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# The Gainesville Iguana

May/June 2025 ~ vol. 39, issue 5/6

'a soapbox for Alachua County activists'

## Faculty Protest

**Higher ed workers rally nationwide for free speech, free tuition, and to free detained students**

by Barbara Madeloni

Faculty-student pairs set up “anti-fascist office hours” at three locations on the Northwestern University campus.

Faculty, students, and staff created anti-fascist art at the University of Hawaii.

American Association of University Professors members combined membership drives with tabling about the critical issues facing higher education on 30 campuses.

And in New York City, 4,000 people rallied to defend higher education from Trump’s attacks, chanting, “ICE took our students, we want them back!”

These were a few of the 170 events on campuses across the country April 17 in the second annual Coalition for Action in Higher Education day of action, organized under the banner of “Free Higher Education.”

That meant not only fully funded and free to students, but also free of “political interference that reduces the rights and autonomy of campus workers and students to teach, study, learn, speak, and dissent.”

The coalition includes the AAUP, Higher  
*See FACULTY PROTEST, p. 24*



Higher ed workers are facing a volley of attacks, including the abduction of immigrant students, a crackdown on free speech especially around race, climate change, and Palestine, and defunding. Public university professors rallied April 7 in New York City (pictured), and an April 17 day of action touched 170 campuses across the country. Photo by Jenny Brown, Labor Notes.

## GRU UPDATE: Democracy, affordability in the balance

by Let the Voters Decide

The fight for democracy, against privatization, for working-class people, for our environment, and for a well-functioning government isn’t just national, it’s right here in Gainesville.

Five months ago we, the people of Gainesville, voted to take back our local public utilities. Our community came together to run a grassroots campaign to take our power (and water) back from DeSantis. Since then, we’ve had a court case, rate changes, projects killed and money taken from the taxpayers. We wanted to give you an update of where GRU stands and the road forward.

Most of the news is bad. GRU is still in the hands of an unelected, unaccountable Board appointed by DeSantis. The “GRU

Authority” is doing everything it can to hurt the people of Gainesville and turn our utilities into a culture war. Rates are higher, money is being given away to political insiders, and there’s no plan for energy generation. They are running as fast as they can toward relying on private companies for our power, a \$2.5 billion boondoggle.

But there is hope. 73 percent of City voters said they wanted to abolish the GRU Authority in November. In April a judge ruled for the city that this Governor-appointed GRU Authority can be eliminated by a vote of the people. Now is the time to learn more and put the final nail in the coffin of Ron DeSantis’ GRU Authority.

### GRU AUTHORITY LAWSUIT

Judge George Wright, a DeSantis appointee  
*See GRU UPDATE, p. 25*



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**Deadline is Wednesday, June 25**

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### 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.*

## DeSantis is the new Musk

by Philip "Tre" Mobley III  
Santa Fe College Journalism Club President

It has been 3 months since tech billionaire, Elon Musk, first sent the "What have you done this week" email to his recently acquired Twitter staff before making major cutbacks. It has also been two months since Trump's DOGE email was sent with the same goal. Next up to bat is Gov. Ron DeSantis and his new FL DOGE team as they address the state colleges with an ultimatum.

On April 4, an email was sent to the presidents of universities across Florida from the Office of the Governor, stating "The Executive Office of the Governor has established an EOG DOGE Team which will .... identify, review, and report on unnecessary spending, programs, courses, staff, and any other inefficiencies." DeSantis is gearing up to make big changes in higher education, following closely in the footsteps of his superiors.

Two deadlines were given. The first required campuses to send every grant awarded to the institution, all research published by staff at the institution, and all filled and vacant positions held by any employee with a non-instructional role within the past six years by the specified date of April 18 to the Office of the Governor.

Similar to the federal DOGE, DeSantis is targeting colleges in an attempt to defund any errant liberal arts initiatives or silence the stray professor who pushes ideologies not in support of his narrative. And sadly, it's working.

When speaking with professors about the email they received, their fear was placed on the published works, as they were worried that a spotlight would be shown on their colleagues, on their campus, endangering their jobs. This fear bled into the interviewing processes as no one would go on the record, anxiously reminding me not to publish their names.

However, when speaking with Dr. J. Nathaniel Sutherland, the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Santa Fe College, he explained that there would be nothing to fear for Santa Fe. He further stated that Santa Fe has only had two projects funded by federal grants in the past 6 years, both were working with the National Science Foundation to help students succeed in the STEM fields. Sutherland also wrote in an email to the staff that he was certain that "Santa Fe College is a good steward of taxpayers' dollars," supporting his claim that there was no reason to be afraid.

If this is this case, then why are so many professors nervous to express themselves outside of the classroom? DeSantis's goal in sending this email was to do two things: to decrease state spending and to spread fear.

However, that brings us to the second deadline (due on April  
*See DESANTIS, p. 12*

## Hey, Readers!

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Links to both can be found on our website:  
www.GainesvilleIguana.org

*From the publisher ...*

## Oppression and illusions

All of us are facing the difficult task of processing all the disturbing news in the world these days. In my life I have found that the wisdom, insights, and power of music feed me and keep me going. Song writers, like poets and authors, can convey a lot with their art. But music has a brevity that comes with a beat, a melody, that goes inside you. I was struck by the number of messages of tribute from fellow artists to Jill Sobule, who tragically just died at 67, in a house fire. In her 30-year career as a performer, she supported so many important issues and collaborated with so many other artists.



*Joe Courter*

That brought to mind another artist, Ferron, another, now older woman, who touched many hearts. We still have her; she is 72. Besides her music, this quote from her always resonates in me: "Women live lives of oppression, men live lives of illusion." The concept goes beyond just men and women. The illusion here is that the unfair situations of dominance and exploitation that exist are normal, in the view of the dominant political party or interest group. The oppressed, trapped in their status, often try to fight back for some freedom and justice. This relates to the concept "a better world is possible." LGBTQ+ rights, DEI initiatives, bodily autonomy, health care, unvarnished history, all are under attack because that is the playbook of authoritarians. Repression is their game. Preserve the illusions.

This "War on Woke" we are seeing hides the parts of history that expose the shameful truth that this "shining city on the hill" has greatly benefitted from stealing the land of Native people, and then importing and enslaving Black people from Africa. Fact: The real wealth of this nation was built on stolen land and stolen labor. Native people were banished to reservations, and Black people, after being "freed," were further discriminated against and redlined out of family wealth. Nope, can't talk about that. Over and over, authoritarians seek to control the culture and historical narrative.

The rapid rise of an authoritarian state is a stunningly produced everything-all-at-once strategy. There is a tendency to have it become normalized, unchallenged. Arrests and deportation of students and workers? Threats to and arrests of judges? Ignoring the Supreme Court? Ignoring the Constitution? Trashing DEI and decrying empathy? Executive order piled on executive order. They claim an emergency, but THEY are the emergency, and we are just starting to resist in the last month on any significant level. I am heartened by the fight back from Harvard and other universities, people in the streets, more and more legislators joining AOC, Bernie, Murphey, Stansbury, and Crockett. And I'm kind of glad that MAGA types may be feeling the pain soon from the tariffs affecting imports. There's only so much right wing media can spin the effects of these changes. Meanwhile, so much has been destroyed ... USAID, science and humanities funding, regulatory bodies. There will be real consequences.

All of us have personal challenges we face in our lives. I recently was at a burial out at Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery, had another valued friend just pass, and a couple serious illnesses in people close to me. They pale in comparison to what others are going through. I just saw "No Other Land," the Oscar-winning, but suppressed, film about Palestinians in the West Bank, and also recently saw "Encampments," about the campus protests over the Netanyahu genocide in Gaza. The all-out assault on the Palestinian people is powered by illusions, too ... for some people as if fulfilling Bible prophecy. Every day it is a drumbeat of death, and make no mistake, Gaza is this period's Viet Nam, especially for the young. The world can see their suffering, read and hear about it every day, and everyone can see the complicity of the U.S. government. This is yet another stain in our history that won't be washed away, however they try.

The mighty strive to perpetuate the illusions that they believe in. The people the mighty are oppressing will continue to try and make a better world — in their communities, their states, and in the nation. This coup will not go away on its own; the resistance will grow in many forms. Will some Republican legislators flip, say "No!" to all this unconstitutional power grab? Will lawyers and judges stand up and resist? Will the economy start to hurt so many people that they rise up and say "No!"? How will Canada, Mexico, and other nations react?

Support each other, let's work together and turn this around. No Kings. No Dictators. Reclaim Democracy and actually, for real, do it better. But first, we must get there. Preserve elections, support independent media, support local organizations and businesses, and stay sane and healthy. The fight has just begun. ✨

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*Gainesville Iguana*

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## A student perspective

# UF's DEI funding cuts unfair

by Autumn Johnstone

In 2024, the UF Student Senate agreed upon the importance of funding programs and clubs centered around diversity, equity, and inclusion. Yet, months after President Trump's inauguration and several passed Florida state government bills later, we have found this to simply not be the case anymore.

Funding for the welcome assemblies of several identity-based student organizations has been cut for the following year, such as the Pride Student Union and Black Student Union.

As a student myself, my most memorable first impression of UF's expansive student body was attending PSU's welcome assembly in fall 2024. In the University Auditorium with about 400 students seated around me, I had a visceral feeling which made me realize I was exactly where I needed to be. That night, the energy of PSU's performers and members never faltered. After almost 20 years of

living in a house that never welcomed me for who I was, I finally felt *home* — even in a room entirely composed of strangers.

Upon discovery of these cuts, I thought of how unfair it was to take away something that so many people depended on for support, but perhaps that's exactly what the plan is. Remove the hope and the uncontrollable rebellion it may lead to along with it. When hope begins to threaten power, it becomes a method of manipulation rather than a beacon for those who long for it.

I am not shocked by the illegitimate attacks on my identity and millions of others'. Over time, the fight to protect diversity and identity-based endeavors has become treacherous, exhausting, and sometimes quite dystopian. Even with the Trump Administration's significant cuts to education funding, we see it is *by design* that the very people who are being directly affected by this budget proposal cannot do *anything* to prevent it. Seeing as teachers are public employees, they cannot strike unless they are willing to

face extreme consequences (which many of them cannot afford to).

The inhumane bills being passed by this Administration are a giant leap in the wrong direction — although we have been headed there a long time now. These funding cuts point towards a larger issue that is bigger than money, even if some may believe that cutting funding for certain initiatives can be the key to fixing our economy. This isn't a matter of evaluating cost-effective programs; it's a blatant way to silence those think differently than the ones in power.

As a young child, I never thought twice about my own divergent thinking until I attended a classical Christian middle school that valued only one correct solution for every problem. There, I saw what gearing away from what was considered the norm could get you: consequences, judgment, and even worse, insecurity in your own opinions. Acceptance was delivered to those who looked and acted the same as the one awarding it.

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Before UF's funding cuts on DEI programs, Trump signed the executive order titled "Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing" in January.

This opened the door for terminating DEI initiatives beyond just the federal government, reversing decades of progress in equity and civil rights. Directly connected to this order, we find Trump's stance on merit-based hiring in which he believes he is "restoring fairness" to the federal government. This couldn't be further from the truth. In his methods of prioritizing merit over identity, we have found him to prioritize personal loyalty above qualifications or competence.

The Trump Administration believes DEI gives underrepresented groups an unfair advantage without taking into account the marginalization those groups have experienced. If Trump wants "the best person for the job," wouldn't it make sense for him to choose those who are actually qualified (despite their identity) and not those who are just privileged as himself? If America was truly to be based on merit, we wouldn't have a cabinet to run it.

Diversity accelerates performance in many aspects, and to have it stripped of importance only shows the erasure of the hundreds of communities that have provided this country with its foundations in labor, arts, academia, and democracy. This erasure deprives our country of the ability to exercise empathy for those around us, considering we are losing care for DEI initiatives.

An apathetic leader makes for a disloyal team, but an apathetic president makes for a country fueled by a gaping divide between the rich and poor. Neglecting equity may very well lead this country to be characterized by social unrest and increased polarization. As this unfolds, we'll find ourselves right where we once started, hundreds of years ago.

The fight for equity amongst discrimination continues, but even when we don't achieve our desired outcomes, our efforts are not lost. In the future, we may find ourselves in a strikingly different society. Yet, the strength found in the moments where we chose to fight instead of watch will push us forward despite an administration that longs to set us back. ✨



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# Labor and Trump's first 100 days

by Jason Bellamy-Fulfs,  
Recording Secretary, IBEW Local 1205,  
proud member of the North Central  
Florida Central Labor Council

With the Florida legislature still a mess as of the writing of this column, we'll save a detailed analysis of this year's session, how it will affect working people, and how our legislative delegation voted, for the July-August column. However, if you want to keep tabs in the meantime, we recommend Jason Garcia's "Seeking Rents" substack ([jasongarcia.substack.com/](http://jasongarcia.substack.com/)) as well as Florida for All ([floridaforall.substack.com/](http://floridaforall.substack.com/)) and Caring Class Revolt ([caringclassrevolt.substack.com/](http://caringclassrevolt.substack.com/)).

For now, we'll focus on Trump's "historic" 100 days.

*"...we're here tonight in the heartland of our nation to celebrate the most successful first one hundred days of any administration in the history of our country, and that's according to many, many people."*

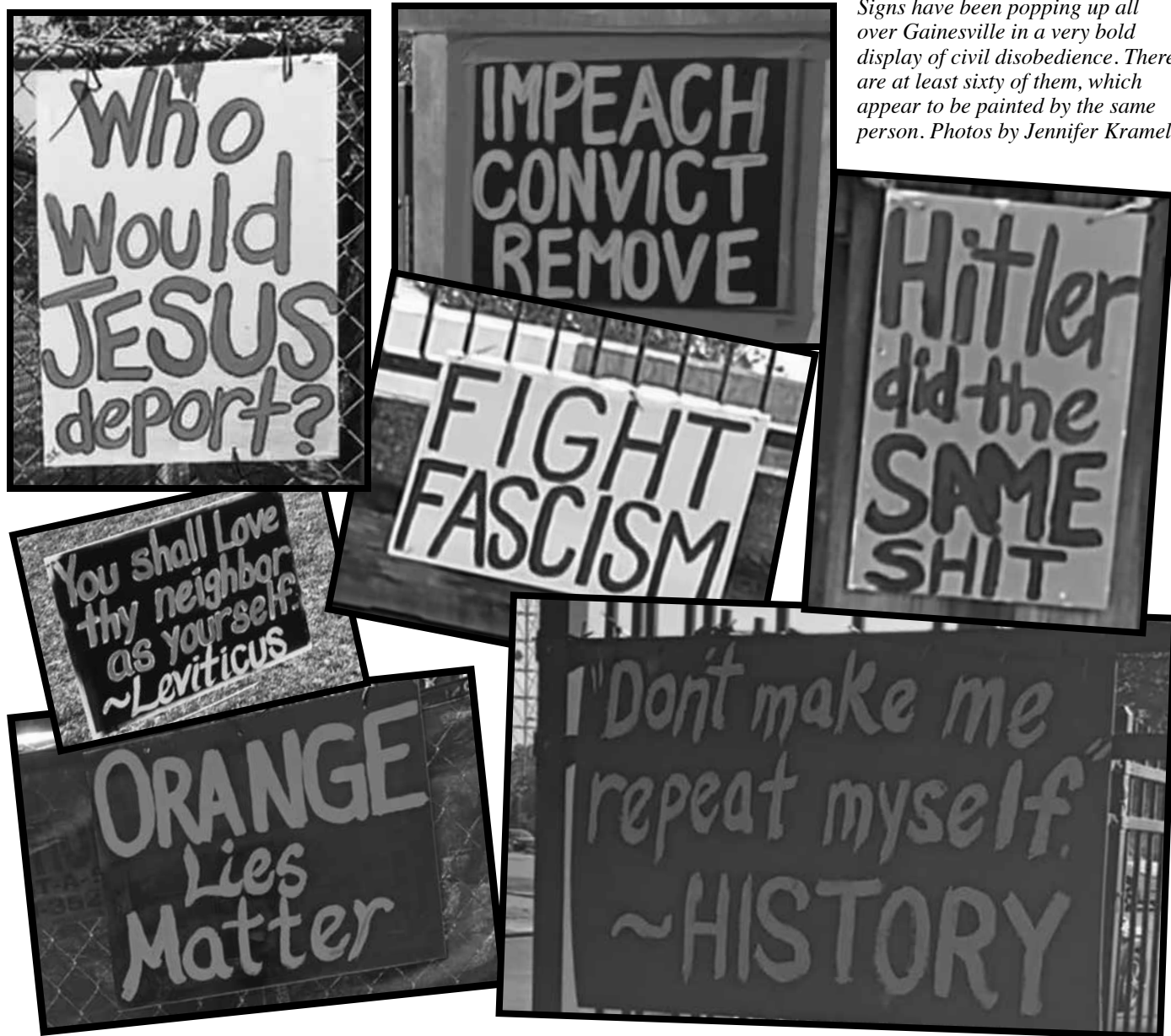
*This is the best, they say, hundred day start of any president in history, and everyone is saying it."*

- Donald Trump, April 29, 2025

Well, we're not saying it. During his campaign, Trump ran from the highly unpopular Project 2025 that has so clearly become the blueprint for his presidency. Since his election, he has engaged in grossly corrupt self-enrichment while wreaking havoc on our economy, kowtowing to Putin, and blatantly disregard-

## 'It's like the Banksy of protest signs'

*Signs have been popping up all over Gainesville in a very bold display of civil disobedience. There are at least sixty of them, which appear to be painted by the same person. Photos by Jennifer Kramel.*



ing the rule of law in unparalleled attacks on the Constitution as well as the authority of Congress and the judiciary. But what have his actions meant for the day-to-day lives of working people?

We can't do nearly as thorough a job here as the Economic Policy Institute did with their "100 Ways Trump Hurt Workers in his First 100 Days" report ([tinyurl.com/Iguana2177](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2177)) and Michael Podhorzer's "The Trump Regime's War on Working People," ([tinyurl.com/Iguana2178](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2178)) and we highly recommend checking those out if you're looking for a more detailed analysis. However, here are some major actions of the Trump administration:

- Stripping more than 1 million federal workers of their right to collectively bargain.
- Removal of key personnel from the National Labor Relations Board, Federal Labor Relations Authority, and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.
- Large-scale reductions in the federal workforce and attempted dismantling of entire federal agencies, in clear violation of Congressional authority. Beyond just the impacts on these workers will be the individuals and communities that they serve, as fundamental services that many people rely upon are undermined, such as Social Security and Medicaid.
- Compromising Americans' security through granting Elon Musk's DOGE access to sensitive government records.
- Lowering minimum wage requirements for federal workers and contractors nationwide.
- Firing staff and delaying the implementation of rules whose purpose was to bolster worker safety.
- Attacks on the funding and improvement of public education.
- Rescinding funds already promised to our communities to strengthen our infrastructure, support scientific research, create jobs, and combat climate change.
- Increasing our healthcare costs.
- Treating our hard-working immigrant neighbors like animals, stigmatizing and stripping them of their basic human and legal rights in what can only be a test case for what's in store for the rest of us, citizen or otherwise.

All this in his first 100 days. All this before consumers have even truly begun to feel the effects of Trump's tariff roulette, the ripple effects throughout our economy as people lose their benefits, their jobs, their homes; as small businesses' supply chains are disrupted. And all this, not only in the name of tax cuts to benefit the wealthy; but even more importantly, in an effort to destroy the only institutions standing between working people and outright oligarchy. If things continue along this path, it is hard not to imagine severe economic hardship if not blood in the streets, before this year is out.

*"We've just gotten started. You haven't even seen anything yet. It's all just kicking in."*

—Donald Trump, April 29, 2025

But as the old saying goes, "don't mourn, organize." We are deeply encouraged by the outpouring of public sentiment against Trump's Project 2025 rollout, by the raucous Congressional town halls, the massive rallies, the workers banding together on the job.

We must continue to organize in our workplaces, and in our Congressional districts, and seize every opportunity to weaken Trump and his corporate enablers. We must be prepared to support one another as the economic pain spreads, and to protect those most vulnerable to the bullies running this administration.

We will get through this sad and terrible moment in our nation's history, together. Only together. 🐢

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# May Day 2025



*Protesters gathered and happily rallied at the Depot Park and S. Main St circle in Gainesville on May 1 to celebrate International Workers' Day and protest against the Trump administration's attacks on public services and federal workers. Photos by Chuck Ross.*



## Lessons and next steps for Gainesville

*by Alachua County Chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA)*

On May 1, workers from all over the world celebrated and rallied for International Workers' Day.

In Turkey, thousands of people demonstrated on May 1 to protest the anti-democratic political arrest of Ekrem Imamoglu, the main competitor to President Erdogan in the next general election. In Germany, labor unions rallied against anti-immigration policies targeting minorities. In the Philippines, workers from all over the country gathered in the capital, Manila, to demand wage increases and demand protection of local industries from Trump's tariffs.

Lastly, Americans—including hundreds of Gainesvillians—organized protests against the Trump administration's attacks on public services and federal workers.

Things look bleak.

Billions of people are tired, alienated, and frustrated with their bosses and their politicians. Our society is unjust. Our de-

mocracy is not a democracy for 99%, but rather a democracy for the 1%.

With a recession knocking at our front door, it's now do or die. Will Americans allow their politicians to give tax cuts and bailouts to the ultra-rich? Or, can they win real, life-changing reforms like Medicare for All, investments in public education, and green public transportation?

The Trump administration's attacks on our public services proved that the writing is on the wall: a recession is coming, and the billionaire class knows this. The billionaire class will dismantle and commodify our public services, our children's education, our healthcare—while they weather the storm and turn a profit. If they did it in 2008, they can do it again.

Only the working class—the producers and the foundation of our economy—has the power to win real change. When workers go on strike, workers strip billionaires of their one source of power: money.

International Workers' Day on May 1

teaches us about the power of workers. The holiday celebrates the anniversary of the Haymarket Massacre of 1886, when workers on strike in Haymarket Square, Chicago, were ambushed and killed by police officers. To make matters more grim, the Chicago Police framed the killings on the strike organizers by planting and detonating a bomb at the scene of the crime.

What were these workers striking for? The eight-hour work day. During a time when most people worked 12-16 hours a day, seven days a week; during a time when factories employed thousands of children; during a time when women were paid less for the same work men did; during a time when the color of your skin decided your hourly wage, is it any surprise that workers were pushed to their limits, organized, and demanded the eight-hour work day?

One can't help but feel grateful for these workers who sacrificed themselves for comforts that we take for granted today. The lesson of International Workers' Day is that, in spite of the obstacles, the work-



ers of Haymarket won. Their dreams became reality. We have progressed so much as a society, and we can still go further.

Working families in 2025 long for working-class-centered politics — politics where their voices are heard and their needs are met. That is why the Alachua County chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) will be organizing a six-part series of political education events at the Civic Media Center on second Wednesdays, open to the public at 6:30pm each session.

**May 14: What is Capitalism?**

**June 11: What is Socialism?**

**July 9: Race & Capitalism within the United States**

**Aug. 13: Immigration 101: No Human is Illegal**

**Sept. 10: US Labor History and the Socialist Pole**

**Oct. 8: Fascism and the American Right**

DSA is calling on our community members in Gainesville to discuss these topics in a group-setting. We hope to brainstorm solutions and potential campaigns in Gainesville.

International Workers' Day 2025 has demonstrated that real change is on the horizon. Workers have built this world. Now, workers will save this world. ✨

*“Woke isn’t a dirty word. It’s about staying alert to the injustices others experience every day.”*

~ Roxane Gay



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# Letter to the University of Florida president

## Retired faculty condemn ICE intrusion at UF

May 8, 2025

Dear President Fuchs:

We, the Officers and Board of Directors of the Retired Faculty of the University of Florida, Inc. (RFUF), are writing to express our distress and disgust regarding state, local, and UF's collusion with the outrageous if not unconstitutional visa revocations of international students, faculty, and staff at universities across the country, the Florida State University System, and the University of Florida in specific.

Particularly distressing is the covert and startling way in which this action has occurred where University of Florida police have essentially been deputized under the federal ICE 287(g) Memorandum of Agreement as "force multipliers" to detain individuals without warrants solely on suspicion of immigration violations.

Affected students, faculty and staff have reportedly received little to no formal notice, rationale, or recourse, leaving them in a state of confusion, abject terror, and uncertainty about their academic futures, legal status, and personal wellbeing.

If the University of Florida is genuinely

committed to global education and is indebted to the role that thousands of international students across the State University System play in academic and research excellence, then that message could not be more strongly delivered than by your taking an expeditious and vigorous defense of our international community.

Apart from the recent announcement by the UF presidential search committee of a sole candidate for the Board of Trustees' consideration as your successor, substantial time remains in your tenure and power as Interim President and President Emeritus, and time is what we do not have in combating the metastatic symptoms of authoritarian intrusion into the internal operations of the University.

We, therefore, call upon you to act in the following ways:

**1. Immediately condemn and withdraw from the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) 287(g) Program.** It is important to point out that the states of Vermont, Rhode Island, Delaware, and New Mexico have no such MOAs. Furthermore, the states of Connecticut, New Jersey, Illinois, Washington, Oregon, and

California have enacted legislation prohibiting such MOAs with ICE.

It is crystal clear to us that the UF Police Department's published guiding principles are completely inconsistent with and anathema to any activity under an ICE 287(g) MOA. For example:

- Emblazoned on their website is the UFPD's motto that **UFPD Believes in Transparency**,
- And that "...[UFPD's] **fundamental duty is to serve the community: to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all to liberty, equality and justice** [italics added for emphasis].

**2. Advocate for institutional transparency:** Make public the scope and consequences of the current visa crisis at the University of Florida, including the number of affected students, faculty, and staff and the rationales provided for visa revocation.



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# GAINESVILLE ROLLER REBELS

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<b>JUN 14</b> All-Stars vs. Brantucky Bombers	<b>SEP 20</b> All-Stars vs. River City Rat Pack

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**3. Issue guidance:** Immediately contact all students, faculty, and staff who have already suffered or are at risk of visa revocation to make certain that these individuals clearly understand due process protections and are provided legal or administrative counsel if necessary. For those who have been compelled to leave the United States, make certain that UF continues to support remote participation in their education or professional role assuming they joined UF with a valid visa.

Allowing the ICE 287(g) MOA to go forward sends an unconscionably perverse message to the University community, as well as perhaps irreversibly eroding the trust expected of the UFPD while unnecessarily diverting UFPD officers from their primary mission of campus safety. Even individuals who are United States citizens run the risk of detention if cultural profiling takes hold of campus police acting with suspicion as instructed by ICE. Fear of detention could easily prevent a student from seeking medical attention, mental health treatment, or even educational support services. Most disturbing is ICE's authority to access international student data in search of even the smallest infraction to be loosely interpreted as criminal for shameless justification of deportation.

Surely ICE and other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies have sufficient authority and bandwidth to operate independently without conscripting campus police officers presumably to cast a higher resolution net over a haven where students, faculty, and staff benefit from and expand the best of what America has to offer. In short, we think it reprehensible that an agency of the University of Florida has been authorized to be complicit in ICE's misguided and indiscriminate attempt to purge our international community. If for no other reason than respect for the core values of UF and all other Florida universities, academic freedom, due process, cultural enrichment, and global engagement for all, we implore you to withdraw from the MOA with ICE. The UF Board of Trustees should follow suit. Our international community of students, faculty, and staff deserve nothing less.

Your leadership is genuinely appreciated, and we stand ready to assist you in this urgently needed action.

Sincerely,

The Officers and Board of Directors of the Retired Faculty of the University of Florida

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Richard D'Alli (Medicine) Immediate Past President 2024-25  
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From DESANTIS, p. 2

30) within the email, which focused more on the requesting the information of employees with “noninstructional” roles asking if the position is on a tenure track, if the position is remote (or hybrid/in-person), and if multiple individuals fill the same position.

It can be assumed that with this information DeSantis is getting ready to blindly remove funding from those bigger colleges whose values are not in line with his, as well as cutting back on funding so that the universities will be forced to weigh the value of the “non-instructional” workers that make up their campus.

On February 3, 2025, Governor DeSantis announced his plans for the fiscal budget of 2025-2026. While Florida spent overall 4.1 billion dollars on big campuses (like UF or FSU) in 2024, that number is being reduced to a projected 3.9 billion dollars in 2025. This means that DeSantis aims to cut federal spending on Florida universities by 200 million dollars, all while community colleges are still receiving the same 1.7 billion that they have in previous years.

By firing workers, cutting programs, and monitoring spending, DeSantis is attempting to maintain his role as Florida’s conservative leader and protector from DEI. While colleges can recover from these major slashes, it can be assumed that DeSantis won’t stop here but will continue to use DOGE tactics to control Florida universities and to appease the goals of Donald Trump.

This article was written in collaboration with the Iguana to bring awareness to a new student publication called The Tick. The Tick is singularly focused on vocalizing student/faculty stories and values at Santa Fe. For more information, please find us @sf\_Journalism on Instagram or email us at SFJclubemail@gmail.com. 🐢

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## *Editors' picks: News that didn't fit*

### **Federal judge halts Trump and Musk's illegal overhaul of US government**

by Jessica Corbett ~ Common Dreams ~ May 10 ~ [tinyurl.com/Iguana2197](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2197)

A federal judge in California temporarily blocked what a coalition of labor unions, local governments, and non-profits argued was "the unconstitutional dismantling of the federal government by the president of the United States on a scale unprecedented in this country's history and in clear excess of his authority."

### **Gainesville church part of lawsuit aimed at keeping ICE agents out of 'sacred places'**

by Ron Cunningham ~ Gainesville Sun ~ May 5 ~ [tinyurl.com/Iguana2192](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2192)

Former Gainesville Sun editor Ron Cunningham is still writing and posting to his blogsite various observations about life and politics in Gainesville and the world. This looks at one local church with a history of giving sanctuary to immigrants who are under threat of deportation.

### **Liz Cheney/Adam Kinzinger against Trump**

by Wendy Thiessen ~ Facebook ~ April 30 ~ [tinyurl.com/Iguana2189](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2189)

Senator Chris Murphey has really stepped up to be a leading voice among legislators in Congress in opposition to the rising authoritarian of the Trump administration, from powerful questioning of witnesses, going out on the road doing public events, and writing essays such as this. Real leadership, thank you voters of Connecticut!

### **Renewing calls for Tufts to adopt March 4 TCU Senate resolutions**

by Rumeysa Ozturk, Fatima Rahman, Genesis Perez and Nicholas Amabeliotis ~ Tufts Daily ~ March 26 ~ [tinyurl.com/Iguana2188](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2188)

This was the editorial written by five Tufts University students to their campus newspaper that led to the widely seen street arrest of Turkish student Rameysa Ozturk, who thankfully has just been released after 6 weeks of incarceration in Louisiana. A blatant attempt at fear mongering by ICE, you can plainly see this was no radical diatribe.

### **The FDA's new culture of secrecy**

by Heolen Santoro ~ Jacobin ~ May 11 ~ [tinyurl.com/Iguana2196](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2196)

Under Robert F. Kennedy Jr, the FDA has purged public health information on vaccines, contraception, HIV, and more. Internal FDA emails reveal deceptive practices that are anything but the "radical transparency" Kennedy promised. These internal emails reveal how the FDA has been working to suppress scientific communication to the public since January, making it harder for doctors, patients, journalists, and advocates to access public health guidance.

### **The long history of lawlessness in U.S. policy toward Latin America**

by Greg Grandin ~ The Intercept ~ April 22 ~ [tinyurl.com/Iguana2186](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2186)

It seems as if the entire, dishonorable history of U.S. lawlessness in Latin America is distilled in the saga of Kilmar Ábrego García: the man whose illegal deportation to El Salvador and imprisonment in the country's Terrorism Confinement Center has sparked outrage in the U.S. among human rights advocates and the Trump administration's opponents.

### **The story of the Gainesville Eight (video)**

Scott Camil and Larry Turner ~ You Tube ~ March 28 ~ [tinyurl.com/Iguana2187](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2187)

Larry Turner and Scott Camil's paths crossed in the early 1970s when Larry was a young attorney and Scott was a leading organizer of Viet Nam Veterans Against the War. Scott was swept up in a conspiracy trial which became known as the Gainesville 8, and Larry was the lead attorney in a somewhat bizarre trial which ended in not guilty verdicts. Their friendship and comradeship is fully evident in this conversation.

### **Trump, allies pursue multipronged campaign against the press**

by Stephanie Sugars ~ Freedom of the Press Foundation ~ U.S. Press Freedom Tracker ~ April 29 ~ [tinyurl.com/Iguana2190](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2190)

The suppression of a free press is going full blast, and this spunky organization, Freedom of the Press Foundation, is keeping up on the attacks, not only by Trump but statements and policies from others in his administration. Like the ACLU, they are doing really valuable work essential to the attempts at the preservation of our Democracy by keeping us informed and fighting back.

### **Trump's plan for workers: Make America a sweatshop again**

by Thom Hartmann ~ Common Dreams ~ May 5 ~ [tinyurl.com/Iguana2198](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2198)

Trump and his billionaire toadies like Howard Lutnick and Scott Bessent are peddling a dangerous lie to working-class Americans. They're strutting around claiming their tariffs will bring back "good paying jobs" with "great benefits," while actively undermining the very thing that made manufacturing jobs valuable to working people in the first place: unions.

### **Vermont lawyers rally for the rule of law in the age of Trump**

by Anne Galloway ~ Seven Days ~ May 3 ~ [tinyurl.com/Iguana2191](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2191)

Seven Days is a great little Vermont newspaper, and this shows the organizing going on up there and around the country by lawyers who themselves are under threat, with all the attacks on our rights and on the judicial process itself. It was Vermont lawyers who got Columbia University student Mohsen Mahdawi and Tufts student Rumeysa Ozturk freed; hopefully important precedent setting cases. 🐢



# STOP the GOP \$880 billion in Medicaid cuts

by Mary Savage

Sha-na-na's Jon "Bowzer" Bauman, 77, took a few minutes away from full-time advocacy for senior citizens' issues when he sat down with talk-show host Walter Gottlieb for a conversation about the perilous times senior citizens face today. Bauman, a celebrity singer and actor known for wearing muscle shirts and promoting a "greaser" persona, has for decades championed the preservation and strengthening of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid and lowering prescription drug prices. He has done so recently for Social Security Works and, not too long ago, for the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare.

"In order to give back to our country and our society, we need to protect and expand these programs that we're talking about today," Bauman said on a NCPSSM podcast.

Bauman spoke with host Gottlieb, whose 90-year-old mother currently resides in an assisted living facility but may one day have to go to a nursing home for long-term care. Few Americans know that most long-term care is paid for by Medicaid and, at press time, Medicaid is targeted for massive cuts by the Republican-controlled Congress and White House.

"It's like we have to keep fighting these battles over and over again," Gottlieb said about the GOP's constant targeting of programs that benefit senior citizens. And the cuts are falsely sold to the public as stopping waste, fraud and abuse.

At press time, the Republican Congress was working on a bill that cuts \$880 billion dollars from Medicaid. Bauman said word must get out to the public about this terrible bill.

"Medicaid pays for over 60 percent of long-term care in America," he said. "Long-term care is something that effects everybody ... A lot of people don't understand what Medicaid is really about and they need to know."

Gottlieb agreed: "I don't want to find out that almost a trillion dollars was cut from [Medicaid] and that [Mom] can't get adequate care. It's BS."

The conversation soon turned to a most important question: How do we go about doing this?

The answer was simple: We need to constantly contact Congress and advocate for these programs. Not only contact elected officials from red states and red districts, but also contact elected officials in blue states and blue districts. "These are issues that affect everybody," Bauman said. "They affect Republican voters, they affect independent voters, they affect Democratic voters. They affect everybody. These are your earned benefits...."

And the message needs to get out not only to friends, but also to those outside our circles of comfort: "We need to show up and make our case to people who aren't watching MSNBC," Bauman said.

To hear the entire NCPSSM podcast, go to: [tinyurl.com/Iguana2176](http://tinyurl.com/Iguana2176).

## The Gainesville Free Grocery Store

is a mutual aid project hosted by the Civic Media Center. We aim to provide healthy and accessible food to our community and to support food justice in the greater Gainesville area.

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June 20	The Impostors (Beatles Tribute Band)
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~ Bill Maher

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## Democracy Now! interview

# Greg Grandin on El Salvador: ‘a different kind of terror’

*Following is an excerpt from April 23's Democracy Now! program. Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzalez interview Grandin on Latin American history.*

**AMY GOODMAN:** And the moment of the United States and El Salvador, what this represented in the culmination of U.S.-Salvadoran relations, even going back — and I'm sure you're going to go back further — to the '80s, when the U.S. supported the paramilitaries and the military in killing so many tens of thousands of Salvadorans, and now the relationship is around this notorious mega-prison, where President Trump says he no longer has control over people he sends there.

**GREG GRANDIN:** Yeah. Well, what struck — a number of things struck me about that encounter in the White House.

One was, as you mentioned, Latin America is famous for the kind of form of political violence called political disappearance, in which people were literally just kidnapped off the street and disappeared by security forces. And back then, an element of that kind of crime was the government would deny any knowledge of it. And obviously, that wasn't true. The government and the security forces were

deeply involved in carrying out and executing the disappearances.

But that deniability created another element of terror, the uncertainty where their loved ones have gone, among the relatives, among the survivors and the people who were taken. You know, government officials — people would waste their time going through labyrinth bureaucracies, asking questions, and the government officials would say, “Who knows? Maybe they went to Cuba. We don't know.”

And what struck me was Bukele is like — there was no deniability this time, right? Trump and — Bukele was like, “We got them. We know where they are. And yeah, and we're not going to give them back.” That kind of “f— you” impunity is a different kind of terror, a different scale — right? — that if the uncertainty of that first wave of disappearances created a kind of horror and suffering among people, this kind of performance of omnipotence: “We have them, and you can't do anything about it.”

I also was struck by the glee in which they talked about it, just the joking about it, like as if they were just talking about, you know, not even human beings. The

dehumanization, that was another thing.

Let me just also say, this is a little bit — this is a little bit of a tangent, but Bukele does like to joke around with a little bit of irony — although it's not ironic at all, because it's true — that he's a dictator.


And, you know, when FDR visited — Franklin Delano Roosevelt visited Vargas, the president in Brazil, who was a dictator but was also building a kind of social state. He was a backer of social rights and expanding kind of social welfare to the working class.

When Vargas and FDR met, there was a little protest against Vargas. Vargas whispers to Roosevelt, “They call me a dictator.” And Roosevelt whispered back, “Me, too.” And so, they were joking about being dictators, but in a completely different circumstance, in the sense that they're building social rights, they're building a social state, they're expanding economic, you know, welfare states, the social rights to people, where here we have two people who are talking about themselves as dictators and acting as dictators as they dismantle what's left of the New Deal.

*Read the full interview at [tinyurl.com/Iguana2194](http://tinyurl.com/Iguana2194)*

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# And the good news is ...

## Defending freedom in the courts — and still winning

Just 100 days into President Donald Trump's second term, the ACLU has filed 53 cases against his administration. They sought emergency relief in 38 of these cases, winning at least some form of preliminary or temporary order in 27 cases. On Inauguration Day, the ACLU filed their first case of the second Trump

term, challenging his effort to dismantle the Fourteenth Amendment's guarantee of birthright citizenship. They won a preliminary injunction before the unconstitutional order's effective date. They have also won multiple orders blocking Trump's extraordinary invocation of the 1798 Alien Enemies Act, they've won

preliminary relief from six federal district courts blocking deportations under the Alien Enemies Act, and have scored two victories on the Supreme Court's emergency docket.

*From an article by Cecilia Wang in ACLU.org on April 30. See the full story at: [tinyurl.com/Iguana2185](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2185)*

## Group hoping to expand Medicaid sues FL over new constitutional amendment restrictions

Three days after Gov. Ron DeSantis signed into law a bill (HB 1205) making it more challenging to place citizen-led constitutional amendments on the ballot, an organization working on just such an effort announced that it's going to court to block the measure. Florida Decides

Healthcare has been working for more than a year to get its proposed constitutional amendment on expanding Medicaid on the statewide ballot in November 2026. The organizers complain the state has changed the rules in the middle of the process — which is why the organization

has so quickly filed its lawsuit. The plan is to seek a temporary restraining order to stop the law from being enforced.

*From an article by Mitch Perry in the Florida Phoenix on May 5 See the full story at: [tinyurl.com/Iguana2180](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2180)*

## How Young People Make Change

In middle school, Emma Weber was consumed by her anger and fear about the climate crisis, craving an outlet to channel her frustration into action. Every Friday, she and her sister stood on the sidewalk with our "School Strike for Climate" signs, trying desperately to harness hope and start some kind of change. By the end of eighth grade, she was exhausted

from wanting to change the world but not knowing how. About three years later, she found the Sunrise Movement, a home for young people who are ready to bring big and bold change to their communities. Now, she is a senior in high school in Boulder, Colorado, where she leads a local Sunrise Movement hub. As part of a national movement of young people de-

manding bold action to stop the climate crisis, she works to ensure that Black, brown, and working-class communities receive the investments they need to thrive while pushing for millions of well-paying, green, union jobs.

*From an article by Emma Weber in Progressive Magazine on April 22. See the full story at: [tinyurl.com/Iguana2181](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2181)*

## Legislature approves bill to prevent development at Florida state parks

A day after the Senate approved a proposal to prevent development in state parks, the House followed with a similar vote, sending the bill to the governor in a big win for environmentalists and all those who enjoy recreating in any of the 175 state parks in Florida. The measure (HB 209) makes changes to state law to

prevent what happened last August when a former Department of Environmental Protection employee leaked to the Tampa Bay Times information about the state's plan to build golf courses, hotels, pickleball courts, and more at nine state parks. That led to an uproar from citizens up and down Florida, with protests taking place

outside state parks, leading state officials to drop the plan. The measure voted on by lawmakers prohibits construction of specified sporting facilities and public lodgings in state parks.

*From an article by Mitch Perry in the Florida Phoenix on May 1. See the full story at: [tinyurl.com/Iguana2182](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2182)*

## Students are winning in court against Trump's deportation regime

Mohsen Mahdawi, a Columbia University student arrested by the Trump administration during his citizenship interview, was released on bail in a victory for students fighting the government's use of immigration enforcement as a means to silence dissent. After Mahdawi's 14 days

in immigration detention, Vermont District Judge Geoffrey Crawford ordered the immediate release of the pro-Palestine activist, arguing that his continued detention would "likely have a chilling effect on protected speech." The judge also noted that Mahdawi, 34, is not a "flight

risk" or a "danger to the community." Mahdawi struck a defiant tone. "I am saying it clear and loud. To President Trump and his Cabinet: I am not afraid of you."

*From an article by Jessica Washington in the Intercept on April 30. See the full story at: [tinyurl.com/Iguana2183](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2183)*

## Why Trump can't stop states from fighting climate change

The United States has never really cared much about tackling climate change, at least at the federal level. Up until the Biden administration's Inflation Reduction Act, or IRA — which handed out billions of dollars for people to electrify their homes and pumped billions more into the clean energy economy — neither Congress nor the executive branch advanced

truly meaningful climate policy, given the scale of the crisis. Yet carbon dioxide emissions in the U.S. have fallen from 6 billion tons annually in 2000 to less than 5 billion today. For that, the country can largely thank its states and cities, which have embarked on ambitious campaigns to electrify transportation, set automobile pollution standards, and incentivize the

deployment of renewable energy. At the same time, wind and solar are now cheaper to build than new fossil fuel infrastructure, and there's little President Trump can do to stop those market forces from driving down emissions further.

*From an article by Matt Simon in Grist on April 28. See the full story at: [tinyurl.com/Iguana2184](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2184)* 🐢

## In memoriam

### In Loving Memory of Carol W. Thomas

Dec. 6, 1933 – May 3, 2025

by Gwendolyn Zoharah Simmons

Carol Thomas was born in Zanesville, Ohio to Arthur Wamhoner and Margaret (Pelot) Wamhoener. After six weeks, Carol's parents moved to Detroit, Michigan, where she grew up. Carol grew up, as she described it, in a "vibrant, gritty, multi-ethnic, multi-racial and multi-religious" city. She attended Pershing High School, graduating in 1951. Carol attended college at Wayne State University in Detroit. Carol recalled in the numerous interviews she did for UF's Samuel Proctor Oral History Project, "the event that provoked the direction of her life was the Detroit Race Riot of 1943." While only 10 years old at the time, she was deeply affected by the tumult and the killing and expressions of hatred toward many African Americans after the riot.

Carol met Billy Thomas at Wayne State University, where they fell in love and were married in 1952. Carol and Billy moved to Nashville, Tennessee, where Billy went to do his graduate work at Vanderbilt University in Nashville. Carol also enrolled in Vanderbilt University to continue her undergraduate studies.

The 1954 Montgomery Bus Boycott and

the Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision outlawing racial segregation in public schools had a profound impact on Carol's thinking about race relations in the U.S. Billy and she went for films at Fisk University, meeting some of the students who would become leaders in the burgeoning civil rights movement.

Carol and Billy had three children, Martel, born in Chicago where they lived briefly; Michael, born in Nashville while Billy did his postdoctoral work; and David, after they moved to Gainesville in 1960 when Billy took a position at the University of Florida in the Physics Department.

As the civil rights movement began in Gainesville, Carol became more and more involved. She joined the League of Women Voters but did not find them action oriented enough. In 1962, she joined the Gainesville Women For Equal Rights (b.1961), an action group that was more to her liking. She went on her first civil rights march that same year.

Carol became involved with and an avid supporter of the newly formed University of Florida student group, Students for Equal Rights. She also became a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Carol engaged in a massive voter registration effort to get Black people registered. She also became active in efforts to improve the conditions in the Porter's community where she made many long-term friends.

Carol and Billy's home became the center for many civil rights meetings where demonstrations were planned. She joined the picket line at the Waffle House demonstrations, one of the longest running and most contentious desegregation actions in downtown Gainesville.

Carol became a target of Gainesville's white establishment, where she was labeled as a "Race Traitor" and later as "the most dangerous woman in Gainesville." There were nightly KKK demonstrations outside her home that the police department did little to break up. With much Black community support, Carol was appointed to Gainesville's Bi-Racial Committee, made up of eight Black and eight white members, but with two white co-Chairs. Carol led the effort to change this leadership structure and insisted on there being a Black and a white co-chair, which occurred.

The Gainesville establishment began



plotting with the DA's office and the police department to frame Carol on specious criminal charges, such as "Aiding and abetting the delinquency of a minor," "assisting fugitives," "kidnapping a minor," and "assaulting a police officer during an arrest." Carol served eight months in county jail, while the community supported Billy in carrying for their three small children.

When Carol learned of the plot to determine that she was an unfit mother and remove her children from her care, she reluctantly decided to leave Gainesville, taking her three minor children with her to Louisville, Kentucky. Carol was offered and took a job with the Southern Conference Education Fund. She also worked for the Louisville American Civil Liberties Union. Carol was instrumental in the organizing of the Louisville Tenants Union.

Carol did some international travel to Cuba and Nicaragua, seeing firsthand how countries operate as they attempt to implement a Socialist agenda for the good of all their citizens.

Carol returned to Gainesville in 2000, where she continued her work as "one of the most dangerous women in Gainesville."

Carol W. Thomas, courageous as a lion with a loving heart of gold, *ipresenté!*

Carol Thomas's grave side services will be on Friday, May 23 at 10am at the Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery, County Rd 234, Gainesville. For information call 352-336-5910 or go to [prairiecreekconservationcemetery.org](http://prairiecreekconservationcemetery.org). 🐾

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# Country didn't learn from sacrifices in Vietnam

*Gainesville resident Scott Camil was a sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1965 to 1969, and served in Vietnam from March 1966 to November 1967. He wrote this piece (originally published in the Gainesville Sun on May 29, 2016), for a project in which Veterans For Peace delivered letters to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall in Washington, D.C., for Memorial Day. To see his current reflections on the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War, published in Covert Action Magazine, see [tinyurl.com/Iguana2195](http://tinyurl.com/Iguana2195)*

*by Scott Camil*

On April 18, 2016, the unit I served with in Vietnam, Alpha Battery 1st Battalion 11th Marines, had a reunion at the Wall.

On April 18, 1966, my third week in Vietnam, our unit was attacked and overrun by Vietcong sappers. We had five men killed and 28 men wounded out of 90 of us.

That day changed who I was and who I would become. My first friend in the unit was William Terry "Jake" Main — he was also from Florida. He was killed on April 18.

The morning after the attack, the dead Marines were laid next to a bunker and

were covered with ponchos. I pulled back the ponchos from each man to see who they were. My friend Jake was one of them.

I realized that I was in a place where people were trying to kill me and my friends and that there were no do-overs; if I was killed that would be it.

I had believed that we were there to help the South Vietnamese protect themselves against the North Vietnamese. But the people who had just laid waste to my unit were South Vietnamese.

It became obvious to me that my real purpose was to keep me and my friends from being killed or injured. It was no longer about politics — it was about survival.

I ended up spending 20 months in 'Nam and received two Purple Hearts for being wounded twice.

Now, 50 years later, I reflect. When I look at the Wall, I think about all of the sacrifices we made, the pain, the suffering, the loss of very special friends. I think of those of us that survived, with our broken bodies and searing memories.

My psychological wounds are much more intense than my physical wounds.

I wonder, what did we buy with all of this sacrifice?

All I see is a black marble Wall.

This was a very expensive Wall.

If my country would have learned from Vietnam, to never repeat this again, then our sacrifices would have bought something invaluable.

My country did not learn anything from our sacrifices in Vietnam and this is what causes me the most pain.

We continue to repeat the same mistakes over and over. We continue to behave as if we can make the world better by killing those that disagree with us.

When we killed people in 'Nam or when one of our own was killed we would say, "The gooks wasted him" or "we wasted some gooks."

I never realized how profound the use of the word "waste" was. Yes, it was all a tragic waste and that is what I see when I come to the Wall. ☹



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# '1.5°C is dead': Climate movement holds funeral for Paris agreement target

by Jessica Corbett

Extinction Rebellion and other climate organizations held a funeral for the Paris agreement's 1.5°C temperature target in Cambridge, England.

"The mock funeral idea grew out of the need to process the enormity and sadness of this moment," Alex Martin of Extinction Rebellion (XR) Cambridge said in a statement. "While many people are distracted by 1,001 things on their phones, we felt we needed a physical space where we could grieve together for what we are losing, and reflect on how to respond to the challenge now in front of us."

Almost a decade ago, parties to the Paris treaty agreed to work toward limiting temperature rise this century to 1.5°C—but 2024 was the hottest year in human history, and countries around the world show no signs of reining in planet-wrecking fossil fuels anywhere near the degree that scientists warn is necessary to prevent catastrophic climate breakdown.

"Crossing 1.5°C for a whole calendar year is a wake-up call for the world," said Olym-

pic gold medalist and XR U.K. spokesperson Etienne Stott, highlighting another alarming record from last year. "If we want to avoid crossing further tipping points we need a complete transformation of society."

Scientists from universities in the United Kingdom and Germany warned in a peer-reviewed paper published in the journal *Earth System Dynamics* last month that humankind is at risk of triggering various climate tipping points absent urgent action to dramatically reduce emissions from fossil fuels.

"There are levers policymakers can pull to rapidly phase out fossil fuels, but this requires standing up to powerful interests," Stott said Saturday. "Activists need to build power, resilience, and the world we want to see in our communities; but we also need to keep seeking the spark that will cause the worldwide transformation we need to see."

In addition to the Cambridge and U.K. arms of Extinction Rebellion, Saturday's action was organized by Cambridge Greenpeace, Cambridge Stop the War, and the Organization of Radical Cam-

bridge Activists (ORCA).

Varsity, the independent student newspaper at the University of Cambridge, reported that the marchers "rallied at Christ's Pieces, where they heard from one of the organizers, who emphasised the harm caused by exceeding 1.5°C of warming."

"The march then proceeded up Christ's Lane and down Sidney Street, led by a group of 'Red Rebels,' dressed in red robes with faces painted white, followed by 'pall bearers' carrying coffins painted black, with the words 'Inaction Is Death' in white," according to Varsity. "The procession was completed by a samba band who drummed as they walked, followed by protesters carrying a large sign reading 'Don't silence the science,' along with many other smaller placards."

Photos from organizers show participants displaying banners with messages such as "No Future on a Dead Planet," and additional messages painted on the black coffins: "1.5°C Is Dead," "Act Now," "Eco-cide," "RIP Earth," and "Web of Life."

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"Politicians have broken their promises to keep global temperature rises to a livable 1.5°C," declared Zoe Flint, a spokesperson for XR Cambridge. "For decades, people around the world have been resisting environmental devastation in their own communities and beyond—often facing state

repression and violence as a result." "With dozens of political protesters now in prison in this country, that repression has come to the U.K. too," Flint noted. "But when those least responsible for climate breakdown suffer the worst effects, we can't afford to give up the fight."

Parties to the Paris agreement are set to gather next in November at the United Nations climate summit, COP30, in Belém, Brazil.

*This article was originally published in Common Dreams on May 10. See [commondreams.org](https://commondreams.org) for more.*

## Recommended blogs / web sites



### joycevance.substack.com

Joyce Vance is a law professor and former U.S. attorney who writes about pressing issues, untangles questions about the legal system and details what we can do to protect the right to vote.

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### The Point

Daily Roundup from WUFT News

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### Robert Reich writes at robertreich.substack.com

A professor of public policy at Berkeley and former Secretary of Labor in the Clinton administration writes a daily newsletter "not just to inform (and occasionally amuse) you, but also to arm you with the truth — about



how the system works and doesn't, where the power is located and where it's lacking, and the myths and lies used by those who are blocking positive social change."

### Florida Phoenix

**FloridaPhoenix.com** is a free, nonprofit news site that covers Florida government and politics with a mix of in-depth stories, briefs, and social media updates on the latest events, editorial cartoons, and progressive commentary. Many stories focus on emerging innovative ideas or report on the people who are trying to help solve problems and shift policy for a more compassionate world.

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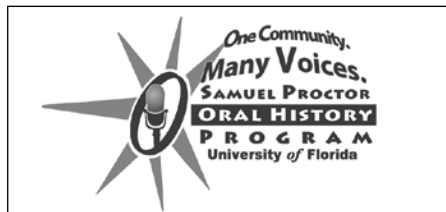
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# Oral History Program

## History and the people who make it: Lyvia Rodriguez



*This month, the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program at the University of Florida features excerpts from a 2019 interview with Lyvia Rodriguez [R], the executive director of a community land trust in Puerto Rico who was instrumental in the establishment of La Casita, the Institute of Hispanic and Latino Cultures at UF when she was a student. She was interviewed by Maria Espinoza [E] and Omar Sanchez [S]. Excerpt edited by Beth Grobman. For the full interview go to [tinyurl.com/Iguana2179](http://tinyurl.com/Iguana2179).*

**E: Would you introduce yourself a little bit, tell us a little bit of your background?**

**R:** I'm from San Juan, Puerto Rico, and I went to the University of Florida to do my Master's in Urban and Regional Planning; I graduated in 1997. In Florida, other than completing my degree, I got engaged in a lot of community activities, not only from the Latino perspective, but also with organizations and Student Government. After I graduated from UF, I came to live in Puerto Rico. I currently am executive director of the Proyecto ENLACE del Caño Martín Peña, and the Fideicomiso de la Tierra del Caño Martín Peña, which is a community land trust that just won the United Nations World Habitat Award a couple of years ago ... The experience of being engaged in leadership positions at college was very significant for my professional career afterwards.

**E: You are basically a legend, here, surrounding La Casita. So it is awesome to hear how your work here at UF carried on with you afterwards ... How was the Gainesville area when you got here?**

**R:** The Gainesville I have in my mind is in the 1990s. It was quite a small town, it was a college town. The University was the heart of the town. But, what really struck me was how different it was from

the world that I knew ... I saw a headline of a Letter to the Editor in the Alligator that said, "Blacks are Animals," and it really shocked me that it was published as the headline in a student newspaper. It gave me a different perspective of what the place I had moved to was like. It seemed like the issue of race and the lack of tolerance was really alive, and I came to learn that was the reality of Gainesville. My friends told me how the previous year they would see Ku Klux Klan marching in Gainesville, and this was the 1990s already, so I would have thought that those were issues of the past, but they were still extremely present in Gainesville.

There was no talk about the reality of Latinos in Florida at all, or at the University of Florida. So, the experience of Latinos at the time was totally ignored. The university had over 2,000 Latinos, almost 3,000, Latino students. There was not a support structure for Latinos. They were not even formally recognized as minorities; the Latino population was not part of the conversation, the issues that were talked about, or the policies of the university. And, that's when we decided that we needed to bring that to the table and also make alliances with all the minority groups as well.

**S: Did Hispanic students face discrimination?**

**R:** Faculty members from Latino descent were so few. There was pretty much no staff that was Latina, other than perhaps Minerva — who had been recently appointed, Minerva Casañas. But I really don't recall anyone else from the staff, or having any programs catering to the Latino population. Also, there was no recruitment effort of Latino students.

**E: You mentioned hearing about the KKK marching in Gainesville, and so my question is, did you feel safe being here at UF?**

**R:** I wouldn't say there was an issue or I was fearing my personal safety with that regard, other than—I cannot say I didn't feel safe, personally, but it didn't mean that I didn't feel that there were deep racial issues that needed to be dealt with and that many people didn't want to have that conversation. So it was like it didn't exist and must be ignored. Something

that we were trying to do was bring those issues to the limelight and start talking about those issues, and generating those conversations.

**S: So, how did you guys go about forming La Casita?**

**R:** La Casita, it was an initiative to get a space where, Latino, Latina, students from Latin American descent could feel that they had a place to go where they can manifest their culture, really, without having anyone criticize them for speaking Spanish—which is something that I did experience, being in groups and talking Spanish amongst yourselves and then people would actually point back to you like, "You're in America, you're supposed to be speaking in English." So those sort of comments we used to get all the time. So, we thought that we needed a space where we could express ourselves, not only in terms of culturally, but also a place where we could start having the opportunity to learn and explore what the Latino experience and its adversity was like. What the Latino issues in Florida, and the [United] States, was like. And, have the opportunity to get engaged on those issues from an activist position.

At the time, Florida had the third and most important library of Latin America, had this Center for Latin American Studies, but, again, the focus of the Center was to do research regarding Latin American countries, nobody was looking or talking about the Latino experience within the U.S. Even though Florida had thirteen percent of its population, at the time, from Latino descent. It was the fourth largest state with Latino population at the time, but at the University of Florida, which is a public university, those issues were not discussed, not taught, not dissected. And, we felt that there was a void there ... So, a few students created an organization that was called Latinos en Acción which was more like the activist branch of the Latino movement, and then other organizations started to follow through. There was CASA, which was a Cuban American Student Association.

The people who really got engaged in politics were the Greeks or the ones associated to the Greek houses, which was a majority male population — a white male

population had all the control over the power structures in Student Government.

So it was a moment in which all the people start to challenge those structures as well. Within that, we were looking at Latino issues and I recall that as part of this we started holding alliances with women's groups, and the LGBT community, which at the time—I mean the issues of discrimination against the LGBT community were extremely serious in Gainesville as well.

We decided out of that to create a Hispanic-Latino Student Council. One of the proposals of the Hispanic-Latino Student Council had to do with the need to create the Institute of Hispanic-Latino Cultures. I recall that the relationship with the university administration was a little bit tense at the time as well, because of the lack of recognition of the importance of certain issues in the university policy agenda. They felt that they were doing enough with having a minority students office, and dealing with Black issues, and that was enough.

We reached out to national organizations such as La Raza—the National Council of La Raza—who intervened in the process on behalf of the Latino students. We started doing different events to gain attention, and use the student media—which was the student newspaper—but also to reach out to other student organizations for support. We really had to do a lot of organizing and work, and meetings ... Some of these administrators would make expressions, “Oh Latinos, they don't face discrimination they are not from the United States, they should go back to their countries.”

**S: Was there anybody that was like a mentor who helped you do all this?**

**R:** We did have a lot of support by some university professors other than Minerva Casañas, while the time she was there she was extremely supportive of all the initiatives and noise we made, which was a lot.

**E: Yeah, I think for sure all of the work that you guys did has been so incredibly impactful and meaningful to all of the Hispanic students that have come since you guys started this effort and this work. UEPA right now is still one of the biggest Hispanic organizations.**

**R:** Oh it's still there!

**E: UEPA is huge. Yeah and I think for sure, all of the things you guys worked and all of the effort you guys put into La Casita and just the visibility of His-**

**panic and Latino students here made a huge impact in our experience at UF ... You talked a bit about a comment your friend made about your efforts not being recognized. Could you tell us a little bit more about that? Was he was referring to the students or, maybe, administration?**

**R:** No, no, no, he was talking about the students. The administration, well, they gave us a really hard time, we gave them hell, in many instances. But, in the end they came through because I guess they realized the power of Latinos beyond the university and what that would entail to them if we made this a national issue. I guess that they realized that they really had to pull through. And, I guess, a letter from National Council of La Raza saying, “We are watching what you are doing,” really was instrumental in the process. So in the end they were there at the ceremony on the inauguration of La Casita.

**S: Can we talk a little bit about the process of getting La Casita? Did you have petitions, protests?**

**R:** Yeah. We had petitions, we had—it was an electoral year, I guess Bill Clinton came to the university for something, so we would go to those activities and be present and make a lot of noise ... We thought that we really were going to have to recur to other civil disobedience strategies. And we started to talk about that, but all of a sudden the tides shifted and we were told that they were gonna approve the funding for La Casita.

**E: Tell us a little bit more about the interactions you had with the administration at the time. Maybe a little bit about, if you interacted with the president, John Lombardi?**

**R:** Yes many times. With the president, with the vice-president of student affairs ... They would always complain that there were no funds for what you were requesting. There's no money to create positions for Latinos. They didn't have information characterizing the issues that affected the Latino communities, rather, they would gather a lot measures in terms of Black students retention rates and so forth, not of Latinos. And again, it wasn't an issue about the need that that had in terms of the Black population, but rather the invisibilization of other groups that were facing their own struggles in Florida at the time and that needed to be part of an agenda ... I recall that we had very dif-

ficult conversations within the UF student body and student body governance, and the way they looked at Latinos. So when we were trying to create Latinos en Acción, it was an issue because they already had a Hispanic Student Association. Again, it's this issue of, “You have one, that's enough. Shut up.” No recognition of diversity, of positions, or the fact that Latinos was a very large group within the UF student body at the time.

**S: You said, at one point the administration, they just had a change of heart, right? What do you think caused that change of heart?**

**R:** I think that, as I said earlier, it was external pressure. I mean we started to write to everyone. We started to call everyone, we started to call UF alumni that were of Latino descent and tell them what was going on. Some powerful people in Florida, in other areas of the state, they started also to voice their concerns to the administration. We started to reach out to students all over Florida and other states, and we started to reach out to national organizations. Not only the National Council of La Raza, but other national organizations regarding Latino issues, as well. So I guess that really raised some alerts that this needed to be dealt with before it became something more serious for them. So I guess that was it. Telling you all the time, “Oh, the issue is that there is no money,” and all of a sudden there's money, something happened there.

**E: Do you remember the moment you guys found out that you guys had won, that you guys got La Casita?**

**R:** No, I just remember being very excited about this, and celebrating. I just remember the day in which La Casita was inaugurated, and I remember that all the groups got together and started making, que se yo, los artes y the banners that we were gonna put out, and inviting people, and all that process.

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### ***From FACULTY PROTEST, p. 1***

Education Labor United, the Debt Collective, Faculty for Justice in Palestine, and AFT-Oregon, among other organizations.

CAHE emerged more than a year ago in response to the attacks, under the Biden administration, on the leadership of the University of Pennsylvania and other universities, when administrators were hauled in front of Congress to defend themselves against accusations of campus anti-Semitism stemming from student protests against the genocide in Palestine.

The initial organizers, a loose group of people who knew each other through the AAUP and as colleagues, planned the first day of action for April 17, 2024. That also happened to be the first day on the Columbia University encampment.

### **EXPANSIVE THEMES**

One year later, under Trump, campuses are facing abduction and disappearing of students from other countries living and studying here; cancellation of student visas; threats to cut funds if diversity, equity, and inclusion programs are not eliminated; bad-faith allegations of anti-Semitism deployed to silence students, faculty, and staff; and cuts to research programs.

While some universities are fighting back and refusing to comply with Trump's demands, others have buckled and are scrubbing scholarship and cutting programs.

This dizzying array of assaults is designed to stun—to cause a certain paralysis. With so much going on, where does an organizer start? And how do we avoid being divided and ineffective as different campuses feel the impact of these assaults differently?

Faculty, students, and community are answering these questions with actions that say: we start right here, where we are, and we connect all the issues.

"The tagline 'free higher education' speaks to a range of concerns and demands," said Heather Ferguson, who teaches at the Claremont Consortium and is on the executive committee of AAUP Local 6741, "and allows groups or chapters to put forward their own issues, with the idea to grow power in their institutions that is flexible."

### **'ARE WE COOKED?'**

Local events included union drives, teach-ins about university finances and decision-making, workshops on protecting immigrant rights and academic freedom, and watch parties for the documentary film "The Palestine Exception," about the history of censoring discussions of Israel and Palestine.

On the campus of Florida International University, faculty and students gathered

to talk. "We talked about what is going on that we need to address: what should we do?" said Katie Rainwater, membership chair of the United Faculty of Florida. "It was an open discussion—anyone could speak. And then we talked about what kind of organization do we need to have a campus-wide collaboration?"

Campus police there had just signed a cooperation agreement with ICE; faculty members and students protested earlier in the week at the Board of Trustees meeting. After the day of action, the faculty senate passed a resolution condemning the police cooperation with ICE.

At Northwestern, Stephanie Knezz, a professor of instruction in chemistry, joined a student to hold "anti-fascist office hours" on the part of the campus that houses the science and mathematics program.

She wanted to make information about the signs of rising fascism and your rights available to students who might not be in classes where that was being discussed. "Are we cooked?" asked one student, who was glad to learn more about what he could do to protect himself and others.

At the University of Hawaii, organizers planned events around the idea that "art kills fascism." They made a list of all of the words the Trump administration is attempting to ban from campuses and classrooms and made quilts, modeling the idea on the AIDS quilt.

### **PALESTINE IS CENTRAL**

For those who could not attend a local event, CAHE offered a full-day program of online events, including workshops on sanctuary universities, institutional debt, and the Gaza solidarity movement. Another way to hold a local event was to hold a watch party for some part of this online programming, which happened on dozens of campuses.

Early in the week, CAHE hosted a livestream watch party of "The Palestine Exception." In the current political moment, the freedom to dissent is closely linked to the demand to end the genocide in Palestine.

The number of events across the country exploded this year. "There is an uptick in the participation from last year because of our vocalization of the unfolding of genocide in and beyond Palestine," said Karim Mattar, an associate professor of English at the University of Colorado.

"We have an ethical obligation to respond to this, but it is also a fact that Palestine is the crucible by which this administration and previous administrations have pushed to reshape higher education."

Mattar first encountered CAHE at a mem-

bership drive at last year's event. Now he is one of the coalition's organizers.

Key to its success, he says, is that "we chart a middle ground between AAUP and HELU and the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Jewish Voices for Palestine, Faculty for Justice in Palestine, and other groups. We all recognize the violations of free speech across the country, and we draw in from all groups."

### **REFORM LEADERS AND SELF-ORGANIZING**

Many of the CAHE organizers are leaders in the recently formed AAUP Advocacy Local 6741, a nationwide umbrella for AAUP members who are not part of a collective bargaining chapter.

Those leaders ran as a progressive slate on a platform to grow the advocacy chapters (nonbargaining chapters of AAUP) through rank-and-file organizing.

Ferguson said many of the AAUP chapters participating in the day of action had attended one of the listening sessions that the new leaders held after they took office.

"We talked about acting like a union before you are a union," she said. "They went back to their locals to organize, and it gave them more courage to take more risks."

New reform leadership in AAUP national also generated material support for the day of action. So did the support of the growing national coalition of higher education unions, HELU.

It has been "a real example that when you create the space for workers to gather, they can and will self-organize," said AAUP Local 6741 Secretary-Treasurer Bill Mullen, one of the CAHE organizers.

### **MORE THAN A ONE-OFF?**

On national calls planning the day of action, Mullen framed it as more than a one-off—as part of an escalating campaign. What that escalation will look like is still uncertain. The CAHE organizers are meeting soon to reflect and consider next steps.

Everyone I spoke to recognized the need to not only deepen organizing within the universities—CAHE supports wall-to-wall organizing on campuses—but also beyond.

An organizer from the University of Hawaii, who asked not to be named because of their status on a student visa, said, "In our university, after learning that the university cannot provide resources or be a trusted source, people are starting to see unions as the organization they can rely on."

*This article was originally published on Labor Notes on April 23. See more at [tinyurl.com/Iguana2193](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2193)* 🐢

### ***From GRU RULING, p. 1***

tee, ruled that the GRU Authority referendum was void, silencing the votes of the 73% of Gainesville voters who voted for "Local Public Utilities." But all isn't lost ...

Wright also ruled against the GRU Authority, saying that the voters can vote again on a binding GRU governance referendum, so long as the charter amendment's ballot language is adjusted. Gainesville voters have the right to eliminate this unelected, unaccountable Authority. It was, in the words of Mayor Harvey Ward, "A victory for the people of Gainesville, for the rule of law, and for Home Rule as a concept in Florida."

The GRU Authority met the next day and were livid. They voted to appeal the decision. Bielarski went on a rant about "political subterfuge." Some advocated taking more money from the taxpayers as retribution. They know their days are numbered, that the people don't support them, and the law isn't on their side.

### **EARLIER UPDATES**

Since they lost the vote in November, the GRU Authority has been on a rampage. They've continued to gut city coffers to fill up their piggy bank, raised rates in high-use months, risked the lives of first responders, and eliminated solar projects. Here's a quick update:

### **HIGHER RATES FOR WORKING CLASS PEOPLE**

The GRU Authority is further balancing its budgets on the backs of the most vulnerable. These past few months ratepayers have been receiving exorbitant \$170 additional security deposit bills. These are being targeted only at people who have had late bills, meaning our low-income residents.

And going into summer GRU rates are skyrocketing for energy inefficient homes. In January, the GRU Authority raised rates 8% above 1,000 kWh, slightly lowering the utility bill for lower use months, but exploding them in higher use months like this summer. That now makes Gainesville the most expensive municipal utility for residents at the 2,500+ Kwh level.

### **GRU AUTHORITY'S PIGGY BANK**

The day after losing the election, the GRU Authority voted to take another \$1.4 million from the taxpayers to pay for more

lawsuits against the city. These are Bielarski's pet projects and City taxpayers shouldn't have to fund them. To date, the GRU Authority has taken nearly \$30 million from the taxpayers without reducing rates by one cent. Taxes are higher, services are cut, and rates aren't one penny cheaper.

### **RENEWABLE ENERGY KILLED**

The GRU Authority ended plans to build sustainable energy in the future by killing a solar farm in Archer. While the rest of the country is investing in cheap, renewable energy, GRU is going the other way. Now, they have no plan to produce electricity and Bielarski is advocating to "exit the generation business," despite our City Charter requiring a people's vote to end home-grown power generation.

This is on top of the GRU Authority's vote to raise rates for people with rooftop solar last year, which is killing the residential solar energy industry in Gainesville.

### **IT'S TIME TO TAKE A STAND**

We the people need to hold this DeSantis-appointed GRU Authority accountable. We can eliminate this GRU Authority once and for all and get our local government back. This year can be the final nail in the Authority's coffin, but only if we stand together and fight back as a local community. 🐘



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# Gainesville area events

## WEEK OF MAY 11-17

**Wed 5/14 "What Is Capitalism?"**, 6:30pm, Civic Media Ctr (433 S Main St), Democratic Socialists of America workshop, free; pg 8-9

**Wed 5/14 "Refugee Resettlement in Gainesville"**, 7pm, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), reception for opening of new mini-exhibit of drawings of 6 new neighbor-families, free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9256](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9256)

**Fri 5/16 Free Fridays Concert**, 7-9pm thru 9/26, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave) free; pg 14 & [tinyurl.com/iguana9209](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9209)

**Fri 5/16 GFAA Annual Artist Studio Tour kickoff**, 6-8pm, Gvl Fine Arts Ass'n Gallery (1314 S Main St), meet artists who will open their workspaces over the weekend for tours, demos, & sales; [tinyurl.com/iguana9257](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9257)

**Fri 5/16 Jazz Bandits**, 7pm, Cypress & Grove (1001 NW 4th St), New Orleans-style jazz; [tinyurl.com/iguana9258](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9258)

**Sat 5/17 5th Avenue Arts Festival opens**, 10am-7pm, Sunday noon-7pm, SFC Blount Ctr (401 NW 6th St), "Our Planet. Our Home" theme for art/craft/food fest with live music, dance, info, campus tours at 10am & 2pm, free; pg 5 & [tinyurl.com/iguana9259](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9259)

**Sat 5/17 Seed Saving 101**, 10-11am, Grow Hub (2900 NE 8th Ave), seed bank tour + Q&A, free (donations accepted); [workingfood.org/events/](http://workingfood.org/events/)

**Sat 5/17 Gvl Free Store**, noon-6pm, Civic Media Ctr (433 S Main St), free stuff for all (masks required); [civicmediacenter.org](http://civicmediacenter.org)

**Sat 5/17 Shambhala Open House**, 12-4pm, (1899 NE 23rd Ave), intro to meditation, free; see pg 12 & [gainesville.shambhala.org](http://gainesville.shambhala.org)

**Sat 5/17 Ice Cream in the Park**, 1-3pm, Rockwood Park (2221 NW 2nd St), ice cream social hosted by Alachua Conservation Trust, free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9260](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9260)

**Sat 5/17 "An Evening with Frederick Douglass and Captain John Brown"**, 2pm, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), play and talk on race & freedom, free (outdoors: bring chairs or blankets); <https://mathesonmuseum.org/events/>

**Sat 5/17 Art Museum tour**, 2-3pm, UF Harn Museum (3259 Hull Rd), docent-led tours on 3rd Sats, free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9261](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9261)

**Sat 5/17 Carnival for Pace**, 2-7pm, 1st Magnitude (1220 SE Veitch St), games, music, snacks & beer fundraiser for girls' center, free; [tinyurl.com/iguana92262](http://tinyurl.com/iguana92262)

**Sat 5/17 Art Paws**, 3-6pm, Daft Cow Brewery (13800 Tech City Circle), games & art for humans and pets, music, vendors, silent auction, benefits Shakespeare Animal Fund for emergency vet care, \$20 (includes one glass of beer); [tinyurl.com/iguana9263](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9263)

**Sat 5/17 Climate Reality Project**, 3-4:45pm, Library Partnership Branch (912 NE 16th Ave) Large Meeting Room, meeting + film on regenerative agriculture, free.

## WEEK OF MAY 18-24

**Sun 5/18 Sunday Assembly**, 11am, Pride Ctr (3850 NW 83rd St, Ste 201), Donn Smith-Lopez on "The Pride Center: Who We Are, What We Do and Why We Do It", free; [sagainesville.weebly.com](http://sagainesville.weebly.com)

**Sun 5/18 Women in Blues Showcase**, 2-7:30pm, Heartwood Soundstage (619 S Main St), 9 performers, \$25 adv, \$30 door; pg 7 & [tinyurl.com/iguana9264](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9264)

**Sun 5/18 "Roots of American Music: Blues and Beyond"**, 2-3pm, Millhopper Library (3145 NW 43rd St), Prof Ed Kellerman on Delta blues, free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9265](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9265)

**Sun 5/18 "12 Angry Jurors" final performance**, 8pm, Acrosstown Theatre (3501 SW 2nd Ave), acclaimed courtroom drama, \$20-25; [acrosstown.org](http://acrosstown.org)

**Mon 5/19 Re-Entry Community Job and Resource Fair**, 10:30am-12:30pm, downtown library (401 E Univ Ave) Meeting Room A, potential jobs and training for the de-incarcerated, free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9266](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9266)

**Mon 5/19 Democratic Women's Club**, 11:30am-1:15pm, B'nai Israel (3830 NW 16th Blvd), topic: Grace Marketplace, free; [dwcac.net/events](http://dwcac.net/events)

**Tue 5/20 Juneteenth Flag Raising**, 10-11am, City Hall Plaza (200 E Univ Ave), 1st of "Journey to Juneteenth" events on Fla Emancipation Day, free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9267](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9267)

**Tue 5/20 Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety Workshop**, 4-6pm, Thomas Ctr (302 NE 6th Ave), city/county/UF meeting on policy & infrastructure, free; <https://www.facebook.com/events/1609253936432806/>

**Tue 5/20 "A Pivotal Moment"**, 7pm, Hipp (25 SE 2nd Pl), live/streaming musical w/ Felicia Walton, \$20; [tinyurl.com/iguana9268](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9268)

**Wed 5/21 Community Nights**, 6-9pm Wednesdays, South Main Station (619 S Main St), live music, kid & pet friendly, free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9187](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9187)

**Fri 5/23 Florida Folk Festival**, Memorial Day weekend, Stephen Foster State Park (White Springs), 3 days, >300 performances + crafts, food, more, \$35-70 (\$5 for 6-16); [tinyurl.com/iguana9269](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9269)

**Fri 5/23 "The Play that Goes Wrong"** opens, 8pm through 6/8, Gvl Community Playhouse (4039 NW 16th Blvd), theatrical comedy, \$12-24; [tinyurl.com/iguana9270](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9270)

**Sat 5/24 Fla Emancipation Celebration**, 10am-5pm, Cotton Club Museum (837 SE 7th Ave), activities, education, vendors, free; pg 32 & [tinyurl.com/iguana9271](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9271)

**Sat 5/24 Roller Derby**, 6pm, MLK Ctr (1028 NE 14th St), Gvl Roller Rebels vs Tallahassee Roller Derby, \$15 adv, \$18 door (under 12 free); pg 10 & [tinyurl.com/iguana9272](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9272)

## WEEK OF MAY 25-31

**Tue 5/27 Alachua County Labor Coalition meets**, 6pm, Emmanuel Mennonite Church (1236 NW 18th Ave), open to all; [laborcoalition.org](http://laborcoalition.org)

**Wed 5/28 "Pump Boys & Dinettes" opens**, 7pm (through 6/20), The Hipp (25 SE 2nd Pl), summer musical fun, \$10-30; [tinyurl.com/iguana9273](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9273)

**Fri 5/30 Artwalk**, 7-10pm, downtown Gvl, free; pg 11 & [artwalkgainesville.com](http://artwalkgainesville.com)

**Fri 5/30 S.G. Goodman & Wax Wings**, 7pm, Heartwood (619 S Main St), \$22 adv, \$25 door; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9274>

**Sat 5/31 CrEEk Family Fest**, 10am-2pm, Tusawilla Preserve (211 SE Tusawilla Rd, Micanopy), environmental education in the woods, free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9275](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9275)

**Sat 5/31 "Silver Linings" Community Day**, 12-4pm, UF Harn Museum (3259 Hull Rd), exhibition that uplifts legacy of Black artists through docent-led tours, silk screen activity, art creation by Artist-in-Residence Jessica Clermont, dancing with a local DJ, refreshments and art kits to take home, free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9276](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9276)

**Fri 5/30 Mountain Grass Unit**, 7pm, Heartwood (619 S Main St), \$19 adv, \$22 door; [tinyurl.com/iguana9277](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9277)

## WEEK OF JUN 1-7

**Sat 6/7 Downtown Market**, ?pm, How Bazar (80 SW 2nd St), live performances, food trucks, >100 vendors, free; [thehowbazar.com/pages/bazar-a-la-carte](http://thehowbazar.com/pages/bazar-a-la-carte)

**Sat 6/7 Gnv Film Festival**, 6-10pm, Hipp (25 SE 2nd Pl), 6pm - "When the Music Was Cheap and Darn Near Free", 6:30pm

- "Bridging Troubled Waters: The Life of Coach Jessie Heard: Lincoln High and Buchholz High School", & (at Bo Diddley Plaza) 8pm, "The Black Panther", free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9279](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9279)

**Sat 6/7 Eric Diamond**, 7:30-9:30pm, Theatre of Memory (1705 NW 6th St), original songs from local talent, \$21.50; pg 9 & [tinyurl.com/iguana9278](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9278)

## WEEK OF JUNE 8-14

**Tue 6/10 Springs Advocacy**, 12-1pm, Fla Springs Welcome Ctr (18645 Main St, High Springs), talk on protecting our waters, free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9280](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9280)

**Wed 6/11 "What Is Socialism?"**, 6:30pm, Civic Media Ctr (433 S Main St), Democratic Socialists of America workshop, free; pp 8-9

**Sun 6/14 Game of Shrooms**, all day, multiple locations worldwide, non-commercial hide-&-seek art event, free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9281](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9281)

**Sun 6/14 Heartwood Music Fest IX**, 3-11pm, Heartwood Soundstage (619 S Main St), "All Together Now" collaborations & cameos on 2 stages, \$15-20; [tinyurl.com/iguana9282](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9282)

**Sun 6/14 No Kings rally**, across the US, protest Trump's giant military parade on Flag Day, free; pg 9 & [nokings.org](http://nokings.org)

## WEEK OF JUNE 15-21

**Thu 6/19 Juneteenth Breakfast**, 7:30am-9pm, Cotton Club Museum (837 SE 7th Ave), part of Gvl's "Journey to Juneteenth" celebration, \$35; [tinyurl.com/iguana9283](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9283)

**Thu 6/19 "An Evening with Avery\*Sunshine"**, 6-8pm, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave), live music with Grammy winner, food trucks, community Juneteenth celebration, free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9284](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9284)

**Fri 6/20 "Little Shop of Horrors"** opens, 8pm? through 7/13, Acrosstown Theatre (3501 SW 2nd Ave), classic musical, \$20-25?; [acrosstown.org](http://acrosstown.org)

**Sat 6/21 Gvl Free Store, noon-6pm**, Civic Media Ctr (433 S Main St), free stuff for all (masks required); [civicmediacenter.org](http://civicmediacenter.org)

**Sat 6/21 Freedom Fest**, 3-9pm, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave), Juneteenth-themed music & arts festival w/ live performers, bounce house, elders' corner, more, free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9285](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9285)

## WEEK OF JUNE 22-28

**Sun 6/22 "Tha Cookout: a Juneteenth & Fatherhood Celebration"**, 12-6pm, Lincoln Park (900 SE 15th St), food, games, dancing, more, free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9286](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9286)

**Fri 6/27 Drivin N Cryin**, 6pm, Heartwood (619 S Main St), \$30-35; [tinyurl.com/iguana9287](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9287)

**Fri 6/27 Artwalk**, 7-10pm, downtown Gvl, free; pg 11 & [artwalkgainesville.com](http://artwalkgainesville.com)

## RECURRING EVENTS

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

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

**Saturday Haile Farmers Market**, 8:30am-noon, Haile Village Ctr (5213 SW 91st Terr)

**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

**Peace Pickets**, 4:30-5:30pm every Tuesday, sidewalk at Fresh Market (4120 NW 16th Blvd), signs provided or byo

**Trump-Musk protests outside Tesla sales lot** (2501 N Main St) Saturdays, 10am-noon.

**Please support GNV live music venues**, they all have calendars: Heartwood Soundstage, Satchel's, Looney'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](http://visitgainesville.com/events) for an event list**, updated Thursdays; also try [352arts.org](http://352arts.org); and don't forget [civicmediacenter.org](http://civicmediacenter.org)!

More than we can list each month at **The Lynx**: [thelynxbooks.com/events](http://thelynxbooks.com/events)

**Art House films**: [thehipp.org/cinema-3](http://thehipp.org/cinema-3)

**"Bobo a Gogo: the Nacho Clowns Extremes' Strange and Lovely Variety Show"** starring Rain

**Drop and Auntie Bobo**, open stage every Monday (sign up by 8pm) at University Club (18 E Univ Ave) [fix extraneous ¶ return]

## GAINESVILLE OFFICIAL & PUBLIC MEETINGS:

<https://www.gainesvillefl.gov/Government-Pages/Government/Public-Meeting-Participation/Public-Meeting-Calendar>

**County official and public meetings**: [alachuacounty.us/events/Pages/default.aspx](http://alachuacounty.us/events/Pages/default.aspx)

**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](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9054)

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

**Alachua County Democratic Party** meets 3rd Tuesdays, 6pm, LifeSouth (4039 W Newberry Rd)

**Clubes de Escucha**, 6-8pm, Curia on the Drag (2029 NW 6th St), primer y tercer Viernes de cada mes; [clubesdeescucha.com](http://clubesdeescucha.com)

**PFLAG** meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm 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](https://facebook.com/UFHealthStreet)

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

**Jazz on Main St**, 7-10pm on 3rd Thursdays, Gainesville Fine Arts Ass'n (1314 S Main St), free; [gainesvillefinearts.org](http://gainesvillefinearts.org)

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

**"Bobo a Gogo: the Nacho Clowns Extremes' Strange and Lovely Variety Show"** starring Rain Drop and Auntie Bobo, open stage every Monday (sign up by 8pm) at University Club (18 E Univ Ave)

**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 ☘

# Iguana Directory

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

*Readers: If there is inaccurate information here, 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](http://AlachuaAudubon.org) | [facebook.com/AlachuaAudubon/](https://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](http://AlachuaConservationTrust.org)

**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](mailto:info@laborcoalition.org) | [LaborCoalition.org](http://LaborCoalition.org)

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

**American Civil Liberties Union** has no Alachua County chapter. For info on forming a new chapter, or for ACLU info, contact the Northeast Chapter at [firstcoastaclu@gmail.com](mailto:firstcoastaclu@gmail.com).

[northeastflorida.aclufl.org](mailto:northeastflorida.aclufl.org)

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

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

**Avian Research and Conservation Institute** is a non-profit research group working to stimulate conservation action to save threatened bird species in the southeast. 352-514-5606 | [arcinst.org](http://arcinst.org)

## Spotlight on: Unspoken Treasure Society



**UNSPOKEN  
TREASURE SOCIETY**

Unspoken Treasure Society's mission is to empower, uplift, and advocate for the well-being, equity, and rights of the LG-BTQIA+ community.

Recognizing the unique challenges this

group faces, such as discrimination, healthcare access issues, unemployment, housing insecurity, and systemic oppression, UTS employs trauma-informed care, harm-reduction strategies, and restorative justice approaches to provide vital resources and support services.

Additionally, UTS provides HIV testing and counseling by appointment. The or-

ganization also extends support to allies and families to foster understanding and inclusivity. UTS strives to amplify marginalized voices, break down barriers, and foster a world where everyone can live authentically and with dignity.

Monthly meetings are held every third Thursday at 7pm at 3850 NW 83rd Street, Suite 201, Gainesville, Florida 32606. 🐾

## The best defense against oligarchy & fascism: our labor!

- Please join and get involved with your workplace union if you're lucky enough to have one.
- If one doesn't already exist, then consider helping to start one.
- If you can't find your way to either of those options, then consider joining a labor-adjacent organization like the local Alachua County Labor Coalition ([laborcoalition.org](http://laborcoalition.org)) and/or the AFL-CIO campaign "Department of People Who Work for a Living" ([deptofpeoplewhowork.org](http://deptofpeoplewhowork.org)).
- Keep an eye on the news and support workers elsewhere (e.g., Amazon, Starbucks) who are taking the fight directly to the oligarchs.



*If the workers are organized, all they have to do  
is put their hands in their pockets and they have got the capitalist class whipped.*

- Big Bill Haywood

[unionhall.aflcio.org/north-central-florida-central-labor-council](http://unionhall.aflcio.org/north-central-florida-central-labor-council)  
[workerscreateallwealth.substack.com](http://workerscreateallwealth.substack.com)



**Baker Interfaith Friends Volunteers** visits people in immigration detention in Baker County, volunteers welcome! Contact: bakerinterfaithfriends@gmail.com or on Facebook.

**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

**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. ClimateRealityProjectgnv@gmail.com | facebook.com/GlobalClimateEducation | ClimateRealityProjectGNV.wordpress.com | ClimateRealityProject.org

**Coalition of Hispanics Integrating Spanish Speakers through Advocacy and Service** is a UF student-run group focusing on immigrant rights and immigrant advocacy. chispasuf@gmail.com | chispasuf.com | facebook.com/chispasUF

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

**Community Spring** is a local organization to help people get a step up on re-entering society after incarceration with financial & 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@famm.org | 352-682-2542 | FAMM.org

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

**Flipping the System** is a non-profit organization dedicated to eradicating sexual violence on campuses. Through educational programming and events, FTS believes that a future free of sexual violence is possible. www.flippingthesystem.org | flippingthesystemtoday@gmail.com | @flippingthesystem | 954-589-7626

**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

**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. climateralityprojectgnv@gmail.com | @climateralityprojectgnv | climateralityprojectgnv.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: @gnvbooks2prisoners. Donate funds at paypal.com/gnvb2p.

**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 |

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facebook.com/gainesvilleNOW

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

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

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

**Gainesville Women for Democracy**, previously Gainesville Women for Harris, are a group of women whose number one focus is to build coalitions with like-minded groups and individuals for the purpose of strengthening our communities, including surrounding rural counties, and preserving our democracy. Contact Julie Thaler via Facebook Messenger.

**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 @ppgenactionuf.

**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@gnvic.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 | jvpgnvpod@gmail.com

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

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

**McRorie Community Garden** is a community garden where local residents can grow vegetables and learn how to do so. It is at 615 SE 4th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601 Volunteer Day is on the last Sunday of every month. mcoriegarden@gmail.com

**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. gainesvillennlg@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

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

**Paynes Prairie Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society** promotes the preservation, conservation and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida. paynesprairie.fnpschapters.org | 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 LGBTQ+ community. 3850 NW 83rd St, 2nd floor, Gnv. Pccncf@gainesville.pride.org | GainesvillePride.org. Library & community room open Mon-Thu 9am-7pm, Fri 9am-5pm (unstaffed).

**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. Veronica or Adriana @ 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

**Sandhill Chapter, Florida Trail Association** is the local organization to develop, maintain, protect, and promote the Florida National Scenic Trail, a 1,500 mile federally designated trail beginning at big Cypress National Preserve and ending at Gulf Islands National Seashore. 352-378-8823 | Floridatrail.org/ Sandhill | Facebook.com/SandhillChapterFTA

**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

**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

**Sierra Club, Suwannee-St. John** 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 | @uf\_ydsa

**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 | vfpgainesville.org

**Voices for Common Ground** focuses on issues, not political parties and members are united by a shared commitment to civil rights (reproductive rights, anti-racism LGBTQ+ rights, voting rights). tinyurl.com/Iguana2153 or emailvoicesforcommonground@proton.me.

**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@stevelittler.com | wilpfus.org

**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. 🐾

# Celebrating Florida's emancipation

**Gainesville** — The Cotton Club Museum and Cultural Center invites the community to celebrate “Emancipation Day in Florida” all day on Saturday, May 24. At 9am the festivities begin with a walk from Depot Park to the Cotton Club Museum and Cultural Center. The procession will be led by Mrs. Vivian Filer and Mayor Harvey Ward.

This event is part of the City of Gainesville's “Journey to Juneteenth” programming and is in partnership with historic neighborhoods in Gainesville. The event is free and open to the public.

After the march, from 10am to 5pm, there will be music, dance, exhibits, educational activities and a variety of vendors including

food. Among the celebrations will be the plaiting of a maypole and a memorial service honoring the fallen African American Civil War soldiers. Come to learn more about Gainesville's history, support the museum, and celebrate the emancipation of the enslaved.

Throughout the day there will be multiple screenings of “Before Juneteenth: Emancipation in Florida,” a mini-documentary film.

The Cotton Club Museum and Cultural Center is an organization dedicated to enriching the experiences of all who wish to grow in knowledge and appreciation of the history and culture of African-derived cultures, highlighting those in Gainesville and North Central Florida. The museum is located at 837 SE 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. in Gainesville and is open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 11am to 4pm. ☞



**Free!**

### Florida Emancipation Day Festival

**Saturday, May 24th 2025 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM**  
**Cotton Club Museum & Cultural Center (CCMCC)**  
837 SE 7th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601  
(352) 226-8321

- 9:00 AM Depot Park: Festival Kickoff & Celebratory Walk to CCMCC
- 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, CCMCC Grounds: Vendors, Exhibits, Educational Activities, Plaiting of the Maypole, Food for purchase, Music, Dance, Ceremony Honoring Fallen African American Civil War Soldiers, and a free screening of the mini-documentary “Before Juneteenth: Emancipation in Florida”



This event is in partnership with the City of Gainesville's Journey to Juneteenth Celebration programming.



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