



ICE in Alachua County

by Ethan Maia de Needell, coordinator
with the Gainesville Immigrant Neighbor
Inclusion Initiative

ICE is here in Alachua County. They have been since February, and hundreds of families in our community have already been traumatized and separated.

However, in Florida our neighbors are not being taken by the same masked agents we see raiding cities like Chicago and Portland.

In our state, people are being disappeared into the immigrant detention and deportation system every day by local and state law enforcement agencies (LEA) that

have formed a partnership with ICE, a.k.a. “287(g) agreements.” Florida leads the country in the number of 287(g) agreements local and state LEAs have signed – and it’s not close (see tinyurl.com/Iguana2302).

In our county alone, five out of six local law enforcement agencies have signed this agreement, including the University of Florida Police Department and the Santa Fe College Police Department.

As of this writing, the Gainesville Police Department remains the only LEA in our county not to have signed. Also as of this writing, Florida state law only mandates

LEAs that run a prison to have a 287(g) agreement, which applies to all 67 sheriff’s offices. All other state and local LEAs have signed on out of either pressure from Governor DeSantis, or out of a desire to assist in ICE’s immigration “enforcement.”

The vast majority of immigrants taken in Alachua County is by the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), whose entire agency of nearly 2,000 officers have been given the credentials to carry out ICE actions, as well as funding for a separate, immigration enforcement-focused task force, according to Spectrum News 13 (tinyurl.com/Iguana2303).

Over half of ICE arrests throughout Florida are carried out by FHP, and this new type of relationship between a state LEA and ICE serves as a model both President Trump and Governor DeSantis have expressed interest in replicating across the country.

When that partnership is with Highway Patrol, traveling anywhere in Florida as an immigrant is cause for concern as FHP now turns a mundane traffic stop into an ICE arrest. According to the State’s own data, over 5,000 immigrants have been arrested in Florida since August. How many of these 5,431 people were affiliated with a gang? 34, (0.51%), according to Spectrum News 13.

Once an immigrant is taken to a local prison, ICE gets alerted. If not already done by the agency who took them in, ICE will send a request to the prison to hold the detainee for up to 48 hours, regardless of whether bond has been posted.

This gives them time to coordinate transportation to take them to a detention center.

Students, community protest ICE agreement with university police



A protest of well over a hundred students, along with community members, rallied at Turlington Plaza on Nov. 5, before marching and rallying at Tigert Hall against ICE’s 287(g) Program. This agreement partners ICE with local law enforcement including the UF Police Department. UF Young Democratic Socialists of America were the principle organizers. More information can be found on page 20. Photo by Michael Angee. ✨

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Want your article, ad, event or PSA in the November Iguana?
(Due to come out Thursday, Jan. 15)

Deadline is Wednesday, Jan. 7

Submit events, content, questions to:
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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.

Sidewalk saga

by Joe Courter

There has been an absurd sequential point-counterpoint going on with a small, humble stretch of sidewalk at SE 5th Ave and S. Main. It had already been having a hard time with neglect and abuse, but then parties unknown chose to make it pretty, by ascribing each of the seven panels with color. Yes, you guessed it, a representation to that famous mnemonic Roy G. Biv.

It was nice, the colors of the rainbow on that old, bare concrete. That lasted 3 weeks, then out came the city workers, two trucks, six or seven guys, and a gasoline-powered power washer, which proceeded to be run for eight hours, until only a slight remnant of the colors remained on that now cleaner-than-ever old concrete.

Guess what, the rainbow colors return 2 weeks later, and like clockwork the workers returned. But this time it was different. That nice well-prepped concrete was happy to hold on tight, as this time it appeared to be spray paint that had penetrated into the concrete. Hours and hours, gallons and gallons of water and high-pressure spray, but Roy G. Biv was still showing through.

Does the city give up? No. Do they just choose to paint it over? No. Out came concrete grinders, hours and hours of loud noise, flying dust, and hours more work for the able bodied city workers. Now the color is mostly gone, the surface showing obvious grinder trails of varying depth, not very pretty actually, and there we are.

Will Roy show up again? Who knows, it's a free country, they tell us. 🐢

PubNotes 2012-2025 availability

Well, we went and did it: published a book collecting 13 years of the Iguana's Publisher Notes.

"Gainesville Iguana PubNotes 2012-2025" was made available Oct. 1 at a book launch at First Magnitude, and 75 of the hundred printed were sold! Wow. So we have printed another hundred, and will have them available by the time you are reading this.

I will have some with me at the Monday Markets at Cypress and Grove, and they will be available at three other events: One Love Cafe on Friday Dec.5 (also my birthday) from 6 to 9pm, and Saturday Dec. 6 at the Lynx Book Fair from 10 to 3pm. Then a week later I will have a table at the Vets forum Peace Winter Solstice Concert at the Unitarian Fellowship on Saturday, Dec. 13.

Mail orders are also possible via check sent to Iguana or Venmo (gnv-iguana) They cost us \$25 each for printing and shipping is \$5 ... Judge what you pay from that.

~ Joe Courter 🐢

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

Publisher Notes

Being Woke and the Holidays

For most all of you, the horrible things the MAGA gang have been doing is overwhelming to comprehend, outrage on outrage. We have ideals and principles for the directions our society should be going, and we see things being undone before our eyes. We commiserate and discuss with our friends, but for many, especially with the holidays coming up, we may be cast into situations with our others where we are around folks who are just fine with the way things are going. It may be that they don't think about politics or follow the news, or worse, MAGA might be thrown right in our face, because it is their norm to bring it up. It could possibly be to bait you, or you may fall into the trap of baiting them.

In a way, I am glad that I do not have much in the way of family to get together with; I chose to not have kids and I have just two older brothers. However, after 50 years in Gainesville I have met and connected with so many people that I truly feel, whether through socializing, activism, politics, or music, they are my family. And almost everyone shares the dominant ethics and values of this great Blue Dot town.

I've been talking to friends about it, and hearing how their familial dramas are playing out, and it has made me realize something (besides the fact that 'most everybody has it worse than me). There are whole segments of the population who are rigidly narrow in their views, and all the "woke" ideas so many of us are fine with or aspire towards, are actually alien to their lives in the case of the habitually a-political, or even seen as threatening as with those for whom FOX or their preacher is their go-to news.

It is so easy to feel, if you are one of those who this administration calls "Woke" (and I check off most of their boxes), that the folks driving MAGA are an enemy coming for us, our friends, and things we value, because they actually ARE! We see it with ICE, with attacks on voting and free speech, blatant disregard for the laws of the nation, tearing down our health care opportunities and our rights as easily as ripping down the historic East Wing of the White House. And then there you are with Uncle Fred, Aunt Helen, or your brother-in-law; what to do?

I let my emotions get away from me with my brother one time, and I regret it. He is not a political animal, does not keep up with news, and while I still hold him complicit, my frustration was not going to change him.

Perhaps the best we can do in those situations is have concrete, real-world examples supporting our position, lay them out there, and see if there can be dialog. We may need to listen to them, too, if nothing other than to understand their position, however offensive or unrelatable we may find it. And then, if nothing connects, maybe just agree to disagree and park the topic for the duration. They are who they are, as we are who we are.

If they are status quo people, their world has not changed much except in minor ways. LGBTQ rights have been a rocket ship of change in our society. Fully recognizing systemic racism and entrenched sexism in our society is pretty recent. Those things may not have found them yet.

One reason DeSantis claimed rainbow crosswalks had to go was because they could confuse self-driving cars. Likewise, rigid conservatives are confused by all this woke-ness. We need to be capable of introducing it to them. In the long run, we need allies.

Good luck to those who have to run that gauntlet over the holidays. When you come back, know we in this Blue Dot of Alachua County are here, and may we all continue to appreciate each other as we as we try to deal with this fascist coup that has rolled over us.

Hang in there, keep hope alive, stay healthy. We each get but one life, don't let them steal your joy. ☘



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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The human costs of worker neglect and state preemption

by Jason Bellamy-Fults

As an IBEW apprentice, I was taught that the most important objective on any jobsite is that every worker comes home safe at the end of the workday.

Because those who prioritize profit and “efficiency” sometimes lose sight of that objective, we need a strong union, one that makes sure safety standards are being enforced and our collective bargaining agreement is being followed.

Not having a union, on the other hand, means we have less power in the workplace and our safety is too easily relegated to just one factor in a larger equation that privileges profit. We have to look out for ourselves, and anyone who “causes trouble” or “slows things down” can be easily dismissed.

Of course, currently in Florida, only about 6% of workers have union representation, lower than the national average. So who safeguards these workers’ safety? Well, if the anti-worker Florida Legislature continues to have its way, not much of

anyone. Not only does our state not even have a Department of Labor anymore (thanks, Jeb!), but it has aggressively and repeatedly preempted the ability of its municipalities to keep workers safe and make sure that they are treated fairly.

From what I have observed, the process basically works like this: a City or County, recognizing the statewide lack of respect for working people, will pass an ordinance to remedy that, at least locally. This could be something like requiring a living wage instead of the state minimum on publicly-funded projects, or protecting workers from the dangers of heat stress or having their wages stolen, for instance.

Inevitably, an industry group such as the Chamber of Commerce or even a local oligarch will find offense with said measure. Rather than going through the democratic process of convincing voters that they’re right and that such an ordinance is unnecessary, however, they’ll simply find one of their legislative lackeys to sponsor a bill that preempts such efforts statewide.

The legislator need not even be in the area where the local ordinance was passed. Hell, they don’t even technically need to write the bill, lobbyists are more than happy to do this for them.

The standard rationale that’s given for such bills, when they bother to justify it, is creating a consistent business environment rather than a patchwork of local laws that are difficult for businesses to navigate. Which would be fine, I guess, if this “consistent business environment” didn’t consistently tend to look like a race to the bottom.

One case in point (of many), SB 1492/ HB 433, passed in the 2024 Florida legislature. It was supported by four of the five members of the Alachua County legislative delegation (Reps. Brannan and Clemons, Senators Bradley and Perry), with Rep. Yvonne Hinson voting against it.

The most aggressively preemptive section of the bill was provided to Florida legislators directly by the Chamber of Commerce. Similar efforts had been filed repeatedly over the years and, as described by the

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Iguana publisher Joe Courter will be there and will have copies of the PubNotes book for sale

FL AFL-CIO, sought “to wipe out wildly popular living wage ordinances and any other pro-worker ordinances currently on the books in communities around the state. The bill also preempted local governments from passing or enforcing any ordinances designed to prevent workers from suffering from heat stress related illnesses. This bill went down to the wire and only passed after supporters limited the preemptions to living wages and heat stress.”

It’s that last part, the “heat stress” bit, that I want to focus on for the remainder of this column. Anyone who has ever worked an outdoor job in Florida knows that it’s not to be taken lightly. I’ve been fortunate in not having to work without adequate sun protection, breaks, and hydration since I was a young man, but not everyone is. Too many people are treated as disposable.

Consider our farmworkers, consider Marco Antonio Hernández Guevara.

A 35 year-old Mexican farmworker (here legally on a H-2A visa, for anyone who cares), a husband and father, who suffered from heat stroke while harvesting for JAM Farmers in Clewiston this past summer. Marco left his home and his family to come here and do work that few Americans would be willing or able to, and he died in the process.

Please sit with that for just a moment.

I hope that you’ll join me in donating to Marco’s family. But perhaps just as importantly, I hope that you’ll join all of us at the AFL-CIO in working to prevent more tragic losses such as the one that Marco’s family suffered. In a warming climate, and a state particularly susceptible to it, the hundreds of thousands of Floridians who work outdoors must be protected from the dangers of heat-related injuries.

For anyone who still needs to hear it:

Every worker deserves the job safety standards that union representation and a collective bargaining agreement can bring.

No one should have to risk their life for a paycheck.

All Floridians deserve a political system that isn’t underwritten by the Chamber of Commerce and other political corruption machines. If the state isn’t going to protect its workers, they can at least get out of the way of communities who are trying to.

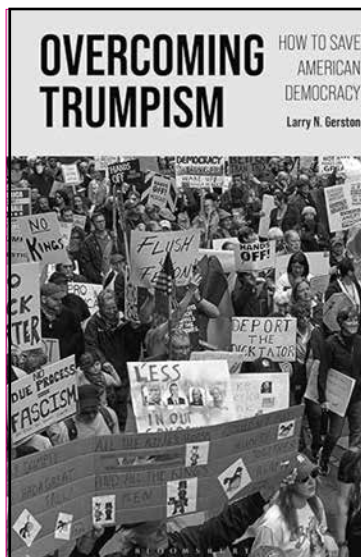
Until every worker comes home safe at the end of the workday. 🐢

Trump’s losses on Election Day Nov. 4

The 2026 Blue Wave MAGA feared is already here

- Prop 50 (California wipes out Texas seat stealing)
- Zohran Mamdani (Mayor of New York City)
- Abigail Spanberger (Governor of Virginia)
- Mikie Sherrill (Governor of New Jersey)
- Aftab Pureval (Mayor of Cincinnati)
- Ghazala Hashmi (Lt Governor of Virginia)
- Jay Jones (Att. General of Virginia)
- Alicia Johnson (PS Commissioner, Georgia)
- Peter Hubbard (PS Commissioner, Georgia)
- Pennsylvania Supreme Court

~ Source: Vets Against Trump 🐢



The new book “Overcoming Trumpism” offers a combination of solutions to preserve American democracy: repairing its battered institutions, assuring a free and responsible press, and restoring public participation in democratic society. Democracies are more more likely to disappear from imposition than war. As such, an invested and attentive public will be necessary to overcome Trumpism.

Available through: Amazon.com
[<tinyurl.com/Iguana2298>](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2298)

Author Larry N. Gerston
Publisher: Bloomsbury Academic
Release date: April 16
Pages: 304
Preorders: accepted now
Price: \$29.95



Gainesville voters choose home rule for GRU

by Bobby Mermer, President, Gainesville Residents United, Inc., Chairperson, Let the Voters Decide, Coordinator, Alachua County Labor Coalition

The Yes Local Public Utilities campaign is announcing victory after Gainesville voters once again chose local control of their community-owned utility.

The campaign is also calling for an end to litigation and an orderly transition of GRU governance back to our elected City Commission.

A whopping 75% of voters supported returning Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) to the ratepayers it serves. With a turnout of 19%, the highest in a city-only election in more than a decade and surpassing the previous record set in the 2009 regular election, Gainesville residents sent a clear message that their utilities must once again be accountable to the people they serve.

This vote builds on the strong mandate from 2024, when nearly 73 percent of voters supported returning GRU to local control. Tonight's results make it clear: GRU ratepayers want their utilities controlled by them, not by Tallahassee's puppets.

This victory was powered by a grassroots movement of thousands of ratepayers from every corner of Gainesville.

Community partners including the League of Women Voters, Alachua County Labor Coalition, NAACP, AFL-CIO, Sierra Club, IBEW, Community Weatherization Coalition, and many individual citizens worked together to get this referendum on the ballot and earn this mandate.

Neighbors talked with neighbors, put signs in their yards, called friends, and chipped in small donations. It worked.

This is the beginning of the process to create a GRU that everyone can afford and that works hand-in-hand with our community to ensure Gainesville's utilities are governed with Gainesville values.

It is now time to begin an orderly transition from the GRU Authority to our elected City Commission, one that honors the will of the voters while keeping the utility strong.

While the campaign is over and the votes are counted, we are not quite past the finish line. The GRU Authority and Boss Bielarski are trying to take away your vote in the Courts. The First District Court of Appeals granted the GRU Authority's request for an emergency constitutional writ. This means enforcement of the results is on pause until the Appellate Court holds a hearing to determine the final outcome.

Importantly, this is NOT what happened in April, when the results were invalidated due to Judge Wright finding the ballot language misleading. The granting of the emergency writ is a purely procedural action, and unlike with last year's injunction, does NOT signal the Court believes the GRU Authority is likely to win. We will provide more updates as the legal process continues. 🐾

Congress could always stop the President if Congress thinks that what the President has done exceeds the President's authority or is just wrong for the United States.

~ Ruth Bader Ginsburg

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A great win, the work has only begun

"The story isn't going to be that the greatest thing we ever did was run this campaign, it can't be. It's going to be what we did after we won."

-Zohran Kwame Mamdani



Zohran Mamdani 34, a member of the Democratic Party and the Democratic Socialists of America has been elected the 111th mayor of New York City.

Today we celebrate the victory of a people's movement for dignity and freedom against the wealthiest, most regressive, and most powerful forces on the planet.

The significance of what we have accomplished cannot be understated. We have shown the world that socialism beats fascism, and that an organized left, not mediocre centrism, is the future of democracy in this country and the world.

And yet, it is only the first step in the long journey ahead.

We have an opportunity before us to show that government can and must work to improve people's lives, that a government can and must protect our immigrant neighbors, our queer and trans neighbors, our Muslim and Jewish neighbors. And we must succeed.

The movement @nycdsa led, from which Zohran's campaign emerged, must now take on the task of supporting a Mayor Mamdani to fulfill the promise of dignity for working people. It is our responsibility to meet this moment with discipline, commitment, and unwavering determination.

This beautiful work of fighting for the future we deserve is lifelong work. But it's not the extractive, exhausting struggle working people bear under capitalism. It is the generative, meaningful work that connects us to each other, that gives meaning and purpose to our lives. I am honored to be a part of it.

If you have been watching from the side-

lines, and feel in your bones that it is time to join us in this work, there has never been a better time to do it.

A new world is not only possible. New York City has shown us that she is on her way.

- Facebook post from Diana Moreno 🐘



Diana Moreno. Photo courtesy of Diana Moreno



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A day in the life of Sue the Trump supporter

From Occupy Democrats Facebook, Oct. 21, 2021

Sue gets up at 6 a.m. and fills her coffeepot with water to prepare her morning coffee. The water is clean and good because some tree-hugging liberal fought for minimum water-quality standards.

With her first swallow of coffee, she takes her daily medication. Her medications are safe to take because some stupid commie liberal fought to insure their safety and that they work as advertised. All but \$10 of her medications are paid for by her employer's medical plan because some liberal union workers fought their employers for paid medical insurance—now Sue gets it too.

She prepares her morning breakfast, bacon and eggs. Sue's bacon is safe to eat because some girly-man liberal fought for laws to regulate the meat packing industry.

In the shower, Sue reaches for her shampoo. Her bottle is properly labeled with each ingredient and its amount in the total contents because some crybaby liberal fought for her right to know what she was putting on her body and how much it contained.

Sue dresses, walks outside and takes a deep breath. The air she breathes is clean because some environmentalist wacko liberal fought for laws to stop industries from polluting our air.

She walks to the subway station for her government-subsidized ride to work. It saves her considerable money in parking and transportation fees because some fancy-pants liberal fought for affordable public transportation, which gives everyone the opportunity to be a contributor.

Sue begins her work day. She has a good job with excellent pay, medical benefits, retirement, paid holidays and vacation because some lazy liberal union members fought and died for these working standards. Sue's employer pays these standards because Sue's employer doesn't want his employees to call the union.

If Sue is hurt on the job or becomes unemployed, she'll get a worker compensation or unemployment check because some stupid liberal didn't think she should lose her home because of her temporary misfortune.

It's noon and Sue needs to make a bank deposit so she can pay some bills. Sue's deposit is federally insured by the FSLIC because some godless liberal wanted to protect Sue's money from unscrupulous bankers who ruined the banking system before the Great Depression.

Sue has to pay her Fannie Mae-underwritten mortgage and her below-market federal student loan because some elitist liberal decided that Sue and the government would be better off if she was educated and earned more money over her lifetime.

Sue is home from work. She plans to visit her father this evening at his farm home in the country. She gets in her car for the drive. Her car is among the safest in the world because some America-hating liberal fought for car safety standards.

She arrives at her childhood home. Her generation was the third to live in the house financed by Farmers' Home Administration because bankers didn't want to make rural loans. The house didn't have electricity until some big-government liberal stuck his nose where it didn't belong and demanded rural electrification.

She is happy to see her father, who is now retired. Her father lives on Social Security and a union pension because some wine-drinking, cheese-eating liberal made sure he could take care of himself so Sue wouldn't have to.

Sue gets back in her car for the ride home, and turns on a radio talk show. The radio host keeps saying that liberals are bad and conservatives are good. He doesn't mention that Republicans have fought against every protection and benefit Sue enjoys throughout her day.

Sue agrees: "We don't need those big-government liberals ruining our lives! After all, I'm self-made and believe everyone should take care of themselves, just like I have." 🐷

39th Annual Winter Solstice Celebration

at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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Saturday, December 13th

8:00 P.M., Doors open at 7:00 P.M.

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Interviewing Ukrainian Wartime Farmers



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Florida's black bears need your voice

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is moving forward with plans for the first trophy bear hunt in ten years — even as new data show a dramatic two-thirds decline in bear density in Osceola National Forest.

It's time to show up for science and speak out for Florida's wildlife. Join Sierra Club members and conservation allies on Monday, Nov. 17, for the Rally to Stop Florida's Black Bear Hunt at the Florida State Capitol in Tallahassee (11am – 1pm).

Ride the Bear Bus! Round-trip buses are free and include restrooms, Wi-Fi, outlets, snacks, and refreshments.

All riders must be active Sierra Club members — if you're not a member, you can sign up easily (only \$15 to join) when you RSVP.

Pickup locations:

Tampa Bay / Brooksville
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Pickup times: 5:30–8am

Departure from Tallahassee: by 3pm Exact pickup details will be sent after registration.

RSVP by Nov. 11: tinyurl.com/Iguana2326

Let's send a clear message: Stop the hunt. Protect Florida's bears. Let science lead the way.

#StopTheBearHunt | www.sierraclub.org/florida/stopthebearhunt



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Dick Cheney is dead: 'Trump is his monster'

by Joe Courter

Throughout my life, the Viet Nam war, Central American wars, and on to the Middle Eastern conflicts, Dick Cheney was a stubborn right wing ideologue. The peak of his prominence was after the 2001 9/11 attacks when he used his role as vice president under a wishy-washy George W. Bush to build the Executive Branch into a powerbase that, in the paranoid hysteria of the time, went unchecked. Surveillance of citizens, declaring wars

based on flimsy intelligence or outright lies, and the creation of ICE all trace back to the early 2000s and Dick Cheney was a key driver of all that.

Come 2016 and the rise of Donald Trump, we saw a man pivot and become a Never Trumper. All that power Cheney thought was so important for a president to have he now saw was not going to play out well with an unstable narcissist with no real political savvy at the helm. He was the guy who built all that power up, and now he saw that the door had swung open for an authoritarian ego-maniac to stroll right in. In a way, Trump is his monster.

But, tragically, he remained a lonely voice, he and his daughter Lynn. Republicans got in line behind Trump, the corporate media saw that Trump was an easy story good for their bottom line, and the Democrats largely just went along, a bit powerless as the Congressional deck became stacked against them, and they became more concerned with fending off the left flank of their party (i.e., Bernie Sanders in 2016 and 2020) .

I looked through so many words about Cheney's passing, but none captured my feelings so here is this. I almost feel sorry for the man, his last chapter must have felt lonely and tragic. But the horrors he helped perpetrate with his policies outweigh any sympathy I might have had. 🐸

A veteran of the Iraq war comments on what we can take away from Cheney's "legacy": tinyurl.com/Iguana2325 🐸

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H1-B Visas: sending educators out of our country would be detrimental to the integrity of our state colleges and universities

by Tessa Barber and Cassie Urbenz
Graduate Assistants United

This statement [about pulling the plug on H1-B visas] is just another inflammatory, racist positioning designed to distract from the fact that those in Tallahassee refuse to address any real issues facing the working people in our state, while working tirelessly to hurt unions and international residents who are only here to get an education and give back.

- Austin Britton, UF-GAU Co-President

Governor Ron DeSantis stood on the University of South Florida campus on Wednesday, Oct. 22, behind a banner of “reclaiming higher education,” to order Florida’s colleges and universities to “pull the plug” on H1-B visas.

To see such a blatant display of prejudice and xenophobic desperation from a government official on their own campus, without any notification from University administration that this press conference would be happening, was patently horrifying.

They (GAU chapters) immediately received messages from international graduate assistants asking what this meant, and what it would mean for their future. Not only are international employees currently experiencing high levels of fear and uncertainty due to mixed messages surrounding immigration enforcement action around the state, but now the Florida Governor is standing on their doorstep unannounced launching a targeted campaign against them.

Not only is it not feasible to send mass amounts of educators and support professionals out of our country, but it would be detrimental to the integrity of our state colleges and universities.

Leadership at the GAU chapter at USF immediately reached out to the other graduate assistant labor unions in the state to express concern about this statement, see what they thought, and ask what we can do next.

It’s more important now than ever to stick together and support these essential members of our communities. International employees are real people who are integral members of our university and regional communities, and should not be labelled and forcibly ripped from these communities based on their immigration status.

Our solidarity is our strength, as exemplified by our strong network of unionized academic workers remaining vigilant on this issue.

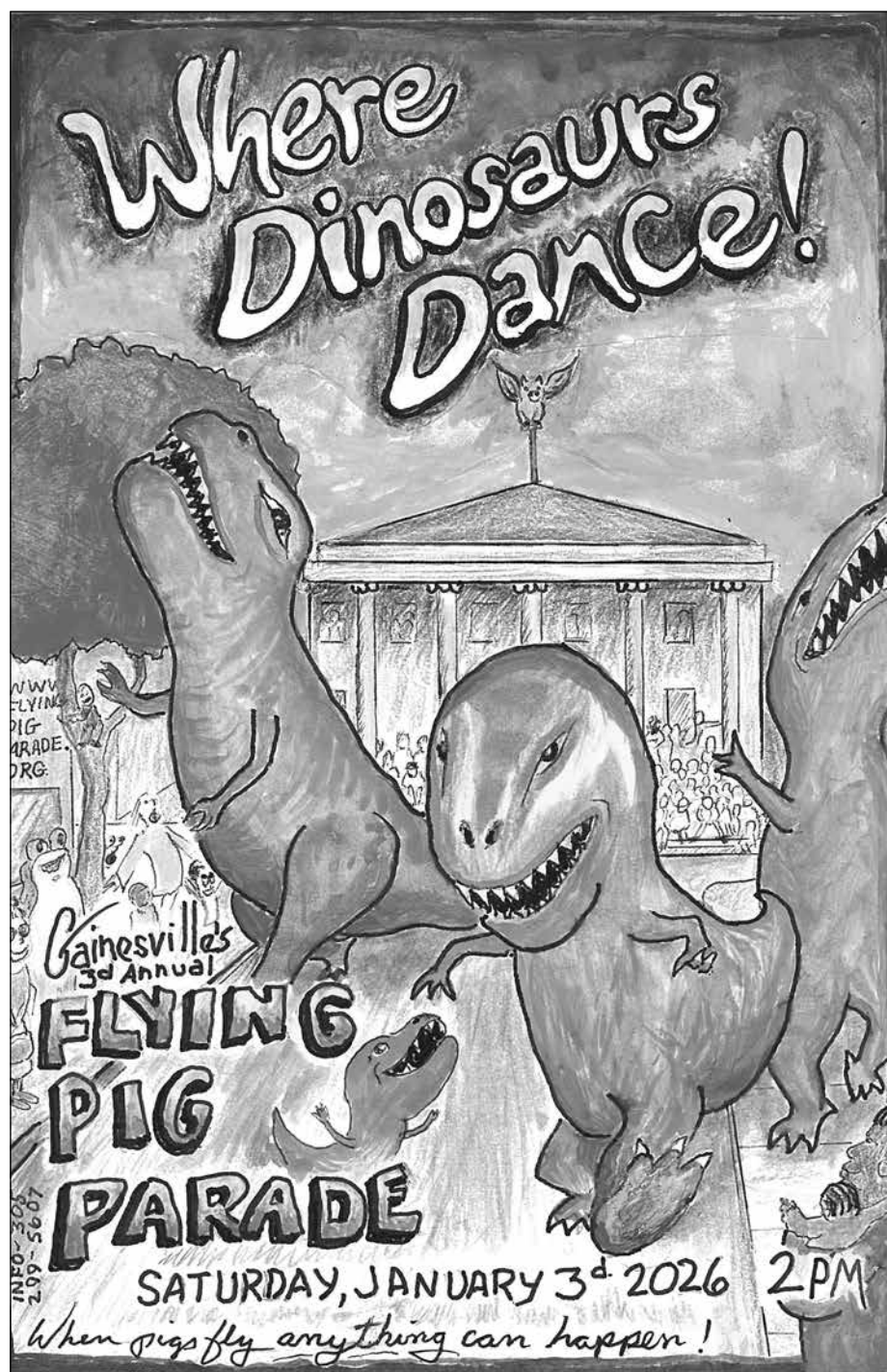
These attacks are being shown to be on track with trends in the past, where we are seeing the federal government start with ICE raids on undocumented community members here and are now seeing Florida setting their sights on legal H1-B holders.

GAU chapters aren’t worried about DeSantis’ announcement. Equipped with legal protection and in constant communication with

our members, we’re prepared to fight back.

Let’s wait until we hear updates regarding actual policy, not just Ron DeSantis getting on his high horse in a press conference.

As for now—you can’t expel someone who’s legally here, and this is more of a very serious call to action to prepare to wrap our arms around our neighbors in case of escalation than something to be afraid of. ✨



Editors' picks: News that didn't fit

People ask me every day: Where the #!\$* are the Democrats?

by Robert Reich ~ *Inequality Media*
~ video, 6:13 min ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2307

If Democrats ever want to take America back from Trump and his cronies, master teacher Robert Reich tells us in clear language eight bold steps we must do, and how to do them, giving specific examples.

Lake Okeechobee ranked as most polluted in the U.S.

by Craig Pittman ~ *Florida Phoenix* ~
Oct. 9 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2299

An assessment of the progress made on Ron DeSantis's 2018 promise to fix the algae bloom situation in the largest freshwater lake in Florida (spoiler: exactly what you'd expect).

Fools multiply when wise
men are silent.

~ Nelson Mandela

Bird-defending Audubon chapter defeats Florida development planned by nation's largest homebuilder

by Craig Pittman ~ *Florida Phoenix* ~ Nov.
6 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2324

A chapter of the Sarasota Audubon Society successfully blocked D.R. Horton's proposed development next to the Celery Fields bird sanctuary in Sarasota County, securing three unanimous 5-0 votes rejecting rezoning for 170, then 126, then 85 homes — largely due to flooding risks and habitat concerns.

The woman who predicted tech fascism — Paulina Borsook was right

The Nerd Reich with Gil Duran ~ video,
36:59 min ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2308

Tech fascism didn't rise in secret — it grew in plain sight. Why didn't most journalists or politicians notice? An important video with an early critic of the rise of Big Tech, who in the 90's could see the dangers to democracy. Paulina Borsook's work was largely ignored then, but now seems prophetic.

Supreme Court OKs Trump passport policy targeting trans people

by Shauneen Miranda ~ *Florida Phoenix* ~
Nov. 7 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2321

The U.S. Supreme Court allowed President Donald Trump's administration to continue carrying out its policy requiring that passports only list a person's sex assigned at birth. The nation's highest court paused a lower court order that temporarily barred the administration from enforcing the policy, codified in an executive order Trump signed in January.

'Antifa' protesters charged with terrorism for constitutionally protected activity

by Natasha Lennard ~ *The Intercept* ~
Oct. 17 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2300

Federal prosecutors are making good on the Trump administration's threat to treat antifa-related activity as terrorism. After shots were fired at a protest against ICE in Texas, federal prosecutors pursued guilt-by-association charges against two protestors. 🐘

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How big is one trillion dollars?

by Bob McGlincy

In 2017, the direct spending of the meetings industry, worldwide, was \$1.07 trillion. That amount, at the time, was larger than the net worth of any U.S. company.

Apple became the first U.S. company to surpass \$1,000,000,000,000; they did it in 2018. Since then other U.S. companies to reach that valuation have included Alphabet, Amazon and Microsoft. Apple exceeded the \$2 trillion mark in August of 2020.

The U.S. government spent \$6.55 trillion in FY 2019 (Oct. 1, 2019 - Sept. 30, 2020).

So how big is a trillion dollars? It's a million times a million dollars. That's a large number to conceptualize.

When I was a kid, a million dollars seemed like a lot of money. And it was. Still is today, but not nearly so much.

I can visualize a hundred dollar bill; I can hold it in my hand. A stack of (100) \$100 bills — that's \$10,000 — is approximately half-inch thick; if I get a stack from the bank, I can easily slip it into an interior pocket of my suit jacket, and no one would know it's there.

I could fit 30 of those stacks in a grocery bag, \$300,000, and have room to spare. A 4'x4' skid with \$100 dollar bills, shrink-wrapped and banded, would fill a space 48"x40"x42" high, and would contain \$100 million dollars.

Ten of those skids would equal one billion dollars. And that billion dollars would weigh 11 tons. So how does a billion equate to a trillion? In the first place it's a thousand times bigger. A trillion is a thousand billion, and it's a million, million. Let's look at a few statistics.

- A stack of one billion dollars bills would be 67.9 miles high. A trillion dollar bills would reach 67,866 miles into space.
- A trillion dollar bills, laid end to end, would stretch 96,906,656 miles — further than the distance of the earth to the sun.
- A trillion dollars laid side to side, would cover more square miles than the states of Rhode Island and Delaware combined.
- A trillion dollars on skids would need to be transported by 478 semi-trail-

ers. Unloaded, it would fill a football field from sideline to sideline, and almost goal line to goal line.

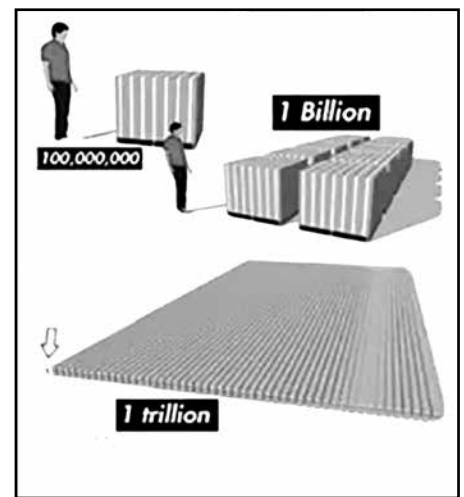
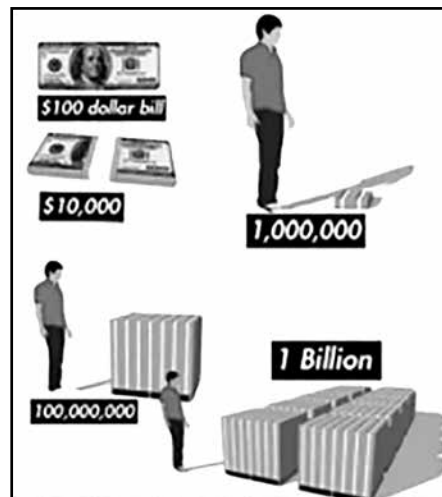
- If you were to spend \$40/second, it would take 289 days to spend a billion dollars. And that's at a spending rate of almost \$3.456 million per day.
- At the same spending rate of \$40/second, it would take 792.5 years to blow through one trillion dollars.

In recent years, the term "a trillion dollars" has been tossed around frequently. One trillion dollars would be over \$3,000 to

every man, woman, and child living in the U.S., or about \$4,800 to every individual person in the U.S. over the age of 18.

How big is a trillion dollars? It's a huge freakin' number, is what it is.

Bob McGlincy is the author of 'Expositions & World's Fairs: In the Beginning,' the co-author of 'The Invisible Industry: The Evolution of Trade Shows,' and a columnist for Exhibit City News. He is an Industry veteran with decades of tradeshow and leadership experience. He can be contacted at Bob.McGlincy@willwork.com



Source: <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2328>



Youth-led US climate activists widen focus to fight authoritarianism

Sunrise Movement, which led calls for a Green New Deal, will organize against Trump's attacks on universities

by Dharna Noor

As the Trump administration cracks down on both environmental policies and progressive activism, the Sunrise Movement, the youth-led climate justice organization that popularized calls for a Green New Deal, is widening its mission to fight authoritarianism.

"Every day, Donald Trump is seizing power and shredding the Constitution,"

Sunrise's executive director, Aru Shiney-Ajay, wrote in an open letter to Sunrise members, funders and allies. "What ordinary people do in the coming months will determine whether he and his billionaire cronies can cement their grip on power and turn this country into a playground for the rich and powerful."

Unlike the majority of Sunrise's past work, its newer efforts will not necessarily

center the climate crisis. But Stevie O'Hanlon, a co-founder and spokesperson for Sunrise, said the projects will aim to build a world where climate action is possible.

"In order to win the bold action that we'll need to prevent climate catastrophe, we're going to need a country where we have the right to dissent and protest," she said. "How are we going to win on climate under authoritarianism?"

One key focus will be campus organizing to urge schools to resist Trump's attempts to control their curricula and rules around political dissent, the letter from Shiney-Ajay says. Another will be garnering rapid responses to the administration's deployment of troops and immigration policies to cities, and attempts to "infringe on our first amendment rights." And a third expansion area will be training young activists to "recognize authoritarianism" and resist it using non-violent tactics.

The missive formalizes work already underway at Sunrise. Last month, the group helped organize student walkouts at four Washington DC universities to protest Trump's deployment of the national guard and their intimidation of activists and immigrants. Two weeks later, the organization staged a comedy show-cum-demonstration outside ABC's New York headquarters in response to the network's temporary suspension of Jimmy Kimmel Live!.

Chapters have been taking on localized fights for free speech and immigrant rights, as well. At Duke University's Sunrise chapter, activists have focused on protecting a beloved campus bus driver whose temporary protected status was revoked by the Trump administration last month — and who subsequently lost his job of 20 years. They are also urging school officials to overturn anti-protest policies and developing pro-worker campaigns alongside labor justice groups.

"In order to win a Green New Deal, climate justice, labor justice, racial justice, etc ... we're gonna need to defeat authoritarianism," said Artivista Karlin, a junior at Duke University who organizes with the campus Sunrise chapter, who said that under Trump, the US has seen an "unprecedented manifestation of fascism."

This is a portion of an article that originally appeared in The Guardian on Oct 5. See more at theguardian.com

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GAU Impasse: Why you should care



by Austin Britton and Cassie Urbenz,
Graduate Assistants United

What is Impasse? Why are we here?

Graduate Assistants United has been negotiating the next full contract for over two years.

After endless sessions at the bargaining table, UF and GAU mutually agreed to declare an impasse. This means that we do not believe that we will be able to solve our differences at the bargaining table, and need to bring in a third party (a Special Magistrate) to help.

On Nov. 17 in the Reitz Union Senate Chamber, the special magistrate will hear arguments from GAU and UF about the issues at impasse, and quickly after that come back with what he believes is the best agreement. If both parties agree, we will take this language to a ratification vote. If either side disagrees, the issue goes to the Board of Trustees to decide.

Why should I care?

This is the first time a union at the University has actually had a hearing for a declared impasse in recent history. This will determine workers' rights and whether or not the Board of Trustees has the ability to serve as judge, jury, and executioner when deciding disputes with a collective bargaining agent.

Your presence at this hearing makes clear the power of the court of public opinion and could very well be the only thing that holds them accountable.

What Issues are at Impasse?

Stipends: Despite increases in the cost of living, UF has not budged on giving GAs any raise, even as they make huge profits each year off the backs of graduate assistants. We are fighting for a substantial

increase to the minimum stipend, getting us ever closer to our goal of a living wage.

Released Time: This provision gives GAU a certain amount of FTE per year to hire GAs to help with paperwork, work in our office, meet with GAs, and overall help ensure that our contract is protected and GAs have someone they can meet with in person most days of the week.

This position is historically used by GAU to hire GAs who would otherwise have no

funding, or be at risk of having to leave campus or the country. This has been in our contract for at least 20 years, and UF has committed to the complete removal of this, putting our ability to exist at risk.

How can I help?

Show up to the hearing, sign our petition, and please share this information with fellow community members and UF alumni.

Petition is at: tinyurl.com/Iguana2309 🐢

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North Central Florida Indivisible launches Signs of Solidarity Project

by Jyoti Parmar,
Executive Director, North Central Florida Indivisible

North Central Florida Indivisible (NCFI) has launched the Gainesville edition of Signs of Solidarity, a nationwide Indivisible project that helps local businesses stand in solidarity with immigrants and resist efforts to erode civil rights.

The campaign is simple but powerful. Volunteers visit local businesses to share information about the rights of owners and employees in the event of an immigration raid, whether by ICE or state law enforcement. They provide reliable resources and invite businesses to display a sign publicly expressing support for immigrants, employees, customers, and neighbors. These signs not only make workplaces feel safer but also affirm basic constitutional rights, including protections under the 14th Amendment.

Immigrants—and people perceived as immigrants—have become targets of cruelty and intimidation. NCFI organizers say that the mistreatment of immigrants often serves as a test case for stripping rights from anyone outside the MAGA fold. Launching Signs of Solidarity in Gainesville is a way to push back and show that the community values dignity, safety, and fairness for all.

NCFI's first canvass took place on October 25 and was a major success, with most businesses welcoming volunteers warmly. The project is ongoing, with new volunteers being trained to

continue outreach and education. Each conversation helps create stronger ties between workers, business owners, and community members.

National Indivisible launched Signs of Solidarity as part of its broader effort to defend democracy and protect vulnerable communities. The campaign redefines activism, turning everyday spaces like cafés, stores, workplaces into visible affirmations of inclusion. Every sign in a window sends a simple message: You are welcome here.

In a time when fear is used to divide, Gainesville's Signs of Solidarity project shows that compassion, courage, and community can build a safer, more just America.

To join our Signs of Solidarity project, email us at NCFIndivisible+SOS@gmail.com or join us thru this QR Code. 🐾

Signs of Solidarity Sign up Form



A nation will not survive morally or economically when so few have so much and so many have so little.

~ Bernie Sanders

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California voters approve Prop. 50, redrawing congressional maps to favor Democrats Gov. Newsom proclaimed the victory was “a win for the entire country”

California voters passed a ballot measure to redraw the state’s congressional map to favor Democrats, a major victory for the party in a high-stakes national redistricting fight that could determine who controls the House of Representatives next year. The Associated Press called the race shortly after polls closed at 8pm. The maps voters approved with Proposition 50 make it likely that five of California’s GOP-held congressional seats could be won by Democrats in

next year’s midterm elections. They also bolster the re-election chances of three Democrats currently holding office in now-competitive districts. The passage is a triumph for Gov. Gavin Newsom, an early proponent of the gerrymandering plan whose backing set off a whirlwind summer map-drawing effort and quick passage through the Democratic-dominated state Legislature. The campaign played out as a rebuke to President Donald Trump, and Newsom

reaffirmed that message in a short speech at the Sacramento headquarters of the California Democratic Party. “We stood tall and we stood firm in response to Donald Trump’s recklessness. Tonight, after poking the bear, this bear roared, with unprecedented turnout in a special election with an extraordinary result,” Newsom said.

From an article by Maya C. Miller and Jeanne Kuang in CalMatters on Nov. 4. See the full story at tinyurl.com/Iguana2311

Floridians with felony convictions can contact the state to learn if eligible to vote

Process resulted from negotiations between the state and the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition

For the first time since Floridians voted to restore voting rights to most people with felony convictions, the state has agreed to provide timely information about which of them have paid the financial obligations that would entitle them to cast ballots. That change is the result of negotiations last year after the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition dropped its 2023 lawsuit against Gov. Ron DeSantis, Secretary of State

Cord Byrd, and other Florida election officials. The coalition had alleged the state had created “such a bureaucratic system around the implementation of Amendment 4” that it prevented Florida citizens from voting. More than 65% of Floridians approved Amendment 4 in 2018, ostensibly restoring voting rights to all individuals who had completed their sentences (except for those who committed murders and

sexual offenses). In 2019, the Legislature passed implementing language requiring felons (or “returning citizens”) to have paid any legal financial obligations, including fines, fees, or restitution imposed on them by a judge, before they could see their voting rights restored.

From an article by Mitch Perry in the Florida Phoenix on Oct. 14. See the full story at tinyurl.com/Iguana2312

How Florida’s progressive fight against authoritarianism is setting the tone

From abortion and marijuana, to Medicaid and minimum wage ... activists in Florida have been ahead of the curve for years

Like many others across the nation, people gathered outside the courthouse in Jacksonville on Oct. 18 to send a message: No Kings. Jacksonville’s protest mirrored other mobilizations across the country. “We’ve seen attacks on our right to vote, on freedom of speech, our identities and even when we think about the National Guard being deployed into predominantly Black cities, we’ve seen these attacks consistently,” says Mishara Davis, the

electoral and issue organizing director at State Voices. “We’re seeing the National Guard deployed to many of these cities that are predominantly Black and brown. And when we’re militarizing our cities under the guise of safety, it’s really just about terrorizing communities, including immigrant communities.” While Florida has trended red in the last decade, its voters have consistently favored progressive measures. In 2024, Florida’s Right to

Abortion Initiative, as well as the state’s Marijuana Legalization Initiative, received 57 and 56 percent of the vote, respectively. Even though both measures were supported by the majority of voters, both initiatives were struck down because they failed to meet Florida’s 60 percent supermajority.

From an article by Livia Follet in MS Magazine on Oct. 31. See the full story at tinyurl.com/Iguana2310

Youth-led US climate activists widen focus to fight authoritarianism

Sunrise Movement, which led calls for a Green New Deal, will organize against Trump’s attacks on universities

As the Trump administration cracks down on both environmental policies and progressive activism, the Sunrise Movement, the youth-led climate justice organization that popularized calls for a Green New Deal, is widening its mission to fight authoritarianism. “Every day, Donald Trump is seizing power and shredding the Constitution,” Sunrise’s executive director, Aru Shiney-Ajay, wrote in an open letter to Sunrise members, funders and allies. “What ordinary people do in the coming months will determine

whether he and his billionaire cronies can cement their grip on power and turn this country into a playground for the rich and powerful.” Unlike the majority of Sunrise’s past work, its newer efforts will not necessarily center the climate crisis. But Stevie O’Hanlon, a co-founder and spokesperson for Sunrise, said the projects will aim to build a world where climate action is possible. One key focus will be campus organizing to urge schools to resist Trump’s attempts to control their curricula and rules around political

dissent, the letter from Shiney-Ajay says. Another will be garnering rapid responses to the administration’s deployment of troops and immigration policies to cities, and attempts to “infringe on our first amendment rights.” And a third expansion area will be training young activists to “recognize authoritarianism” and resist it using non-violent tactics.

From an article by Dharna Noor in The Guardian on Oct. 5. See the full story at tinyurl.com/Iguana2313 🐊

The road to HAVEN: A lifeline for survivors

by Amy Trask

Almost eleven years ago, I was barefoot, covered in spit-up, and trying to make breakfast when the man I once trusted turned violent. Deadly. That morning, I became a statistic — one of the more than 100,000 domestic violence cases reported in Florida that year. But I also became something else: a survivor.

Now, I'm fighting, alongside neighbors and friends, and many in the Legislature, to make sure others have a way out.

That fight is called the HAVEN Act — Helping Abuse Victims Escape Now. It's a bipartisan bill filed in both chambers of the Florida Legislature (HB 269, SB 296), and it's rooted in lived experience — not just mine, but the hundreds of thousands of Floridians who have experienced this violence, and the many who've shared their stories with me.

It's for Jennifer, who cried at one of our town halls because "no one tells our stories." It's for the children who witness violence and carry its scars into adulthood. It's for every person who's ever whispered, "I just need help," and found no one listening, and no safety net to catch them.

What the HAVEN Act Does

The HAVEN Act does two critical things:

1. It redefines "dating violence" and "domestic violence" to be statutorily congruent, ensuring that survivors in non-marital relationships can access the same resources and protections as those in familial ones, including the AG's Address Confidentiality Program. Abuse doesn't care about labels — neither should our laws.
2. It commissions a web-based 911 alert system, allowing victims to silently signal for help using a randomly-generated unique phone number. This system, upon usage of their set PIN number or code word, would geolocate the caller and dispatch law enforcement without requiring lengthy verbal communication — an innovation that could save lives when speaking out isn't safe.

Why It Matters

Florida's current system leaves too many behind. Victims of dating violence often fall through the cracks, denied access to state resources and emergency services

simply because their relationship doesn't fit a narrow definition. The HAVEN Act fixes that.

It also addresses a terrifying reality: many victims can't safely call 911. In my case, my phone was ripped from my hands and smashed. I was lucky to survive. Others aren't. A silent alert system could be the difference between life and death.

Unfortunately, this violence is not rare. One in three women and one in four men experience intimate partner violence. Twenty percent of homicides are linked to it. It's one of the leading causes of death in pregnant women. Five million children witness it every year — and one in three will become victims themselves.

The Road So Far

Since filing the HAVEN Act last year, I've met with almost every single legislator. Armed with my very full padfolio of bill copies, I've shared coffee, tears, hugs, and stories. What I've seen there in the Capitol halls is something extraordinary: bipartisan momentum.

The Senate bill made it to two of the three subcommittees it was assigned to

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and passed each unanimously. In the House, it made it to one and it also passed the same. Legislators from both parties have expressed support, recognizing that protecting survivors isn't a partisan issue — it's a moral one.

We gained the support of major dating, domestic, and sexual violence boards in the state, as well as chapters of the Bar, and FDLE. We were told by the Department that, it was confirmed, the tech we've proposed is here and feasible.

What Comes Next

The HAVEN Act is moving. Within days, we were filed and have committee assignments. We should be placed on the agenda soon, but we need your help to keep it going. Call your representatives or come to a committee hearing. Share your story. It could make all the difference.

If passed, the HAVEN Act will be a lifeline. It will open doors that have long been closed. It will say to every survivor: "We see you. We believe you. We're building something better. It will be a promise that Florida can — and will — do better.

Personal Note:

If you're interested in following bills like this one, I have also written two other pieces of DV legislation in the same vein that are being introduced in the same vein: "Safe Shelter" and "Survivor Self Defense," to help children caught in this violence escape and remain safely in certified shelters, and to give a rebuttable presumption of self-defense for partners who defend themselves against documented abusers.

Last year, we started a conversation — loudly. This year, there are many more pieces of DV legislation coming from both sides of the aisle: bills to strengthen and expand protections and ensure resources. For my part, thank you to everyone who fought for this bill. It made a huge difference. For everyone already in, or are joining, the fight for justice against violence: thank you. Thank you.

Amy Trask is a candidate for Florida House District 22 in the fall of 2026. Join her for a Meet and Greet event scheduled at First Magnitude on Dec. 7 at 6pm. 🐾



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Get ICE out of the Swamp!

by *UF Young Democratic Socialists of America*

The University of Florida (UF) students demand that ICE get out of our Swamp!

UF is directly collaborating with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The UF Police Department (UFPD) participates in federal immigration enforcement through the 287(g) agreement, which empowers local law enforcement to act in a similar capacity to ICE agents.

This partnership endangers campus safety and the wellbeing of our international and immigrant students. We demand that UF listen to its students and take action to protect our community.

YDSA demands:

- The rescinding of the current 287(g) agreement between UFPD and ICE, be effective immediately.
- The readmission of students in good standing who have been deported by ICE.
- The expansion of UF legal services to immigrant and foreign students, including but not limited to the hiring of immigration attorneys and advisors, as well as partnerships with third-party organizations such as the ACLU or National Lawyers Guild.
- Requiring UF to send alerts to students through UF Alert when immigration enforcement officers are on campus.
- Guarantees to the civil liberties of students, faculty, and staff.
- Guarantees to the safety and well-being of all workers on campus.
- The provision of trainings and

resources by the University of Florida to all students in order to ensure that they attend and graduate UF knowledgeable on their rights as residents of the United States.

If you have any questions regarding the campaign please reach out to: Ufydsa21@gmail.com or follow them on Instagram: [@uf_ydsa](https://www.instagram.com/uf_ydsa) 🐸

It's official! The ACLC endorses UF YDSA's Sanctuary Campus Campaign! Members voted online to approve the endorsement. There were 18 Yes votes and one No vote.

You can read more about the campaign and sign the petition here: tinyurl.com/Iguana2327

We will provide updates on the campaign and let you know about upcoming actions in the coming weeks. 🐸



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

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The Point

Daily Roundup from WUFT News

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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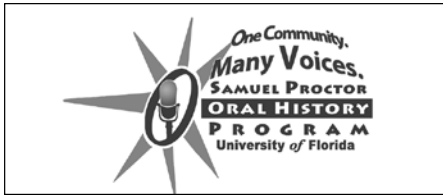
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Oral History Program

History and the people who make it: Dr. David Padgett



Dr. David Padgett, an associate professor of Geography at Tennessee State University, earned his PhD at the University of Florida where he was a major player in the civil rights movement. In this interview excerpt, Padgett [P] was interviewed by Justin Dunnivant [D] on April 10, 2012; transcript edited by Beth Grobman. Read the entire interview at tinyurl.com/Iguana2301.

D: What was the environment like in 1989 [when you came to UF]?

P: It was a pretty volatile time for the Black students. There was a lot of the remnant Reagan-era attitude from the 1980s. You know, Clinton was just starting to get cranked up, so there was a bit of a change in attitude nationally, but still you had a lot of white students who still had that old Reagan, anti-affirmative action type mentality.

When I first came here, Dr. Imani and I, one of the first things we encountered was that the student government was essentially trying to zero-fund the Black student union. And so our first kind of involvement with anything that I can remember at UF was trying to pretty much advise undergraduates in how not to get zero-funded ...

And pretty much every year after, the student government would try to zero-fund the Black student union. And that seemed to be the theme every year. There was this whole feeling that, you know, the Black students were where they are because of affirmative action and that they really didn't belong there. We had white administrators who had no clue about racism or race relations.

D: I know from there it kind of escalated a little bit. They became adamant about not funding the BSU.

P: Yeah, every year was, "We're not going to fund the Black Student Union, we're not going to fund Black History

Month, we're not going to fund the African American Cultural Center."

In fact, while we were there the African American Cultural Center was vandalized by skinheads. At one point they spray-painted all kinds of, you know, I can't remember exactly what, but you know, "Go Back to Africa" that kind of thing. N-word on the Black Student Union.

The skinheads actually set up shop across the street from campus. And we paid them a visit and that turned out to be kind of confrontational ... there were some shots fired at one point, I wasn't there when the shots were fired. I don't know who fired the shots but it got kind of ugly because the skinheads actually went about attacking African American students. They attacked maybe four or five and it seemed as if neither the Gainesville Police nor the UF Police were willing to follow up on it ...

Back then we believed that African Americans would be politically, economically, and socially extinct by 1999 unless significant action was undertaken.

D: So when you came here, it was a pretty volatile situation.

P: We were involved in whatever was happening in the African American community. There was a store there called Food for Less, I think. It was a grocery store and they were in the practice of physically assaulting African American shoppers if they suspected a shoplifting. And so we moved in, in support of the relatives in the community and confronted the store personnel. And basically the employees didn't know that they were not supposed to be used as security. And so we just asked them in open forum, "Well if this gentleman here went out and tried to accost a so-called shoplifter and sustained an injury, would he be covered under workman's compensation?" And corporate people were like, "Well, no."

And so that pretty much put a stop to that, because once the employees realized that they were being used as lackeys for their bosses who were too cheap to pay for real security, that shut that whole thing down.

And then there was another case where Gainesville Police Department was not, they weren't enforcing—well there was this feud between the Gainesville Police

and the UF Police regarding who should enforce the law basically.

Whose turf was whose? So, this was around the time that the skinheads were attacking students and so what was happening was that the skinheads were attacking Black students and the students would actually call UF Police. And the police would say, "Where are you?" and these attacks would often take place off-campus like right across the street near Burger King or somewhere over there in the student ghetto as we used to call it. So the UF Police would be like, "Well we aren't coming," and the Gainesville Police would be like, "Well we aren't coming either."

So we exposed that there was this kind of no-man's land of enforcement, supposedly, in and around UF campus. And so after we exposed that, they changed the rule giving UF Police the right to respond to UF students' issues within a one-mile radius of the campus ...

There was a situation where one of the Black fraternities had a party at a White fraternity house and I don't know what happened, but a fight broke out. And pretty much according to the frat guys, they had broken up the fight but some of the white fraternity guys were still in the house and they called the police. By the time the police got there the fight had broken up. Of course, Gainesville Police being Gainesville Police, decided they were going to rough up some Black folks just for the heck of it ...

We had some white students create a White Student Union on account of the Black Student Union. We said that you guys are obviously connected to the Klan and they said, "No, no, no, no, no we are not connected to the Klan." They said, "As a matter of fact, if you prove that we are connected to the Klan, then we will shut down." And so the short story is, through surveillance—we had a statewide network, really—and one of our operatives at the University of Central Florida in Orlando actually tipped us off. And we got a copy of a document that proved, without a shadow of doubt, that they were connected to the KKK.

So I told the president, I said, "You got forty-eight hours to shut down or I'm

sending this document to the newspaper.” And he thought I was bluffing so we sent the document to the paper and they just got exposed to being a direct arm in the KKK and they shut them up—and, well, I mean the advisor quit after that and that was the end of the White Student Union ...

A big, one of the biggest, neo-Nazi White supremacist camps in the country was just outside of Gainesville. And they had all kinds of nuts out there with, you know, weapons and tactics training. But after 9/11 I doubt that anything like that can exist. But yeah, they marched on—they had a couple marches with swastikas, and the whole nine yards. I mean it was crazy. We tried to shut it down but they got a permit.

The White Student Union, they were all mixed up with them and for a while they actually had a Vietnamese statistician. And I tried to talk to this guy. He was being used because he was good at math. And he would do all these calculations with the average SAT scores of Black students and, you know, it was just garbage. But I finally convinced him to look up what the Klan did to the Vietnamese fisherman in Texas. And after he looked that up he was gone, he quit. He saw that obviously if these people were down with anything to have to do with White supremacy then they weren't his friend ...

And then we had the whole Black Awareness Movement. And that was where once again, the student government tried to zero-fund Black History Month. And then at some point the student union was taken over and the demands were that Black History Month be funded in perpetuity. We had to institutionalize as part of the SGA Fund like several other things that it's funded every year. And so we wanted Black History Month to be amongst those things. And so we, you know, our demands were met, Black History Month became institutionalized.

So there was no more begging every year for money after that. But it was very controversial. There was a bully takeover, and you know we were accused of assault, theft, vandalism, and none of that took place. Kidnapping. None of that took place. And they put us on trial to try to kick us out of the school. We were completely exonerated. I mean it was a circus.

D: Okay, I was wondering, though, how was it for you going through your program, your academic program?

P: Oh, that was completely separate. I mean I was able to separate everything. Really it's interesting though. A lot of the faculty were pretty much oblivious to what students were doing. You know it's like two different worlds. Now that I am a faculty member, I don't know what the students are doing. You know? I look at when they really make big moves. I mean just, you know, and like I said, a lot of the stuff that we did, we used covert tactics so if something went down people wouldn't even know who did it, what happened. Like when we took down the White Student Union, nobody really knew what had happened. There was no big show. They just disappeared. I know why they disappeared. Nobody could prove who was behind it. Because nobody saw us take over the building. We used guerilla tactics. We were invisible. So it was a very well-planned operation.

D: Yeah. Did you all have some type of organization that you all tried to model yourselves after? Or that you gained inspiration from?

P: Well I mean obviously the Black Panthers, you know, SNCC, and the ideology of Malcolm X, King. I listened to a lot and read a lot of stuff. I mean Huey Newton, I listened to a lot of

speeches, all kinds of African leaders, Haile Selassie. Any independent pro-Black leader. Kwame Nkruma, a lot of his philosophy. I have a book of the Mau Mau's military tactics. Nelson Mandela's books, anybody like that. Anybody with relations to black people that none of us knew about.

D: Did your political consciousness really develop here or was it something that had been carried over from undergrad and from even growing up?

P: I was always conscious. Always. I grew up in a house where I was taught to be conscious of White supremacy from day one. I had no confusion over who to trust and who not to trust. And I grew up on that, so I knew that eventually I wasn't going to spend my career at some place like UF or FSU or UGA or the University of Tennessee. I taught at Indiana University. You know, Vanderbilt University, Oberlin College. I've done my time, but I knew at the end of the day I was going to be at a Black college which is where I am and where I've been for twelve years now. I'm not going anywhere and if I go somewhere it will be to another Black college. But yeah, that's always been my mission. I don't have anything against people. We need people everywhere. We need people at Harvard, Yale, MIT, we need people everywhere. We should have Black faculty researchers everywhere. Everywhere that you fit in, wherever you fit in, as long as you remain conscious of the mission. Like don't start building enemies, building up the enemies, but other than that. I didn't always have that stance. I used to think that all of us should be at Black colleges. But I softened up on that after a while. That is not realistic, you know.

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From ICE, p. 1

To introduce another layer that won't be explored here, both the transportation to, and security of, these sites is provided in no small part by private companies like the GEO Group (which also happens to be a big funder for a superpac supporting Governor DeSantis), according to Spectrum News 13.

Florida is also leading the way in creating, in partnership with the Federal government, its own detention centers – more aptly named concentration camps – like the infamous “Alligator Alcatraz.”

Just 45 minutes away from Gainesville is its recently opened sister site for North Florida: Baker Correctional Institution.

These sites, besides having notoriously terrible conditions (reported to include overcrowding, lack of food, worms in food, mosquitoes and other insects, flooding, infrequent access to medication, infrequent showers, bright fluorescent lights that never turn off, etc. (see tinyurl.com/Iguana2304)), help increase the pace of disappearances thanks to their limited-to-nonexistent accessibility to attorneys, faith leaders, representatives, media, and the public, as well as their proximity to airports.

To be clear, those being taken from our communities are not the gang members and violent criminals we are told over and over they are. Most have no criminal record and some have even had valid driver's licenses and varying forms of status (see tinyurl.com/Iguana2305).

These are our neighbors on their way to work, people who have

lived in and contributed to their communities for many years, and even parents on their way to pick up their child from school.

If that disturbs you, I would ask that you turn your attention here to our own community. Though ICE has not yet attempted to interrogate or remove a child at our schools, our district has created a guidance so unnecessarily acquiescent to ICE, as to put the rights of all our children at risk of far worse.

As it is currently worded, the guidance would allow someone claiming to work with ICE to enter a public school without being required to identify themselves, question and detain a child without a warrant, and all without letting the parents know or consent. This guidance is something Superintendent Patton can change tomorrow if she wanted — she could even use examples from other Florida districts like Polk County, Lee County, Santa Rosa County; or the guidance provided by the Florida Education Association, who reached out with concern over Alachua County School District's weak guidance (see tinyurl.com/Iguana2306).

All state some version of what our local community has been calling for since February:

- Agents must positively identify themselves
- Agents must show a signed, judicial warrant for the child
- School District legal counsel must review the validity of the warrant

Anything else puts children in Alachua County, regardless of citizenship status, needlessly at risk. Having this guidance in place would not risk interfering with law enforcement, as the School District has argued, but would rather ensure the law is being followed and our children's basic rights are adequately protected

If you are not okay with what is happening, GET INVOLVED. Tell our school board and superintendent that this is unacceptable. Join the Gainesville Immigrant Neighbor Inclusion Initiative (GINI)'s campaign to get the Alachua County School District to revise its guidance TODAY.

You can also make an impact by donating to the local Immigrant Safety Fund, which helps secure access to legal representation, bond, and assists with other legal fees for families experiencing separation.

If you have questions or would like to get more involved, please reach out to GINI@rwbp.org. Because when immigrant rights are under attack, what do we do? Stand up, fight back! 🦋

THE REPURPOSE PROJECT

Three non-profit stores building a reuse economy diverting useful resources from the landfill and redirecting these items to the public

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The Ocklawaha River

An essential component of improving ecological health of Silver Springs

by Jenny Carr

A free-flowing Ocklawaha River is an essential component of improving the ecological health of Silver Springs, one of the largest and most famous springs in the world that is currently suffering from excessive algae, reduced flows, and a tragic loss of biodiversity.

Since the 1970s, numerous groups have urged the removal of the Kirkpatrick (formerly Rodman) Dam and restoration of Rodman Reservoir to the Ocklawaha River floodplain because of the impact of the reservoir on the Ocklawaha River floodplain and associated ecosystems.

There is resistance to this from other groups, such as sports-fishing related organizations and businesses. The Governor and Cabinet, sitting as the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, have an established policy that the Ocklawaha River should be “partially restored,” with the FDEP as the lead agency. However, the Legislature has not appropriated funds for this purpose. If funds are made available and permits are issued, it is the intent of the FDEP to undertake this restoration.

The Ocklawaha and St. Johns Rivers are critical resources to the state of Florida and DEP is committed to their protection. DEP continues to work with the SJRWMD and the FWC to maintain the ecological health and productivity of the water bodies in the St. Johns River and Ocklawaha river basins while balancing the recreational benefits for the public.

The term “partial restoration,” which was the restoration option selected by the Governor and Cabinet in 1995, is intended to restore river hydrology and floodplain function to near preconstruction conditions through breaching of the dam, with limited removal and/or alteration of structures and alteration of topography. This alternative will retrieve National Forest System lands at the lowest cost while restoring river and floodplain hydrology.

According to Florida Park Service Unit Management Plan (2017-2027) for the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area, the major components of partial restoration are:

- Drawdown of the reservoir to be accomplished in three phases (three years to drop from 18 feet to four feet NGVD);

limited construction of channel stabilization; and erosion control structures in the Ocklawaha River.

- Limited planting of native plant species to provide for erosion control.
- Partial leveling of the exposed barge canal side-cast spoil berms.
- Restoration of the historic Ocklawaha River channel flow by filling the barge canal where it intersects the river channel.
- Restoration of the historic Deep Creek channel flow by filling the barge canal where it intersects the creek channel.
- Restoration of the historic Camp Branch floodplain and channel flow by filling the barge canal where it intersects the creek channel.
- Closure and securing of the Buckman Lock Removal of 2,000 feet of the Kirkpatrick Dam (earthen portion).
- Partial filling and restoration of the spillway tailrace to natural grade and development and implementation of a cultural resources operating plan.

Rodman Dam is a piece of failing infrastructure that needs to be retired responsibly for the sake of the environment and public safety.

There are many dams throughout the state, but the Rodman Dam is top priority for removal in Florida, based on its connectivity to other rivers in the system. Because there are so many dams in existence, there needed to be a way to triage which dams should be removed first hence the creation of The National Aquatic Barrier Inventory & Prioritization Tool by The Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP), which is a

regional collaboration of natural resource and science agencies, conservation organizations and private interests developed to strengthen the management and conservation of aquatic resources in the southeastern United States.

SARP works to implement the goals of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan in some of the United States most ecologically and economically significant watersheds. Remember that rivers and streams are more than just conduits for water and fish. They are long, linear ecosystems made up of the physical environment, communities of organisms, and a variety of ecological processes that shape and maintain these ecosystems over time.

The long-term conservation of important aquatic resources (such as fish) requires the maintenance of healthy and ecologically viable ecosystems. Decommissioning Rodman Dam will reestablish historic migration paths for popular gamefish like the striped bass and channel and white catfish, increasing recreational fishing opportunities in this struggling “premier” recreational fishery that serves myriads of outdoor enthusiasts and stimulates both the state and local economies.

Restoration of clear water flows from the Ocklawaha River to the St. Johns River will help replenish submerged aquatic vegetation and boost the abundance of crabs, shrimp, oysters, and fish like largemouth bass. Please tell legislators to reunite the rivers by removing the barrier that is Rodman Dam and its reservoir to begin the most important springs restoration project in the country, benefiting Florida’s largest spring, Silver Springs, and recovering the 20 “lost springs” of the Ocklawaha River. 🌿



Gainesville area events

Please notify the Iguana
of upcoming events at:
gainesvilleiguana@cox.net

WEEK OF NOV 9-15

Tue 11/11 "Hadestown", 7pm (& 11/12), UF Phillips Ctr (3201 Hull Rd), Tony- & Grammy-winning musical, \$50-100, <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9414>

Wed 11/12 Community Nights, 6-9pm Wednesdays, South Main Station (619 S Main St), live music, kid & pet friendly, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9187

Wed 11/12 Farmers Market Grand Opening, 4-7pm every Wed, Fla School of Massage (6421 SW 13th St), produce, baked goods, crafts, free chair massages, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9415>

Wed 11/12 "Criminal Justice Revolution", 7-8pm, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), author Richard Brust, PhD, on a 1933 Florida trial that led to ban on coerced confessions, free w/ registration; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9416>

Thu 11/13 "State Gov't Accountability", 9am-2:30pm, UF Reitz Union Rion Ballroom (655 Reitz Union Dr; also livestreamed), Collier Prize Symposium on state-level journalism, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9417>

Thu 11/13 Gabriel Rutledge, 7pm, Vivid Music Hall (201 W Univ Ave), stand-up comedian for ages 18+, \$38-65 (+\$5 for under 21); <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9418>

Thu 11/13 "Queer History Is Everywhere", 7-8pm, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), an evening with Invisible Histories, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9419>

Fri 11/14 "We Are Eating the Earth", 12-1:15, UF Pugh Hall Ocora (296 Buckman Dr), author Michael Grunwald on global farming crisis & solutions, free (also at Lynx Books, 6-7pm); <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9420>

Fri 11/14 "Ocklawaha Retrospective", 6-8pm, Fla Springs Welcome Ctr (18645 High Springs Main St, High Springs), artist Cpt. Karen Chadwick on history & hydrology of central Fla springs & the Rodman/Kirkpatrick dam; free

Fri 11/14 "The Trip to Bountiful" opens, 8pm (through 11/30), Star Center Theatre (11 NE 23rd Ave), moving play of Texas homecoming, \$16.30-23.44; <https://www.starcentertheatre.org>

Sat 11/15 Climate Festival, 9am-3pm, UF/IFAS Extension Office (22712 W Newberry Rd), panel of local leaders, keynote by author of We Are Eating the Earth, community

organizations, Star Ctr Theatre youth performance, more, free (adv. registration recommended); <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9421>

Sat 11/15 "Gangs, Guns, & Grades", 10am-noon, Springhill Baptist Church (120 SE Williston Rd), panel discussion with local educators & law enforcement, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9422>

Sat 11/15 Infinity Con, 10am-6pm (+ 11/16), Alachua County Sports & Event Ctr (4870 Celebration Pointe Ave), comics, gaming, VR, robots, cosplay, music, more, \$17.47-143.13; infinitycon.com/gainesville

Sat 11/15 Downtown Festival & Art Show, 10am-5pm (& 11/16), Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave), 44th annual open gallery w/ >200 artists, music, food, more, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9423>

Sat 11/15 Newberry Main St Fall Festival, 10am-4pm, downtown Newberry, music, arts & crafts, family fun zone, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9424>

Sat 11/15 "Art from the Archives", 11am-4pm, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), one-day exhibit of paintings & photos, free; mathesonmuseum.org/events

Sat 11/15 Downtown High Springs Artwalk, 12-5pm (also 12/15), downtown High Springs, local artists, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9425>

Sat 11/15 Gvl Free Store, 2-5pm 3rd Sats, Civic Media Ctr (433 S Main St), free stuff for all (masks required); civicmediacenter.org

Sat 11/15 Fall Farm Dinner, 4:30-7:30pm, Frog Song Organics (4317 US Hwy 310, Hawthorne), music & meal (meat or veg), \$47-275; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9426>

Sat 11/15 Jazz on the Plaza, 7-9pm, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave), US Air Force Jazz Band Dimensions in Blue plays updated Glenn Miller & more, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9427>

Sat 11/15 CMC Benefit Show, 7-10pm, Civic Media Ctr (433 S Main St), artists, donations tba; civicmediacenter.org

Sat 11/15 Jake Shimabukuro, 7:30-9pm, UF Phillips Ctr (3201 Hull Rd), the "Jimi Hendrix of the ukulele", \$30-50, UF students @12; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9428>

Sat 11/15 Tran the Piano Man, 7:30-9:30pm, Theatre of Memory (1705 NW 6th St), w/ vocals & stories, \$21.50, <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9429>

WEEK OF NOV 16-22

Sun 11/16 Alachua Main St Harvest Festival, 11am-5pm, downtown Alachua, vendors, food, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9430>

Sun 11/16 Sunday Assembly, 11am, Pride Ctr (3850 NW 83rd St, Ste 201), Matt of Climate Leadership Engagement Opportunities on climate change, & potluck, free; sagainesville.weebly.com

Sun 11/16 Kristen Arnett, 2-4pm, Pride Community Ctr (in Springhill Prof Ctr, 3850 NW 83rd St), author ("Writer, librarian, lesbian. Dad. Floridian") speaks, free

Sun 11/16 "Hope & Love Are Stronger", 3pm, Trinity United Methodist Church (4000 NW 53rd Ave), interfaith event against bigotry with music, breakout sessions; free w/ advance registration; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9431>

Mon 11/17 Harvest Health Fair, 10am-2pm, UF Health Street (2401 SW Archer Rd), no-cost health screenings, food distribution (begins at 12), free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9432>

Thu 11/20 Transgender Day of Remembrance, 7-9:30pm, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave), candlelight vigil, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9433>

Thu 11/20 "James and the Giant Peach (The Musical)" opens, 7:30pm (through 12/14), Gvl Community Playhouse (4039 NW 16th Blvd), based on the Roald Dahl book, \$15-25; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9434>

Fri 11/21 Swamp Chomp 2025, 6-9pm, The Barn at Deep Creek (3910 NE 156th Ave), music, food, & games to benefit Girls' Place, \$75+; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9435>

Fri 11/21 "7 Sides of Shakespeare" 7:30-9:30pm, Theatre of Memory (1705 NW 6th St), Shamrock McShane performs, \$21.50; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9436>

Sat 11/22 Jack Williams, 7:30-9:30pm, Theatre of Memory (1705 NW 6th St), "the quintessential Bard" brings guitar & stories to Gvl, \$21.50, <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9437>

WEEK OF NOV 23-29

Sun 11/23 Gvl Walk of Fame Fundraiser, 6:30-9pm, How Bazar (60 SW 2nd St), 4 bands, Tom Petty look-alike contest, \$10; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9438>

Fri 11/28 "Charlie and the Chocolate" mrier play of new community theatre, \$16.60 youth, \$21.85 adult; rippletheatricals.com

Sat 11/29 Holiday Market, 9am-4pm, Gvl Garden Club (1350 NW 75th St), artisans, plants, food, bring non-perishable food item(s) for local food pantries; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9439>

Sat 11/29 Small Biz Saturday, 12-5pm, Auk Market (2031 NW 6th St), crafts, vintage goods, food, more, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9440>

WEEK OF NOV 30-DEC 6

Wed 12/3 “Cocoa & Culture”, 7–9pm, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), sweet stories from Trinidad to St. Augustine, free w/ registration; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9441>

Thu 12/4 Jaenga x Josh Teed, 9pm (through 12/13), Vivid Musical Hall (201 w Univ Ave), “Road to Eternal” tour of music & movement, \$24.73–35.48; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9442>

Thu 12/4 “Holiday Channel Christmas Movie Wonderthon” opens, 8pm (through 12/21), Acrosstown Repertory Theatre (3501 SW 2nd Ave), play by Don Zolidis, \$10 on 12/4, \$20-25 thereafter; acrosstown.org/buy-tickets

Fri 12/5 Artwalk, 7–10pm, downtown Gvl, free; pg 10, artwalkgainesville.com

Sat 12/6 Accessible Trails, 10am–3pm, Prairie Creek Lodge (7204 SE Country Rd 234), Alachua Conservation Trust & Florida Trail Ass’n on trails & trail chairs, free (pre-register for trail chair ride); <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9443>

Sat 12/6 “A Very GNV Holiday Parade”, 12–1pm, W 6th St to E 6th St on Univ Ave, floats, bands, dancers, & post-parade family events, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9444>

Sat 12/6 Holiday Lights Celebration, 5–8pm, Thomas Ctr (302 NE 6th Ave), crafts, Santa, carriage rides, live entertainment, free (signup for rides opens 4:30); <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9445>

WEEK OF DEC 7-13

Sun 12/7 “Exploring Wild Florida with a Camera”, 1–2pm, Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Park (1500 NW 45th Ave), Matt Bruce on nature photography, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9446>

Sun 12/7 Amy Trask, 6pm, 2st Magnitude (1220 SSE Veitch St), Fla House Dist 22 candidate holds meet-&-greet, free; amytraskforflorida.com

Tue 12/9 “Science on the Backburner”, 11:30am, Eastside High School Inst. of Culinary Arts (1201 SE 43rd St), Art Hebard, PhD, talk for Fla Free Speech Forum, free but advance registration now needed for all attendees; <http://floridafreespeech.org/homepage.aspx>

Tue 12/9 “Bird Watching - What’s the Deal?”, 6:45–8:15pm, Cypress & Grove (1001 NW 4th St), Adam Kent on birds & birding, free; <https://alachuaudubon.org/events/programs/>

Sat 12/13 River Phoenix Ctr for Peacebuilding Fundraising Gala, 6–10pm, The Woolly (20 N Main St), buffet, silent auction, live music with The Shitty Beatles, \$100; pg 25; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9447>

Sat 12/13 “Super Very Improv Comedy Show”, 7:30–9:30pm, The Limelight (4908 NW 34th Blvd), script tbd, \$7.50–25; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9948>

Sat 12/13 Winter Solstice Concert, 7pm, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (4225 NW 34th St), 39th annual Vets for Peace benefit, \$20–50 sliding scale; vfp.gainesville.org

Sat 12/13 “Elf”, 8–10pm, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave), 2003 Will Ferrell movie, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9949>

WEEK OF DEC 14-20

Sun 12/14 ACT Holiday Mingle, 2–5pm, Prairie Creek Lodge (7204 SE Country Rd 234), eco-activists unwind together, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9950>

Sun 12/14 2025 Bacopa Literary Review, 2:30–4:30pm, Millhopper Branch Library (3145 NW 43rd St), authors & poets read prize-winning works, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9951>

Sun 12/14 “Dancing through the Snow”, 4 pm, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), 1st annual “Christmas at the Matheson” handbells concert, free; <https://mathesonmuseum.org/events/>

Sat 12/20 Gvl Free Store, 2–5pm 3rd Sats, Civic Media Ctr (433 S Main St), free stuff for all (masks required); civicmediacenter.org

WEEK OF DEC 21-27

Sun 12/21 Sunday Assembly, 11am, Pride Ctr (3850 NW 83rd St, Ste 201), holiday party potluck, w/ music, free; sagainesville.weebly.com

WEEK OF DEC 28-JAN 4

Sat 1/3 Flying Pig Parade, 2pm, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave), Gvl’s new tradition, w/ Grand Marshall Joe Courter, free; pg 11

Sun 1/4 FrogWatch USA, 1–2pm, Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Park (1500 NW 45th Ave), Jade Woodling on “Local Calls and Croaks of Alachua”, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9952>

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 Woolly, 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; and don’t forget civicmediacenter.org!

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

Art House films: thehipp.org/cinema-3

“Bobo a Gogo: the Nacho Clowns Extremes” Strange and Lovely Variety Show” starring Rain Drop and Auntie

Bobo, open stage every Monday (sign up by 8pm) at University Club (18 E Univ Ave)

Gainesville official and public meetings: <https://www.gainesvillefl.gov/Government-Pages/Government/Public->

Meeting-Participation/ Public-Meeting-Calendar

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

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

Democratic Women’s Club of Santa Fe Springs meets 4th Sunday 3–5pm (except Dec & July), High Springs

Women’s Club; dwcsofs@gmail.com, [Facebook.com/dwcsofs](https://facebook.com/dwcsofs)

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

See EVENTS, p. 28

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/](https://www.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 Brooker providing low-cost, high-quality dental care for people with and without health insurance to Alachua, Bradford and Union County

residents. The Clinic fulfills its mission with the help of volunteers. 352-485-2772 | acomnclinic.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://www.facebook.com/alachuaNAACP) | NAACPachb.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.

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

Spotlight on: Free Grocery Store



The Free Grocery Store is an all-volunteer mutual aid food pantry and garden based in Gainesville. They support the communities' right to healthy and nutritious food by distributing free food through delivery and in-person services, and by growing some of the food themselves.

The easiest way to get food is to go to their in-person pantry on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Civic Media Center (433 S. Main St.

Gainesville). Signup begins at 2pm and the pantry opens around 3pm and runs til 5:30pm while supplies last. No ID or proof-of-address is required; groceries are always free and clients always pick their own groceries.

Customers should arrive at the outside courtyard (rear of CMC off of 5th) to get a number and wait to be called inside. Each person gets to shop for between 10-15 pounds of groceries. Bags are provided, but people are encouraged to bring their own. Check out their website at gnvfgs.org for home delivery and other information. 🌱

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Drag Bingo, 7–9pm last Thursdays, 1st Mag (1220 SE Veitch St)

Living History Saturday, 9am–1pm (1st Sats, Sept–May), Morningside Nature Ctr (3540 E Univ Ave), farm life of the past reenacted, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9312

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

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 🌱

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/climateactrealitygnvgroup

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

Democratic Women's Club of Santa Fe Springs meets 4th Sunday 3-5pm (except Dec & July), High Springs Women's Club; dwcosfs@gmail.com | Facebook.com/dwcosfs

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

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

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

Families Against Mandatory Minimums works to reform Florida's sentencing laws

and restore fairness to Florida's criminal justice system. PO Box 142933, Gainesville, 32614 | gnewburn@famm.org | 352-682-2542 | FAMM.org

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

Friends of the Library is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in Gainesville. We support the Alachua County Library District and literacy programs throughout Alachua County. We accept donations of books, art, records, puzzles, games and much more. We have a huge sale every April and October. Find us at 430 N. Main St. 352-375-1676 www.folacld.org and Facebook and Instagram @FOLACLD

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](https://climateralityprojectgnv.com) | 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

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

Continued on next page

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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 @ppgenactionuf.

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

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

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

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. gainesvilleng@gmail.com | nlng.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/SAAatUF | instagram.com/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

Sunrise Movement Gainesville is a UF student-led organization focused on environmental justice through political engagement and community organizing. Follow them on Instagram at @sunrisemvmtgnv.

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

UCW Florida (CWA Local 3165) is a union of Florida public sector higher education workers open to all currently unrepresented employees at UF. We are part of a national union, the Communications Workers of America. CWA is home to a network of higher education workers, United Campus Workers, across the Southeast and Southwest fighting for social and economic justice in our institutions and communities. See UCWFL.org for more information or contact uniteduf@ucw-cwa.org.

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](https://facebook.com/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. UFPrisesu@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, justice for all affected. 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](https://twitter.com/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](https://twitter.com/un_pac_uflorida), or email un.pac.uf@gmail.com

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 email voicesforcommonground@proton.me.

WGOT-LP 100.1 FM is a community low-power radio station operating as part of the Civic Media Center, with progressive talk like Democracy Now and Thom Hartmann daily, and eclectic music shows from bluegrass to punk. 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. 🐸



Joining together, raising their voices, and showing their creativity, an estimated 2,000 people attended the National No Kings Rally in Gainesville on Saturday, Oct. 18. The rally featured numerous speakers and live music at Roberson Park, and also sprawled up and down SW 6th Street by the park, as well as over at Depot Circle. It was estimated that over 7 million people participated in 2,700 actions in all 50 states on that date. All photos by Chuck Ross. 🐢



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The Gainesville Iguana

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