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The Gainesville Iguana

July/August 2025 ~ vol. 39, issue 7/8

'a soapbox for Alachua County activists'

DUTY TO DISOBEY

by *Damian Niolet*
North Florida Veterans for Peace
Vice President

It's time we talk about military service members who join with good intentions but are forced into impossible moral situations. Too often, we expect our service members to blindly follow commands without acknowledging many of these orders are, in fact, unlawful.

What constitutes an unlawful order is not up for debate — if not expressly forbidden in US law, then there's always our collective moral compass to guide our actions. The real question is: how do we, as a society, support those who are caught in the middle of this mess?

Let's be clear: most service members join for practical reasons, like a steady paycheck, benefits, and/or education, rather than out of a sense of duty. While the motivations for joining may vary, zero percent sign up because they want to be criminals, but that's exactly what many are asked to become.

Whether it's infringing on the rights of fellow citizens or committing war crimes against those in another nation, or both with the help of ICE, the line between lawful duty and outright immorality is being crossed more-and-more often under the current "regime."

However, fighting that regime directly is not the solution. It is too far gone, and our

rage only empowers them. Instead, we need to temper our anger and turn our focus on those who are considering joining or already on active duty, emphasizing it is everyone's duty to disobey unlawful orders.

Through one-on-one conversations with those who are at a moral crossroad, we have a better chance of diverting those at the front lines toward the more honorable path, no matter how far our leaders have strayed from theirs.

But let's not romanticize it — military culture doesn't exactly reward dissent. Disobeying an order comes with consequences — career-ending consequences, often without proper support or protection. *See DISOBEY, p. 24*

87-year-old Gainesville resident arrested at U.S. Capitol

by *Alina Hartounian*

In the video, one officer wheels away John Spitzberg's rollator walker, while the other uses zip ties to bind his hands behind his back. The 87-year-old veteran is unsteady on his feet — the result of several disabilities he suffers — as the crowd applauds, cheers and chants, "We won't back down, we won't retreat!" Soon, the cheering turns to jeering and booing and chants of "Shame!" against the officers.

The scene's been shared widely across social platforms and viewed millions of times, becoming a crystalizing moment for those protesting the Trump administration. Now back at a care home in Florida, Spitzberg told NPR he's ready for what's next.

"I plan to be as active as I physically can be at my point in life, and whatever the Veterans for Peace and the younger people who are activists, whatever they need, I'll do the best I can," he said.

Anti-war groups Veterans for Peace and About Face: Veterans Against the War organized the June 13th protest against America's peacetime military parade. It was held to mark the Army's 250th anniversary, but also coincided with President Trump's 79th birthday. The parade has drawn heavy criticism from protesters and politicians who saw it as a waste of resources and politicization of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Spitzberg was among the dozens of *See SPITZBERG, p. 10*



Capitol Police officers arrest Spitzberg at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., during June 13 protests. Photo by Carolina Lumetta/Screenshot by NPR.



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Deadline is Wednesday, August 27

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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.

50501:

50 protests, 50 states, 1 movement

by David Arreola

It was a bright sunny February day when we came together for the first organic protest against Trump's immediate assault on the Constitution. We let everyone speak, yell, or whisper their thoughts on what was to come. Now, in July, it is hot outside, and we couldn't possibly let thousands of people take the microphone. But, what if we could? After all, a mic is only one form of power. We wonder what it would look like if thousands of you reading this paper picked up your form of power today after reading this? Let's wonder.

50501 stands for 50 Protests, 50 States, 1 Movement. We are a decentralized movement that started as resistance to the second Trump administration and all of the atrocities associated with it. We do not have leaders, we do not have hierarchy, and we definitely are not being paid. We are volunteers who band together and vote democratically on actions and events.

Our core tenets are non-violence, inclusivity, and conflict resolution. We are strictly nonpartisan, but we do collaborate with centrist organizations. We believe in uplifting community, and we value safety and accessibility. We welcome anyone into the movement who vibes with what we are about.

We are not just a protest movement. While our protests have gained popularity across the nation, we understand this is not the only way to disrupt. We are trying to build alternative, anti-capitalist systems that are equitable for the People. Survival is a human right, and we aim to provide mutual aid to all who need it. We want to offer decolonization education and do much-needed anti-racism work. Most of all, we desire to be there for each other. Justice is not "just us." We need to go out of our way for others. We need to step out of our comfort zones. The time is now.

We are living through a major transition in human history, and it is unclear what the new rule book will be. It is time to write and live by a new set of rules that we want to manifest into existence. We must act in accordance with the societal rules that we want to see emerge out of this moment in history.

We must learn from our shared history, not erase it. When we work together, for the collective, we can evolve and heal from the colonized, whitewashed versions of superiority to create true freedom for all people who call this country home.

There is a seat at the table for everyone, of all backgrounds, to unite and help rewrite how we move forward on this path to true liberty and justice for All. We, the People, hope you will join us.

In solidarity, 50501 GNV 🦎

Hey, Readers!

We are now accepting both Venmo (gnv-iguana) and PayPal (gainesvilleiguana@cox.net) donations.

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

From the publisher ...

Idealism and Ideology

As the shit-storm of the MAGAization of our country manifests in so many ways, the obvious question arises, how do we overcome this? Social media has given us the ability to create big protests, but as with the protests in Tahrir Square in Egypt, or during Occupy in the US showed, then what? What's the next move? How do we build a movement?

We now know there are a lot of us willing to turn out, No Kings was a great success, but back to the streets again and again can seem futile. The fantastic win by Zohran Mamdani in the NYC Mayoral race is really inspirational, with social media aiding the organization of a fantastic grassroots campaign. The idealism of working toward a better world motivated all those canvassers and voters.

Idealism is powered by hope, and it is the life blood of progressive organizing. We keep on the task, not knowing if it will work, but knowing it is the right thing to do. Despair and defeatism rationalize inaction. And frankly too much optimism can also let people rationalize inaction. But we have now seen each other out in the streets, and know we have power to fight back.

How the resistance develops remains to unfold, and each of us can play a role, opportunities will come. Curate your news intake to sources and dosages that work for you. Keep living your life and be positive with others, bring them along in awareness. Share relevant information with others, we have that power like never before. Preserve the right to vote and support good candidates down the ballot.

This won't be easy or quick. The motivators of this authoritarian ideology have built up the machinery of this takeover for decades while Democrats have been bland, middle of the road compromisers. The Heritage Foundation was founded in 1973 and took a leading role in the conservative movement in the 1980s. They saw their opportunity to expand their power under Trump and quite openly crafted Project 2025 and the lesser known Project Esther (see page 8). Their game is to move fast, everything all at once, and overwhelm the checks and balances that are supposed to be in place. We are up against a fear-based ideology that sees us idealistic people as a threat to their precious established order. We want people to have more rights, more opportunity, more truth. These Christian Nationalists, social reactionaries and the ultra-rich feel we are taking things from them, threatening their rigid beliefs and traditions. They are using fear tactics as an effective motivator, and social media works great to cultivate that, as with the irrational anti immigrant hysteria justifying snatching people off the streets. When we try to keep up with all this (because we can and it draws us in) it can lead to information overload that serves to paralyze us too, make it all seem hopeless.

Well, here we are. The Bill has passed. When it is enacted, there will be serious impacts from Federal funding cuts. (And don't even get me started on the elimination of USAID funding around the world! That's a whole other story.) There will be a need for damage mitigation, support for immigrants and those kicked of healthcare, standing up for impacted neighbors and friends, and being sure we are heard by our elected representatives. Are the states supposed to fill the gaps, or will people just be dying? And adding to the horrors is the massive increase of funding for ICE and the building of detention centers.

I hate to say it, but it is the truth that our country as we know it is slipping away. "A republic, if you can keep it," was Benjamin Franklin's warning, and we are seeing the result of ignoring and trampling the cherished ideals we were founded on. How in the hell have we normalized and accepted the genocide in Gaza? Accepted the kidnapping of immigrants by masked thugs? Eliminated the rights of women to bodily autonomy? Accepted the censorship and whitewashing of our history?

Yes, we see it happening every day, but our idealism must say NO, that we can build a better world, and we must lay out those hopes clearly! We must reject the ideology of greed and fearmongering that powers the MAGAs and their White Christian Nationalism in every way we can, and find allies wherever we can.

Be strong, stay healthy, keep hope alive. 🐢



Joe Courter

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

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Gainesville Iguana

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Politicians Donald Trump, Ron DeSantis and Kristi Noem laugh as they tour the new detention camp in Florida dubbed "Alligator Alcatraz." Asked if the idea was for detainees to get eaten by alligators if they try to escape, Trump said, "I guess that's the concept."

Alligator Alcatraz

Leave it to Florida to promote the outrageous idea of a wire cage tented concentration camp for thousands of un-adjudicated detainees in the Everglades.

The photo of these three laughing speaks volumes as to their jocular lack of empathy, and the instant problem of water flooding speaks to the impracticality of this multi million dollar fiasco. Here's some sources for further reading.

Democracy Now!: tinyurl.com/Iguana2210

EssayX²: tinyurl.com/Iguana2208

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Protect LGBTQ+ youth Save the 988 National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

by Autumn Johnstone

The 988 National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline will no longer be providing specialized support to LGBTQ+ youth considering suicide, effective July 17, although in 2024, about 40 percent of LGBTQ+ individuals in the U.S. considered attempting suicide. The federal government's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration announced this on June 17.

While the 988 Lifeline will continue to provide services for those who seek help, LGBTQ+ individuals are left without personalized support from those who share similar life experiences.

What malignant act of insensitivity it is to rip that support away from those that desperately need it. The difference between a counselor who has personal experiences that reflect yours and a counselor who simply says they know what you're going through, is night and day. There's a connection between two people who have undergone similar trauma or mental health struggles that allows for better communication, active listening and effective help.

Without that connection, it will be difficult for LGBTQ+ individuals to reach out to the Lifeline, let alone feel understood. The reason the LGBTQ+ community needs support from those who can empathize with them is because being queer is something that has been marginalized throughout history by those who don't understand what it feels like to be judged for something you cannot control.

There were many times in my life where I needed to depend on another queer person for help. Speaking with them about their mental health struggles or simply existing alongside them allowed me to realize that what I was experiencing was, in fact, survivable. Being queer means you will be the minority, but that doesn't mean you have to be treated differently. One 988 Lifeline call could be the difference between life or death for some LGBTQ+ individuals.

The fear of being overlooked as an LGBTQ+ individual has become a rational thought because of the Trump Administration. Rather than viewing the LGBTQ+ community as people, their lives have been reduced to political talking points. More than 1.3 million people will be impacted by the detrimental closure of the LGBTQ+ Youth Specialized Services program.

Saving lives should never be up for debate. It's a part of being human, where it is our duty to be kind and understanding to those who need it without caring about how we can profit. Today, we see very little of that under a cold, authoritarian administration. Instead of accepting the fact that society can outgrow traditions, the Trump administration pushes for two genders as incontrovertible reality. They cherry-pick "facts" and call that scientific reality, ignoring mountains of evidence contradicting their chosen narrative.

As a result of the 988 Lifeline's loss of specialized support for LGBTQ+ youth, The Trevor Project will be deeply impacted. This organization depends on federal funding to provide lifesaving resources for LGBTQ+ youth through crisis services, peer support, advocacy, education and research. The Trevor Project handles almost half of the 988 Lifeline's specialized LGBTQ+ support, but by July 17, that will no longer be the case.

While The Trevor Project will continue to offer 24/7 mental health support for LGBTQ+ youth following that date, it is uncertain to what extent the Trump Administration might cause significant budget shortfalls for their organization.

According to The Trevor Project's 2024 U.S. National Survey on the Mental Health

of LGBTQ+ Young People, 90 percent of LGBTQ+ young people said their well-being was negatively impacted due to recent politics. The Trump Administration's policies that led to the 988 LGBTQ+ Lifeline being eliminated aim to silence the LGBTQ+ community at an alarming rate.

They justify their actions against transgender individuals with gender ideology and rationalize LGBTQ+ endangerment by calling queer experiences "woke indoctrination," but in reality, being queer has never been about politics. It's who we are and what we have always been. No administration can take that away, but they will definitely try.

Jeopardizing vulnerable LGBTQ+ youth by dismantling evidence-based methods teaches the public that LGBTQ+ individuals do not deserve the help they need. Yet, this couldn't be further from the truth. This community is in dire need of help, with a near 700 percent increase in contacts with The Trevor Project since the 2024 Presidential Election.

By Oct. 1, the Trump Administration's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2026 plans to cut funding entirely for the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline's LGBTQ+ Youth Specialized Services. In order to protect the 988 Suicide Lifeline for LGBTQ+ Youth, sign this petition by The Trevor Project at: tinyurl.com/Iguana2212. 🐢



They called it beautiful. We read the fine print.

by Amy Trask

There's a kind of heartbreak that comes not from surprise, but from recognition. We knew what the Big Beautiful Bill was. We read the fine print, saw the projections, understood the stakes. We knew this bill was not built to lift us up. It was built to break us. Still, when the final vote came down—after seven hours of procedural maneuvering and last-minute concessions—it hurt.

It hurt because this wasn't just a policy decision. It was a values decision. It told us, in no uncertain terms, who half of this Congress is willing to fight for—and who it's willing to leave behind. It told us that if you are poor, if you are sick, if you are working-class, if you are trying to survive in a system that was never built for you—this government will not protect you. It is a moral turning point that demands we meet it with honesty, with courage, and with resolve.

The bill is a bait-and-switch: offering no taxes on tips and a temporary increase in Child Tax Credit to distract you from the wrecking ball behind the curtain.

It obliterates our social safety net, taking from those with the least, and giving it directly to those with the most. It slashes

funding for Medicaid and Medicare, imposes work requirements, and neglects to renew subsidies from ACA, resulting in more than seventeen million people being booted from health insurance.

Those subsidies can increase up to 93 percent, some plans seeing up to \$900/month in increase. It slashes SNAP access, even when 40 percent of benefits go to children. It ends clean energy credits that have brought jobs to rural counties and hope and innovation to frontline communities.

It threatens the Separation of Powers by directly removing the ability for the judiciary to enforce rulings and contempt without a paid bond by anyone bringing the case to court.

And it does all this while adding trillions to the national debt.

The cruelty, ironically, feels like the point. If they really cared about workers, they'd ensure living wages, jobs. They'd fund childcare. If they cared about freedom, they'd protect our right to health care—not make us prove we're worthy of it. They'd protect the power of judicial enforcement.

Yet, it passed.

In the Senate, it was by a single vote.

Had Senator Murkowski not folded—exchanging Alaskans' protection for that of everyone's—JD Vance wouldn't have cast the tie-breaking vote. Yet, she did make that backroom deal and, as a result, handed the House a loaded weapon.

That vote gave the House permission. For a moment, it looked like we had eight hold-outs and five NAY votes that might stand firm. One by one, though, they were brought back into the fold with promises and deals, and “pass it now, fix it later” became law. It passed by the slimmest of margins.

I've spoken with families who are already bracing for what is to come. A mother in Gilchrist afraid of losing Medicaid coverage for her special needs child. A daughter here in Alachua County afraid of losing Medicare coverage for her mother in a nursing home. A solar technician who's scared of losing contracts and income. A retired couple who are trying to make sense of what this means for taxes, their care, their future.

These are our neighbors. Our family. Our friends.

So the question becomes: what do we do now? We take a moment to feel, and then we stand.

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Second, we organize. We build coalitions. We invest in local leadership. We support candidates who understand that policy is personal—and who are willing to fight for the people who are too often ignored.

Third, we imagine. The antidote to bad policy isn't just resistance—it's vision. We need to articulate what a just, inclusive, and sustainable future looks like. We need to build the infrastructure—political, economic, and moral — to get us there.

We remember, and we vote. We remember who voted for this bill, and against the welfare of the American people, or most of us who make less than \$500K a year. We remember who held out and then folded, who stayed silent. We make sure their names are known in every district. When the time comes to vote, we vote for progress—not for those that stood in the way of it.

We can't afford to give in to apathy. We can't afford to throw up our hands and say, "that's just politics." Democracy hasn't been, and isn't, a spectator sport. It takes all of us, and while this bill was built to break us, we are building something better.

We are building a movement in dignity. In data. In decency. We are building a political system that doesn't ask people to prove

they're worthy of care, but starts from the premise that they are.

We are building a future where healthcare is not a reward, but a human right. Where food is not a privilege, but a guarantee. Where clean energy is not a luxury, but a lifeline.

We have 16 months until the midterms. That's 16 months to remind people of what is at stake. To hold our leaders accountable. To build.


We've been here before. We've faced setbacks. We've seen policies passed that made us question the direction of our country, but every time, we've come back stronger. The story of America is not written by the powerful alone. It's written by the people who refuse to give up.

So yes, I'm disappointed. I'm angry. It feels like a hole has been punched through my chest, as I'm sure you feel too, but this is not the end. This is the beginning of a reckoning.

We are the ones who will repair what they've broken. We are the ones who will restore what they've taken. We are the ones we've been waiting for.

Let's get to work.

Amy Trask is a former Landscape Analyst Fellow for Harvard Safra Center for Ethics, dealing with political conflict resolution, and continues to work in this space at the local and national level. 🐢



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Project Esther: ‘Addendum to Project 2025’

A new report in The New York Times takes a deep dive into Project Esther, a policy blueprint to crush the pro-Palestinian movement in the United States from the Heritage Foundation, the right-wing think tank best known for spearheading Project 2025.

New York Times investigative reporter Katie J.M. Baker spoke to people behind Project Esther in her new piece, “The Group Behind Project 2025 Has a Plan to Crush the Pro-Palestinian Movement,” published on May 18.

Project Esther was formed during the Biden administration and lays out plans for surveilling, silencing and punishing pro-Palestinian activists, including deporting non-U.S. citizens and withholding funds from universities. Many of the Heritage Foundation’s proposals appear to have been taken up by the Trump administration.

Following is an edited version of Amy Goodman’s interview with Baker on Democracy Now! on May 19.

Amy Goodman: If you can, talk about what exactly their plans are? And how many Jewish groups are involved in shaping Project Esther, as the leaders of Project Esther talk about combating antisemitism?

Katie J.M. Baker: Yeah, so, Project Esther aims to rebrand all critics of Israel and pro-Palestinian protesters as providing material support for terrorism. So that means that anyone who’s ever participated in a pro-Palestinian protest at a university, for example, is potentially providing material support and should be fired or deported or otherwise ostracized from what they call open society. And there’s not very many Jewish groups involved in this project. There are a few, but the task force that inspired Project Esther was primarily Christian and right-wing organizations.

Goodman: Can you talk about the role of Christian Zionists?

Baker: Yeah. There are some Christian Zionists who are interested in Israel because they think that it will help bring about Christian dominion worldwide or bring about biblical end times. But there are also a lot of Christians who just see shared Judeo-Christian values and support Israel for that reason. And I think, most interestingly, Heritage incorporated a lot of arguments about antisemitism into their attacks on higher education more generally after October 7th, and they blame DEI, Black Lives Matter, those types of progressive movements for what

they see as the rise of antisemitism on college campuses. ...

Goodman: I wanted to now turn to someone quoted in the New York Times piece. Democracy Now! spoke with Stefanie Fox, the executive director of Jewish Voice for Peace, to ask for her response to what you exposed about Project Esther.

Stefanie Fox: You know, Project Esther was created by the ultraconservative white Christian nationalists and should be understood as an addendum to Project 2025, which is the Heritage Foundation’s plan to remake the U.S. in an ultraconservative image. It has absolutely nothing to do with Jewish safety, and it is intended solely to destroy the Palestinian liberation movement, using tools that can then be used against all communities and movements and democracy itself. We can see clearly that Project Esther sets out a path for the Trump administration to sharpen those legal regimes that will best advance MAGA goals.

So, for example, the targeting of international students, like Mahmoud Khalil, for abduction and deportation because of their political views is a terrifying attempt to expand already unjust counterterrorism and immigration laws against Palestin-



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ian rights movement, immigrant communities and civil liberties writ large.

The Trump administration and groups like the Heritage Foundation think that if they target the groups they believe to be most vulnerable — so, Palestinians, anybody who will defend Palestinian human rights, immigrants, trans people — then nobody will stand up and fight back.

But this country's fascist turn is not inevitable. If a united coalition can beat back these attacks now, we can destroy the momentum of Trump's broader agenda. And we understand that what justifies that agenda is the same thing justifying U.S.-backed Israeli genocide and ethnic cleansing of Palestinians.

We see the twin evils of the cynical use of false accusations of antisemitism, that ensure the Israeli government can't be held accountable, and also the pervasive and constant racism and dehumanization against Palestinians. Those tactics are decades old, and frankly, they've had bipartisan support. The MAGA right is now consolidating and accelerating those. And so, it's on us to remember that they rely on the weaponizing of anti-semitism and the deploying of anti-Palestinian racism because they've lost the argument.

The very notion — take, for example, the " Hamas Support Network," which is the term used by the Heritage Foundation to describe the Palestinian liberation movement. It's a contrived and baseless smear that is obviously intended to vilify any and all criticism of the Israeli government. And the accusations would be laughable, they'd be — they're outlandish, they're baseless, if they weren't being translated into such deadly, serious policy endangering people's lives right now.

But there are millions of people, including the majority of Americans and a growing and massive number of Jews, who want to see a stop to the Israeli genocide of Palestinians, who are outraged that

our tax dollars are being used to murder and starve tens of thousands of children, and who want the U.S. and Israeli government held accountable for their crimes against humanity.

And it's so — it's in the face of these repressive attacks that our only option is to be bolder, clearer in defense of Palestinian life every single day and to be demanding justice, equality and freedom for all people, no exceptions. ✨

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From SPITZBERG, p. 1

veterans who were arrested at the Capitol. The arrests came just half a day before millions of people flooded American streets for No Kings protests, meant to stand in contrast to the military parade being held the same day.

"I think the parade was a colossal slap in the face of the American people," said Spitzberg, an Army and Air Force veteran. "And the president of the United States apparently sees himself as more than the people's president. He sees himself as a king or, I don't even know, an emperor."

Capitol Police said officers arrested about 60 people who illegally crossed a police line while running toward the Rotunda steps. All are facing charges, including unlawful demonstration and crossing a police line. Spitzberg said he crossed the barrier because he saw officers manhandling his fellow protesting veterans.

"I just couldn't stand there behind those barricades while my fellow veterans were being pummeled," he said. "My goal was to go and help the veterans so they wouldn't

be hurt," he added. He said police told him he would be arrested if he didn't go back behind the line. But he kept walking and police held to their word.

Capitol police, whose officers were at the center of defending the Capitol against Jan. 6 rioters, said the heightened political threat environment means that the officers were on high alert.

"These demonstrators illegally crossed a police line and were running toward the direction of the U.S. Capitol building. Our officers will enforce the law and will not let anyone disrupt the important work of the Congress," Capitol police said.

Spitzberg said he spent about 12 hours being transferred between holding facilities before his release. He had an emotional homecoming at his care facility in Gainesville, where some residents had feared for his well-being.

"All they could do was hold me and cry. And it was very sad for me because I love them," he said.

This was far from his first protest. He has

been arrested before, in Zuccotti Park in New York, where Occupy Wall Street protests railed against economic inequality in 2011 during the fallout from the Great Recession. And he stood at Standing Rock in 2016, reported the Frontiersman in Alaska.

He has also spent time helping Ukrainian refugees in Romania, according to the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner. He spent more than two years in Vietnam supporting people who suffered the effects of Agent Orange and worked as a teacher and a paramedic, he said. And Spitzberg says despite his health challenges, he will continue to stand for what he believes is right.

"The best thing for me to do at this point in my life is just to basically be a body," Spitzberg said. "Because you need numbers and if they ever say we're doing something else again, God willing, I'll be there."

This story was originally published on NPR on June 20. See more at npr.org. To see the full video of John's arrest, go to tinyurl.com/Iguana2207. 🐢

Making progress while under siege: Our opportunity to expand Medicaid

by Bobby Mermer, PhD, Alachua County
Labor Coalition Coordinator

It hasn't been a great year for healthcare justice in the United States or direct democracy in Florida.

But don't despair. We can continue making progress in the fight for affordable and equitable healthcare even in the current political climate. We can stand up to bullies in Tallahassee who want to take away your right to amend your state constitution. But we will only be successful if you join the fight to (finally) expand Medicaid to low-income adults and families under the Affordable Care Act!

If successful, Florida individuals and families with incomes of up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level will finally receive affordable health coverage.

As of this article's writing, Congress is moving Trump's budget forward, instilling a fresh sense of dread over the seeming unraveling of our social safety net. And you may be aware, their largest target is Medicaid. The current proposal calls for imposing cruel work requirements on Medicaid recipients, which do nothing

to help anybody enter the workforce. Instead, these requirements withhold care to families through a combination of erecting paperwork barriers, preventing people from getting healthy enough to go back to work, or denying benefits to people to whom sufficient work hours are unavailable. The proposal also calls for reducing the money states receive to provide coverage under the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid Expansion program.

Under these conditions, it's understandable to want to go into defense mode—and you should do whatever possible to pressure Congress to stop these cruel policies. But it's important to remember that a future Congress and President can easily restore full Medicaid funding and reverse cruel work requirements in a future budget. In other words, even though Congress passed Trump's Big Ugly Bill with Medicaid cuts intact, the setback will be temporary.

At the state level, our Legislature passed and DeSantis signed HB 1205—which aims to de facto abolish direct democracy in Florida. It does so by placing costly and confusing requirements and restric-

tions on the citizens initiative process of amending our state constitution.

While we are confident the people of Florida are resilient enough to overcome the new requirements and restrictions, there's no denying we have our work cut out for us. Volunteers will no longer be able to collect completed petitions without first registering as a circulator with the state. Petitions collected by circulators must now arrive at the voter's Supervisor of Elections office within ten days after being signed. Various campaign-related fines have gone up. Only citizens with Florida residency and no prior felony convictions can collect forms. The list goes on.

Florida voters have used the initiative process to amend our constitution to ensure all workers receive a living wage, legalize medical marijuana, restore returning citizens' voting rights, and more. But now we're at a critical juncture thanks to HB 1205. We can let the bullies win and take the offramp. Or we can speed up and leave the bullies in the rearview mirror. The Alachua County Labor Coalition,

See MEDICAID p. 16

Autobiographical sketch of John Spitzberg

My name is John K. Spitzberg, and I am 87 years old. Presently, I live in the Atrium in NW Gainesville, an independent living facility. I came to Gainesville to recover from spinal cord surgery and to live close to my granddaughter, Emily, who is studying nursing at UF. I've been here for close to one and a half years with Reba III, my beloved emotional support dog. She is my constant companion and cheers up most of the residents at the Atrium.

Growing up in Washington D.C., I left to join the Army in 1958. Two years in an artillery unit in Germany, a marriage to a German national who is deceased, and a final year at Ft. Meade, Maryland was how I served my active duty in the Army during the Cold War. I was assigned to write articles for the Fifth Corps Guardian and Stars and Stripes. I also served in a Reserve Engineering Company for two years.

My mom had a friend who advised me to go to a teacher's college in Pennsylvania, which I did between the Army and Air Force. A wonderful recruiter from the Air Force assigned in Carlisle, PA, the home of the Indian College to which the legendary Jim Thorpe went, stuck with me through my undergraduate program with a promise that when I graduated, I could go to Officers Training School and become a 2nd Lieutenant. For those of us who had been enlisted people the program was a breeze, not so for those just joining. The training instructors threatened all sorts of punishments short of taking our first born, but we old-timers knew it was a joke. I graduated and stayed for three years as a training officer in the Basic Training Command.

The Base was ravaged by spinal meningitis, so I was glad to be assigned to lead a squadron of Basics to Amarillo to complete their training. By that time I was a Captain. We had two baby sons. I had a lieutenant, Jim, who'd been a farmer. My wife called me to tell me her water had broken. I grabbed Jim and drove like a Nascar driver to our home fully expecting to use his talents of delivering calves. But he didn't have to deliver Jerry.

In 1967, I went to Rabbinical School, loved the scholarship



Photo of John Spitzberg by Chuck Ross.

and study, but not the boredom of every-day study ... We were in Cincinnati, and I became a special education teacher in a new program for emotionally disabled kids. Martin Luther King was assassinated in '68 and I watched all hell break loose with a good part of Avondale in flames.

Moving from Ohio to Chicago to work in another program for disturbed children, I served in National Guard unit where I was promoted to Major. A couple of temporary duty tours permitted me to attend the new Human Relations program because there was an upheaval between races, sexes and people with different lifestyles in the military service. Those were tough times in our armed forces.

As a senior citizen, I lived for two and a half years in Ha Noi, Viet Nam where I worked with Vietnamese young people affected by

Agent Orange and I taught English. I volunteered in Romania and very briefly in Odessa, Ukraine helping refugees escape from war. I was at Occupy Wall St in NYC. Spent time at Standing Rock, North Dakota as a medic, 9th Ward in New Orleans after Katrina and shorter stints where needed. Slowing down but not finished by long shot.

Now, our country is led by people with little or no respect for our military veterans. We, in the Veterans For Peace and About Face are dedicated to seeing the end of fascism and complete disregard for democratic and representative government. What transpired at the June 14th military parade in Washing D.C. was a travesty. Money which could be used for human services was squandered to celebrate a politician's birthday. Shame! I was there with my brothers and sister veterans and friends. We were denied the right to sit on the Capitol steps and when we didn't leave, we were arrested. We were peaceful. The police were not. We spent 12 hours locked up. It was my honor to be a part of this action.

My motto is taken from the wisdom of the ages. "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? But if I am only for myself, what am I and if not now when?" The "when" is now. Join the local Veterans For Peace chapter whether a veteran or not. 🐸



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Friends of Susan B. Anthony to celebrate Women's Equality Day

Caring for Community: The Women's Giving Circle

The Friends of Susan B. Anthony is happy to announce that they will celebrate Women's Equality Day (Aug. 26) with their annual luncheon on Saturday, Aug. 23 at the Best Western Grand at 11:30am. The community is invited to this event, which began as an informal birthday party for Susan B. Anthony over forty years ago, and is now held in conjunction with the anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote.

Each year a local woman is recognized who exemplifies the spirit of Susan B. Anthony. This year, Evelyn Foxx will be honored for her tireless and long activism on behalf of civil rights and her leadership of the local chapter of the NAACP.

The featured speaker will be Dr. Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Director of the Office of Institutional Assessment at the University of Florida. Dr. Mastrodicasa will be speaking on the ways in which the Women's Giving Circle of the Community Foundation of North Central Florida has had a profound and positive impact on many non-profit organizations supporting women and girls for the last 20 years.

For further information, and instructions on how to register for the luncheon, please check: www.fosba.com or contact Barbara Oberlander at 352-378-6447. 🐾

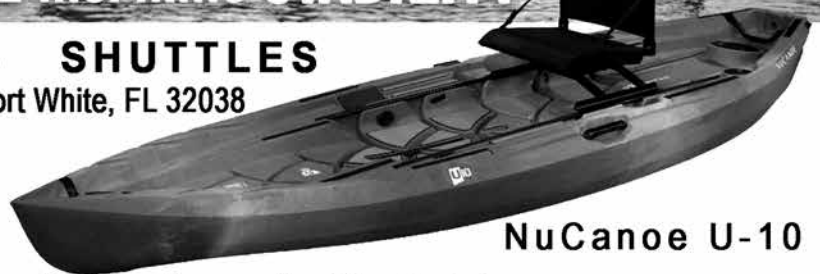
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Editors' picks: News that didn't fit

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

by Jessica Corbett ~ Common Dreams ~ May 10 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2199

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

A worker's history of the National Guard

from *We Do the Work* (wdtw.org) ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2200

Today, as always, the Guard is composed of thousands of working class young people who are themselves frontline workers. That said, the Guard itself is a state military force deployed against the working class. Working class soldiers, many who join for college money, to learn skills, to prepare for jobs in law enforcement, to help in natural disasters, are being ordered to engage in dangerous, violent, often lethal, anti-democratic, anti-worker, anti-civil rights, pro-war, pro-business missions against their own fellow workers. The business and political forces directing the soldiers are far removed from and uninfluenced by the needs and desires of local communities.

Animal abusers will face harsher penalties under newly signed bills

by Jackie Llanos ~ Florida Phoenix ~ May 28 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2214

Gov. Ron DeSantis signed two bills that will increase fines and sentences for people convicted of abusing pets or restraining them outside during natural disasters. Lawmakers passed the bills, HB 255 and SB 150, in honor of Dexter, a bulldog mix found decapitated and dumped in St. Petersburg, and Trooper, a bull terrier a Florida Highway Patrol officer found tied to a fence along Interstate 75 as Hurricane Milton approached. “Current sentencing guidelines don't match the gravity of these crimes, and it was evident that Florida law needed to do more to protect dogs from senseless violence,” DeSantis said during the bill signing ceremony in Loxahatchee. Dexter's Law, which went into effect July 1, creates a sentencing multiplier for people convicted of intentionally torturing, mutilating, or killing a pet, meaning that they could serve a longer sentence. Under the bill, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement must create, by the beginning of 2026, a database of people who plead guilty or no contest or who have been convicted of animal cruelty.

Land deal stops mining project near Okefenokee Swamp, advocates brace for threats

by Jill Nolin and Maya Homan ~ Florida Phoenix ~ June 23 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2213

An Alabama company that was close to receiving the final go-ahead from the state of Georgia to mine near the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge has decided to instead sell the land to a nonprofit focused on conserving at-risk sites. Twin Pines Minerals, which first proposed the controversial mining project in 2019, is in the process of selling about 8,000 acres near the refuge to The Conservation Fund. The nearly \$60 million land deal will halt a mining project that became the poster child of the first Trump administration's move to scale back federal protections for the nation's waterways. That left the decision on whether to approve the project in the hands of state regulators, who issued draft permits early last year that were close to being finalized. The sale presents a second time a mining proposal near the swamp was thwarted due to public outcry. A DuPont proposal in the 1990s near the refuge faced intense pressure, and the company eventually dropped the project and sold the land to The Conservation Fund.

'Let's break it down'? Mamdani gives his perspective on historic NYC win

by Eloise Goldsmith ~ Common Dreams ~ July 1 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2220

Democratic socialist Zohran Mamdani beat former NY governor Andrew Cuomo in New York City's recent Democratic mayoral primary “sending shockwaves through the American political system.” His goal was to “win people back to a Democratic Party that puts working people first.” He explains how his strategies cemented his win.

The Poster Project: Infographics for democracy

from posterproject.us/

The Poster Project provides simple and clear infographics, state-by-state, on Trump/Musk cuts to a dozen major areas, from school lunch programs to veterans' services, plus a chatbot and writing aid to assist communicating with media and politicians. For example, Florida has suffered 17 major disasters over the last 10 years, and FEMA has responded with an average of \$21.3 billion per year; Medicaid serves 3.9 million Floridians (1 in 9 adults, 2 of 5 kids) but faces a 15% cut, with over 35% of rural hospitals already at risk of shutting down.

'We live in a second Red Scare': What can we learn from a chilling book about Florida's past?

by Martin Pengelly ~ the Guardian ~ June 17 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2201

Robert Fieseler's new book, *American scare: Florida's Hidden Cold War on Black and Queer Lives*, reveals in painful detail the almost-forgotten havoc of the Johns Committee's witch-hunt against the NAACP and gay men (among others) in the 1950s and '60s, in a reign of terror that looks pretty familiar today. 🐞

Robert Reich on Zohran Mamdani

Friends,

Leave it to the Democratic Party to snatch an existential crisis from the jaws of electoral victory.

The stunning success of 33-year-old Zohran Mamdani, a self-described democratic socialist, in the race for New York City mayor is causing anguish in the Democratic Party.

It's one thing for Trump to call Mamdani "a 100% Communist Lunatic." That's to be expected from the vulgarian-in-chief. It's another for Matt Bennett, co-founder of the centrist Democratic group Third Way, to warn that Mamdani's "affiliation with the (Democratic Socialists of America) is very dangerous."

Dangerous for whom? Bernie Sanders nearly won the Democratic primary for the 2016 presidential election after announcing he was a democratic socialist — and probably would have won had the Democratic National Committee not torpedoed him.

Lawrence Summers, treasury secretary under former Democratic President Barack Obama, says the New York City results make him "profoundly alarmed about the future of the (Democratic Party) and the country."

Well, I'm profoundly alarmed, too — by just this kind of vacuous statement. If polls are to be believed, the current Democratic Party doesn't have much of a future. Mam-

dani and other young politicians with the charisma to connect with the people and a willingness to take on corporate America and Wall Street may be the only way forward for the Democrats.

Nor has the mainstream media greeted Mamdani's upset victory with much enthusiasm. The Associated Press writes that "the party's more pragmatic wing cast the outcome as a serious setback in their quest to broaden Democrats' appeal."

Pragmatic wing? Since when has the corporate establishment of the Democratic Party distinguished itself by its pragmatism or its quest to broaden Democrats' appeal? If it were pragmatic — in the sense of wanting to win elections and fire up the



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base — Democrats would not have lost the House, Senate, and presidency in 2024.

Meanwhile, Jeff Bezos's Washington Post editorializes that "Democrats should fear that [Mamdani] will discredit their next generation of party leaders, almost all of whom are better than this democratic socialist."

Bezos — who controls the content of the Post's editorial page as he sucks up to Trump and is now occupying vast swaths of Venice for his wedding with Lauren Sanchez — is not the most credible source of wisdom when it comes to the identity of the Democrats' next generation of party leaders.

Not surprisingly, the Post criticizes Mamdani's proposals for a 2 percent annual wealth tax on the richest 1 percent of New Yorkers and for increasing the state's corporate tax rate from 7.25 percent to 11.5 percent: "Mamdani's tax plans would spur a corporate exodus and drive more rich people out of town, undermining the tax base and making existing services harder to maintain."

It's the same argument we've heard for 40 years: If you raise taxes on corporations and the wealthy, you'll drive them away — from your city, your state, your nation.

Rubbish. The reality is that if you invest in your people — in their skills, education, affordable child care, affordable elder care, and the infrastructure needed to link them together — they'll be more productive, and their higher productivity will attract corporations (and the wealthy). A major way to afford all these things is to raise taxes on corporations and the wealthy.

Mamdani is the corporate Democrat's biggest nightmare — a young, charismatic politician winning over Democratic voters with an optimistic message centering on the cost of living. Putting together a multiethnic and multiracial coalition backed by a sprawling grassroots campaign that brings out enormous numbers of volunteers. Savvy in social media. Aiming to fund what average people need by taxing corporations and the rich.

Instead of wringing their hands over him, Democrats should follow his lead.

The largest force in American politics today is antiestablishment fury at a system rigged by big corporations and the wealthy to make them even richer and more powerful.

The corporate Democratic establishment — fat cats on Wall Street, corporate moguls in c-suites, billionaire backers of Democrats who will do their bidding, and the big-named Democrats who endorsed Andrew Cuomo — are the biggest problem for the party. They are standing in the way of its mounting a forceful response to Trump and providing a blueprint for the future.

Trump is killing the economy, fueling inflation with his tariffs, reducing the U.S. government to rubble, and destroying our relationships with our allies. He's readying another giant tax cut for the wealthy and big corporations — this one to be financed by cuts in Medicaid, food stamps, and other things average people need, along with trillions more in national debt.

My old friend James Carville advises Democrats to "roll over and play dead." With due respect to James, Democrats have been rolling over and playing dead too long. That's one reason the nation is in the trouble we're in.

If Democrats had had the guts years ago to condemn big money in politics, fight corporate welfare, and unrig a market that's been rigged in favor of big corporations and the rich, Trump's absurd

bogeymen (the deep state, immigrants, socialists, trans people, diversity-equity-inclusion) wouldn't have stood a chance.

My simple advice to congressional Democrats: Wake the hell up. According to polls, most Americans don't want a Trump Republican budget that slashes Medicaid, food stamps, and child nutrition in order to make way for a giant tax cut mostly for the wealthy.

Most don't want tariffs that drive up the prices they pay for food, gas, housing, and clothing. Most understand that tariffs are taxes paid by American consumers. Most don't want a government of, by, and for billionaires. Most believe in democracy and the rule of law and don't want Trump trampling on the Constitution, acts of Congress, and federal court orders.

Not only should Democrats be making noise about all this, they should stop relying on so-called "moderates" to speak for them. The nation is in clear and present danger. Democrats must stand up for American ideals at a time when the Trump regime is riding roughshod over them.

Democrats need Zohran Mamdani and other young politicians with fight in their hearts and rage in their bellies who can show that Trump is bad for working people and terrible for America and the world, and who can point the way forward.

We need a new generation of leaders who are the voices of democracy, freedom, social justice, and the rule of law. A new generation that gives meaning to the "we" in "we the people."

Instead of fretting over Mamdani, the Democratic Party should embrace him as the future.

What do you think?

From Robert Reich's Facebook on June 28 🐉

A Democratic Socialist is not a Marxist Socialist or a Communist. A Democratic Socialist is one who seeks to restrain the self-destructive excesses of capitalism and channel the Government's use of our tax money into creating opportunities for everyone.

Democratic Socialists believe that both the economy and society should be run democratically—to meet public needs, not to make profits for a few.

A Democratic Socialist does not want to destroy private corporations, but does want to bring them under greater democratic control. The government could use regulations and tax incentives to encourage companies to act in the public interest and outlaw destructive activities such as exporting jobs to low-wage countries and polluting our environment. Most of all, socialists look to unions to make private business more accountable.

From MEDICAID, p. 10

National Women's Liberation, the League of Women Voters, and the Unitarians worked to collect as many signed petitions as possible ahead of the new law going into effect. As of this writing, the latest round of lawsuits seeking injunctions against part of the law are still pending. But our coalition will keep moving forward regardless of the Courts' decisions! We are shifting gears from *collecting* completed petitions to *distributing* blank petitions, *checking* completed forms for errors, and *providing free shipping to signers* to submit them.

We hope you will join us as we move forward to secure Medicaid Expansion and help keep direct democracy alive in Florida. Email info@laborcoalition.org or nwl@womensliberation.org to sign up as a Medicaid Expansion volunteer. Training and petition distribution opportunities will be provided. ✨



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ACLC and NWL collect Medicaid Expansion petitions at the May 14 No Kings rally. Photo courtesy of National Women's Liberation.

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And the good news is ...

Controversial 2018 law that limited public beach access in Walton County is repealed

Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a bill to repeal a 2018 law that opponents argued limited public beach access in Walton County in northwest Florida. Appearing in Santa Rosa Beach, the governor said SB 1622 returns decision-making about recreational access to the dry sand areas of Florida

beaches to local governments. "This bill is about restoring local control, cutting legal red tape, and putting our residents first," he said. Filed by Panama City Republican state Sen. Jay Trumbull, SB 1622 repeals the earlier law that established a judicial review process that governmental enti-

ties had to go through before passing any regulations regarding the customary use of any private beach property.

From an article by Christine Sexton and Jay Waagmeester in the Florida Phoenix on June 24. See the full story at: tinyurl.com/Iguana2202

Environmental and indigenous groups mobilize to stop 'Alligator Alcatraz'

As Florida's Republican government moves to construct a sprawling new immigration detention center in the heart of the Everglades, nicknamed "Alligator Alcatraz," environmental groups and a wide range of other activists have begun to mobilize against it. Florida's Republican attorney general, James Uthmeier, said last week that construction of the jail, at the site of a disused airbase in the Big

Cypress National Preserve, had begun. Three environmental advocacy groups have launched a lawsuit to try to halt its construction. Hundreds of protesters flocked to the remote site to voice their opposition. Opponents have called out the cruelty of the plan, which comes as part of Donald Trump's crusade to deport thousands of immigrants per day. They also called out the site's potential to in-

flict severe harm to local wildlife in one of America's most unique ecosystems. "This scheme is not only cruel, it threatens the Everglades ecosystem that state and federal taxpayers have spent billions to protect," said Eve Samples, executive director of Friends of the Everglades.

From an article by Stephen Prager in Common Dreams on June 30. See the full story at: tinyurl.com/Iguana2203

Floridians gathered in more than 70 cities for 'No Kings Day' protests

In the largest mobilization against the policies of the Trump administration since the president returned to the White House in January, Floridians gathered in more than 70 cities as part of the nationwide "No Kings Day" protests. In Tallahassee, several groups came together four weeks ago to organize the protest that drew thousands to the Florida Historic

Capitol, said Claudia Sperber, one of the co-organizers. Approximately 5,000 protested in Tallahassee, according to the organizers. Chants, songs, and speeches filled the air for four hours. "Stand up, fight back. Stop the madman now," a group of women sang. Even as the official programming ended, crowds remained in front of the Florida Historic Capitol and

lined up along Monroe Street, one of the city's main roads. Among those who attended the event were Nikki Fried, the chair of the Florida Democratic Party, and Rick Wilson, the famed anti-Trumper and co-founder of the Lincoln Project.

From an article by Jackie Llanos and Mitch Perry in the Florida Phoenix on June 14. See the full story at: tinyurl.com/Iguana2204

Trump drive to defund NPR, PBS resisted by Republicans from rural states

The Trump administration's request to claw back \$9.4 billion in previously approved spending on foreign aid and public media ran into significant opposition, potentially dooming its path forward in the Senate. Numerous GOP lawmakers on the Appropriations Committee, including Chairwoman Susan Collins, expressed

concern at how the proposed rescissions would affect American "soft power" as well as local radio and television stations that rely on the Corporation for Public Broadcasting—many in rural America. Collins, R-Maine, highlighted opposition to cutting already approved funding for CPB, which goes toward National Public

Radio, the Public Broadcasting Service and hundreds of local stations outside the nation's larger metropolitan areas.

From an article by Christine Sexton and Jennifer Shutt in the Florida Phoenix on June 28. See the full story at: tinyurl.com/Iguana2206



The historic buildings owned by Holy Trinity Foundation will not be demolished

The historic buildings in the 100 block of N. Main Street have been sold to new owners who have no intention of demolishing them. The previous plan by the former owner was to knock down the buildings, built in 1879, to create a parking lot and park.

On July 1, Scott Shillington and Hal Mendez purchased the buildings from the Holy Trinity Episcopal Foundation. The Church's newsletter indicates that they received a \$400,000 down payment, and a sale price of \$1.2 mil-

lion which they will finance at 7 percent over ten years.

The new owners own The Top, The Atlantic, Pop-A-Top, The Dime, the Florida Room, and several other local properties.

Although many people believed the buildings were too deteriorated to be saved, saving them was a personal mission of Gainesville resident Melanie Barr's for quite a while. The historic preservationist said, "I couldn't have found more perfect owners." 🐢

Legislative session recap from Central Labor Council

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

Particularly given the heavy-handed role that our state legislature and Governor have been choosing to take in the local affairs of our communities, it's important to be aware of who our state legislators are and what the heck they're up to. Over the course of our next few columns, we'll be discussing this year's legislative session and what it meant for working Floridians. Our emphasis will be on the Alachua County legislative delegation, but a similar methodology can and should be applied to other counties throughout our state.

1. Who our local legislators are.
2. What the major bills of concern were and how these legislators voted.

Later, we'll also discuss the state's final budget for the year,

which came much later than expected due to intra-party Republican bickering.


The Alachua County legislative delegation

Our delegation is composed of two Senators and three Representatives. Below are the details on these legislators, including their contact information. Senator Bradley and all three of our Reps will be up for re-election in 2026. Time to hold some folks to account! (See chart on next page.)

Major bills impacting working people in the 2025 legislature

Fortunately, this year the same infighting that led to a much-delayed budget also meant that the legislature wasn't nearly as "effective" in their attacks on workers and our rights as in recent years. Many of their most egregious bills failed this year. Some of them sure tried though, and we get a glimpse through these bills of what is likely in store for us in the future. Hopefully though we have hit our low point in this state and voters will

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be ready to start the long, slow process of righting the ship in next year's election.

Here are some bills that we were watching this session:

Weakening Minimum Wage Rights (FAILED)

SB 676/HB 541

AFL-CIO OPPOSED

Florida's Constitution guarantees all workers in Florida a state minimum wage, currently \$13 per hour for non-tipped workers and set to rise in September to \$14. These bills would have changed state law to allow workers/students to "opt-out" of their right if they work in structured work-study, internships, pre-apprenticeship programs, apprenticeships, or similar work-based learning opportunities. This would have been a huge loophole in a hard-fought constitutional right.

Rep. Hinson voted NO on this bill during its hearing in the Industries & Professional Activities Subcommittee. Rep. Johnson voted YES during the Careers & Workforce Subcommittee hearing. Rep. Brannan voted YES during the Commerce Committee hearing. Senator McClain voted YES during the Commerce & Tourism Committee and during the Govt Oversight & Accountability Committee hearings.

Eliminating the Labor Pool Act (FAILED)

SB 1672/HB 6033

AFL-CIO OPPOSED

Temporary workers and day laborers are some of the most abused workers in Florida.

These workers are often trying to start careers or enter the workforce while providing for their families. Florida's Labor Pool Act provides some basic legal protections for these workers, who, in most cases, are not fully protected by other state and federal laws. Some unscrupulous labor pool agencies and politicians wanted to take these protections away by completely repealing the Labor Pool Act so that they can abuse these workers at will to increase their profits. These bills would have stripped away critical protections for nearly one million workers in Florida. The defeat of this bill, however, was as amazing a David vs. Corporate Goliath struggle as we've seen here in Florida in a while. Check out this great Orlando Weekly article and/or Florida for All post detailing the temp-worker led fight to beat this bill.

Rep. Hinson voted NO on this bill during its hearing in the Industries & Professional Activities Subcommittee. Rep. Brannan voted YES during the Commerce Committee hearing. Senator McClain voted YES during the Commerce & Tourism Committee hearing.

Charter School Industry Takeover of Local School Districts (PASSED)

SB 140/HB 123

AFL-CIO OPPOSED


The charter school industry has been taking more and more money and power from our local school districts for years and these bills accelerate this trend exponentially by allowing for the conversion of public schools into charter schools without the input of educators or school officials and giving charter schools more

control over the conversion process. The listed bills (140 & 123) failed but, unfortunately, in a last-minute, late-night move, this language was tucked into another education bill that passed ([HB 1105](#)).

Rep. Hinson voted NO on this bill during its initial hearing in the Education & Employment Committee but then YES on the substitute bill (1105). Rep. Johnson voted YES on the substitute (1105) during the Careers & Workforce Subcommittee hearing. Senator McClain voted YES during the Community Affairs Committee hearing, which he chairs. Senator Bradley voted YES during the Rules Committee Hearing. Both Bradley and McClain voted YES on the Senate floor.

See something on here you didn't like? Want one of these legislators to explain their votes to you? Now is a great time to reach out and ask that they do so. Once you have your answers, let's start organizing to hold them accountable.

References:

- *Florida AFL-CIO Sine Die Legislative Brief*
- *Caring Class Revolt*
- *Seeking Rents* 

Senators (http://www.flsenate.gov/):				
Name	District	Party	Next Election	Contact
Jennifer Bradley	6	Rep	2026	Capitol: (850) 487-5006 District Office: (904) 278-2085
Stan McClain	9	Rep	2028	Capitol: (850) 487-5009 District Office: (352) 264-4040

Representatives (http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/):				
Name	District	Party	Next Election	Contact
Robert Charles "Chuck" Brannan, III	10	Rep	2026	Capitol: (850) 717-5010 District Office: (386) 758-0405
Yvonne Hayes Hinson	21	Dem	2026	Capitol: (850) 717-5021 District Office: (352) 264-4001
Chad Johnson	22	Rep	2026	Capitol: (850) 717-5022 District Office: (352) 313-6542

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In memoriam

Jeff Shapiro: Serious activist with a smile

by Robert "Hutch" Hutchinson

The *Iguana* calls us to action — and remembers those who answered that call with uncommon dedication. Jeff Shapiro was a ubiquitous leader who made things happen. Intellectually curious and guided by a firm moral compass, Jeff always chose hands-on activism over hand-offs or hand-wringing. With generous enthusiasm he pitched in on dozens of efforts to make Alachua County a better place.

Most recently Jeff helped steer Gainesville Residents United, launching a lawsuit that compelled the governor to follow the law when appointing the board that oversees our public utility. He was committed to solar energy, environmental protection, and social justice. Whether speaking at city hall or chatting one-on-one, Jeff's clear, thoughtful voice carried weight.

Yet he never let activism eclipse joy. Jeff was an expressive clarinetist in multiple bands, an energetic dancer, a serene practitioner of tai chi, an accomplished sailor, and — above all — a devoted family man. He reminded us that protest and celebration are two sides of the same spirited coin.

"All my days won't be dances of delight when I'm gone.

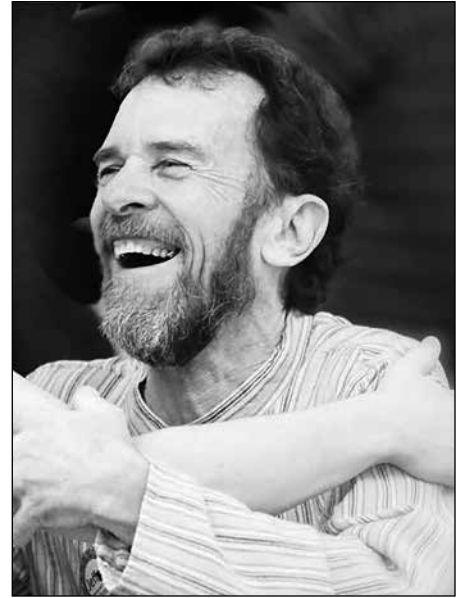
The sands will be shifting from my sights, when I'm gone.

Can't add my name into the fight when I'm gone.

So I guess I'll have to do it while I'm here!"

—Phil Ochs

Jeff did it while he was here — always with enthusiasm and that heartfelt smile. Let's honor his legacy by doing the same. 🌻



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WUFT at the University of Florida has created a portal to news that comes to your email box five days a week. It has items from multiple sources to click on for local, regional, and national coverage. It is useful and free. Go to WUFT.org/thepoint and enter your email.

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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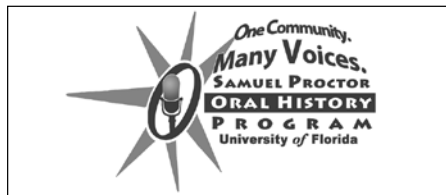
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Oral History Program

History and the people who make it: Dr. Christopher Busey



This month, the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program at UF features excerpts from a 2020 interview with Dr. Christopher Busey, who at the time was a professor at the UF College of Education. Dr. Busey talks about his early life, his time as an undergrad and as a professor at UF. He was interviewed by Maria Espinoza [E] and Omar Sanchez [S]. Excerpt edited by Beth Grobman. For the full interview go to tinyurl.com/tinyurl.com/Iguana2215

S: So, can I ask you a little about your family and your family's history?

B: My grandparents were born during the height of racial terror in the south. You're talking lynchings. You're talking racial violence, and that left an indelible mark on them and also influenced a lot of the conversations they had with us.

I come from a background where my grandfather did sharecropping work. He would go work on the white man's farm in exchange for food, as well as a small payment. My grandparents were part of the migration north. This was to escape racial violence and racial terror, to escape lynching. So, my grandfather moved up to Rochester, the day after King was shot in [19]68. He said for him that was kind of like the turning point and it's not so much that they were influenced by King's speeches or his practices, as it was just a moment. A moment of crystallization where "Yeah, enough was enough," with the racial violence and racial terror.

I don't know my father so there's not much to offer you there. I know that he was locked up at multiple points throughout my lifetime growing up, so I don't have much of a relationship with him. My mother had me at nineteen and joined the military. She was stationed in Korea and Germany, so she left me in New York with my aunt and my grandparents.

S: Can you go more in depth about what it meant for you and your family for you to get into higher education?

B: I'm not sure it meant anything to me at the time other than "This is what I'm supposed to do: go to school, do well, go to college," right? It wasn't put out there that I had any other option. Thankfully I had always performed well in school. I'm the first in my family to graduate from college ... this was the family's expectation for any sort of uplift. My grandparents and my mom would say, "I don't want you to struggle like I had to do."

S: What organizations were you involved with as a student at UF?

B: I was involved in the Black Political Science Student Association. I was a founding board member of the Virgil Hawkins Pre-Law Society—I was a Pre-Law student, Poli-Sci major with a Mass Comm and Af-Am minor. A lot of the Pre-Law associations were like your white frat boy groups. The good old boy system, so it's hard for people who look like me to break in. Myself and a multiracial group of individuals actually, Black, White, Latinx, Caribbean, Trinidadian—we founded the Virgil Hawkins Pre-Law Society to be more inclusive for students who didn't fit into the good old boys' system. So, it wasn't even just about race, it was about class, it was about the type of work that you wanted to do. I was involved with the Minority Admissions Office. I received a financial scholarship to help pay for my tuition from them, in exchange for leading tours on campus.

S: What was the difference between how you learned about your community in primary school compared to college?

B: So I'm going to speak about my community in kind of a diasporic sense, in terms of Black folk who were in college. That's where I started to engage more in the connections with Black folk across the diaspora. That's when my connections with the Black Caribbean community became stronger. My godmother Alicia was Afro-Boricua so, I was aware of this but like learning that about that broader diasporic community came with college. [Before that], if it didn't happen through the church or just through conversations in the neighborhood and stuff, it didn't happen at all.

S: Why did you decide to pursue a Ph.D. after college?

B: So, I knew nothing about graduate school. Dr. Sharon Austin Wright — a full professor in political science — was really foundational in mentoring me throughout the



Dr. Christopher Busey

latter half of my undergraduate career into graduate school. I had written a paper in her class on Black conservative's ideals and she called me into her office to talk about the paper. She's like, "Man you're a good writer. You're already thinking about some pretty complex stuff. I'm going to send you to a conference." So, she sent me to a conference, a political science national conference, like the kind of [meetings] I go to now to disseminate my research.

She sent the student Black Political Science Association group up there. It was me and like four or five other students. She rented us a minivan on behalf of the university, and we go up to this conference and we have this transformative experience. Again, these are things that are all new to me and she started to talk to me about graduate school after I attended that conference. I was like, "Yo, what the heck is graduate school?" [Laughter] I literally had no idea. She's like, "That's where you'll go get your Master's degree."

But man, as I was studying for the LSAT I freaked out. Twenty-one years old, about to graduate from UF, I tried to do everything possible to extend my stint at UF. 'cause I just wasn't ready for the world. And truthfully, man, who is at twenty-one, twenty-two years old?

So, I applied to a teaching position at Evans High School in Orlando; I moved there and started my Master's degree in Education. I didn't do it because I had a real interest in getting a Ph.D. in education, I did it because I wanted to be a better teacher to my students. Most of it was being paid for by the school district. So, I was like, "Man let me take advantage of this opportunity and get this Master's degree while I'm teaching and I'll have this teaching certification as well at the completion of my Master's degree." I started

my Ph.D. at Columbia University in New York City in 2009 but when my wife lost her job—this was middle of that recession in Obama’s first year of the presidency—up in New York City we couldn’t afford that sixteen hundred dollars rent so I moved back to Florida and finished my Ph.D. at UCF.

S: How did you get into your research on Afro-Latinx [experiences]?

B: What cemented my current line of research was my experience teaching at Teachers College, Columbia. I was teaching full time in the Bronx [to a diverse group of students]. Even working in Orlando, a lot of my students were Afro-Dominican, Afro Boricua, and so that cemented everything for me. It was a wrap after teaching a significantly large number of students of Afro-Latinx heritage and seeing what they went through as well. Like having to navigate that ethnoracial dissonance of literally reading Black, right? Phenotypically but having the Latinx culture, the language, the food. And so it positioned them in the margins in schools and I would talk to them. I’m thankful I had some sort of understanding of this, both from my upbringing as well as from my university education, to be able to say I’m observing a group of students being marginalized.

I’ll give you some concrete examples: My last couple years teaching, I was teaching at Stonewall Jackson Middle School. I hate the name of the school, obviously, Confederate general. This school was in southeast Orlando. The school is majority Latinx and my principal was like, “Yo Busey, you’re going to teach the eighth grade sheltered ESOL history classes,” and I had two sections, man. Nobody wanted to teach these kids! Nobody! Most of the students were from either Puerto Rico, DR, Colombia, Mexico, Honduras, and in my last year I had one kid from Vietnam and one girl from Iraq, so that was like [Laughter] an interesting mix, but man I had some Afro-Latinos students in those classes. They were literally like called kids “carbon, bono, cafe.” The language was overt, it was open, and it was racist, and they would consistently pick on the kids, nag on the kids.

This was eighth grade; you know middle schoolers are harsh, man. They’re harsher [Laughter] just because the developmental period they were going through, but man they would really make some racist comments to these kids that you could see was damaging. You know that racism was

lived out every day and that especially really kind of did it for me in terms of I need to be dedicating my research towards it.

S: I feel like even now there’s not much talk about the Afro-Latinx experience or anything like that.

B: Yeah, yeah it is lacking, especially in education. We know very little about the Afro-Latinx experience in K-12 schools.

S: In your time here as a student and faculty member, have there been any pressing issues that directly impacted the minority community that you could think of? Whether it be at UF or the greater country?

B: Oh, the greater country? Where do we start [Laughter]? Again, when I was a student here man, it’s not to say these things weren’t happening, but we were just here at a different time. I’m not that old. We had cellphones but we didn’t have smartphones. We had the Motorola Razors or something [Laughter]. And so, the way that knowledge is now produced and disseminated, it just didn’t exist at the pace that it is now. I think one of the things that is facing our current group of students at UF in terms of race, it’s that the students here are left to process a lot of these things by themselves or in the smaller community.

So again, I’ll just reference, for example, when Donald Trump Jr. comes to campus, the Latinx students in my class were pissed! Rightfully so. I’m pissed and we’re dedicating class time to talk about it. Like a significant chunk of class time to talk about it, and when your white student colleagues are dismissive of your concerns—even your liberal white peers are dismissive of your concerns—and you don’t have the space to process that anger, to process those emotions and maybe in just thirty minutes just find a place to laugh with a friend. That stuff eats at you, man. It eats at you and I’m seeing it with our students when I sit down to talk with Black and Latinx undergraduate students.

They’re not only processing the daily microaggressions on campus, but they’re fed images and videos of Black death, of Latinx death, of dispossession, of removal, of displacement, on a daily basis. And so, processing that is harder to do, and when you don’t have the support systems on campus and you don’t have enough Black and Latinx faculty and staff to provide some sort of cushion for the students to fall on, it’s even healthier. This is what, at least from my view, I’m

seeing impact our minoritized students at UF in terms of race. How do you process everything going on out here?

S: You said because there’s a lack of Black and Latinx professors, that students aren’t able to talk about these issues, but does that create a double duty for you and other Black and Latinx professors?

B: Oh yeah! So, there’s a phrase, they call it the color tax, right? [Laughter] That’s what they call it, whereas being a faculty or staff member of color you are always asked to do more and I always have to remind people, speaking for myself and the many Black and Latinx people that I’m close to, we don’t mind doing it. For many of us that’s what we’re here for. The issue becomes when the university fails to recognize this. When our department chairs and our deans fail to recognize the extra service we are asked to do. That might mean, you know, that for two years I don’t produce a million-dollar grant for the university because I’m consistently and constantly advising Black and Latinx students through the racial macro and microaggressions that they’re both seeing and experiencing. Universities fail to understand that and fully account for that time that we spend and that’s one of the ways in which we systemically get pushed out of the university.

S: What message could you give to future generation of minority students coming to UF?

B: My biggest piece of advice would be cultivate the community and space in your own when you see other Black and Latinx students. Set up the connection, exchange phone numbers. Don’t add on Facebook. Don’t add on Twitter or follow on Twitter. Literally exchange numbers and talk. Second piece of advice would be seek out the faculty and staff who could support you because a lot of the times for faculty and staff, if you’re not in our classes we just don’t know you’re here.

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From DISOBEY, p. 1

tion, so it's no surprise when push comes to shove, many choose to follow orders, even when those orders tear at the very fabric of their conscience. They're stuck, caught between their will to survive/provide for their families/duty to their country and their own self-efficacy as morally conscious human beings.

We can bridge that gap for them.

How do we do that when the system in place actively discourages dissent? We start by making sure they know they have the legal right to disobey unlawful orders and that they won't be abandoned if they do. But it's not enough to tell service members they're free to disobey unlawful orders — we need to provide real support for them when they do. We need to show

them there's life after the military, full of better-paying jobs, opportunities for education, and support networks that actually have their backs.

If we don't stand behind these brave few, then we are telling all those who come after them that they have no choice but to obey every order they are given, no matter the consequences. No more empty words about supporting the troops. If we really want to honor their service, we need to stand with them when they make the hardest decision of their lives — the decision to say “no” to unlawful orders. Let's give them the tools, the resources, and the community support they need to make the right choice and show them they're not alone when they do.

Veterans for Peace of North Central Florida, led by President Scott Camil and me, is doing its part in this regard. Most notably, every year VFP holds a Peace Poetry Contest, inviting Alachua County's K-12 students to submit entries — winning entrants receiving gift cards. They also award annual Peace Scholarships to anyone pursuing a peace and/or social justice career. They can do this thanks to the community's generous donations at their yearly Winter Solstice Peace Concert. Follow VFPNCF on their socials to see for yourself.

Web: vfpgainesville.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VFPchapter14/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/vfpncfl/>

After serving 10+ years as a Russian Cryptologic Linguist/Intelligence Analyst, Damian Niolet became a devout pacifist, driven by a need to create, rather than destroy. Disrupting outmoded thinking in the worlds of empowerment, entrepreneurship, and entertainment is now his primary mission. ✨



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Peoples' Progressive Agenda

Peoples' Progressive Agenda is a grassroots, working-class, member-led group organizing against the harmful impacts of Trump-era policies on our families and communities. We educate, mobilize, and fight for racial, economic, and LGBTQIA+ justice through collective action and by advancing policies that put people—not the powerful—first.

We began with “Take Action Tuesdays”, weekly rallies to draw attention to targets of possible DOGE jobs and funding cuts: The Social Security Office, The Post Office, V.A. Healthcare Facilities and Parenthood. We will continue exposing the likely effects of “The Big Brutal Bill” on vulnerable populations, and opposing unjust immigration

policies including detention centers,

Find Peoples' Progressive Agenda on Facebook or email peoplesagenda@gmail.com.



1,300 Israeli academics warn: End Tel Aviv's 'sadism' in Gaza or risk 'moral collapse'

from the Middle East Monitor

End Israel's "sadism" in Gaza or risk "moral collapse," 1,300 academics in the occupation state said in a striking letter warning of the radicalisation of Israeli society and the normalisation of hate towards Palestinians.

Signed by Israeli professors, researchers and lecturers who have accused their own government of committing war crimes and crimes against humanity, the letter says that the horrific violence of the past 19 months is "of our own doing".

Organised under the banner "Black Flag", the 1,300 academics call on Israeli academia to mobilise urgently to stop the assault on the Palestinians in Gaza, warning that silence in the face of mass atrocities has enabled "a horrifying litany" of state violence.

"We cannot claim that we did not know," the letter declares. "We have been silent for too long."

The statement condemns the role of Israeli universities, which previously resisted judicial reforms by the government of Benjamin Netanyahu but have largely remained complicit during the ongoing genocide in Gaza. The signatories urge heads of academic institutions to use their influence to halt what they describe as an "intensifying war of deception" driven by a policy to "transfer" and settlement, not rescue of captives.

"This war knowingly and deliberately puts the hostages at risk," said Professor Yael Hashiloni-Dolev of Ben-Gurion University. "Anyone who kills mothers and starves babies in Gaza is also harming the mothers of the hostages... We're in the midst of a moral collapse."

"The shame and blame must be redirected to where they truly belong," Hashiloni-Dolev said, adding: "A black flag flies over these crimes. I call on people to refuse such illegal orders."

The group's day of coordinated protest declared "Black Tuesday," saw faculty and students dressed in black across multiple campuses, standing in silence and hanging flags. At Tel Aviv University, the protest was met with intimidation by campus security and physical confrontation from nationalist counter-protesters. Still, organisers described a breakthrough: "There's a whole community living under a kind of censorship... the message from students is clear: stop staying silent."

Professor On Barak of Tel Aviv University explained that "Black Flag" references the legal doctrine established after the 1956 Kafr Qasim massacre, when 48 Palestinians were massacred by Israeli Border Police. "It marks the moment when Israelis from across the political spectrum recognise the need to hit the brakes."

He called on academia to help re-humanise Palestinians, warning that Israeli society has been programmed to hate: "The widespread indifference [toward Gazans] is the result of an intensive dehumanisation campaign that must be actively resisted."

Professor Ido Shahar of the University of Haifa said the initiative emerged from urgent meetings between students and lecturers: "A cry emerged – saying this can't go on." The group calls for the de-radicalisation of Israeli society, which they argue has normalised and legitimised violence against Palestinians through years of militarisation, occupation and anti-Palestinian incitement.

The warning from within Israel's academic elite adds to a

growing international outcry over the Gaza genocide. Earlier this week, over 300 global celebrities – including Dua Lipa, Benedict Cumberbatch and Gary Lineker, who resigned from the BBC over his opposition to the Gaza genocide – signed an open letter demanding the UK end its complicity in Israel's war.

They joined more than 800 UK-based lawyers, judges and legal academics who accused the British government of breaching the Genocide Convention. Meanwhile, 400 renowned writers, including Zadie Smith and Ian McEwan, denounced Israel's campaign as "genocidal" and urged international action to halt it.

This article was originally published by the Middle East Monitor (MEMO) on May 29. See more at middleeastmonitor.com. ☞

New location for DSA political education classes

The political education classes hosted by the Democratic Socialists of America and held on second Wednesdays of the month, have moved from the Civic Media Center to the Friends Meeting House at 702 NW 38th St. The meetings are still at 6pm.

Topics:

July 9: "Race and Capitalism within the United States"

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



Theatre of Memory Museum

1705 NW 6th Street, Gainesville, FL 32609

352-318-2633

Email: memorycurator@gmail.com

www.TheatreofMemory.org

Hours: 10:30-4:30

Wednesday-Sunday

And by appointment

Meeting Rooms are available!

Gainesville area events

WEEK OF JULY 6-12

Fri 7/11

Free Fridays Concert, 7-9pm thru 9/26, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave) free; pg 8 & tinyurl.com/iguana9209

Fri 7/11

"Spooks -N- Sips Oddities Night Market", 6-10pm, S. Main Station (619 S. Main St), >70 vendors, live music, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9288

Fri 7/11

Pop Punk Emo Night, 8pm-1am, Signal Lounge (7 SW 1st St), DJs & live music, \$13; tinyurl.com/iguana9289

Sat 7/12

"Rocky Horror Picture Show", 8pm (also 7/16, 23, 30), The Woolly (20 N. Main St), live shadowcast + cult classic movie, \$19.90; tinyurl.com/iguana9307

Sat 7/12

"Emergency Preparedness", 9am-4pm, Forest Grove Baptist Church (22575 NW 94th Ave, Alachua), prep advice from evacuation go-bags to garden aquaculture & satellite phones; tinyurl.com/iguana9290

WEEK OF JULY 13-19

Sun 7/13

"Little Shop of Horrors" final performance, 2pm, Acrosstown Theatre (3501 SW 2nd Ave), classic musical, \$20-25?; acrosstown.org

Wed 7/16

Community Nights, 6-9pm Wednesdays, South Main Station (619 S Main St), live music, kid & petfriendly, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9187

Thu 7/17

"Good Trouble" demo, 5:30pm, Fred Cone Park (2801 E Univ Ave), continuing protest against Trump/Vance administration crimes, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9309

Fri 7/18

"Gvl Artists Who Claim Folk Traditions", 6:30-8pm, A. Quinn Jones Museum (1013 NW 7th Ave), Turbado Marabou on local artists, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9291

Sat 7/19

Wellness & Awareness Health Expo, 10am-2pm, Howard Bishop Middle School (1901 NE 9th St), healthcare for students & families, free with registration; tinyurl.com/iguana9292

Sat 7/19

Pine Ridge Refresh, 9am-noon, Pine Ridge Community Ctr (2509 NW 57th Pl), cleanup with Keep Alachua County Beautiful (wear closed-toe shoes, long pants, sunscreen), free; tinyurl.com/iguana9293

WEEK OF JULY 20-26

Sun 7/20

Sunday Assembly, 11am, Pride Ctr (3850 NW 83rd St, Ste 201), Jade Allen on Grace Marketplace & potluck, free; sagainesville.weebly.com

Sun 7/20

Indoor Mammoth Market, 1-5pm, The Woolly (20 N Main St), arts, crafts, & cold beer, free entry; tinyurl.com/iguana9294

Tue 7/22

Alachua County Labor Coalition meets, 6pm, Emmanuel Mennonite Church (1236 NW 18th Ave), open to all; laborcoalition.org

Wed 7/23

"Nerd Night: Summer HodgePodge", 7:30-9pm, Theatre of Memory (1705 NW 6th St), beach-combing for fragments of times passed, free w/ registration; tinyurl.com/iguana9295

Thu 7/24

Banned Books Club, 6-7pm, The Lynx Books (601 S Main St), James Baldwin's *If Beale Street Could Talk*, free w/ RSVP; tinyurl.com/iguana9297

Fri 7/25

Artwalk, 7-10pm, downtown Gvl, free; pg 18 & artwalkgainesville.com

Fri 7/25

Confession Kids show, 7-11pm, Civic Media Ctr (433 S Main St), local folk punk band, \$?; civicmediacenter.org

Fri 7/25

"Water's Journey: The Hidden Rivers of Florida", 6-7:30pm, Fla Springs Institute (18645 Main Street, High Springs), award-winning PBS documentary on the Floridian Aquifer, free (donations appreciated); tinyurl.com/iguana9296

Sat 7/26

"Empowered Communities", 8am-6pm, Fla Coalition for Peace & Justice (10665 SW 89th Ave, Hampton), self-governance workshop on Sociocracy, free; florida4peace.org/calendar

Sat 7/26

"High Heat & Your Electricity Bill", 10:30am-1:30pm, location tba, Sierra Club event, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9298

WEEK OF JULY 27-AUG 2

Thu 7/31

Nutrition Education, 10:30am, UF HealthStreet (2401 SW Archer Rd), healthy lifestyle workshop, free; www.facebook.com/UFHealthStreet

Thu 7/31

Art Grants Deadline, midnight, Arts Council of Alachua County supports some local artists w/ up to \$3000; tinyurl.com/iguana9299

Fri 8/1

"Puffs" opens, 8pm, through 8/17, Acrosstown Repertory Theatre (3501 SW 2nd Ave), 6pm - Hogwarts-ish Rowling-free play, \$20-25; www.acrosstown.org

Sat 8/2

Homowo-Afi African Festival, 8am-5 pm Sat & Sun, 19024 NE 21st St, Montecocha, music,ceremonies, horse riding, food; ayokagifts.org/

Sat 8/2

Sheriff's Fun Day, 10am-2pm, Sheriff's Office (2621 SE Hawthorne Rd), job fair, kids' activities, garage sale, food, DJ, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9300

WEEK OF AUG 3-9

Wed 8/6

"A History of Gainesville and Alachua County", 7-8:30pm, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), Dr. Mark Barrow talk w/ illustrations, free w/ registration; mathesonmuseum.org/events

Fri 8/8

"The Works of Alyne Harris", 6:30-8pm, A. Quinn Jones Museum (1013 NW 7th Ave), Turbado Marabou on late great local artist, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9301

Sat 8/9

The Top 25th Anniversary, 20 N Main St, giveaways & specials, 4 bands at The Woolly, \$10 adv, \$15 door; tinyurl.com/iguana9302

WEEK OF AUG 10-16

Tue 8/12

Springs Hydrogeology, 12-1pm, Fla Springs Welcome Ctr (18645 Main St, High Springs), science talk by Jim Gross, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9303

Sat 8/16

Gvl Free Store, noon–6pm, Civic Media Ctr (433 S Main St), free stuff for all (masks required); civicmediacenter.org

WEEK OF AUG 17-23

Sun 8/17

Sunday Assembly, 11am, Pride Ctr (3850 NW 83rd St, Ste 201), speaker tba & potluck, free; saginville.weebly.com

Sun 8/17

“Rhinstones and Resistance”, 4–9pm, Heartwood Soundstage (619 S Main St), 5 bands play country music against fascism, \$20–28 (part goes to immigrants’ legal fund); pg 6 & tinyurl.com/iguana9306

Wed 8/20

“The Postcard in Florida”, 7pm, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), Liz Coursen illustrates Fla history, free w/ registration; mathesonmuseum.org/events

Sat 8/23

Pollinator Party, 10–11am, Gvl Garden Club (1350 NW 75th St), count bugs for the Great Southeast Pollinator Census, family friendly, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9304

Sat 8/23

Women’s Equality Day Luncheon, noon?, Best Western Gateway Grand (4200 NW 97th Blvd), w/Evelyn Foxx & Dr. Jeanna Mastrodicasa, \$?; pg 12 & fosba.com

WEEK OF AUG 24-30

Fri 8/29

Arts in Medicine Showcase, 7–10pm, Gvl Fine Arts Ass’n Gallery (1314 S Main St), reception for exhibit from 35 years of artworks at Shands/UF Health (through 9/19), free; tinyurl.com/iguana9305

Fri 8/29

Artwalk, 7–10pm, downtown Gvl, free; pg 18 & artwalkgainesville.com

Sat 8/30

Labor Day Breakfast, 8:30–11am, 2332 NE 17th Terrace, hosted by No. Ctl. Fla Ctl Labor Council, free; pg 4 & facebook.com/NCFCCLC

Sat 8/30

Roller Derby, 6pm, MLK Ctr (1028 NE 14th St), Gvl Brawl-Stars vs Swan City Roller Derby, \$15 adv, \$18 door; gainesvillerollerrebels.com/bouts

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

Please support GNV live music venues, they all have calendars: Heartwood Soundstage, Satchel’s, Loosey’s, Boca Backyard, the Wooly, Wormhole, One Love Café, Cypress & Grove, etc.

Live Community Music, Wednesdays, 8pm Heartwood Soundstage inside & out

See visitgainesville.com/events for an event list, updated Thursdays; also try 352arts.org; and don’t forget civicmediacenter.org!

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

Art House films: thehipp.org/cinema-3

Gainesville official and public meetings: tinyurl.com/iguana9308

County official and public meetings: alachuacounty.us/events/Pages/default.aspx

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

PFLAG meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm at the Pride Center, 3850 NW 83rd St, second floor.

Democratic Socialists of America meets 6:30pm on 2nd Tuesdays at the Quaker Meeting House (702 NW 38th St).

Food Pantry, Tue/Wed/Fri 10am–4pm Mon/Thu 12–4pm, UF HealthStreet (2401 SW Archer Rd), free, best choice available Mons & Thurs (health interview requested for repeat membership); 352-294-4880 & facebook.com/UFHealthStreet

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

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

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

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

Satchel’s: 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 ☘

Democracy is not a spectator sport, it’s a participatory event.

If we don’t participate in it, it ceases to be a democracy.

~ Michael Moore

Iguana Directory

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

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

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

Alachua Conservation Trust, Inc. is a non-profit land trust protecting North Central Florida's natural, historic, scenic and recreational resources for over 36 years. 352-373-1078 | AlachuaConservationTrust.org

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

Alachua County Organization for Rural Needs Clinic is a not-for-profit in Brookier providing low-cost, high-quality dental care for people with and without health insurance to Alachua, Bradford and Union County

residents. The Clinic fulfills its mission with the help of volunteers. 352-485-2772 | acornclinic.org

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

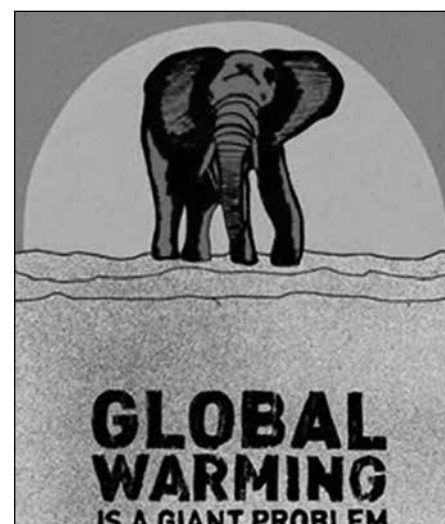
Alachua DSA is part of the largest socialist organization in the U.S., The Democratic Socialists of America (DSA). They have organized to build working-class democracy and power in workplaces, neighborhoods, local governments, and throughout Alachua County. They are member-funded and member-run. alachuadsa@gmail.com | www.instagram.com/alachuadsa

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

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

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

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



UPCOMING EVENTS AT HEARTWOOD SOUNDSTAGE

**EVERY
WEDNESDAY**

COMMUNITY NIGHTS

7/13

**DAUZAT ST. MARIE
WITH BLACKBIRD MORNING**

7/16

**SUSTO STRINGBAND
WITH HOWDY**

7/18

**EARLY BIRD METAL SHOW:
NIBIRU, NORTHWOOD, SARDAUKAR**

7/19

**TANGO WORKSHOP
AND MILONGA**

7/20

**TOOTS LORRAINE & THE TRAFFIC
WITH ROOT REDEMPTION DUO**

7/25

THE WIRE BIRDS

8/2

**GRANT PEEPLES
WITH PASSERINE**

8/16

**BRANDON BING
WITH RYAN NELSON AND ALLEN HIGGS**

8/17

**WHISKEY & CO., THE ONES TO BLAME
RANCHO LA CHUA, COOPER, UNCLE MOSIE**

TICKETS AT HEARTWOODSOUNDSTAGE.COM

619 S Main St, Gainesville, FL 32601

Black Graduate Student Organization helps UF Black graduate and professional students foster meaningful and lasting relationships that aid in academic achievement and success. bgsoutuf@gmail.com | facebook: UFBGSO

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 |

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 at <https://tinyurl.com/mwkwetyb> for news, action alerts, meeting alerts. ClimateRealityProjectgnv@gmail.com | facebook.com/groups/climateactgnavgroup

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

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

Community Spring is a local organization to help people get a step up on re-entering society after incarceration with financial & housing assistance as a means of overcoming structural poverty. 352-363-1259 or info@csgnv.org

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

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

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

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

Divest Gainesville advocates divesting City

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

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

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

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

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

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 Free Speech Forum is a lecture series that provides a place for open and constructive dialogue. The group advocates, protects and defends freedom of speech through open dialogue. floridafreespeechforum.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 | 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

Continued on next page

Continued from preceding page

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

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

Gainesville Stamp Club, established in the 1960's, is open to all interested in philately. Auction held every meeting. Advanced level program occasionally. Under 18 must be accompanied by adult. First and third Tuesdays starting at 7:30pm; no meetings in December/holidays. For meeting locations and info. call 352-371-1991 | Stamps4Laffs@yahoo.com

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 @pggenactionuf.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 | ncpsm.org

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

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

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

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>

Peoples' Progressive Agenda is a grassroots, working-class, member-led group organizing against the harmful impacts of Trump-era policies on our families and communities. peoplesagendax@gmail.com

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/SAAtUF | 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/UNAUSAGainesvilleFICChapter | UNA-USAGainesvillefl.org

United Way Information & Referral is a human-staffed computer database for resources and organizations in Alachua County. 352-332-4636 or simply 211 | UW211help@gmail.com | unitedwayncfl.org

University of Florida HealthStreet is a community engagement program that employs community outreach practices to reduce disparities in healthcare and research. Free

services include medical and social service referrals, health screenings, Narcan Nasal Spray Kits, clothing/toiletry items, health education, events, support groups. 352-294-4880 or healthstreet.program.ufl.edu/

UF Un-PAC is a non-partisan organization working to reform our democracy and get big money/lobbying out of politics. Our Youth Power Campaign works to make UF work better for students to participate in/understand our democratic system, including demands such as voter registration at Freshman Preview, classes cancelled on election days, more transparency on how our tuition money is spent on lobbying and political influence. Go to: un-pac.org, @un_pac_uflorida, or email un.pac.uf@gmail

Unspoken Treasure Society's mission is to empower, uplift, and advocate for the well-being, equity, and rights of the LGBTQIA+ community. Monthly meetings are held every third Thursday at 7pm at 3850 NW 83rd St, Suite 201 in Gainesville. unspokensociety.org 352-377-0384

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.

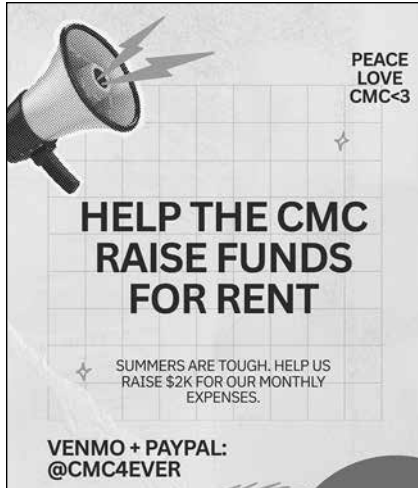
WGOT-LP 100.1 FM is a community low-power radio station operating as part of the Civic Media Center. info@wgot.org | www.wgot.org

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@stevellittler.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. 🐾

The Civic Media Center needs your love and support



by Bret, CMC Board member

The Civic Media Center and Stetson Kennedy Library have been a beacon of independent media, grassroots activism, and community education in Gainesville since 1993.

Home to the Travis Fristoe Zine Library, the CMC, at 433 S. Main in Gainesville, is more than an alternative library — it's a community hub where ideas, organizing, and action can come alive.

Hours for summer may be irregular, but usually they are Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 2 to 6pm. Poetry Jam is every Thursday at 8pm, and a Confession Kids hosted music show will be on Friday, July 25 at 7 pm.

Right now, the CMC needs your support. It is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and is entirely sustained by individual donations and membership contributions. The Center receives no large grants or institutional funding. Your financial support keeps the lights on, the rent paid, and the coordinator compensated with a living wage. In return, the community gets access to:

- A public lending library and zine collection

- Workshops, film screenings, and educational events
- WGOT community radio
- A meeting space for grassroots organizing
- Live music, poetry readings, and more

Drop by during open hours to browse and check out books. You can also arrange to host events and meetings at the space. Volunteers are crucial to the CMC's longevity. Visit civicmediacenter.org for an updated calendar (including volunteer meetings), access to collection titles, and more information. You can also email coordinators@civicmediacenter.org or call (352) 373-0010 for more information.

This summer, the CMC is facing an urgent financial shortfall. We're calling on our community to step up and lend a hand. Please consider donating. This can be done in the form of a membership, or a one-time or recurring donation. Every contribution, big or small, helps sustain this space of resistance, learning, and solidarity. Visit <http://www.civicmediacenter.org>. Donate with a check or in the following ways: venmo, Paypal, QR code. 🐸



Upcoming Florida Free Speech Forum events

For over 30 years, the Florida Free Speech Forum (501c3) has presented speakers addressing issues of local, statewide and national concern. Their goal is to promote the rational examination of points of view allowing citizens to question our speakers and provide alternate ideas.

We meet for lunch on the second Monday from September through May at the Culinary Institute at Eastside High School at 1201 SE 43rd St. Issues

coming up this fall are: A comparison of Hitler and Trump (Sept. 8), Local news coverage (Oct. 13), Freedom to read in Alachua County (Nov. 10), The state of scientific research in Florida (Dec. 8). In addition we may be offering a presentation on the upcoming GRU referendum, perhaps an afternoon or evening one for a wider audience. More information can be found at floridafreespeechforum.org. Now is a good time to keep an eye on your free speech rights. 🐸



The Gainesville Iguana

Gainesville's progressive newsletter

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Comments, suggestions, contributions (written or financial) are welcome.

Submit events, content, ads and questions to: GainesvilleIguana@cox.net or 352-378-5655

Find us at: www.gainesvilleiguana.org, Instagram: [gnv_iguana](https://www.instagram.com/gnv_iguana), facebook.com/gainesvilleiguana

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