



progressive news · events · directory

The Gainesville Iguana

March 2026 ~ vol. 39, issue 3

'a soapbox for Alachua County activists'

Organizing for community protection in Minneapolis

by Ann Wright, *Common Dreams*

Last week I was in Minneapolis, Minnesota to observe and learn from those who have attempted to protect members of their community from the brutal assaults by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and other government agencies and hold those agencies accountable for the violence they are wreaking on the community.

ICE in Minneapolis: From surge to “surrender (kind of)”

The Trump administration’s decision to surge 2,000 ICE and Border Patrol agents into Minneapolis to uphold White House Deputy Chief of Staff Steven Miller’s directive for the arrest in the US of 3,000 persons each day to teach immigrants, and everyone in the

See *ORGANIZING*, p. 20

As we are going to print ...

US and Israel strike Iran!!

We have no idea where this will go, but here are some recommended sites for follow-up information:

- Aljazeera.com
- CommonDreams.org
- Counterpunch.org
- MiddleEastMonitor.com



An anti-ICE protest was held on Newberry Road near the Oaks Mall on Jan. 31. See more on page 7. Photo by Chuck Ross.

Get ready to vote!

by Donna Waller

League of Women Voters of Alachua County

The elections are coming. In fact, some of them are almost here.

The League of Women Voters of Alachua County is getting ready, and you should be, too. The cities of Alachua, Archer, and Newberry have municipal elections on April 14. Hawthorne votes on June 9.

The party primaries and elections for Alachua County, the city of Gainesville, and the Alachua County School Board are on July 20.

On Nov. 3, we will elect members of the U.S. Congress (1 Senate seat and 28 House seats open statewide as of this printing), the Florida governor, and members of the Florida legislature, which is busily crafting some controversial ballot issues while I am writing this. They will also be on the Nov. 3 ballot. High Springs votes on Nov. 3, as well.

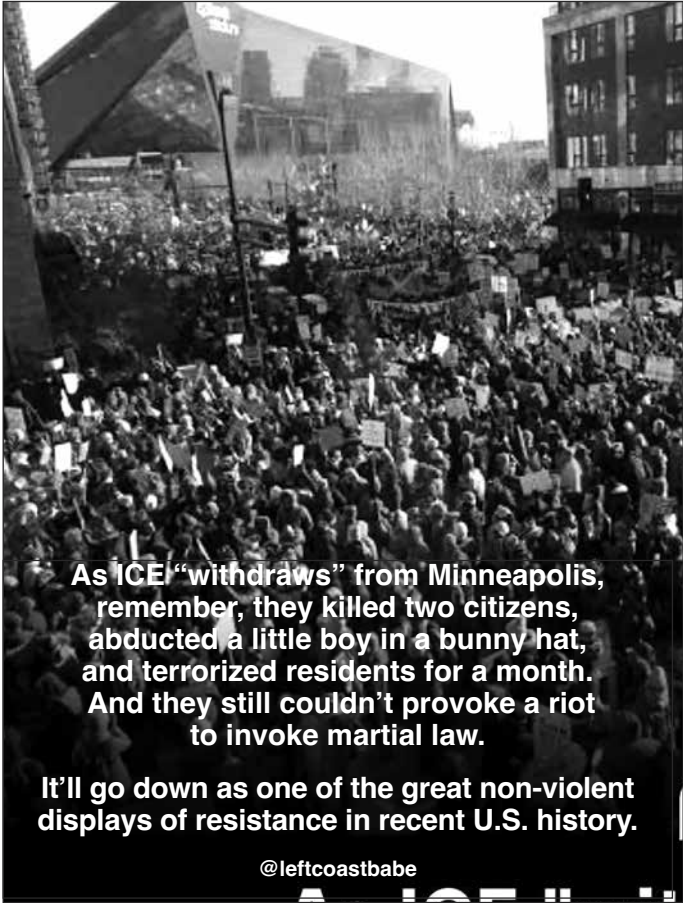
What should you do? If you are not registered to vote, register now! As usual, the state legislature is working on making it harder, so speed is of the essence. You can

See *VOTE*, p. 21

In this issue ...



US and Israel strike Iran 1
 Organizing in Minneapolis 1
 Get ready to vote 1
 PubNotes 2010-2025 book.....2
 Publisher Notes 3
 Florida: A Fight to Work state 4
 A call to action: Social Security documentary5
 Music for our times5
 GRU-Authority update 6
 Anti-ICE protest 7
 Unions say 'Ice Out' 8
 Gainesville filmmaker's 'AUDIENCE' 10
 GRU under threat10
 Bradford County: Warehouse for ICE/DHS? 12
 Sociology has been neutered12
 Support Slster Faye 13
 No Kings rally 13
 What you can do 14
 Save Graham Woods 16
 And the good news is 17
 Recommended blogs / web sites 18
 Editors Picks 19
 Oral History Program: Rosa B. Williams22
 Gainesville Area Events26
 Iguana Directory 28
 Spotlight on Gainesville Humanists 28
 Pride and prejudice 32

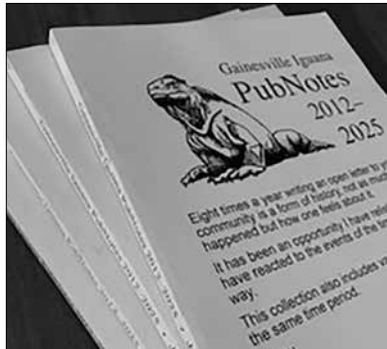


As ICE "withdraws" from Minneapolis, remember, they killed two citizens, abducted a little boy in a bunny hat, and terrorized residents for a month. And they still couldn't provoke a riot to invoke martial law.

It'll go down as one of the great non-violent displays of resistance in recent U.S. history.

@leftcoastbabe

Last Call:
PubNotes 2012-2025



Thank you to all who bought copies of the Pub Notes 2012-2025 book (a collection of 13 years of Publisher's Notes and assorted articles), and for the kind words I have had from people. The second run of a hundred books is down to about 15 left, and I kinda doubt we will run more. So get in touch, or come by the C&G

Farmers Market on Mondays if you'd like a copy. They were \$25 each to print; shipping is \$5 if you are out of the area. Local drop-off is possible. For more information or to order, email gainesvilleiguana@cox.net or call 352-378-5655. 🐢

Want your article, ad, event or PSA in the April Iguana?
 (Due to come out Thursday, April 9)
Deadline is Wednesday, April 1
 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.

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:
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Publisher Notes

The chaos is intentional, our resistance must grow

Publishing on a schedule like we do with the Iguana, sometimes our headline and emphasis can become a bit dated, and that's how I felt after our last edition which came out in early January. Coming off the holidays: BAM — the international law-violating attack on Venezuela and abduction of its leader. There's the lead, right? Then BAM — days before printing, the murder of Renee Good by ICE in Minneapolis. For us that was mentioned with an illustration on page 19. But then, Alex Pretti was murdered, Venezuela dropped from the headlines, and Minneapolis was the front page for weeks. Such are the times we are in.

During the Biden administration I saw a reporter interviewed, and he contrasted his experience covering the White House beat between then and back in the first Trump administration. He said the Trump people had news and events all the time, but (with Biden) things were so quiet. And now here in Trump 2 it is sheer madness. Also, now, he's probably not there, actual reporters have been purged.

Our government and nation is now is running on decrees by a would-be King, a man-child who loves wielding unchecked power, and those of his party are obliging by not reining him in. The major media for the most part are continuing to normalize what is anything but normal, or as in the cases of CBS and the Washington Post, being bought out to become cheerleaders in his norm-shattering policies and pronouncements. Decades of environmental regulation painstakingly developed are being negated. Tariffs are imposed and repeatedly changed that are disrupting industrial trade, industry planning and commercial pricing. Administrative agencies that seemed essential to health and welfare here and abroad are diminished or outright eliminated, as are individual rights. And now, launching war on Iran?!! Federalizing elections?!! Well now, even those who DID vote for this guy are starting to regret it.

So now, yes, whither the Resistance? It must be everywhere, and we are seeing it grow. The absolutely heroic efforts in frigid Minneapolis to counter the impact of ICE on their communities are stunning. In the streets, yes, but also sheltering and protecting the vulnerable, with food and errand running, to school protection, fund raising, etc, as Ann Wright's cover story points out. Churches really stepped up, ministers putting themselves on the line, and congregations taking their Christian beliefs into action in caring for immigrant neighbors. Workers in and out of organized labor were there for those in need. Retired folks went into action, too. It just happened that this city was extra prepared going back to prior police violence they'd dealt with: first Philando Castile in 2016 and then George Floyd in 2020. The "Minneapolis Model" needs to become engrained in our organizing toolbox as we face probable future repression and we resist this authoritarian government's still expanding power.

Resistance also came from persons with power to influence, putting themselves out there. Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey, Rep Ilhan Omar and Gov. Walz stood strong, as did other politicians. At the Grammys, a chorus of voices were heard, and that perhaps helped trigger a flood of musical resistance: both Bruce Springsteen and Brandi Carlisle actually going to Minneapolis for benefit shows. The prolific Jesse Welles appearing on Colbert was big. Many new songs were inspired and heard (see the article addressing musical resistance on page 5). Independent, non-corporate media is gaining a foothold in people's news intake (see page 18) and some formerly corporate media folks like Jim Acosta and Katie Phang are going independent as well. Kudos to the brave women athletes at the Olympics speaking out against ICE and for LGBTQ rights. Locally (and everywhere!) people are out marching and rallying, lining sidewalks, and on bridge overpasses. No Kings on March 28 will be huge! Students around the country are walking out of classes, showing their collective displeasure. Phone lines to Congress are lit up. And international leaders are disturbed by what they see, as heard at the recent Munich Security Conference, which included Alexandria Acosta-Cortez (love her) there to testify.

This shake-up of the world order is a dangerous and dreadful thing in so many ways, and somehow we need to defuse it and turn it around. We all have to do our part, keep hope alive (RIP Jesse Jackson), and make this world a better place as best as we can. 🍀



Joe Courter

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Gainesville Iguana

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

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Florida is increasingly a Fight to Work state

by Jason Bellamy-Fults with contributions from the Florida AFL-CIO and the Seeking Rents Substack

It's a sad state of affairs when the best thing we can hope for from the Florida legislature this year is dysfunction. But that's the situation we find ourselves in here in the latter half of this session.

The legislative session is supposed to be finished by mid-March, but if the legislature hasn't yet agreed on a budget (the only thing they're legally required to do), it will drag on. Again.

Last year, disagreements between the Governor and the legislature's two chambers led to an extended session and fewer bills that harmed working people than we've seen in recent years.

This year looks to be more of the same, with the added pressure of potentially two additional special sessions (one for Republican gerrymandering of Florida's congressional map and one for so-called property tax relief). Throw in the mix that this is an election year and many of our legislators really need to be out there fundraising and campaigning, and again, the best thing we can wish for is that the compression of it all will result in fewer bills passed.

Don't believe us? Just take a look at some of the bills that have been proposed: dramatically restricting voting rights and access to the polls; empowering Big Sugar to sue anyone who criticizes them; continuing preemption of our local communities on just about every issue; more book-banning; renaming roads and an airport for Charlie Kirk and Donald Trump; protecting Confederate monuments; mandated anti-abortion cartoons for our schoolkids; preventing teenagers from accessing birth control, treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, and non-emergency mental health services without parent permission; and preventing communities from implementing policies meant to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and combat climate change and eliminating local green energy policies that are already in place. Just to name a few.

Here are a few bills that the AFL-CIO has been focusing on this session:

- **SB 1112 / HB 1287: Amending the Labor Pool Act**

The only real bright spot to speak of thus far, this modest amendment to the Florida Labor Pool Act brings Florida's labor pools into the sunshine, requiring them to register in a state database, and closes the loopholes that currently force a

business wanting to take a great temporary worker and make them permanent to first fork over thousands to the labor pools.

- **SB 1632 / HB 1471: Ideologies Inconsistent with American Principles, aka Outlawing Activism**

This legislation creates a new and un-elected position of "Chief of Domestic Security" who would have the ability to designate any organization a "domestic terrorism organization" using vague and overly-broad definitions. Make no mistake, this will eventually be weaponized against us if passed.

- **SB 1296 / HB 995: Public Sector Union Busting**

A truly crushing blow for Florida's remaining public sector unions. This bill picks up where 2023's SB 256 left off, since that bill apparently hasn't been effective enough in crushing public sector unions in Florida. Among other things, it would require affirmative votes of >50% of the entire bargaining unit to start or maintain a union rather than just a majority of those who turn out to vote. This is a bar that none of the politicians supporting this legislation could have met for their own elections.

- **SB 1236 / HB 1387 Private Sector Union Busting**

Brought to us by the virulently anti-union American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), this legislation prohibits any Florida private employers who receive state grants or tax breaks from signing neutrality agreements during a union organizing drive. This is a blatant example of using the power of the state (and our tax dollars) to prevent unionization.

Here are a couple final takeaways from watching the legislature thus far this session:

1. Senator Stan McClain is awful. He's not only consistently voted for some of the worst bills, but even sponsored a few. It's an embarrassment that he's a part of the Alachua County legislative delegation and we need to do everything we can to get rid of this guy at our next opportunity (2028).
2. One-party rule in Florida has to end. The common refrain is that "Alachua County is a little progressive island in a sea of conservatism." That is patently incorrect if you look at the legislative delegation that represents us, only one of which (out of 5), Representative Hayes Hinson, has reliably voted in the interests of her constituents. Combine our lopsided legislature with their ever-increasing penchant to overturn home rule and before long we'll all be covering wage slaves residing in our little orange jail cells on Charlie Kirk Lane.

Seriously, folks. We've got to make some changes in the composition of our state legislature. Four out of five of Alachua County's legislative delegation seats will be up for election this year. Incumbents Senator Bradley and Representative Chad Johnson are running for reelection and each has an abysmal voting record on issues that matter to us. Representative Chuck Brannan is term-limited for his seat, so there will be a vacancy there. And Representative Hinson is stepping down.

If the way that Alachua County voters have been carved up makes it too hard to effect change in our own delegation, then let's look for opportunities in statewide races and/or support candidates who represent working class interests and are in competitive races elsewhere in the state. Recently, for exam-

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ple, local activists have been supporting AFL-CIO endorsed state Senate candidate Brian Nathan (<https://www.brianforfl.com/>) for his race in central Florida. Brian has taken note of our support and has promised to do whatever he can for us ACRs (Alachua County Residents) in Tallahassee if elected.

If you haven't already been emailing and calling your state legislators, please get on it. Below are some resources to help keep you up to speed. Let's get through this legislative session, then let's set our sights on this year's elections.

- FL AFL-CIO YouTube channel: tinyurl.com/Iguana2380
- FL AFL-CIO on Facebook: tinyurl.com/Iguana2381 & our local Central Labor Council on Facebook: tinyurl.com/Iguana2382
- FL AFL-CIO on Twitter/X: <https://x.com/FLAFLCIO>
- FL AFL-CIO on Instagram: tinyurl.com/Iguana2383
- Our local Central Labor Council's Substack: tinyurl.com/Iguana2384 🐘

Music for our times

by Joe Courter

In the struggle for peace and justice singer/songwriters have always played a role to unify and inspire. From adapting older tunes with new words, to penning originals, the list is long.

From 50 years ago we heard Nina Simone, Pete Seeger, Joan Baez, Bob Dylan, Phil Ochs, and many others. One huge change is how artists are able to get their songs heard by audiences today. Protest music came to the radio waves in the '60s with free form FM radio — prior to then access was limited to records, concerts and other live gatherings.

Now with the internet, artists can post songs on You Tube, Facebook and Instagram, and spread their music to hundreds, thousands, even millions of views.

I listen to and support a community radio station out of Blue Hill Maine, WERU, (weru.org) on line regularly, and last Saturday morning (2/21/26) the DJ did a 90-minute set of contemporary new songs addressing the times we are in. Some are better than others, as to be expected; you can see the whole list at tinyurl.com/Iguana2387. Below are my highlights you can pull up on You Tube:

Jesse Welles: "The List" / "No Kings" / "Whirlwind"

Emma's Revolution: "No Ice"

Ben Grosscup: "Come Out ye Cowards ICE" / "The Money They Stole"

Charlie Mosbrook: "The American Spirit"

David Rovics: "Hearts and Minds"

Curtis Lovejoy: "SALT (Strategies against Lawless Tactics)" / "Madness"


Katie Dahl: "A Song for Minnesota"

And as well, multiple songs from Kathie Fink and Marcy Marxer and, (can't miss this, you sing along fans) the Piedmont Raging Grannies. Look 'em up, and happy inspired listening, Iguana friends. The resistance is growing! 🐘



CALL TO ACTION

Contact your local public television affiliate and ask them to broadcast the brand-new documentary **Social Security: 90 Years Strong** when offered this Spring. Produced by the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare and AARP, the nearly hour-long film gives an upbeat history of the Social Security program from its humble beginnings in 1935 through today, when the path forward requires solid legislative action to avoid major benefit cuts within the next decade. Contact Gainesville's WUFT TV Channel 5 at 352-392-5551 or email a note to: info@wuft.org.



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GRU-Authority update

by Chuck Ross, member of the SSJ Group of the Sierra Club, GRU Ratepayer and Citizen of Gainesville

1) The GRU Authority (GRUA) voted at the Feb. 18 meeting to move General Public Comment to the end of the meeting, which seems intended to discourage public attendance.

2) On Feb. 19, GRU requested the City to sign off on allowing GRU to borrow \$150M from 3rd parties in new debt for energy, water, and wastewater projects. Concerns were raised about accelerating debt paydowns when GRUA knew they would need to borrow the funds again, given the cost of new debt. One project involves a \$10M refurbishment of the 50+ year old, 75MW Deerhaven-1 generator. GM Bielarski states GRU cannot afford new generation equipment, so he's running existing equipment into the ground. The question is: Should GRU spend money on old, inefficient generators, or invest in new, efficient ones? Which leads to item 3:

3) The status of the Duke interconnection transmission line project, from the Archer to Parker substations, has not been shared with the public. Questions have been raised regarding the project's cost and true purpose, given its potential to supply a significant amount of power to GRU. Specifically, is it intended to replace power currently generated by GRU with power from Duke in the future?

I've asked these questions but received no answers. 🐿



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Gainesville protests ICE



An anti-ICE protest was held on Newberry Road near the Oaks Mall on Saturday, Jan. 31. There was a good turnout, probably close to 100 protesters. Another peaceful protest in Gainesville. There are regular Saturday morning protests from 10-noon at the same location, thanks to Badass Feminists Gainesville. (“Migra” translates to “border patrol.”) Photo by Chuck Ross. 🐾



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More unions are saying ‘ICE Out’

by Alexandra Bradbury

More unions across the country are taking a stand against Immigration and Customs Enforcement since the Jan. 23 mass strike in Minneapolis and the Jan. 24 killing of Alex Pretti, an intensive care nurse and union member.

Pretti was a member of the Government Employees (AFGE) Local 3669, working in the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Hospital. His death at the hands of Border Patrol agents has shocked and outraged people across the country. Health care and V.A. workers have felt it even more keenly.

National Nurses United, which has 225,000 members, became the first national union to call for the abolition of ICE, holding a week of actions beginning Jan. 26 on that theme.

AFGE held a nationwide day of remembrance for Pretti on Feb. 1, with vigils outside V.A. hospitals in 22 cities. The union called for the resignation of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem and Deputy White House Chief of Staff Stephen Miller for branding Pretti a “domestic terrorist.”

A Growing Chorus

The day of Pretti’s killing, the AFL-CIO called “for ICE to immediately leave Minnesota.” The Communications Workers (CWA) soon did, too.

They joined unions that have been making similar calls since the Jan. 7 killing of Renee Good, including SEIU, which has called for “ICE out of our communities,” and the Postal Workers (APWU), which has called for “an end to these dangerous and disruptive ICE raids” and objected to the use of postal facilities as ICE staging areas.

Even some more conservative unions felt the need to say something about Pretti’s death. The Electrical Workers (IBEW) condemned the administration’s “excessive use of force and government overreach” in Minnesota.

The Building Trades (NABTU) said Pretti’s killing “has raised serious concerns about excessive force, as multiple videos and eyewitness accounts contradict federal claims about the moments leading up to his death.”

Pretti’s union, AFGE, is in a complex position. The National Border Patrol Council is an AFGE affiliate, and put out an immediate statement the morning of his killing falsely claiming that he had been “brandishing” a gun, and asserting that officers had “utilized justifiable force in eliminating the threat.”

AFGE Local 17, which represents workers in the V.A.’s central office, has demanded that the V.A. offer grief counseling and mental health support, lower flags to half-staff, and apologize for blaming Pretti’s death on Minnesota’s insufficient compliance with the deportation machine.

Putting Words into Action

A call circulated online for a nationwide shutdown Jan. 30. In Tucson, Arizona, hundreds of educators participated, closing 21 schools for the day.

In Portland, Oregon, the state labor council and two dozen unions backed a “Labor Says ICE Out!” march and rally Jan. 31. Thousands of people turned out, many wearing union gear and carrying their union banners. Northwest Labor Press re-

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ported that marchers filled the streets for nine blocks.

Though the march was family-friendly, with plenty of kids and elders participating, when some protesters approached the ICE facility the police attacked with teargas and projectiles. The gassing was so intense that the effects lingered in the air for days, even indoors in nearby buildings, including a hospital.

The same day in Seattle, workers organized three union-backed "ICE out!" rallies—one for educators, one for health care workers, and one for tech workers—and converged for a joint march of thousands.

Some unions, such as the Chicago Teachers, have answered the call from Minneapolis activists to hold protests outside and inside Target stores nationwide. Target is one of the biggest companies headquartered in the Twin Cities, and it has been allowing ICE to enter its stores and arrest employees.

Other corporate targets are the hardware chain Home Depot, Enterprise car rentals, Hilton hotels, and home builder DR Horton.

In Minneapolis, labor solidarity has continued after the monumental strike. Teamsters Local 120 sent its food truck to support AFGE's vigil at the V.A.

At another hospital, nurses and doctors

told the press that ICE was clearly lying about how a construction worker got his skull shattered. (ICE claimed he had deliberately run into a brick wall.)

And members of the Letter Carriers (NALC) Branch 9 passed a resolution Jan. 27 declaring that ICE activities on

their delivery routes pose a major threat to members' safety, and encouraging carriers to report it as a safety hazard when management tries to send them out in dangerous conditions.

Originally published in Labor Notes, labornotes.org.



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Gainesville filmmaker Tom Miller heads to Mexico with bold film ‘AUDIENCE’

by Elena Ramirez, *Central Florida Stories*
Tom Miller, the Gainesville performance artist, screenwriter, and director known for his boundary-pushing work, is preparing to bring his latest feature film, AUDIENCE, to the international stage once again.

The movie will screen at the Puerto Aventuras International Film Festival in Riviera Maya, Mexico, running from March 25 to 29. This appearance builds on Miller’s track record of turning local talent and ideas into global conversations, and it’s generating real excitement in the Gainesville arts community.

Miller’s path in screenwriting took a significant turn through his time in the David Lynch Screenwriting Master’s Program at Maharishi International University. There, he immersed himself in Lynch’s unconventional approach to narrative, one that prizes intuition, meditation, and the surreal over conventional Hollywood formulas.

The passing of David Lynch on Jan. 16, from emphysema and cardiac-related complications, marked the end of an era for many filmmakers influenced by his vision. Miller often credits that program with sharpening his ability to blend the absurd with the profound, qualities that shine through in AUDIENCE.

The film centers on Snerdly, a dedicated theater lover portrayed with remarkable intensity by Shamrock McShane. As Snerdly attends what seems like a routine performance, the boundaries between audience and performer dissolve in unexpected, meta ways. The supporting cast, all hailing from the Gainesville scene, adds layers of authenticity and energy: George Steven O’Brien, Mike Garvin, Olive Isa, Arleen Wolf, Carolyn Salt, and Nino Barucci each contribute to the film’s quirky, immersive atmosphere. McShane’s performance, in particular, carries the weight of the story, his facial expressions and timing

pulling viewers deeper into the film’s playful yet unsettling world.

Editing stands out as one of the film’s strongest elements. Alex Davidowski and the team at Mirador Studios delivered crisp, inventive cuts that maintain the story’s momentum while amplifying its experimental spirit. Their work turns what could have been chaotic into something tightly controlled and engaging, a testament to their skill in handling indie projects with big ideas on modest budgets.

This trip to Mexico fits squarely into Miller’s longstanding vision: “putting Gainesville local arts on an international stage.” He has walked this path successfully before. His short film NOTHING, which playfully documented his conceptual invisible sculpture installation in Bo Diddley Plaza, earned widespread recognition. It played at festivals including the NYC Indie Film Festival and took home three awards at Puerto Aventuras in 2025:



Badass Feminists Gainesville

We are a group of almost 1700 people - and growing. Many of us protest against the Trump administration every Saturday morning.

If you are looking for a way to take action, please join our Facebook group!

Find us on Facebook



Best Short, Visionary Director, and Best Experimental Short. AUDIENCE has already secured an early Best Feature win at the same festival, showing that Miller's approach continues to resonate with judges and audiences alike.

Getting to this point requires more than talent and vision; it demands resources and community backing. Miller is fundraising to cover travel costs, promotional materials, and plans for a celebratory event back in Gainesville upon his return.

He's investing a substantial amount personally, but he stresses that independent arts shouldn't rely on one person's wallet. "This isn't a hobby for me," Miller says. "For the arts to be taken seriously and to grow, they need real support from many sources, just like political campaigns draw from diverse donors instead of self-funding. When people contribute, everyone has a stake in the success, and that elevates the whole Gainesville scene."

To help make this Mexico screening and the follow-up events a reality, supporters can contribute through several channels. The main fundraiser is on GoFundMe at [tinyurl.com/Iguana2366](https://www.gofundme.com/Iguana2366).

Additional options include Givebutter at [tinyurl.com/Iguana2365](https://www.givebutter.com/Iguana2365), Buy Me a Coffee at [tinyurl.com/Iguana2367](https://www.buymeacoffee.com/Iguana2367), and Venmo to @Tom-Miller-Actor. Every donation, no matter the size, helps turn this milestone into a broader win for local filmmakers and performers.

As Tom Miller packs for Riviera Maya, his work continues to prove that bold, independent voices from places like Gainesville can hold their own on the world stage. For more about Tom's projects in cinema, including festival submissions, screenings, and updates on AUDIENCE and beyond, visit his FilmFreeway profile at <https://filmfreeway.com/TomMiller>.

Follow him on X at @millerworks for the latest news, and consider lending your support to keep the momentum going. Gainesville's creative spirit is alive and well, traveling far these days thanks in part to Creatives like Miller, his cast and crew, and supporters like you.

This article was originally published by Daily Kos on Feb. 19. See more at [dailykos.com](https://www.dailykos.com).



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Bradford County considers plan to warehouse migrants for ICE/DHS

by Carol Mosley

There is a nationwide effort by ICE/DHS to obtain unused warehouses to warehouse migrants. At a county commission meeting on Jan. 15, posted only two days prior, Sabot Consulting presented Bradford County with a plan to convert an empty 100,000 square foot warehouse into a 1,000 bed detention center with new structures added for another 2,000 beds. There will be 1,200 staff, most likely GardaWorld Security.

Despite the short notice, residents who heard showed up in opposition. Though not an agenda item at the following two county commission meetings, the room was packed with local residents and regional groups to speak about the various reasons that it is a bad idea.

Some focused on moral concerns of how most of the people being detained now are not “the worst of the worst” but often people with no criminal charges against them, many with US citizen family members.

Some pointed out the abuses reported at other facilities. There were concerns about inadequate local infrastructure and environmental issues. And, worries for a loss of the rural culture. There was even a contingent of folks who pointed out Bible verses about kindness to strangers and foreigners.

Local groups were there to address their particular areas of concern: Sierra Club Suwannee-St Johns Group, Our Santa Fe River, Bridges Across Borders, Bradford Environmental Forum, North Central Fla Indivisible and the Bradford Democratic Party, among others.

No final decision has been made, but the commission agreed to let the sheriff and county manager, along with the consulting company, negotiate a plan with ICE/DHS. The threat hanging over the county’s head, according to the sheriff, is that the state will come in and force it on us without input from the county. In other words, go along or they’ll come in as a gang of bullies and force us into submission.

Is the Bradford County Commission up for the fight? Maybe not. But, there are small towns across the country, such as

Social Circle, Georgia, who are passing resolutions and taking whatever steps are available to say, “We do not need it and we do not want it here.” The groups above agree and they are ready to take action if necessary.

This is not a single county problem. The plan says there will be an ICE office in Gainesville. That’s not likely to go over well with Gainesvillians.

The warehouse is located along the main shopping stretch on CR301 as you enter Bradford County, across from the Walmart. One thing the county commission did share as a concern was that having protesters where tourists are coming for events would be awful. I’m just saying.

The sheriff and the county manager see it as an economic boon. And an opportunity to have a county owned warehouse “upgraded” when there are no more humans to warehouse. Meanwhile, those of us vowing to fight it see it as an economic bust and a deplorable idea. If you think so too, let your local officials know. And get ready for action. Plans are in action for sign painting parties and protests you can take part in. Aside from that, it is an ill-conceived plan with so many logistical problems that we hope exposing those will put this bad idea to an end before it even begins. But, if not ...

If you want to help stop the detention center, call or text Jyoti Parmar 352-641-0095, or email NCFindivisible@gmail.com. ☞

Sociology has been neutered

by Joe Courter

I am not sure what of sociology remains without the discussion of movements for increased social justice, inherent discriminations, cultural biases, and power relationship between people and groups within society.

As the American Sociological Association defines it: “Sociology is the study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior. Sociologists investigate the structure of groups, organizations, and societies and how people interact within these contexts. Since all human behavior is social, the subject matter of sociology ranges from the intimate family to global communities; from deviance to organized crime; from religious traditions to state institutions; and from the divisions of race, gender and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture.”

Yet this is what the state of Florida has decreed as banned in State schools textbooks:

- Discussions that suggest that unconscious or unintentional institutional discrimination (e.g., systemic racism, institutional sexism, historical discrimination) is a singular cause for patterns of inequality observed today

- Discussions about unconscious or unintentional discrimination as inherent among American citizens
- Discussions that state an intent of institutions today to oppress persons of color
- Discussions that state that heteronormative behaviors are tied to implicit bias, and harmful to children
- Discussions that argue most variations between men and women are learned traits and behaviors
- Discussions that argue that modifying opportunities for persons of color to match opportunities afforded to others regardless of merit is necessary to address historical racism
- Discussions arguing a causal association between institutional sexism and unequal outcomes between men and women
- Discussions that suggest that an entire racial or ethnic group is biased against another racial or ethnic group
- Discussions that describe when, how, or why individuals determine their sexual orientation and/or gender identity

For a longer discussion of this topic, see: tinyurl.com/Iguana2368. ☞

Prayers. Poets.
Prose. Protest.
Support Sister Faye!

M.A.M.A.'s Club Gainesville to hold poetry benefit show for Porters Quarters community organizer Sister Faye Williams

M.A.M.A.'s Club Gainesville invites everyone to an afternoon of poetry and music to honor and uplift Sister Faye Williams, Saturday, March 21, from 3-7pm at Greater Bethel AME Church in Gainesville. Faye Williams is a lifelong organizer and freedom fighter for affordable housing, universal health care, voter education and registration, and action on environmental issues. Let's lift her up and give back to this woman who has given so much to help build a stronger, more resilient, more peaceful and sustainable community.

The event will feature poetry, prose, and spoken word by Gainesville artists, poets, and organizers including Terrie Bailey, Brittany Cole, Mx. Cat Diaz, Carolina Andrea, Diedre Houchen Keturah, Cassandra Tucci, Queen Mother Vivian Filer, Maa Shika Chisholm, Cynthia Portalatin, Ra'Chelle Banks, Jyoti Parmar, Abigail Perret-Gentil, Shelly Seymour, Alicia Shanese, Ananuka Tiyoweh-Osceola, and Desmon Duncan Walker.

This event is the second in a series of three. The first featured all male poets and musicians. This one features all women performers. The third event will feature all of the performers from the first two coming together for a powerful night of spoken word, drumming, and singing. 🌟

No Thrones,
No Crowns,
No Kings rally

A "No Thrones No Crowns No Kings" Rally will be held on Saturday, March 28 from noon to 4pm at Cora P. Roberson Park, located at 600 SW 6th St. in Gainesville.

Because parking at Cora Roberson Park is limited, there will be two free Park and Ride locations:

1. Alachua County School District Office at 620 East University Avenue.
2. Depot Park extended parking lot at SE 4th Street and SE Veitch St. 🌟

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- Jesse Jackson (1941-2026)*




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The Postman Always Rings Twice (1946)	March 8 at 4:30 PM	
Oscar Shorts: Live Action Films	March 6 - 22	
Blue Velvet	March 14 at 8:30 PM	
Oscar Shorts: Documentaries	March 8 - 27	
The Stranger	March 15 at 4:00 PM	
Scarlet	March 20 - 29	
Cocktails & Classics: Sunset Boulevard	March 21 at 8:30 PM	
Nirvana the Band The Show the Movie	March 19 - 29	
Mildred Pierce	March 22 at 4:00 PM	

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AT

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3/19	JOSH MELOY
3/20	FREE LIVE ON THE LAWN FT. THE SHAMBLES
3/22	JOHN PRINE MUSIC MATINEE
3/25	MOE.
3/27	CASSIDY DANIELS
3/28	SATURDAYS AT YOUR PLACE W/ RETIREMENT PARTY & KEROSENE HEIGHTS
4/2	EASY HONEY W/ THOMAS ALLAIN
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What you can do

by Janice Garry

The people of Minneapolis have resisted and called out the brutal takeover of their city because after the George Floyd murder they organized. Volunteers stepped up and created dozens of local organizations that collaborated and mobilized when the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents moved into their city by the thousands. Instead of finding a cakewalk, the agents were met with strategic, massive demonstrations and protection of the city and its people by its people.

In Alachua County, volunteers have responded to the suppression of our federal government by organizing. A collaboration of groups is planning the No Kings Protest that will be held locally and nationally on March 28. Locally, the event will be held at noon at Cora Roberson Park (600 SW 6th Street). Park & Ride options will be at the Alachua County School District Office (620 E University Ave) and Depot Park Extended Parking Lot (SE 4th Street & Veitch Street). With your participation, this will be the biggest No Kings protest yet. Make a sign. Make a costume. Or come as you are. We will gather in love, joy and comradery.

There are two local resources for you to know about:

Gainesville Activism Hub: linktr.ee/gnvbluehub

- Organizers: Sarah Beth and Monique Constantino (Badass Feminists organizer)
- A common source to find left-leaning groups to join, events to attend and other resources for local activism in Gainesville, Florida.
- The Link Tree website has a calendar of all the known events going on and tabs will take you to various organizations and what they do. This is a much-needed hub of information

What You Can Do Campaign: jgcommunity23@gmail.com

- Organizers: Jay Rosenbeck and Janice Garry, Co-Chairs
- We search news sources for information about top-tier issues to resist or support. We digest news, concisely write about it and provide action items for you. Email messages are distributed every one to three weeks with all the information you need to act.
- Use the email address above to write and ask to be added to the email list. We have over 250 readers with a goal of 1,000 readers. Find What You Can Do on the Activism Hub under "Local Resources, Media and Influencers."

Businesses are responding to the need to support our community. Last week Wildflowers Yoga created a Human Rights Week. All classes were donation-based with proceeds going to a local organization to support immigrants. Over \$1800 will be donated to support local immigrants. You can reach Wildflowers at: www.wildflowersyoga.com.

No action is too small or insignificant. Helping a neighbor, shopping at a local business, calling/emailing legislators or protesting may be small actions but collectively they translate into a strong community. If you want to see how it looks in real time, attend the No Kings Protest. Who would think that protesting could be so much fun?! 🐾

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PULP
2022

Save Graham Woods!

by Savannah Green
the FL4EverGreen Team

Graham Woods on the University of Florida campus is not just a forest, but a sanctuary — a precious green heart within the bustling field of sports and academia.

Through UF's long history, it has stood relatively untouched just southwest of the O'Connell Basketball Center as a 7.5-acre testament to the beauty and diversity of Florida's natural habitat. While pri-

marily a Conservation Area, it also serves several stormwater pipes and canals, doubling its functionality for people and for nature. It is home to roughly 1,000 trees, including 67 large heritage trees, along with biking and walking paths, and even the endangered Florida Milkvine among other uncommon plants.

However, this natural haven is under existential threat. The University is planning to clear-cut these woods for an "improvement plan." (see UF-708 at

tinyurl.com/Iguana2391) to put in a couple stormwater ponds, severing the lifeline of numerous species and eradicating potential archaeological sites.

The devastation doesn't stop at the forest; it extends to the hundreds of ecological roles these trees play — like regulating air quality, providing habitat for wildlife, and contributing to our own health and well-being.

With approximately 4.2 acres of critical wetlands at risk of being turned into a shadeless, joyless, and lifeless retention area, the University must find a way to preserve the majority of Graham Woods, while fixing the limited problems of erosion and pipe maintenance within it.

Not considering alternatives is unacceptable.

We urge the University of Florida to immediately halt all plans to destroy Graham Woods and, instead, explore sustainable erosion-control and stormwater designs within it which will maintain the Woods as much as possible as a natural, not manmade, habitat.

Consider alternative locations for stormwater retention, including the recently cleared area to the south around historic Graham Pond. Change UF policy to ensure that heritage trees are prioritized for protection, and avoided for removal in all but the most extreme cases, and even then, consider tree relocation when possible.

But most of all, get public input on such major projects first. It's essential to recognize the intrinsic value of Graham Woods—not just as a piece of land, but as a living, breathing asset that enriches our community and can control stormwater without losing all its habitat.

Join us in our fight to save Graham Woods. Sign the petition at tinyurl.com/Iguana2388 and speak out at UF meetings to voice your support for this irreplaceable green treasure. ♻️



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22	Quartermoon (Americana)	Free

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DRIVE THRU & CALL-INS

A judge says she'll rule that the U.S. still cannot force states to provide data on SNAP recipients

by Geoff Mulvihill ~ Associated Press, Feb. 13 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2356

A federal judge signaled the administration can't compel states to hand over detailed SNAP recipient data (including immigration-related fields), limiting the risk of welfare records being repurposed for enforcement. It's a strong privacy + anti-cruelty guardrail for a core anti-poverty program serving tens of millions."

A massive climate resilience program is escaping Florida's DOGE purge

by Jake Bittle ~ Grist ~ Feb. 17 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2357

Florida's Resilient Florida adaptation fund has (so far) proven unusually durable, with lawmakers renewing it unanimously and locking in a new funding stream, even amid broader pressure to slash "climate" spending. It's a rare case where climate reality + public infrastructure needs are forcing continued investment, creating footholds for resilience, environmental justice, and local public-works wins.

Community groups sharing free abortion pills expand to states where abortion is legal but out of reach

by Carrie N. Baker ~ Ms. Magazine ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2358

Volunteer-run mutual aid groups are quietly mailing free abortion pills across the U.S -- reaching tens of thousands of people shut out by cost, distance, privacy concerns and a shrinking clinical system, even in states where abortion remains legal. In response to abortion bans and restrictions, these groups send abortion pills by mail, free of charge, to those who need them. Groups have mailed over 100,000 sets of pills since 2022.

David Jolly blasts other gubernatorial candidates for not calling out Trump on Obama post

by Mitch Perry ~ Florida Phoenix ~ Feb. 9 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2364

Florida Democratic gubernatorial candidate David Jolly wants to know why no other candidate has condemned President

Donald Trump for the video he posted on his Truth Social account depicting former President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama as apes. "The heart-breaking part in the days since, no other candidate asking to lead this state has condemned the president's racism," he said.

Democrats defend 'the actual existence of the Department of Education' in forum

by Shauneen Miranda ~ Florida Phoenix ~ Feb. 12 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2359

U.S. House Democrats rebuked efforts from Trump's administration to dismantle the Department of Education, including moves to shift some of its core functions to other agencies. Rep. Bobby Scott of Virginia said "over and over again, the administration has circumvented the law to hamstring the future of public education without the consent of Congress or the American people."

Federal judge orders restoration of slavery exhibits to Philadelphia's President's House

by Ian Karbal ~ Florida Phoenix ~ Feb. 17 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2360

In a scathing opinion, U.S. District Court Judge Cynthia Rufe, a George W. Bush appointee, ordered the federal government to restore exhibits on slavery that had been removed from the President's House in Philadelphia last month. The exhibits had been removed due to an executive order issued by President Trump.

Florida student journalists win reinstatement of withheld school newspaper articles

by Noah Ramirez ~ WUSF Public Media ~ Feb. 20 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2353

At Pine View High School in Sarasota, students whose newspaper articles were initially withheld for alleged "bias" successfully fought to have their work published, with support from First Amendment advocates. The development restores student expression and reinforces the importance of press freedom even at the local level, a civil-rights win for young journalists.

Gainesville residents walk out of school and work for a 'Stand with Minnesota' ICE protest

by Angelique Rodriguez ~ Independent Aligator ~ Jan. 31 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2361

About 300 people gathered on 13th Street and University Avenue in Gainesville at 3 p.m. on Jan. 30 as part of a nationally organized day of action to protest U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The crowd held signs reading "Stop ICE terror," "Abolish ICE," and "I like my ICE crushed." They yelled "Power to the people, no one is illegal" and "F—k ICE" while banging drums.

Judge temporarily blocks Pentagon from punishing Sen. Mark Kelly for call to resist unlawful orders

PBS NewsHour ~ Feb. 12 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2362

A judge blocked Pentagon retaliation against Sen. Mark Kelly tied to speech about refusing unlawful orders, framing it as a serious First Amendment problem. It's a civil liberties and anti-authoritarian bright line: political retaliation inside national security institutions gets checked in court.

Judge temporarily blocks Trump administration from rescinding \$600M in public health grants

Associated Press ~ Feb. 12 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2354

A federal judge temporarily halted cuts to CDC-linked public health grants supporting outbreak tracking and research on health outcomes in LGBTQ+ communities and communities of color. It's an immediate harm-reduction win that keeps capacity (and jobs) in place while courts test whether "anti-equity" defunding can be done by executive fiat.

The Democratic party is turning back toward public schools

by Peter Greene ~ The Progressive ~ Feb. 21 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2355

It has been a long time since the Democratic Party gave its full-throated support for public schools in this country. Now a coalition of Democrats in Congress is offering a new policy lens that could reverse the decades-long abandonment of the U.S. public education system. They are calling for investment and support for public schools and clearly rejecting the Trump Administration's call to dismantle education and education supports. ✨

Recommended blogs / web sites



joycevance.substack.com

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

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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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THE LEFT HOOK

A political, cultural, and intellectual playground for the rest of us with writer Wajahat Ali

thelefthook.substack.com

Robert Reich writes at robertreich.substack.com



An emeritus 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.”

The Daily Beans is a women-owned and operated liberal news podcast for your morning commute brought to you by the web award-winning host of “Mueller, She Wrote,” Allison Gill, with Dana Goldberg. Get your social justice and political news with just the right amount of snark.

mswmedia.com/show/daily-beans/



Editors' picks: News that didn't fit

Bernie Sanders' 7 policies to defeat Trump, secure a better future for all

by Jessica Corbett ~ *Common Dreams* ~ Feb. 5 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2375

Sanders: "It is not good enough just to be critical of Trump and his destructive policies. We must bring forth a positive vision that will improve the lives of ordinary Americans." In a depressing Guardian op-ed, Sanders summarizes the ways our country is in decline, but also speaks of his goals for "a national grassroots movement that fights for the needs of the American working class."

Black History Month shines light on institutionalized racism in our educational system

by Janice Ellis ~ *Florida Phoenix* ~ Feb. 18 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2374

Celebrating Black History Month is a temporary gesture that does little to address the deeply entrenched institutional racism and educational disparities that continue to harm Black students and communities. What is needed is sustained, systemic reform in public education, emphasizing that meaningful change in resources, curriculum, and policy is necessary to break cycles of inequality and strengthen both individuals and society.

Disheartening: US justice dept. slashes funding to programs combating child sex trafficking

by Katie McQue *The Guardian* ~ Jan. 24 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2373

On Jan. 14, Ford autoworker TJ Sabula became famous for a day after calling Donald Trump a "pedophile protector" to his face (and earning a presidential middle finger in reply, along with suspension from his job and a multi-hundred-thousand dollar public support fund). Though Sabula called Trump out for suppressing release of the Epstein files, he was righter than he knew: Trump and his attorney general Pam Bondi have systematically cut funding for child protection across the board, including law enforcement training and coordination, aid to survivors, and more. Child predators are using AI, social media, etc, to locate and groom kids in ways police can't keep up with under Dept of Justice "austerity" budgets, and The Guardian - yes, we need British news media to tell us about this - has a series of reports on federal failures.

Honoring Jesse Jackson, who helped create the America Trump wants to destroy

by Dean Baker ~ *Common Dreams* ~ Feb. 18 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2386

Jesse Jackson, American civil rights activist and protégé of Martin Luther King Jr., died on Feb. 17. He was 84. His legacy "rainbow coalition" helped open the doors for Blacks, Hispanics, Arab and Muslim Americans, and the LGBTQ community, while sharing a powerful populist economic message at the height of Reaganism.

James Uthmeier just needs \$400 per hour to feed his family

by Stephanie Hayes, *Tampa Bay Times* ~ Feb. 20 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2385

Florida Attorney General James Uthmeier's \$100,000 salary for teaching a two-hour-per-week adjunct class at UF is wildly disproportionate to the workload and typical adjunct instructor wages. That his political background warrants such compensation suggests the arrangement reflects favoritism and misplaced priorities rather than merit. It must be that he needs the income.

Meet Minneapolis neighbors standing up to ICE

by Samantha Michaels ~ *Mother Jones* ~ Jan. 21 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2378

In Minneapolis, volunteers have formed "ICE Watch," a grassroots network that tails federal immigration agents, documents arrests, and mobilizes neighbors to ensure witnesses are present and detainees are identified. The movement connects thousands of residents through rapid-response systems, despite criticism from federal officials who label them extremists while participants say they are simply protecting their communities.

Rep. Andrade stands firm in Hope Florida fraud allegations against AG Uthmeier

by Meleah Lyden ~ *WUSF* ~ Feb. 9 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2371

The "Hope Florida"/Casey Desantis scandal remains alive, in good part due to a Pensacola Republican state representative tracking how a \$10 million payment to the state veered into an anti-marijuana-legalization PAC linked to now Florida Attorney General James Uthmeier.

Sanctity of sanctuary

by Nooriel Nolan ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2389

This passionate call to action urges Floridians to transform their faith into civic courage by resisting ICE enforcement and 287(g) agreements, framing immigrant protection as both a constitutional duty and a moral obligation to defend vulnerable neighbors.

The life and work of Michael Parenti: a tribute with his son

by Max Blumenthal and Christian Parenti ~ *The Grayzone* ~ Feb. 6 ~ video ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2370

Christian Parenti gives a tribute to his dad Michael Parenti, the dissident political scientist, who died on Jan. 24. Although Parenti was one of the country's most outspoken Marxists, he was also a pragmatist who welcomed democratic reforms within his own society.

The state of our union

by Heather Cox Richardson ~ *YouTube* ~ Feb. 24 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2377

Writer/activist Rebecca Solnit asked historian Heather Cox Richardson to do her own State of the Union message in response to Trump, and so that is what she did that very afternoon. HCR is amazing.

What MAGA can teach Democrats about organizing, infighting

by Charles Duhigg ~ *The New Yorker* ~ Jan. 26 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2372

Donald Trump won the White House by copying Barack Obama's strategy — out-organizing the opposition on a local community level. Can progressives recall how to do the same, only better? Charles Duhigg analyzes how to build movements which endure and succeed.

Why Palantir is America's most dangerous corporation

by Robert Reich ~ *Inequality Media* ~ Dec. 2 ~ tinyurl.com/Iguana2376

Robert Reich introduces us to Palentir, America's Most Dangerous Corporation, as only Robert Reich can. Funny and scary. 🐞



SCAN ME

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From ORGANIZING, p. 1

US a lesson, backfired as the actions of the federal agents in Minneapolis outraged the city, state, and nation.

Due to community pressure and noncompliance with the violent attempts by ICE agents to force capitulation by the community and the lawlessness of the masked agents, caught on video by bystanders in busting doors to homes, smashing car windows, and beating up and murdering two Minneapolis residents eventually forced the Trump administration to replace the well-known, mean-spirited Gregory Bovino and bring in “border czar” Tom Homan who very quickly reduced the number of ICE agents in Minneapolis by one-third and required the agents to wear body cameras.

“I can’t breathe”: Organizing in Minneapolis six years ago with the horrific murder of George Floyd prepared the community

Community organizing began six years ago with the community response to the horrific murder of George Floyd. The protests and vigils for George Floyd in Minneapolis and around the world brought attention to the continuing targeting of African Americans for minor incidents that the police escalated into “I Can’t Breathe” and death.

To this day, each day for six years, a group from the community meets at 8:00 am at George Floyd Square located across the street from the Memorial over coffee to discuss the previous day’s events and the organizing needed for that day. There are several persons who are at the Square each day who can provide to a newcomer the historical context for the treatment by police of African Americans, Native Americans, and immigrants in the Minneapolis area.

Others arriving may be unhoused who are needing a cup of coffee and a doughnut for breakfast or some “new clothing” from the donations that are located inside a city bus stop shelter located at the square. By 9:30 am, the group has disbursed: some left quickly after 8:00 am to take kids to school or to go to work, others to continue work on community mutual aid projects.

Block by block community organizing

In speaking with residents in several parts of Minneapolis, beautiful stories of organizing on a block-by-block level emerged! Residents got to know those who lived on the same block. Everyone had a whistle to alert the neighborhood that suspicious cars were in the area. Those residents who were

not targeted by ICE, generally Caucasian, came out on the streets to find out what was happening and ready to record ICE actions. They began doing grocery shopping for those fearful of leaving their homes, taking kids to school, picking them up from school, and taking people to medical appointments.

The Minneapolis friend who housed us for this visit usually has at least two things per day that she was doing for immigrants in her neighborhood. Others in teams of two or three stand outside businesses that ICE might target, with the businesses thanking the volunteers by providing coffee and snacks.

Other volunteers in their personal cars follow vehicles that they suspect may be driven by ICE agents. Many of these volunteers have been physically assaulted by ICE agents who stop the volunteers, damage their cars, take their license plate numbers, find out the addresses of the volunteers, and then harass them at their homes.

The Veterans For Peace (VFP) chapter in Minneapolis has a Rapid Response team composed of veteran volunteers from around the country that has provided a presence in various parts of the city. In an article by VFP board member Gerry Condon, he relates: “Younger Post-9/11 veterans have taken the lead. They have been patrolling in at-risk neighborhoods, monitoring for agitators, deescalating situations at protests, and training people how to stop bleeding. At least four veterans have been arrested while peacefully protesting but have been released without charges.”

These types of community volunteering happen every day all over the city, including a team of carpenters who replace doors that ICE has knocked down when entering a residence, to a team of tow truck operators who return a vehicle that occupants have been kidnapped from to the residence of the person—free of charge.

Many of these stories, organizations, and actions are chronicled in the website: Stand With Minnesota.

Challenging ICE at the Whipple Federal Building

Every day hundreds come to the Whipple immigrant court and detention building located in south Minneapolis. ICE agents mobilize in the huge parking lot with hundreds of rental cars and drive out to terrorize the community and bring those arrested into the Whipple facility before sending them to other detention locations.

Volunteers with megaphones speak their

minds to the departing ICE agents with the most “F” words I have ever heard in all my life!!! Spontaneous “F**k ICE” chants erupt everywhere—from the entire audience in a recent Minneapolis hockey game to whenever Minneapolis residents meet on a street corner.

Minnesota “nice” has turned into “Fk ICE.”**

ICE put up tall fences on both sides of the roadway used for departure. In one remarkable action, community members threw dildos over the fences at ICE cars because they were such “dicks.”

Due to AI and facial recognition devices used by ICE, most who go to Whipple wear masks and leave their phones in their cars.

Volunteers help detainees released in the middle of the night with no coats or phones

Another group of volunteers formed “Haven Watch” to provide 24-hour-a-day coverage for those who have been detained and subsequently allowed to leave Whipple. Generally, they are released from the detention facility at night, with no coats and sometimes no shoes, in the bitter cold with no phones to call for help. The volunteers provide warm drinks and food, clothing, a phone, and a ride home.

The murders of Renee Good and Alex Pretti: Retaliation for challenging ICE can be swift and brutal

Hundreds of people visit the memorials each day of Renee Good and Alex Pretti. New flowers, photos, poems, and statements are placed at the site where each was murdered by ICE agents. We have all seen the videos of ICE agent Jonathan Ross shooting mother of three Renee Good in her car on Jan. 7 and of Border Patrol agent Jesus Ochoa and Customs and Border Protection officer Raymundo Gutierrez murdering Veterans Affairs ICU nurse Alex Pretti on Jan. 24 as five of them pinned Alex on the ground.

President Donald Trump, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, and other administration officials’ attempts to characterize both Good and Pretti as terrorists backfired badly as videos of the federal agents murdering them emerged.

The allegations against four others shot by federal immigration agents unraveled in court with little publicity.

Before Trump officials declared Renee Good and Alex Pretti at fault for instigating violence before they were killed, the admin-

istration's allegations against four others shot at by federal immigration agents quietly unraveled in court. There have been 16 shootings by on-duty federal immigration agents patrolling in US cities and towns over the past year, including those that took the lives of Minnesota protesters Renee Good and Alex Pretti.

Continuing historic violence in Minnesota: Vigil and march for disappeared and murdered Native American women

ICE violence is not the only type of violence in Minnesota. Saturday, February 14, 2026 we went to the Minneapolis American Indian Center to participate in the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Day of Remembrance, which is held each February 14, to bring awareness to the epidemic of Indigenous people who have gone missing or have been murdered.

Startling data collected by the state of Minnesota is evidence that Indigenous people are a high percentage of the state's missing person cases.

The Minnesota state Bureau of Criminal Apprehension reports that 732 Indigenous persons went missing in Minnesota in 2025, more than 64% of whom were women. In 2025, the average number of Indigenous people in Minnesota who were missing on any one day was 63, according to the BCA.

According to 2024 data, American Indians accounted for more than 4% of all reported victims of homicide or nonnegligent manslaughter in Minnesota, despite American Indians making up only a little more than 1% of the population.

Many issues of Minneapolis-St. Paul

While ICE raids are the main focus of citizens of Minneapolis-St. Paul, they are still active in other issues. They have not forgotten Cuba and Palestine, among many issues, with weekly bridge bantering on Wednesday and Friday afternoons... after a day filled with protest of ICE!

Minnesota NICE — It surely IS, despite all the challenges!

This article was originally published by Common Dreams on Feb. 18. See more at commondreams.org.



“Women should be celebrated every day, but a month dedicated to female empowerment is extremely special.

It doesn't just honor the iconic women who have changed history, but encourages new generations to dream big and know that anything is possible.”

~ Molly McCook

From VOTE, p. 1

do it online (votealachua.gov) or at the Supervisor of Elections office (515 N. Main St. 3rd floor). The office maintains a booth at most community events.

If you are hosting an event, invite the Supervisor's office to come, and if staff is available, they will send someone.

The registration deadline for the elections in Alachua, Archer, and Newberry is March 16. For Hawthorne, it's May 11. Make sure your friends and family are registered, too. If you are registered to vote, check with the Elections office to make sure your registration information is up to date.

If you want to vote by mail, be sure to renew your request if you haven't done so recently. You must now renew your request every election cycle. You can do this all quickly online.

If you originally registered to vote at the Department of Motor Vehicles and you have gotten a new driver's license, you should reregister with the new license so that the numbers match.

You should also begin learning about the candidates for various offices. They are filing for the offices now, and many of the local candidates are gathering signatures on petitions. It's an excellent time to talk with them, ask them questions, and voice your concerns. Attend candidate forums. Monitor the actions of the Florida Legislature for last minute changes and lobby against anything that makes voting harder or takes power away from local government. Join us!

What is the League doing?

We are holding candidate forums for the municipalities of Alachua and Newberry. The Newberry forum will take place in the Newberry Municipal Building on March 29. The Alachua event is at the library on April 4. We are planning forums for the primary and general elections in conjunction with the Graham Center and Santa Fe College.

We are updating our Vote411.org site with all the information you might need to get your questions about voting and elections answered. We are holding workshops on issues, and our speakers bureau is educating organizations on everything from mid-term redistricting to how to identify misinformation and disinformation. Check our Facebook and websites for the particulars.

Come see us at the No Kings rally on March 28, and we'll tell you more. If you miss us there, look for us at other community events. Be ready to be active in the upcoming electoral cycle and stand with us for democracy.

The Gainesville Free Grocery Store

is a mutual aid project hosted by the Civic Media Center.

We aim to provide healthy and accessible food to our community and to support food justice in the greater Gainesville area.

For more info:

Facebook: [freegrocerystore](https://www.facebook.com/freegrocerystore)

www.facebook.com/GNVFGS

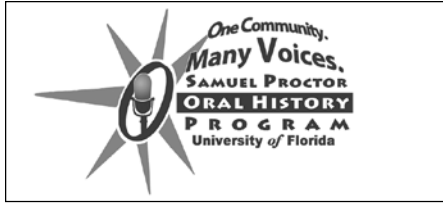
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Oral History Program

History and the People Who Make It: Rosa B. Williams



This interview was originally published in 2013 in a continuing series of transcript excerpts from the collection of the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program at the University of Florida.

Rosa B. Williams [W], long-time Gainesville community organizer, was interviewed by Joel Buchanan [B] in 1996. Transcript edited by Pierce Butler.

Williams passed away Feb. 12 at the age of 92.

B: Where were you born, Rosa?

W: In Starke, Florida. My mother was a housewife. When I was small I can remember her working out ... taking in laundry at her house. But she never worked out after I got bigger. My father, ... Roosevelt, first he was cutting cross ties, then he worked at a sawmill and then when he came here to live, he worked two jobs, Alachua General Hospital and the University of Florida.

B: Did you have a responsibility on the farm?

W: Yeah feeding the pigs, cows, chickens, doing everything else. We planted peanuts and all but we did have to go out and cut okras and potatoes. We used to make about 25 cents for a little basket.

B: What was your first job?

W: Working at Alachua General Hospital running the elevator, for about five years.

B: What did you make a week?

W: \$13.50. That always stuck in my mind. I went to work as a maid [for] Deborah and Jane Stearic, until the beginning of the '70s. She's the one that really started pushing me out there. She used to go to the library and pick up my books for me. She said one day that she wasn't going to, and I was going to go myself. And when I say "push," if it had not been for her I wouldn't have went to the library and insist that I get a library card, which I was the first Black person which finally got one. It took us about two or three months.

Then when the Democrat Club was home around here, she was insistent that I go to their lunches and things and I was the only Black person, you know.

B: Do you remember what it was like trying to get that library card? Were they nice to you?

W: Well they wasn't rude but they would just ask me so many questions which they had to check out like what church, what organizations I was a member of, some neighbors they had to verify that I live where I say that I did.

B: Were you active in the Civil Rights Movement?

W: Yes, I was very active in that. The Gainesville Women for Equal Rights, and there were a whole bunch of us. We had sometimes more whites than we had Blacks. It was during the time when Reverend Wright first came here. He was the pastor of that church and we was meeting down there like every day.

B: How did you become a member of the Gainesville—

W: Women for Equal Rights? I think it was Jean Chalmers who finally asked me, and Barbara Higgins who come in at the same time, she was the first Black president of the Gainesville Women for Equal Rights, also.

They was out actually recruiting Black women because they was working on Civil Rights issues. You know, getting it so Blacks could sit at the counter, go to the library like I had did, integrate some boards. At that time some of the Black members didn't think that Barbara and I should have been over there because we didn't have that high education.

I didn't even deal with it, you know what I'm saying? My old saying is that Rosa takes care of herself. So to me, it was just like rain falling. I don't worry about what people say. I don't have time to. And I say I must be doing something good, if they're taking out their energy time to talk about me.

B: They were also in charge of helping to establish the first Black daycare center, is that correct?

W: Ah, it was a day school... We had our classes in a mobile, out there by Lincoln Middle School.

B: What was your role in the NAACP?

W: I was one of the vice presidents for a long time. We had a large membership and a very good organization. We used to meet on Sunday nights downstairs at old Mount Carmel Church. That place would be packed.

B: Tell me some of the places that you picketed.

W: The College Inn, and the Walker House. Jean Chalmers and me would go into places to see if they would serve us, some of them wasn't going to, or some of them would say, "Tell Jean we'll serve her, but we don't have to serve you." We both would leave. And then a Black and a white person would go and apply for a job, the Black person would go first and see what the company had to say, and then an hour later, the white person would go and apply for that same job, and then we would compare notes, and there were some that we needed to be working on, and we'd start working on that also.

B: Was your life ever threatened?

W: Uh-huh. I had peoples call to my house, but I got to cussing them out, they didn't call me back.

B: Were you ever afraid being on the picket line?

W: No. I was just hoping wouldn't nobody spit on me or something, no. At that time, Joel, that age and time, you don't be scared. Because you was out there with a whole bunch of other people, and everybody was out there, we knew, for a right cause.

B: When you left the Stearic's, what did you do then?

W: I went into Bell Nursery Daycare Center and the Community Action Agency.

B: How long did you work there?

W: The Community Action Agency? Probably about five or six years. I was there way before Oscar and them came. Me and, um, Reverend Kimmon and Don Red and Helen Cesaire and Elizabeth from Archer, was about ten of us was the first Blacks who they hired at the Community Action Agency. At the time, they didn't have an office, it was in the courthouse. Harvey Weston was the administrator.

I was the Supervisor of Outreach. That's

how the Hawthorne Daycare Center got started, the High Springs Daycare Center, the Archer Daycare Center, the Newberry Daycare Center, the Northeast Daycare Center, they got started from the outreach workers.

B: And Bell Nursery, one of the oldest daycare centers in the Fifth Avenue community.

W: I'm not sure about that because St. Augustine was maybe older.

B: So you worked there as a cook. When you left Bell Nursery and Community Action Agency, where did you go?

W: I stayed in daycare, this was in the head AfourC office. Alachua County Coordinated Child Care. They was the one who was funding these daycare centers. So I went in the office along with Armani Frankfield. Certifying the peoples, you know, when they applying for daycare.

B: Was the Community Action Agency, when you were there, pretty much a Black organization?

W: In town, but out in Hawthorne, Archer, Waldo, and all of those places it was mixed. And Grove Park even was mixed.

B: Why is it that you're enjoying what you're doing now?

W: Because its giving me a chance to work and do something for some peoples who did not ask to be born the way they are, and they are the most forgotten bunch, you know.

Tacachale have a hard time getting money out of the state, but the prison system get everything what they want. These people, you know, they just born like they was. They enjoy the same thing what everybody else enjoy, and I just like getting volunteers to make things more better for them.

B: The Black-on-Black taskforce that you chaired, do you feel that you've been very helpful through that organization?

W: Yes, mm-hm. That organization is for to help organize and support other crime watch organization. We call it Departers Against Crime, where we place somebody with a child with need, to go to a basketball game, to take that child out somewhere.

B: As the director of the United Gainesville, what have you all done there that's important?

W: Porters Oak Community Center. The county give us the old Bridge House Building, and so we proceed to remodel

it with the help of the city, and I'm really proud of that because the Porters area has not had the recreation facilities they deserve to have. Also you didn't see them make laws to small business and things, I'm really proud about that, just knowing we have helped someone expand their business or begin a new business.

B: Give us the name of a few of those people that you have been very instrumental in working on their elections.

W: Jimmy Carter, Bob Graham, and around here in town, Leveda Brown, Charles Chestnut, Kate Barnes, Neil Butler, that was the first time I put so much effort into an election. Sid Martin. All of his. Jon Mills, yeah. I just go door to door and get other peoples to go knock on doors or pass out literature and encourage them to go vote for them. Now I get money from the candidates to get these kids who go door to door. But I'm never paid.

B: This year I had the privilege to attend your legislative barbeque at your home. What started that, and why is it held at your home?

W: They came here for one weekend for an FSU game, and I forgot which one it was that said something to me out there in the President's Box, said We all should have some real food sometime when we come down here. I said, Well, we'll have to think about that. I said, but you need more than one person to do it. So we just started talking and making plans for the next two years when FSU came here again.

B: How do you feel when you have the President of the University of Florida, all the legislative body at your home for a barbeque?

W: I just like doing it you know for the peoples to have a representative for what come from out of town. We have lots of help. Lots of people pulled in to pull that off. The University of Florida, Shands Hospital foot the bill for everything.

I was the chairman of the Democrat Club. We didn't have to go by the same rules as the Democrat Executive Committee. We could endorse peoples or do whatever we wanted to do. We could go out actually in the community and do more things.

B: Now were you very much involved when we had our first Black chief of police Atkins Warren. I heard that you were on a selection committee for that.

W: I was. For Wayland and Atkins.

B: Do you think that Atkins was

helpful when he was here?

W: He was helpful when he first came here, but he got caught up in the circle ... lots of people got caught up in. Here's Atkins, and here's about five or six captains or lieutenants, and the actual policemen cannot get to Atkins. And that was Atkins downfall, I think.

B: Jimmy Carter visited your home, is that true?

W: Yes, uh huh. You know the peoples living in the community most enjoy when I have these big affairs because they know they going to be able to come there and get some food, all that beer was left, I give it away to people in the neighborhood.

B: Have you ever been offered a position to aid these persons in office?

W: Yeah. I was not interested in that.

B: You still live in the Fifth Avenue area, and people talk about it being a ghetto and so-forth, why are you still where you are?

W: I like the area and I like the peoples there. It's center, it's easy to get anywhere you wants to go. A long time ago, we used to have all kind of running around, people shooting, and doing this-that and the other, but the area is getting back to being what I used to know.

B: How close were you to Sid?

W: Real close. That means we call each other every night.

B: What's this brochure about the Rosa B. Williams Scholarship at the Shands teaching hospital and clinic?

W: Its about a \$100,000 scholarship that's going to be used for anybody that's going into any of the medical fields. They just told me about it about two weeks ago.

B: You have a building named in your honor, there's a scholarship in your honor, what about the Rosa B. Williams Street?

W: No, [laughter].

B: You don't want that?

W: No.

A full transcript of this interview is available at tinyurl.com/Iguana2352.

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

ORAL HISTORY continued on next page

ORAL HISTORY from preceding page

the public's help to sustain and build upon its research, teaching, and service missions: even small donations can make a big difference in SPOHP's ability to gather, preserve, and promote history for future generations.

Donate online at www.history.ufl.edu/oral/support.html or make checks to the University of Florida, specified for SPOHP, and mail to PO Box 115215, Gainesville, FL 32611. 🐢

A poem by Terri L. Bailey honoring her great aunt, Rosa B. Williams, can be read at: tinyurl.com/Iguana2390

Tribute to Rosa B. Williams

by Terri L. Bailey, MA

My auntie, Miss Rosa B. Williams, was a force to be reckoned with. When she got something in her mind, there was no stopping her. From giving folks equal access to the public library, to bringing affordable daycare to Alachua County, Miss Rosa never let the word NO stop her from enacting change and forward motion in Gainesville's marginalized communities. Her advocacy for Black neighborhoods had a ripple effect and often benefited ALL.

As I sit and look out of my living room window, I see the corner that turns onto the street and the house where she lived for more than 50 years. I recall how much life and legacy the little woman in the unassuming white wooden house has left for us all.

While she wasn't a perfect person, she really tried to make decisions she thought would benefit the greater good. She didn't always get it right, but she always stood in her truth.

Miss Rosa was advocating through her last week on this earth. Her final, and most loved projects were the Reichart House and helping folks in the Pine Ridge community. Please give generously of your money and time to these programs and other communities and community members who are struggling to live a quality life, provide quality care for the elders, and a quality education for the children. Remember, Miss Rosa gave freely without the expectation of any return and whenever possible, we should too.

While she rubbed shoulders with potentates and dignitaries, she remained in the neighborhood we grew up in. She took one of her last breaths on her porch in Pleasant Street, where she hung out in her youth, took care of her parents in their old age, and devoted her life to caring for not only her blood family, but her community family as well.

Rest well, Auntie! 🐢



The strongest weapon against oligarchy & fascism: our labor!

- Please get involved with your workplace union if you're lucky enough to have one.
- If one doesn't already exist, then consider helping to start one.
- Join a labor-adjacent organization like the local Alachua County Labor Coalition (laborcoalition.org) and/or the AFL-CIO campaign "Department of People Who Work for a Living" (deptofpeoplewhowork.org).
- Keep an eye on the news and support workers elsewhere (e.g., Amazon, Starbucks) who are taking the fight directly to the oligarchs.
- Join our efforts to elect pro-labor politicians, and then help us hold them accountable.

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

-Big Bill Haywood

unionhall.aflcio.org/north-central-florida-central-labor-council

workerscreateallwealth.substack.com



“Those who control the wealth of this society have an influence over political life far in excess of their number.”

~ Michael Parenti (1933-2026)

Gainesville Quaker Meeting

You are welcome here, where together we seek to live lives committed to peace and justice.



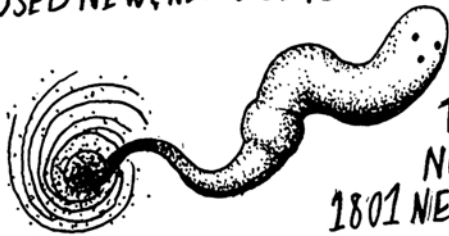
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702 NW 38th St.

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16th Annual Alachua County Peace Poetry Contest 2026

The North Central Florida Chapter of Veterans for Peace invites all students, K-12, in Alachua County to create and submit one original poem on the subject of *peace, social justice or environmental justice*.



SUBMISSION DEADLINE: April 3, 2026

Entries should be emailed to vfpeacepoetrycontest@gmail.com.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMISSION: Please include (1) the poet's name; grade level; school; parent/guardian and/or teacher's name; and (2) two preferred methods of contact (e-mail, phone number and/or mailing address).

Winners will receive a valuable prize and have their poems published in the 2026 Peace Poetry Contest Book. Winning poets will have the opportunity to read their pieces aloud at the public Peace Poetry Reading on May 9 in Gainesville. All poets will be notified, whether their poems place or not.

For additional information, email vfpeacepoetrycontest@gmail.com.

ARTWALK

gainesville

GET ENGAGED....or just have an affair with art on the **LAST FRIDAY** OF THE MONTH in downtown **Gainesville's Art District.**

www.artwalkgainesville.com
GALLERY TOUR BEGINS AT 7 PM

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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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- reuseplanet.org • 352-647-5112

Hours: 10am-6pm - 7 days a week
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Donation Hours: Tue-Sat 11am-5pm
Call for donation pickup information

See inventories in person or online

Buy used! It's good for the planet!

Gainesville area events

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

Check out the new **Gainesville Activist Information Hub** at linktr.ee/gnvbluehub: they're off to a great start, covering local progressive events with a thoroughness our eight-times-a-year schedule can't match!

And: **Alachua Community Collective** has launched both a Community Calendar for those getting and those giving mutual aid — everything from food to health care, language lessons to quit-smoking workshops — at <https://www.alachuacommunitycollective.com/events> — and a directory for ongoing projects at <https://www.alachuacommunitycollective.com/resources>

Sat 3/7 Badass Feminists Gvl, 10am-noon every Sat, Oaks Mall (6419 W. Newberry Rd), weekly protest of Trump (et al) atrocities, free

Sat 3/7 No ICE Music Festival, 1-6pm, Loosey's Downtown (120 SW 1st Ave), Neighbors Empowered Against Tyranny resists with 3-stage festival to benefit local immigrant safety fund, \$25; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9598>

Sat 3/7 Emergency Preparedness Workshop, 3pm, Civic Media Ctr (433 S. Main St), prepping from mutual aid to go bags, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9599>

WEEK OF MAR 8 - 14

Sun 3/8 "Blossom, Brew & BBQ", noon-4pm, 1st Magnitude Brewing (1220 SE Veitch St), Gvl Garden Club plant sale + barbecue from Loosey's grillmaster, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9600>

Sun 3/8 Alachua Dems Open House, noon-2pm, Democratic Party HQ (901 NW 8th Ave), multi-group involvement opportunity, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9601

Sun 3/8 People's Progressive Agenda, 2-4pm, Massey Park (1001 NW 34th St), weekly solidarity rally, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9602>

Sun 3/8 "Passion Dey Couldn't Steal", 2:30-4pm, Millhopper Branch Library (3145 NW 43rd St), one-woman play on Zora Neale Hurston, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9603>

Sun 3/8 "Courageous Young Voices", 4pm, Thomas Ctr (302 NE 6th Ave), 12th Annual ARTSPEAKSgnv poetry & creative expression showcase, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9604>

Mon 3/9 Fla Free Speech Forum, 11:30am, Eastside High School (1201 SE 43rd St), Prof. Anna Peterson (UF Dept of Religion) on sociopolitical challenges to education, free (adv. registration required); floridafreespeech.org

Tue 3/10 "American Rebels", 6pm, UF Smathers Library 100 (1545 W Univ Ave), film of UF prof & wife in Cuba from '59 revolution through 2019, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9605>

Wed 3/11 Women in Leadership Forum, 5:30pm, UF Pugh Hall Ocora (296 Buckman Dr), panel discussion on gov't careers, & reception, free (also on YouTube); <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9606>

Thu 3/12 "Socialism & Religion", 6-8pm, Quaker Meeting House (702 NW 38th St), presented by Democratic Socialists of America, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9607>

Fri 3/13 Visibility Brigade, 3:30-5:30pm every Sat, I-75/39th Ave overpass, Badass Feminists Gvl protest, free

Fri 3/13 Less Than Jake, 6-8pm, Vivid Music Hall (201 W Univ Ave), ska-punk band returns to Gvl, \$88; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9608>

Fri 3/13 Gvl Guitar Festival, 7-10pm (also Sat, 2-10ishpm), Heartwood Soundstage (619 S. Main St), music, workshops, gear swap, \$35.64 - \$115.33; pg 15 & <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9609>

Fri 3/13 "Steel Magnolias" opens, 8 pm (through 3pm, 3/29), classic play of southern womanhood, \$18-22; <https://www.starcentertheatre.org/>

Sat 3/14 "The Other Book - Pt 2", 10-12pm, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), black history from the inside, \$5 suggested donation; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9610>

Sat 13/14 High Bridge, 7:30-9:30pm, Theatre of Memory (1705 NW 6th St), new Gvl singer-songwriter superband, \$21.50, pg 15 & <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9611>

WEEK OF MAR 15 - 21

Sun 3/15 Sunday Assembly, 11am, Pride Ctr (3850 NW 83rd St, Ste 201), talk by filmmaker Bridget Fitzgerald ("Alchemy") & potluck, free; sagainesville.weebly.com

Sun 3/15 "Julius Caesar" dies, 2pm, Acrosstown Repertory Theatre (3501 SW 2nd Ave), last performance of Shakespearean murder play, \$20-25, <https://www.acrosstown.org/>

Sun 3/15 "Queen Mother Mangnye's Adventures in Africa", 2:30-4:30pm, Cotton Club Museum (837 SE 7th Ave), luncheon w/ documentary on Vivian Filer's African travels, traditional drumming, more, \$35.88 - \$205; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9612>

Fri 3/20 "Escape to Margaritaville" opens, 7:30pm (through 2pm, 4/12), Gvl Community Playhouse (4039 NW 16th Blvd), \$20-25; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9613>

Sat 3/21 Gvl Free Store, 2-5pm 3rd Sats, Civic Media Ctr (433 S Main St), free stuff for all (masks required); civicmediacenter.org

Sat 3/21 "Homegrown: This is America", Acrosstown Repertory Theatre (3501 SW 2nd Ave), 4 plays by local playwrights, name your own ticket price; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9614>

Sat 3/21 Kanapaha Spring Garden Festival, 9am-5pm (also Sun), Kanapaha Botanical Gardens (4700 SW 58th Dr), >100 plant vendors, info booths, artisans, \$13 adults, \$5 kids 5-13; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9615>

Sat 3/21 "Support Sister Faye!", 3-7pm, Greater Bethel AME Church (701 SE 43rd St), celebrating Mama's Club founder (& so much more) Faye Williams, free; see pg 13

WEEK OF MAR 22 - 28

Wed 3/25 "Interrogating the 'Johns Committee'", 7pm, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), talk by author Robert W. Fieseler on Florida's war on blacks & queers, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9616>

Fri 3/27 Artwalk, 7-10pm, downtown Gvl, free; pg 25 & artwalkgainesville.com

Sat 3/28 GatoRX Community Care Fair, 10am-2pm, MLK Multipurpose Ctr (1028 NE 14th St), free food, health screenings, medical advice & trainings, kids' activities, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9617>

Sat 3/28 "No Kings 3", noon-4pm, Cora Roberson Park (600 SW 6th St), join 50501 & millions of Americans to resist Trumpismo (bring chairs/blankets, water, signs, & friends!), free; pg 13 & <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9618>

Sat 3/28 "Viva Europe", noon-4pm, Depot Park (874 SE 4th St), music, kids' activities, puppets, language lessons, free; <https://humanities.ufl.edu/calendar/>

Sat 3/28 Hogtown Craft Beer Festival, 12-6pm, NCFa Community Ctr (previously YMCA) (5201 NW 34th Blvd), local beer, mead & ciders, \$59; <https://hogtownbeerfest.com/>

WEEK OF MAR 29 - APR 4

Sun 3/29 "DSA 101", 2-4pm, Dntn Library (401 E Univ Ave), intro to Democratic Socialists of America, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9619>

Sun 3/29 Candidate Forum, Newberry Municipal Bldg (25440 W Newberry Rd, Newberry), pg 21, free Sun 3/29 Guest Chef Gvl, 4-8pm, Oak Lane Weddings & Events (7827 NW 170th St, Alachua), fine-dining fundraiser for Peaceful Paths, \$100; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9620>

Sun 3/29 Beautiful Bobby Blackmon, 7-9pm, A. Quinn Jones Museum (1013 NW 7th Ave), "Blues on the Patio" series, free (donations accepted); <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9621>

Mon 3/30 Progressive Caucus, 6-7pm last Mondays, LifeSouth Community Blood Ctr (1221 NW 13th St), Democrats for making a difference, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9622>

Tue 3/31 WWII lecture, 4pm, UF Smathers Library Grand Reading Room, 3-time Pulitzer winner Rick Atkinson on World War II, + book signing, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9623>

Sat 4/4 Pancakes on the Prairie, 9am-11:30pm, Tuscahill Cabin (211 SE Tuscahill Rd, Micanopy), ACT's annual pancake breakfast, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9624>

Sat 4/4 Gvl Asian Festival, 10am-4pm, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave), Asian-Pacific Islander music, dance, food, & crafts, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9625>

Sat 4/4 Candidate Forum, Alachua Branch Library (19413 NW 149th St, Alachua), pg 21, free

Sat 4/4 Mini Fashion Show, 3pm, Star Center Theatre (11 NE 23rd Ave), fundraiser w/ runway, family fun, & the Easter Bunny, \$10 (kids)—\$18 (adults); <https://www.starcentertheatre.org/>

Sat 4/4 Heartwood Music Fest, 3-11pm, (also Sun, 4-9pm), Heartwood Soundstage (619 S. Main St), 10th anniversary event, 2 stages,

18 bands, \$13.14-35.64; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9626>

Sat 4/4 "On Sight" premiere, 5pm, Regal Celebration Pointe (4901 Steve Spurrier Way), debut of Gvl-made movie, free tickets & book while they last; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9697>

WEEK OF APR 5 - 11

Thu 4/9 Swallowtail Farm Spring Festival, 12:30pm-9pm, Swallowtail Farm (7301 SE 92nd Terr), music, workshops, food, aerial arts, more, \$?; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9698>

Thu 4/9 "Native Independence & the American Revolution", 3-5pm, UF Little Hall 101 (1456 Stadium Rd), Pulitzer-winning author Kathleen DuVal on Native sovereignty in Revolutionary period, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9699>

Fri 4/10 Orange & Blue Film Festival opens, runs 4/10-12, largest student-run film fest in state for college & high school filmmakers, location(s) on campus & cost tbd; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9700>

Fri 4/10 "Sylvia", 8pm (through 4/26), Acrosstown Repertory Theatre (3501 SW 2nd Ave), comedy of man, woman & Lab-poodle, 21.80-\$27.05; <https://www.acrosstown.org/>

Sat 4/11 "The Other Book - Pt 2", 10-12pm, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), black history from the inside, \$5 suggested donation; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9701>

Sat 4/11 Bike Day, 8:30am-1pm, 1st Magnitude Brewing (1220 SE Veitch St), Gvl Opportunity Ctr's annual health+fun event with live music from The Impostors, \$10-40; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9702>

Sat 4/11 Santa Fe Springs Celebration, 11am-4pm, Poe Springs Park (29722 NW 182nd Ave, High Springs), festival of music, arts, education, kids' activities, more, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9703>

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

Protests:

Sundays, People's Progressive Agenda, 2-4pm, Massey Park (1001 NW 34th St)

Tuesdays, Peace Picket, 4:30-5:30pm, corner of NW 42rd St & NW 16th Ave

Fridays, Visibility Brigade, 3:30-5:30pm, I-75/39th Ave overpass

Saturdays, Badass Feminists Gvl, 10am-noon every Sat, Oaks Mall (6419 W. Newberry Rd)

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://tinyurl.com/iguana9704>

County official and public meetings: <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9705>

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

Stonewall Democrats, 2nd Thursdays, 5:30pm, ACDEC office (901 NW 8th Ave)

Democratic Progressive Caucus, 4th Mondays, 5:30pm, LifeSouth (1221 NW 13th St)

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 38thSt).

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

EVENTS continued on next page

Iguana directory

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

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

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

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

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

Alachua County Organization for Rural Needs Clinic is a not-for-profit in 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 | acorclinic.org

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

Alachua DSA is part of the largest socialist organization in the U.S., The Democratic

Socialists of America (DSA). They have organized to build working-class democracy and power in workplaces, neighborhoods, local governments, and throughout Alachua County. They are member-funded and member-run. alachuadsa@gmail.com | www.instagram.com/alachuadsa

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

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

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

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

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

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

Civic Media Center is an alternative reading room and library of the non-corporate press, and a resource and space for organizing. 433 S Main St., Gainesville | 352-373-0010 | civicmediacenter.org | coordinators@civicmediacenter.org | civicmediacenter.org |

Climate Reality Project Gainesville Area Chapter is the local chapter of an international nonprofit group dedicated to accelerating urgent action globally on the climate crisis. Join the chapter at <https://tinyurl.com/mwkwetyb> for news, action alerts, meeting alerts. ClimateRealityProjectgnv@gmail.com | facebook.com/groups/climateactualitygnvgroup

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

Spotlight on: Gainesville Humanists

For decades there was an active humanist group in town, the Humanist Society of Gainesville, which I found shortly after I came to town in the 1970's. In fact, doing a newsletter for them was what started me doing regular mailings and maintaining an address list that later became part of the first mailings of the Iguana, back in the days before the Iguana was printed on newsprint. HSG dwindled down and with Covid, the meetings stopped.

Now in these days of rising Christian Nationalism (maybe we can call them Nationalist Christians, or Nat-C's for short), free thinkers, atheists and humanists need to keep up, support each other, and perhaps counter their attempts to create a state religion. I'm glad to see the Humanists back in the form of the Gainesville Humanists, a chapter of the American Humanist Association. ~ Joe Courter

The Gainesville Humanists meets the first Sunday of the month at 2pm at the Mill-hopper Library to discuss and plan actions that promote humanist values. You can find their contact information in the Iguana Directory. ☘

EVENTS from preceding page

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 re-enacted, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9312

Gainesville Open Mics

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

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

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

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

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

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 ☘

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; dwcsfs@gmail.com | Facebook.com/dwcsfs

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

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

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

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

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

Flipping the System is a non-profit organization dedicated to eradicating sexual violence on campuses. Through educational

programming and events, FTS believes that a future free of sexual violence is possible. www.flippingthesystem.org | info@flippingthesystem.org | @flippingthesystem | 954-589-7626

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

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

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

Florida Defenders of the Environment works to protect freshwater resources, conserve public lands, provide quality environmental education. 352-475-1119 | FloridaDefenders@gmail.com | FlaDefenders.org

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

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

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.folacl.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 | 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 Humanists, a chapter of the American Humanist Association, is an activist group of humanists, atheists, agnostics, and free thinkers. Meets the first Sunday of the month at 2pm at the Millhopper Library to discuss and plan actions that promote humanist values, such as resisting Christian Nationalism and resisting authoritarianism. Email: gainesvillehumanists1@gmail.com; Meetup: https://www.meetup.com/gainesville-humanists/; Website: https://gainesvillehumanists.com; Facebook: https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2379

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 🐢

DIRECTORY continued on next page

DIRECTORY from preceding page

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

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

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

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

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

Greater Gainesville International Center celebrates and elevates our diverse international community by serving as a hub between cultural, economic, educational and governmental partners, to unlock the full potential of our unique global city. Programs include 10 sister cities and refugee resettlement. Lauren Poe | poe@gnvc.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](https://facebook.com/MindFreedomFlorida)

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America is a grassroots organization working to end gunviolence by electing gun sense candidates, advocating for policies that save lives, educating parents on responsible gun storage. Alachua County events listed at momsdemandaction.org/events

National Alliance on Mental Illness | Gainesville offers support, education and advocacy for families and loved ones of persons with mental illness and/or brain disorders. 352-320-0457 (information) | 352-335-7770 (helpline) | namigainesville.org

National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare works to preserve these threatened programs for senior citizens and families. Local volunteers needed. Marion.Co.Fl.1590@gmail.com | ncpsm.org

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

National Women's Liberation is a feminist group for women who want to fight back against male supremacy and win more freedoms for women. Inequalities between women and men are political problems

requiring a collective solution. 352-575-0495 | nwl@womensliberation.org | womensliberation.org

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

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

Paynes Prairie Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society promotes the preservation, conservation and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida. paynesprairie.fnpschapters.org | <https://tinyurl.com/Iguana1952>

People's 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@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

UF Pride Student Union is an LGBT+ group open to queer folk of all sorts, including students, non-students, faculty and staff, that educates and provides a safe space for those of marginalized sexualities and gender identities. UFPridesu@gmail.com | facebook.com/ufpsu | plaza.ufl.edu/jsoto19/PSU

UF Students for Justice in Palestine: In stark recognition of the failure of modern society to produce a just and reasonable solution to the Palestine-Israel conflict, Students for Justice in Palestine promote public awareness and activism in our community. We promote international law, human rights, 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. ufysa21@gmail.com | facebook.com/ufysa | @uf_ydsa

United Faculty of Florida, UF chapter is run by and for faculty, and represents over 1600 faculty and professionals at UF. Its origins lie in efforts by faculty to protect academic freedom, defend civil liberties, end racial discrimination at UF. 352-519-4130 | officemanager@uff-uf.org | www.UFF-UF.org

United Nations Association - Gainesville Chapter works to heighten citizen awareness/knowledge of global problems and the UN's efforts to deal with them. facebook.com/UNAUSAGainesvilleFICChapter | UNA-USAGainesvillefl.org

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

University of Florida HealthStreet is a

community engagement program that employs community outreach practices to reduce disparities in healthcare and research. Free services include medical and social service referrals, health screenings, Narcan Nasal Spray Kits, clothing/toiletry items, health education, events, support groups. 352-294-4880 or healthstreet.program.ufl.edu/

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

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

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

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

WGOT-LP 100.1 FM is a community low-power radio station operating as part of the Civic Media Center, 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@stevetittler.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. 🌟

Pride and prejudice

‘Speak up, speak out, involve yourself in our politics’



by Cai Husband, Carolina Cordero
and Nelida Jean-Baptiste Pellet

As Florida’s 2026 Legislative Session unfolds, directors from the Pride Community Center of North Central Florida, with support from Equality Florida, have traveled up to Tallahassee and spoken out about our basic human rights that should never be on the chopping block.

We have had to push back against an onslaught of dangerous bills that affect and threaten our protections as private citizens with the right to privacy, LGBTQ+ rights, reproductive freedom and bodily autonomy, public education, parental rights, voting rights.

The lawmakers in Tallahassee and the bank accounts that support them and their special interests continue to confuse Pride with prejudice.

Cai Husband joined hundreds of advocates at the Florida State Capitol during the 2026 Legislative Session which is often called the “60 most dangerous days in Florida.”

Many of the same proposals from previous years that threatened human rights

have returned, including bills that would expand book bans (HB1119) by allowing non-parents to challenge and rapidly remove books from schools, restrict abortion access through civil lawsuits (HB663), criminalize gender-affirming healthcare for trans youth with severe penalties for medical professionals and teachers (HB743), and require broad parental consent for minors to access confidential healthcare (HB173).

While some frame these as “protecting children,” their real-world impact reaches far beyond the LGBTQ+ community.

Carolina Cordero joined the hundreds of LGBTQ+ advocates and activists that participated in the “Pride at the Capital” and the “Let Us Live” marches hosted and sponsored by Equality Florida.

During that week, Cordero spoke to oppose the Education & Employment committee hearing of HB1119: “The Book Ban” Expansion.

As a retired professor, Cordero expressed her concern of the state withholding history about their ancestors.

Cordero, along with a group of fellow lobbyists, visited the office of Rep. Plakon (R) to ask her to vote NO on HB641: “Don’t Say Gay or Trans at Work.” Even though she eventually voted YES, it wasn’t without resistance.

Strong public turnout helped delay some of these bills during the legislative process, proof that when people show up, even the most determined prejudice can be stopped.

On Feb. 18, Cordero returned with a group of advocates/activists coming from Orlando. She spoke at the Senate Appro-

priations committee hearing opposing SB1334 “New Barriers to Voting Bill.”

Nelida Jean-Baptiste Pellet was also in attendance and met directly with Florida state senator and co-founder of Latinas for Trump, Ileana Garcia. One of the bills that they were able to speak on was the Domestic Terrorism bill (SB1632) that would allow the head of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to designate activist groups as “Domestic Terrorists” without clear parameters and little oversight, which raises serious First Amendment concerns.

Luckily, this bill was temporarily postponed, but has been rescheduled for the Fiscal Committee on March 2 at noon.

If you have time, means, and opportunity, please attend and speak out against these bills. It matters.

The roadmap to our freedoms hasn’t been drawn yet and we’re in such a state of chaos that we sometimes actively think that our screams go into a shapeless void.

However, our voices are powerful and our legislators, some more than others, are listening. Speak up, speak out, involve yourself in our politics and reach out to volunteer. It is in unity that we can make the changes that we need to see in the world around us and our beautiful Gainesville.

The Florida legislative session extends to March 13, so there is still time to get involved. You can find more information from Equality Florida on their Instagram @EqualityFL, as well as the Pride Center of North Central Florida on their Instagram @PCCNCF. 🐢



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