, 8 locations, free/vital; tinyurl.com/iguana9106

Mon 10/23 – “Democracy in Florida”, 7pm, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave - also on Zoom), Dr Steve Noll on inclusion & exclusion, free w/ registration; mathesonmuseum.org/events/

Thu 10/24 – “Suds and Songs”, 5:30-8:30pm, 1st Mag (1220 SE Veitch St), fundraiser for 3 Rivers and Southern Legal Counsel with Other Voices, raffles, auction, \$30 (includes 2 drinks); tinyurl.com/iguana9107

Thu 10/24 – Fest kickoff, 6:30-10:30pm, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave), Hot Water Music & others, \$46.28; see pg 5 & thefestfl.com

Fri 10/25 – The Fest, massive multi-venue 3-day music+ event; see pg 5 & thefestfl.com

Fri 10/25 – Artwalk, 7-10pm last Fridays, various venues around town, free; see pg 17 & artwalkgainesville.com

Fri 10/25 – “Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors” opens, 8-9:30pm (through 11/10), Acrosstown Rep (3501 SW 2nd Ave), Halloween play, \$27.25; acrosstown.org

Sat 10/26 – FOL Book Sale opens, 9am-6pm (noon-6pm Sun-Wed), Friends of the Library (430 N Main St), amazing deals on books, music, vids, more (bring boxes!), free; tinyurl.com/iguana9108

Sat 10/26 – Lube Bat Festival, 10am-5pm, Lube Bat Conservancy (18405 CR-231), all things chiropteran + beer festival, \$5 ages 5-12, \$10 13+, \$35 beer garden; lubeebatfestival.org

Sat 10/26 – Waldo Fall Festival, 4-7pm, Waldo Sq (14450 NW 148th Ave, Waldo), games, food, music, more, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9109

Sat 10/26 – Haunted Orange Lake Overlook Festival, 6-8pm, O.L. Overlook (19865 N US Highway 441 Micanopy), games, activities, hayride, \$5-10; tinyurl.com/iguana9110

WEEK OF OCT 27-NOV 2

Sun 10/27 – Voices Rising, 3 & 7pm, United Methodist Church (419 NE 1st St), community chorus, \$10-20; vrccgainesville.org

Thu 10/31 – Drag Bingo, 7:30-9:30pm, 1st Magnitude Brewing (1220 SE Veitch St), hosted by Emma Gration, free (entry, not bingo cards); fmbrewing.com/events

Sat 11/2 – Gvl Global Festival: World Beats & Eats, 11am-4pm, The Streatery

(SW 2nd Ave W of Main St),

Sat 11/2 – Bazar à la carte: a night market, 6-11pm, The Streatery (SW 2nd Ave W of Main St), thehowbazar.com

Sat 11/2 – Spirit of Pride, 6-9pm, Sweetwater Branch Inn (625 E Univ Ave), Community Awards dinner

WEEK OF NOV 3-9

Tue 11/5 VOTE!!! 7am-7pm; see pg 14 & votealachua.com

Thu 11/7 Woofstock, 6-10pm, Santa Fe River Ranch (29220 NW 122nd St, Alachua), Humane Society benefit w food, music, silent auction, \$100; tinyurl.com/iguana9111

Fri 11/8 – “SkateQilya”, 8-12pm, How Bazar (see pg 2), fundraiser for Palestine’s only skate park (in Gvl sister city Qalqilya) videos of skating, art auction etc; thehowbazar.com

Sat 11/9 – Downtown Art Fest opens, 10am-5pm (also Sun), 111 E Univ Ave, art, music, kids’ activities, food, free; gainesvilledowntownartfest.net

RECCURRING EVENTS

Monday Farmers Market, 4-8pm: Cypress & Grove

Saturday Farmers Market, 8:30-noon, 5920 NW 13th St

Thursday evening Poetry Jam, 8pm at Civic Media Center

Civic Media Center volunteer meetings, 1st & 3rd Wednesday, at CMC (433 S Main St) & via Zoom

Public Astronomy Night, 8:30-10pm Fridays when fall/spring semester classes in session, SFC Campus Teaching Observatory (see link for map), free; tinyurl.com/iguana9054

Democratic Women’s Club meets 3rd Mondays, 11:30am (except Dec & Jan), B’Nai Israel (3830 NW 16th Blvd); gvilledoris@hotmail.com

Clubes de Escucha, 6-8pm, Curia on the Drag (2029 NW 6th St), segundo y cuarto Viernes de cada mes; clubesdeescucha.com

PFLAG meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7pm at the Pride Center, 3850 NW 83rd St, second floor.

Food Pantry, Tue/Wed/Fri 10am-4pm Mon/Thu 12-4pm, UF HealthStreet (2401 SW Archer Rd), free, best choice available Mons & Thurs (health interview requested for repeat membership);

352-294-4880 & facebook.com/UFHealthStreet

Artist Meetup, 5:30-7pm 2nd Thurs, Gvl Fine Arts Ass’n (1314 S Main St), exhibit & conversation, free; gainesvillefinearts.org

Jazz on Main St, 7-10pm on 3rd Thursdays, Gainesville Fine Arts Ass’n (1314 S Main St), free; gainesvillefinearts.org

Basement Sessions, 7pm, The Hipp Basement (25 SE 2nd Pl), mostly jazz, \$10 sliding scale; thehipp.org/events

GAINESVILLE OPEN MICS

Gainesville is a talent-rich town, and open mics are a great way to have an evening of varied entertainment out of the house. Here is a list of open mics for a variety of music and other entertainment. Also, of course for you performer-types to go perform at. Each have their own character.

The Bull: Monday, 7pm, sign up at 6:30

Mai Kai: Monday, 8:30pm, sign up at 8pm

“The Reverend Angel Dust’s Tabernacle of Hedonism Hosted by Tom Miller” at the University Club (UC): Every Monday (until December), 10:30pm, sign up at 9

How Bazar: 3rd Wednesday of the month, 8-10pm, DM to sign up

Satchels: first Wednesday of the month, 6-9pm, sign up at 5:30pm

“Front Street” at Boca Backyard: 4th Wednesday of the month. 7:30-11pm

Swamp Head Brewery: 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7-9pm, sign up at 6:30pm
The Midnight: every Tuesday, 8pm-?, sign up at 7:30

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

Heartwood Soundstage, Satchel’s, Loosey’s, Boca Backyard, the Wooly, Wormhole, One Love Café, Cypress & Grove, etc.

Live Community Music, Wednesdays, 8pm Heartwood Soundstage inside & out
See visitgainesville.com/events for an event list, updated Thursdays; also try 352arts.org; and don’t forget civicmedia-center.org

More than we can list each month at The Lynx: thelynxbooks.com/events 🐾

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. is a non-profit land trust protecting North Central Florida's natural, historic, scenic and recreational resources for over 36 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 | alachuangreens@gmail.com | GainesvilleGreens.webs.com

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

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

Spotlight on Sister City Program of Gainesville



Sister City Program of Gainesville, Inc. is the 501(c)(3) non-profit organization appointed by the City of Gainesville to administer Gainesville's nine official sister city relationships with the cities of Deir Alla, Jordan; Duhok, Iraq; Jacmel, Haiti; Kfar Saba, Israel; Matagalpa, Nicaragua; Mejdlaya, Lebanon; Novorossiisk, Russia; Qalqilya, Palestine; and Rzeszow, Poland. In addition, new relationships are being established with Ho, Ghana; Nizhyn, Ukraine; Olomouc, Czechia; Sao Jose do Rio Preto, Brazil; Swansea, Wales; and Yopal, Colombia.

According to Sister Cities International, a sister city, county, or state relationship is a broad-based, long-term partnership between two communities in two countries. A relationship is officially recognized after the highest elected or appointed officials from both communities sign off on an agreement to become sister cities. Our goal is to connect individuals, organizations and institutions in Gainesville with their counterparts in our sister cities, creating a web of relationships that can withstand adverse national and international events. See gnvsistercities.org

Watch Candidates' Forum for offices of:

- **County Commissioner**
- **Sheriff**
- **Supervisor of Elections**
- **State Attorney**
- **Florida House District 22**



On Sept. 22, Santa Fe College was the scene of a candidates' forum with a chance to mingle, meet, and hear from the local candidates for the offices of County Commissioner, Sheriff, Supervisor of Elections, State Attorney and Florida House District 22. The event was co-sponsored by the Alachua County League of Women Voters and the Bob Graham Center at UF. A video of the event can be seen at: tinyurl.com/Iguana2095



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

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. ClimateRealityProjectgmv@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 & 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/Divest UF

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@fam.org | 352-682-2542 | FAMM.org

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

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.

Friends of Susan B. Anthony, Gainesville recognizes local women who exemplify some of the qualities of Susan B. Anthony, that is, concern for full enfranchisement of women and minorities and equal rights for all citizens. fosba@fosba.com | fosba.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. climaterealityprojectgmv@gmail.com | @climaterealityprojectgmv | climaterealityprojectgmv.wordpress.com

Gainesville Books to Prisoners is a volunteer-run, donation-based organization that sends hundreds of books monthly to incarcerated people in Florida. We pack books at the CMC on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month, 6-7:30pm. We also need brown paper grocery bags and packing tape. Instagram: @gmvbooks2prisoners. Donate funds at paypal.com/gmvb2p.

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

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

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

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

Gainesville Quakers have a 350-year tradition of working peacefully for social

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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. 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

Generation Action UF, a student organization dedicated to promoting reproductive justice and health care on campus provides UF students with free contraceptives, Plan B, and other key reproductive health care materials through The Brown Bag Project <3. UF students can discreetly request and receive condoms, internal condoms, dental dams, pregnancy tests, and Plan B. Instagram @ ppenactionuf.

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

Greater Gainesville International Center celebrates and elevates our diverse international community by serving as a hub between cultural, economic, educational and governmental partners, to unlock the full potential of our unique global city. Programs include 10 sister cities and refugee resettlement. Lauren Poe | poe@gnvc.org | 352-871-0895.

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

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 | jvpognvpod@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@lwwalachua.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. gainesvillnlg@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 Sante 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 | https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1952

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 landfills and redirecting items to the public for art and education, 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 & 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

The Majorie is Florida's independent reporting outlet dedicated to the critical intersection of social justice and the environment. themajorie.org

The Party for Socialism and Liberation - Gainesville pre-branch exists to carry out the struggle for Socialism inside the U.S. | Linktr.ee/psl_gainesville | psl_gainesville@proton.me | pslweb.org/join

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/UNAUSAGainesvilleFIChapter | 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 | vfp Gainesville.org

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

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

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

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

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



UF faculty supports the UF 9

by Gwendolyn Zoharah Simmons

I write as a retired University of Florida Professor and a long time civil rights and peace and justice activist in support of the courageous UF students who joined with thousands of students across the U.S. (Jewish, Muslim, Christian, and non-religious) to protest Israel’s genocide in Gaza, and the ethnic cleansing and occupation of Palestinians in all of Palestine.

In a country which claims to uphold the right to free speech, free expression of views, the right to peacefully assemble and to protest wrongs, what has happened to the UF Students (known as the UF 9) and many across the U.S. shows that this is not the case.

Our UF 9 students and their supporters issued a statement titled: “Seeking Justice: The Repercussions of our Peaceful Protest Against Genocide.” I join with them in demanding justice for our students who have been expelled from UF’s campus for three years!

What is their crime?

These students were arrested in late April 2024 on UF’s campus for sitting peacefully in folding chairs with signs, flags, and playing the card game “Uno” while protesting the genocide in Gaza.

Our students had created what they termed, the “Liberation Zone” (LZ for short) as a space for a religiously and racially diverse community of students and others to openly grieve the horrors in Gaza they were witnessing daily and to call on our government to stop arming and funding it. The students joined in the prayers of the three religions, shared challah (a special bread in Jewish cuisine) and other foods donated by members of the greater Gainesville Community who grieved and prayed with them. I am grateful to have been one of the community members to grieve and pray with our students.

The students and all of us who joined them were under a constant menacing police presence. Hour after hour the police would approach the LZ with new, seemingly spontaneous arbitrary rules and restrictions. These unreasonable demands included getting rid of coolers, bottles of water, food, and tarps, no lying down, and no use of sound amplification.

It is important to know that UF’s “Plaza of the Americas” where the LZ was located has been designated “a free speech zone” on UF’s campus for decades. It is normal to see hammocks, chairs, tables, amplified sound devices, food, etc. on the Plaza.

Also, during football season this area and many other places on campus are used for tailgating with food, loud music and dancing into the wee hours of the morning. It was only when our students used this space to peacefully protest an ongoing live streamed Genocide in Gaza were these items and activities prohibited.

When the police arrested the students, some were sitting in folding chairs reading, studying for finals, resting, and eating their lunches. Twenty to 30 UFPD (University of Florida Police Department) and FHP (Florida Highway Patrol) officers marched

See UF 9, p. 24

FREE THE UF 9!



UF SUSPENDS 6 STUDENTS AT PEACEFUL PROTEST AGAINST US FUNDED GENOCIDE IN GAZA!

**THE CRIME?
SITTING IN LAWN CHAIRS IN PLAZA OF THE AMERICAS PLAYING UNO**

CONDUCT COMMITTEES REPEATEDLY FIND NO EVIDENCE OF DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR; DEAN SUSPENDS FOR 3 YEARS



UF COMPLICIT IN GENOCIDE AND SUPPRESSING STUDENTS FOR SPEAKING UP



SIGN THE PETITION TO DROP THE CHARGES!



Insta: @UF9ForPalestine

Editor’s Note: For clarification, nine people were arrested; six were students.

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