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The Gainesville Iguana

April 2026 ~ vol. 39, issue 4

'a soapbox for Alachua County activists'

Here's what's coming... 'to be forewarned is to be forearmed'

by Howard L. Simon

Praemonitus praemunitus ... that's the Latin proverb usually translated as "to be forewarned is to be forearmed."

Its historic use is in military contexts—emphasizing that knowing the enemy's plans in advance allows us to better prepare and be equipped to respond.

It is a timely admonition. The crisis we face is not whether we will have fair elections this November. This issue is how our elections will be assaulted—and how we can work together to protect our fragile democracy.

Wake up and smell the coffee: the manipulation of our elections is well underway.

Pres. Trump has been undermining confidence in democratic elections—in preparation for rejecting the results.

A losing candidate who dispatched thugs to take over the nation's Capital to block the certification of his opponent's victory will stop at nothing to prevent restraints on the unaccountable power he has been enjoying. He will use all the tools available to him—the FBI, ICE, agents of the Department of Justice, a federalized National Guard, etc.

He has floated the idea of "nationalizing elections" or taking over elections in selected jurisdictions, whatever that means given the constitutional and practical barriers.

The president's constant drumbeat about "election integrity" may be an acknowledgement that the party in power is losing the battle of ideas because its policies are becoming more unpopular each day. But he has also revealed a number of tactics for how elections can be assaulted and manipulated.

To continue the military metaphor, Trump's campaign raising concerns about election integrity is the "softening" that comes before an invasion. By Executive Orders, other federal initiatives, and state-based restrictions he can inspire, the coming assault can be thought of in three distinct phases.

See *FOREWARNED*, p. 25



Jacquie Betz (right) poses with Medea Benjamin, co-founder of Code Pink, and came to Gainesville to protest a drone factory being built nearby in 2014. Photo by Renée Hoffinger.

Jacquie Betz Rest in power

by Babz McGovern, MPH

The Gainesville community and beyond lost a genuine friend and powerful ally. Jacquie Betz died on March 29 from a sudden stroke on her way home from the No Kings III gathering. Jacquie was a fierce, brilliant yet incredibly humble freedom-fighter. The condolences, including great concern for her beloved cats, are coming in from all over the country.

Known for being generous with her time and skills, people regularly found her at a table, distributing information on the critical issues of our times. She infused campaigns with her contagious enthusiasm, keen intelligence, and forthright energy. Often Jacquie was the first to grab the reins, hit the streets and lead a clarion call for peace, justice, voting rights, women's rights and anti-authoritarianism. Jacquie was a true champion

See *BETZ*, p. 13



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Homeward Bound

Pride Center faces eviction

by Nelida Jean-Baptiste Pellot

There was no ball, definitely no Prince Charming, but what does exist is something far more powerful and beautiful, a representation of Gainesville and its beauty: Community.

For twenty-two years, PCCNCF (Pride Community Center of North Central Florida) has proven itself to be a trusted, reliable, and essential resource. It has been our second home, our third space. Our Center has provided space for support groups, community meetings, fundraisers, speakers, youth gatherings, and celebrations. A safe harbor where connection is built, advocacy is born, and belonging is real.

On March 20, the board of Directors for PCCNCF convened a special meeting to address the pressing challenge that we face by not having a dedicated space to sustain and grow our programming. This is, in fact, the second time in three years that PCCNCF faces eviction. The room was filled with community members, each bringing such passion, concern and hope. At times the discussion was contentious, voices were raised and perspectives clashed. That intensity reflected something deeper, it was the full weight of the decision we were making that will shape our community for generations to come.

Now, once again, we find ourselves at a pivotal moment. We must secure a new home while some folks argue that a leased space would be more aligned with our budgets, others are advocating for the long-term fiscal strategy of building equity through investment. We are lucky enough to have found a realtor who has found a possible space, Teresa Callen. She has found us a space that is centrally located near UF off of 13th, near Bread and Roses. However, we are weighing all of our options.

There is palpable uncertainty at this moment. Across the country, we have shifting policies, funding cuts and other bad agents that seek to cut programs that fall outside a more conservative narrative. This has been a great concern for the sustainability of LGBTQ+ spaces and initiatives including a bill that recently passed in Florida (HB 1001/1134) that would attack cities and counties that support PRIDE. These broader pressures have only heightened our fears about the future of Pride in the City of Gainesville and all our community offerings that are vital.

And yet what stood out most was not fear, but resolve.

For every voice of hesitation, there were just as many calling passionately for a permanent space, a space that belongs to us, where our programs, our people, and our futures are secure. Others urged caution. Both perspectives came from the same place: A deep care for this community, our LGBTQ+ siblings and a shared desire for us to thrive; together.

Gainesville has always risen to meet the moment, from that first brave festival in 1992 to every milestone since. Our goal is to raise enough funds for the acquisition, essential revitalization and long-term sustainability of our new facility, whether leased or owned.

Jackie Davison and The Lynx bookstore started a GoFundMe campaign to help us through this process. Link: tinyurl.com/iguana2420.

Donations can be made here: pccncf.org/donate. 🐢

*Want your article, ad, event or PSA in the May Iguana?
(Due to come out Thursday, May 7)*

Deadline is Wednesday, April 29

**Submit events, content, questions to:
gainesvilleiguana@cox.net**

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.

Monster on the Loose

I must first say that I am horrified at the wars of choice being played out by Trump and Netanyahu.

The former is a blundering idiot for getting into this huge destabilization of the world economy and attack on one of the world's oldest civilizations without a bit of anticipation as to the very predictable defensive reaction by Iran.

The latter is perpetrating a slaughter in Palestine and now Lebanon, and quite complicit in leading Trump into this horrible blunder.

Both men are shameless war criminals. Both leaders are presiding over blatant attacks on civilian populations, hitting hospitals, schools, water projects — all clear violations of international law. The U.S. both funds Israel's crimes and, on its own, cuts aid funding around the world leading to countless deaths from illness and starvation. How did we get here? This from historian Heather Cox Richardson:

"In the 1980s, a faction of the Republican Party that was determined to cut taxes and regulations and to get rid of programs that benefited racial minorities and women went to war against the federal government. Those so-called Movement Conservatives — "movement" because they were a political movement, and "conservatives" because they wanted to take the U.S. back to a time before the New Deal — became increasingly radical over time. Some, like activist Grover Norquist, wanted to take the government back even further, to the time of the robber barons in the 1890s, before "the socialists took over" with the Progressive Era and its income taxes and regulation." (Source: *Letters from an American*, March 25, 2026)

And thus, the 40-plus-year slow motion coup had begun.

I've been reading the book "How Democracies Die" (published in 2018, but I had not gotten into it until recently); I got too caught up in the actual unfolding of Trump 1.0. Fascinating to read the book now, because it lays out how authoritarians have and can get their way. And here we are, they have done it. The cooperative decorum of legislating was intentionally corrupted by both a boom in right-wing media, and the tactic of vilifying opponents and blocking anything progressive. The Supreme Court was turned sharply rightward through both Republican tactics and weak Democrats afraid to fight. Massive dark money came in with the Citizens United decision. Social media came in and proved very useful in creating scapegoats and fear mongering. Guardrails somewhat held during Trump 1.0, but with Trump 2.0, the guardrails were gone. Trump became the useful tool of that reactionary agenda that began 40 years ago, a person able to build and capitalize on a cult following. Not sure it could have happened without him and his special gifts: his audacious lack of compassion and his single-minded drive for self-promotion and personal gain.

But now, here we are. A war of choice, without a viable plan. U.S. soldiers are beginning to die, always a dangerous step because "honoring their sacrifice" becomes justification to keep going. After an F-15e was shot down, we had what could have been an inflammatory POW situation but luckily both pilots were rescued." The U.S. is stuck alone because the allies could see what a horrible idea this was. It's going to get ugly. And know that this gang knows, even more now with this unpopular war, that they will lose if there are fair elections. Howard Simon's piece on the cover lays out our challenge. The words Bruce Springsteen said in Minneapolis on March 31 ([link in Editors' picks, page 19](#)) speak so clearly in less than five minutes, running down the list from the war, the grifting, the deaths from USAID cuts, and as he says, "This is happening now ... it is up to the American people to fix it!"

We need to get organized and realize the fight we are in, that same long fight that Steppenwolf (*see page 8*) sang about over 55 years ago: "Don't you know, we need you now, we can't fight alone against the monster." 🐉



Joe Courter

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

Individuals: \$15

(or more if you can)

Low/No income: what you can

Groups: \$20

Gainesville Iguana

P.O. Box 5155, Gainesville, FL 32627

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

• 352-378-5655

• GainesvilleIguana@cox.net

• www.gainesvilleiguana.org

• facebook.com/gainesvilleiguana

• Instagram: gnv_iguana

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2026 AFL-CIO Legislative report card

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

On page 5 is a list of bills that the Florida AFL-CIO has been tracking throughout the 2026 Florida Legislative Session and how our Alachua County legislators voted on these bills. For a more complete description of the bills, including links to the bill language and vote history, visit our Substack (tinyurl.com/iguana2404).

The list is neither exclusive nor exhaustive, but represents some of our top priorities this session. The TLDR (Too Long; Didn't Read): We have some work to do and this November seems like a good time to do it! Want to help us elect politicians that support working families this year? Join us: tinyurl.com/iguana2405

Keep in mind that the legislative session

is still far from truly being over. As of this writing, the Legislature still hadn't agreed on a budget, despite the fact that this was the only thing that they were constitutionally-required to do (guess they were too busy union-busting). So they'll be back for more budget work and then supposedly two more "special" sessions: one for further gerrymandering of our state and one for property taxes. Stay tuned.

And as always, thanks so much to our Working Family Lobby Corps heroes for slugging it out on our behalf up in Tallahassee. These are your fellow workers from throughout Florida, taking time away from their jobs and responsibilities at home to make sure that our voices are heard on matters of importance to working people in our state. Y'all rock!

The following table lists the topics of the bills we were tracking and whether each legislator voted with (+) or against (-) the Florida AFL-CIO on these bills. A blank space means that the bill did not come before that specific legislator. We also added one row indicating whether the legislator supported home rule for Gainesville Regional Utilities and respected the will of the voters. Although this issue wasn't being tracked at the state level, we were watching it very closely locally and the

North Central Florida Central Labor Council has been a strong supporter of home rule. At the bottom of the table is a score indicating how well the legislator's voting record aligned with the AFL-CIO.

Please note: Only Senator McClain's seat is not up for election this cycle. Representatives Brannan and Hayes Hinson are not running for reelection, so their seats will be filled by newcomers and we aim to know where these folks stand on our issues.

We can see clearly where Senator Bradley and Representative Johnson (who are both running for reelection) stand on our issues. We'll be interested in hearing from their opponents on how they would better serve working Floridians. Here are links with more information about each of these races:

- Florida State Senate District 6 (tinyurl.com/iguana2406)
- Florida State House District 10 (tinyurl.com/iguana2407)
- Florida State House District 21 (tinyurl.com/iguana2408)
- Florida State House District 22 (tinyurl.com/iguana2409)

Learn more about the candidates and races, and get involved! Fight like your future depends on it. 🇺🇸

"We can either have democracy in this country or we can have great wealth concentrated in the hands of a few; but we can't have both."

~ Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis

The strongest weapon against oligarchy & fascism: our labor!

- Please get involved with your workplace union if you're fortunate 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.

Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/76CtjMSXaauAb2MN7>

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



LEGISLATORS	Sen. Bradley Republican Senate District 6	Sen. McClain Republican Senate District 9	Rep. Brannan Republican House District 10	Rep. Hayes Hinson Democrat House District 21	Rep. Johnson Republican House District 22
BILL TOPICS					
Property Tax Reforms			-	+	-
Private Sector Unionization		-	-		
Public Sector Unionization	-	-	+	+	-
Public Records Exemptions	-	-			
Unemployment Insurance	-	-	-	+	-
Minimum Wage Rights				+	
Public Schools				+	
Labor Pool Act	+	+			
Ideologies Consistent w/ American Principles	-	-	-	+	-
Don't Say Gay or Trans at Work		-	-		
Anti-DEI	-	-	-	+	-
FL SAVE Act	-	-	-	+	-
Home Rule for GRU	-	-	-	+	-
LEGISLATOR SCORE	13%	10%	11%	100%	0%

"The U.S. Constitution was designed to prevent and control berserk actions by a president and by the executive branch of government. Presidents are not kings; they have no Divine Right ..."

— Pete Hamill, 1972

LABOR NOTES

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W/ HEART ATTACK MAN & SLOW JOY

4/15 MOUNTAIN GRASS UNIT

4/17 THE HAPPY FITS
WITH SPECIAL GUEST BEL

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GAINESVILLE**

4/19 SWAMP RECORDS SHOWCASE
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**4/23 YONDER MOUNTAIN
STRINGBAND**

4/24 PUMP ACTION
& THE RETROGRADE W/ TRUSTFALL

4/26 ANI DIFRANCO

5/9 CLAY STREET UNIT

TICKETS AT HEARTWOODSOUNDSTAGE.COM
619 S Main St, Gainesville, FL 32601



People’s Progressive Agenda calls to limit ICE activity

The grassroots social justice group People’s Progressive Agenda has launched a petition urging the Gainesville City Commission to adopt an executive order restricting Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations within the city—modeled after Executive Order 152, recently enacted in Denver, Colorado.

Denver’s order prohibits ICE agents from entering city property, blocks the sharing of local databases with federal immigration authorities without a warrant, and directs local police to protect peaceful demonstrators from unlawful federal interference. Advocates say Gainesville can and should follow Denver’s lead by taking decisive steps to shield its residents from federal overreach.

The petition began circulating on No Kings Day, where volunteers reported a strong and enthusiastic turnout, with residents lining up to sign in support. Organizers say they plan to continue gathering signatures in the coming weeks before presenting the petition to the City Commission.

People’s Progressive Agenda members emphasize that Gainesville has an opportunity to stand with immigrant and refugee communities, ensuring that city resources are used to protect—not persecute—residents. They say the proposed order would strengthen trust between the city and the people it serves, making Gainesville a safer and more just community for all.

For more information or to help gather signatures, email peoplesagendax@gmail.com or contact People’s Progressive Agenda on Facebook. 🐾

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/GNVFSG)
www.facebook.com/GNVFSG

Email: fgsgnv@gmail.com

Leave voice message at: 352-388-1586



April 2026

Free shows every Friday from 7 - 9 p.m.
 at Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E University Ave.)

April 3 **USAF Band of the West**
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April 10 **Crooked Counsel**
 ('60s & '70s Rock)

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Veterans for Peace 12th annual College Scholarship Program

Deadline for submitting application, Friday, April 17

Gainesville Veterans for Peace Chapter 14 is announcing their 12th annual Peace Scholarship Program for Alachua County students for the spring of 2026.

They will be awarding college or vocational education scholarships of \$1,500 each for high school seniors, college students or adults. Recipients must demonstrate commitment to one or more areas of social change activities which may include: peace and nonviolence, intersectional coalition building, Black Lives Matter, women's reproductive freedom, environmental sustainability, immigration, labor, education and social change.

Gainesville Veterans for Peace created these scholarships to give financial support to students in Alachua County, Florida who are planning careers in pursuit of a world of social justice and equality. Students enrolled in vocational, apprenticeship and career training programs are eligible to apply.

Mariana Castro, then a University of Florida student, was a recipient of a 2016 Peace Scholarship. In explaining the impact of the award, Mariana said, "To me receiving the Veterans for Peace Scholarship meant that there are people in our community who truly believe in helping change and shape our society for the betterment of all. There are not many scholarships such as VFP Peace Scholarship because work for social justice is often overlooked in our world."

Mariana writes: "It's tough being a college student and fighting for your community and overall peace. We don't get graded for our movement-building work, and we don't get graded for our campaigns. As an immigrant advocate and social justice activist, I feel blessed to have received this opportunity that will help me continue with my college education." Ms. Castro's narrative is an important reminder that while we often say, "Another World is Possible," we must provide tangible alternative funding to people who want to pursue peace and social justice in a society that is heavily based on funding war and violence.

Please help Gainesville Veterans for Peace spread the word about this scholarship program.

To be eligible to apply for the Peace Scholarship, the applicant must be a resident of Alachua County and either 1) a high

school senior planning to enroll in full-time undergraduate study at an accredited two- or four-year college, university or vocational-technical school or apprenticeship program in the United States for the 2026-2027 academic year, or 2) a student currently enrolled in one of these programs and in good standing, or 3) an adult student enrolling in higher education who needs financial assistance.


Scholarship applicants will be asked to provide a brief personal statement and evidence of leadership and/or personal initiative in activities in an organization (including volunteer or paid work) relating to peace and social justice, community organizing and/or nonviolence. Applicants will need to provide two letters of recommendation.

The application (PDF file) must be downloaded from the Gainesville Veterans for Peace website, <https://vfp Gainesville.org/> The completed application should be emailed to: Paul Ortiz, ortizprof@gmail.com, with the Following Subject line: Veterans for Peace Scholarship Program.

The email and/or postmarked deadline for the scholarship application is April 17.

Peace Scholarship recipients will be announced during the first week of May. For questions about the Peace Scholarship, contact Paul Ortiz at: ortizprof@gmail.com or 831-334-0131.

The full announcement and instructions for applying will be posted on the Gainesville Veterans for Peace web site, at <http://www.vfp Gainesville.org/>



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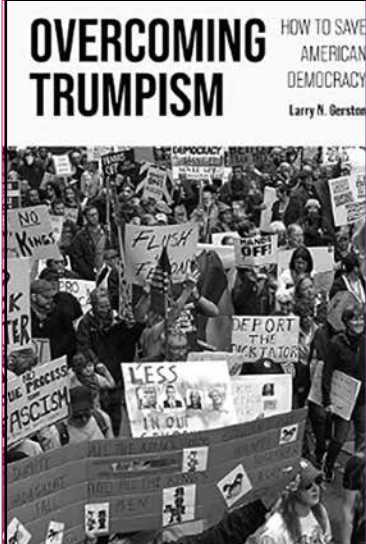
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Ask questions • Discuss local and statewide issues • Reception to follow



OVERCOMING TRUMPISM HOW TO SAVE AMERICAN DEMOCRACY
Larry N. Gerston

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

Available through: **Amazon.com**
<tinyurl.com/Iguana2298>
Author **Larry N. Gerston**
Publisher: **Bloomsbury Academic**
Release date: **April 16**
Pages: **304**
Preorders: **accepted now**
Price: **\$29.95**

What has this nation become?

As I have watched the destruction wrought by this government of the U.S. over the course of my life, and now seeing the acceleration of ancient cities being bombed in Iraq, Afghanistan, Lebanon; the decades long horrors perpetrated in Gaza and West Bank; and now Iran, it struck me as though we, the U.S., have turned into a monster.

Monster: that struck a chord in my jukebox of a brain that took me back to the year I graduated high school, 1969, and this song by the band Steppenwolf. I found the song on the radio back then. You can find the song now on YouTube. You can contemplate the lyrics right here. The course was set, things have only accelerated. Strength to us all, because we can't fight it alone. —Joe Courter

Monster, 1969. *Written by Jerry Edmonton and John Kay*

Once the religious, the hunted and weary
Chasing the promise of freedom and hope
Came to this country to build a new vision
Far from the reaches of kingdom and pope
Like good Christians, some would burn the witches
Later some got slaves to gather riches
But still from near and far to seek America
They came by thousands to court the wild

And she just patiently smiled and bore a child
To be their spirit and guiding light
And once the ties with the crown had been broken
Westward in saddle and wagon it went
And 'til the railroad linked ocean to ocean
Many the lives which had come to an end
While we bullied, stole and bought a homeland
We began the slaughter of the red man
But still from near and far to seek America
They came by thousands to court the wild
And she just patiently smiled and bore a child
To be their spirit and guiding light
The blue and gray they stomped it
They kicked it just like a dog
And when the war over
They stuffed it just like a hog
And though the past has its share of injustice
Kind was the spirit in many a way
But its protectors and friends have been sleeping
Now it's a monster and will not obey
The spirit was freedom and justice
And its keepers seem generous and kind
Its leaders were supposed to serve the country
But now they won't pay it no mind
'Cause the people grew fat and got lazy
And now their vote is a meaningless joke
They babble about law and order
But it's all just an echo of what they've been told
Yeah, there's a monster on the loose
It's got our heads into a noose
And it just sits there watchin'
Our cities have turned into jungles
And corruption is stranglin' the land
The police force is watching the people
And the people just can't understand
We don't know how to mind our own business
'Cause the whole worlds got to be just like us
Now we are fighting a war over there
No matter who's the winner
We can't pay the cost
'Cause there's a monster on the loose
It's got our heads into a noose
And it just sits there watching
America where are you now?
Don't you care about your sons and daughters?
Don't you know we need you now
We can't fight alone against the monster 🐻



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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Cultural Arts Coalition presents...
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APRIL 25-26, 2026
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 Hours: 10:30-4:30
 Wednesday-Sunday
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Three Rivers Legal Services, Inc. is a non-profit law firm dedicated to the provision of quality legal assistance to the poor, abused, disabled, and elderly, and empowerment through preventive legal education. TRLS provides free legal assistance to families throughout 17 counties in North Central Florida and has offices in Gainesville, Lake City, Fernandina Beach, and Jacksonville.

TRLS, through its Pro Bono Legal Assistance Program (PBLAP), hosts regular clinics throughout the community, where the public can come and speak with an attorney at no cost. Our volunteers are experienced in a range of legal areas including housing, family, public benefits/SSDI/Medicaid, consumer and bankruptcy issues, criminal history sealing and expungement, and driver license reinstatement. Our upcoming clinics are listed below. You can also find out more about our events or apply for services at www.trls.org or by calling 866-256-8091.

April 18, 11am-1pm, Ask-A-Lawyer Clinic (location TBD, call TRLS for location info)

April 27, 4:30-6:30pm, Ask-A-Lawyer Clinic at Helping Hands, 509 NE 1st Ave.

May 1, 2-4pm, Driver License Reinstatement Clinic, Library Headquarters


May 9, 11am-1pm, Ask-A-Lawyer Clinic at Grace Marketplace

May 18, 4:30-6:30pm, Ask-A-Lawyer Clinic at Helping Hands, 509 NE 1st Ave.

May 28, 11:30am-1:30pm, Seal & Expungement Workshop, Library Tower Road


June 20, 11am-1pm, Ask-A-Lawyer Clinic, Library Headquarters

June 29, 4:30-6:30pm, Ask-A-Lawyer Clinic at Helping Hands, 509 NE 1st Ave. ☼



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Seniors & disabled: Beware the 'Fast-Track' & 'Entitlement/Fiscal Commission'

by Mary Savage

Like zombies returning from the dead, legislation supporting an undemocratic and semi-secretive fiscal commission has once again been introduced in Congress.

This time it was in the U.S. Senate in late March. A small group of legislators and administration officials want to write Social Security legislation that would be

fast-tracked through Congress on a limited time schedule with no allowance for amendments and very limited debate.

Let us be clear and let us be resolved: Any changes to Social Security should go through the regular legislative process. This includes public hearings and amendments, if needed.

The reasoning is simple. The American

people must have ample time to fully understand the impact of any proposed changes to our earned benefits, especially since trust fund shortfalls are predicted to begin as early as 2032.

Any changes to Social Security must be designed to improve the program for the American people and not to achieve budgetary "goals" that in actuality would harm the American people.

Social Security does not contribute a nickel to the federal debt and it should not be targeted for cuts as part of any budget-cutting plan.

Zombie movie fans may recall that the monsters died when their brains were destroyed. So even scary monsters can be defeated. But Brad Pitt isn't going to save the day. We have to do it ourselves.

Let's put our pens, keyboards and voices to work. Write a letter or give your congressional representative and two U.S. senators a call and tell them you oppose this undemocratic fiscal commission.

The U.S. Capitol Switchboard phone number is (202) 224-3121. The switchboard operator may ask for your zip code. 🐾

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From April's Harper's Index

- Minimum number of court orders in Minnesota that the Department of Homeland Security violated in January: 97
- Portion of Americans who say that it is unacceptable for Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers to hide their faces: 3/5
- Amount of money reportedly budgeted by the DHS to pay PRO-ICE online influencers this year: \$8,000,000
- Estimated percentage of LinkedIn and Facebook posts in English shared last year that were mostly or entirely AI-generated: 90
- Portion of Americans who are "very confident" that Trump has the physical fitness to serve as president: 1/4 🐾

From BETZ, p. 1

with the goal of bettering conditions by advocating for all of us -- whether it be a stranger, friend, or feline -- with a deep commitment to preserve and protect our Planet Earth.

Many remember seeing her in striking pink clothing -- tee shirts, banner, hat, and an occasional vagina costume as the Local Coordinator for CODEPINK: WOMEN FOR PEACE, the grassroots feminist anti-war organization.

Although she was not a veteran, she supported the North Central Florida Veterans For Peace, Chapter 14. Involved for many years in their Memorial Mile, her ability to organize and care for the precious banners was duly noted. Her lemon water was appreciated by many on the solemn Memorial Day event which helped to honor and remember those who have died in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Jacque was a formidable figure on the local and national scene in regards to preserving the rights of women, raising feminist awareness, and gaining more freedom for women and the trans community. She was a welcomed participant and a dedicated t-shirt wearing activist of various women's rights groups -- National Organization for Women (NOW), Gainesville Women for Democracy, the Democratic Women's Club of Alachua County and the National Women's Liberation (NWL). Jacque was highly respected for her organizing skills and ability to engage people in her cause.

Jacque earned advanced degrees in Environmental Science and became a science teacher at a time when that field was male dominated. She persisted despite sexist attitudes, and she may have been one

of the first to introduce the concepts of stewardship and conservation in the high school classroom. Her passion led her to steward a small farm in Waldo

Despite a few vocal neighbors who held differing values, she continuously held strong to her own values. She restored wildflowers and grew an abundance of food. Some country neighbors who deeply appreciated her would trade eggs for her superb cold weather crops, watermelons, and squash.

Of course, she loved cats! Not only did she share her tidy home with Bob, Cowboy Buttons, Ziggy, Callie, and Jeri, she also supported a family of free-roam cats who live in Waldo who have been spayed/neutered, and vaccinated.

Our friend and comrade will be deeply missed. She was a kick-ass organizer. Jacque was a committed pacifist with a loving and thoughtful reach in and beyond the Gainesville area. May we remember her as a lover of life, truth, justice, and peace. Most will agree, it was an honor to be in the streets with this freedom fighting sister.

(Contact the Gainesville Humane Society if you are interested in adopting one or two of her beloved cats.)

•••

From the publisher: Over the past 40 years Jacque worked with a number of local organizations. Among her more noteworthy recent activities were being part of the annual Vets for Peace Memorial Mile

where she put up the large cloth memorial panels at the end of the walk.

She, in her work with Code Pink, led the fight against a military drone manufacturing company coming to Gainesville in 2014 that saw famed activist Medea Benjamin come to town for a series of events.

She wrote the cover story on the actions in the November/December 2014 edition of the Iguana (tinyurl.com/iguana2419/).

She was an active member of Women for Democracy, which grew out of the Kamala Harris campaign and is still active in Gainesville, and always actively supported her chosen candidates in local, regional and national elections.

She was also an active environmentalist and feminist, going back to National Organization for Women into National Women's Liberation. For many years she was a high school science teacher. She both knew how to have a good time and how to fight the good fight. And right up to the last, coming home from the great No Kings event of all things, she was there in the fight.

She was buried at Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery on Monday April 6. A future celebration of her life will take place with time and date tbd.

A longtime friend and collaborator Garrick Beck sent in the following when he heard of her death:

"Jacque knew how to turn activist attitudes into action. She did real things that

See BETZ, p. 24

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My best friend is a raging Republican. I'm a flaming liberal. Let's talk.

by Autumn Johnstone

Growing up with Republican parents often has two possible outcomes: you grow up fully believing what they preach or you disagree with every single thing they have ever said. My outcome was the second option. Yet, it has more to do with concern for human rights than it has to do with angsty parental defiance.

My childhood was filled to the brim with confusion and late night arguments — often because my parents and I almost never agreed on anything politically. But lately, I've been thinking of this aspect of my upbringing as a superpower rather than a painful obstacle. For one, it's taught me to be extremely empathetic towards those I don't agree with. And for two, it's shown me how terrifying it can be when you view someone solely based on their political beliefs.

After all, it's how we have gotten to this disturbing point in history.

So, how do you love someone who clearly doesn't support you as a person? Better yet, how do you live alongside someone who is ignorant towards blatant discrimination in our own government? Do you look the other way? Do you pretend like it doesn't bother you that they blindly support a criminal as the president?

It's nearing that time in history that it's almost unacceptable to

even associate yourself with MAGA supporters or pretend you don't see what they're doing to our country. But what do we do when that person is your lifelong best friend? Or your mother?

They say they support you, but they also say that Trump doesn't hate gay people simply because he held a rainbow flag for five seconds. "Supporting" your family member as an individual, but voting against their existence as a class, is not virtuous. It's complicity.

My best friend is a MAGA supporter. He believes in stricter borders, smaller government, and yes — he voted for Trump. Twice. And yet, he is also one of the most generous, fiercely loyal people I have ever known. He shows up when it matters. He has never once made me feel less than. He is, in every way that counts in a friendship, a good person. Even if it does, honestly, confuse me.

That used to feel like a paradox I couldn't resolve. Now I think the paradox itself is the point.

Because here's what I've learned from years of loving people when they don't quite love you back: a vote is not the full measure of a person. It's a data point. An important one, but not the entire story. My best friend's politics do not cancel out his character, just as my politics do not make me inherently righteous. What matters is who someone is in practice. How they treat the people in front of them or how they handle conflict. Whether their actions, not just their ballots, reflect something worth standing beside.

That's not me excusing complicity. It's me refusing to reduce a human being into a single checkbox.

The truth is, none of this is black and white. Loving someone whose worldview frightens you is one of the most uncomfortable, necessary things you can do. It means sitting across the table and having conversations that make your stomach hurt. It means saying I think what you just said is wrong, and here's why, instead of simply walking out the door. It means being willing to be changed by them, even a little, while holding firm on the things that are non-negotiable.

My friend and I fight about politics. We always will. But we also talk through it — really talk — in a way that most cable news panels and Twitter threads never could. Because there's something at stake between us that's bigger than being right. And that stakes-having is exactly what's missing from our national conversation.

We are not going to fix this country by only surrounding ourselves with people who already agree with us. We are not going to dismantle ignorance by refusing to engage with it up close. The hard, unglamorous, deeply human work of coexistence is the only path forward I actually believe in.

Not because it's comfortable. But because the alternative is a country where we have already given up on each other entirely.

And I'm not ready to do that. Not yet. 🐾

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\$31M infusion for AIDS drug program passes the Legislature

by Christine Sexton ~ Florida Phoenix ~ March 12 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2402

Florida lawmakers approved a \$31 million stopgap infusion for the state's AIDS Drug Assistance Program after cuts threatened medication access for thousands of residents. The move did not solve the long-term funding problem, but it showed that legislative pressure and public outcry could still force a partial retreat from harmful health policy.

Democrats sue to block Trump's 'unconstitutional' mail ballot order

by Jonathan Shorman ~ Florida Phoenix ~ April 1 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2403

Democrats sued over President Donald Trump's executive order clamping down on mail ballots, signaling the start of another fight with the White House over elections. The order, which would create a national list of voting-age American citizens and direct the U.S. Postal Service to place limits on mail-in ballots, constitutes an extraordinary and illegal attempt by Trump to intervene in the voting process, election experts said.

Federal judge finds Trump violated free speech by ordering NPR and PBS defunded

by Scott Neuman and Leila Fadel ~ NPR ~ April 1 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2395

A federal judge has ruled that President Trump violated the First Amendment when he issued an executive order last May to end federal funding for public broadcasting, including NPR and PBS. That order also prompted Congress to claw back about \$1.1 billion given to public broadcasters that had already been appropriated through 2027.

Federal jurisdiction over developing Florida's wetlands is upheld

by Steve Newborn ~ WUSF ~ March 27 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2396

A U.S. court ruled federal regulators should

handle building permits — not the state. The ruling said accelerated bulldozing of federally protected wetlands could threaten the survival of species like the Florida panther that rely on them to survive.

Florida Democrats flip two seats in special legislative elections

by Mitch Perry ~ Florida Phoenix ~ March 24 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2397

Florida Democrats flipped two legislative seats on March 24 in their biggest election night in years. In the only state Senate election on the ballot, Democrat Brian Nathan, a Navy veteran, union organizer, and first-time candidate, shocked Republican state Rep. Josie Tomkow in the Hillsborough County Senate District 14 contest, winning by 408 votes. In the Palm Beach County House District 87 race that includes Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence, Democrat Emily Gregory, a first-time candidate with a public-health background, defeated Republican financial adviser Jon Maples, 51%-49%, in a district that Trump won by more than 10 points in 2024.

Florida sheriffs rebel against Trump's, DeSantis' mass deportation efforts

by Liv Caputo ~ Florida Phoenix ~ March 16 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2398

Florida's Republican sheriffs want President Donald Trump to end mass deportations of undocumented immigrants who haven't committed crimes, a striking shift from law enforcement in the nation's most aggressive anti-undocumented immigration state. "We are a country of immigrants," said Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd.

Supreme Court majority seems inclined to rule against Trump on birthright citizenship

by Nina Totenberg ~ All Things Considered ~ NPR ~ April 1 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2399

A majority of the Supreme Court justices seemed skeptical of the Trump administration's argument on birthright citizenship Wednesday and appeared ready to rule in favor of upholding automatic citi-

zenship for babies born on U.S. soil. The decision, expected by this summer, will almost certainly result in a historic ruling.

Supreme Court strikes down Trump's tariffs

by Doug Palmer, Josh Gerstein and Daniel Desrochers ~ Politico ~ Feb 20 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2394

The Supreme Court struck down Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs — a major repudiation of a core piece of Trump's economic program. The ruling wipes out the 10 percent tariff Trump imposed last April on nearly every country in the world, as well as specific, higher tariffs on some of the top U.S. trading partners.

To keep climate science alive, researchers are speaking in code

by Kate Yoder, Ayurella Horn-Muller, & Clayton Aldern ~ Grist ~ March 26 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2400

Researchers are adapting their grant language to keep climate work moving despite political pressure and disappearing federal terminology. It shows scientific communities are finding ways to endure, protect research, and keep climate

U.S. judge revives union contract for 320,000 workers at veterans' agency

by Daniel Wiessner ~ Reuters ~ March 13 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2401

A federal judge reinstated a union bargaining agreement covering roughly 320,000 Veterans Affairs employees after the agency canceled it under Trump's anti-union order. This is one of the clearest labor wins over the past month, reaffirming that courts can still check retaliation against public-sector unions. ✪



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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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Robert Hubbell

Citizen. Optimist. Realist.



Robert B. Hubbell is a former lawyer who writes about current political issues and policies.

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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.”

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Editors' picks: News that didn't fit

DeSantis panics as his MAGA agenda unravels in final days

by Katie Phang ~ You Tube (video 36:31) ~ April 3 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2417

Gov. Ron DeSantis is termed out, and as he departs, he wants to leave a police state in his wake. Florida State Senator Tina Polsky joins Katie Phang for a legislative round-up of some of the worst bills from this session, including a state SAVE Act, anti-DEI measures, and a domestic terrorist organization law.

Elder Zoharah Simmons at Gainesville No Kings Rally

You Tube (video 9:26) ~ March 28 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2421

Zoharah Simmons, veteran of the civil rights movement, speaks at the March 28 No Kings Day rally. She says the goal of the rally was to "raise our voices, but also to organize a resistance movement against the anti-democratic authoritarian fascist horror we are witnessing in our country and across the globe caused by our government and paid for by our tax dollars."

More law-abiding migrants are being deported to places they don't recognize

by Tim Padgett ~ WLRN Public Media ~ March 23 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2411

More than half the migrants deported in the past year had no criminal convictions. "Why would they take a hard-working mother that pays taxes, that helps the community?," asks the daughter of a woman who was sent to an ICE detention center.

RESIST Network opposes voter suppression

by Diane Dimperio ~ Gainesville Iguana ~ April 4 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2418

A new Florida law requiring proof of U.S. citizenship to register or remain registered to vote starts in 2027. This outlines acceptable documents like a Real ID or passport and steps voters should take to ensure compliance. It emphasizes that current voters with proper documentation likely won't need to act immediately, but encourages individuals to verify their records and gather necessary documents ahead of the law's implementation.

The Boss cuts loose with five minutes of truth

You Tube (video 4:54+) ~ March 31 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2410

During the song "My City of Ruins" at the first concert of his Land of Hope and Dreams American tour in Minneapolis, Bruce Springsteen delivered a 5-minute speech criticizing the Donald Trump administration. "You want to talk about snowflakes? We have a president who can't handle the truth. This is happening now."

Tom Millers 'Audience' sweeps Puerto Aventuras Film Festival

by millerworks ~ Daily Kos ~ March 31 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2412

The Gainesville filmmaker and his long-time collaborator Alexander Davidowski dominated the closing-night Red Carpet Awards Gala by earning five awards for their indie film "Audience." Best Feature Film, Best Director, Best Actor, Best Producers, and the Audience Choice Award.

Transcript: Mayor Mamdani hosts breakfast to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day

From Office of the Mayor NYC ~ March 17 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2413

In his St. Patrick's Day breakfast remarks, Zohran Mamdani framed Irish history as a story not just of hardship, but of enduring solidarity, praising Irish immigrants' role in building New York City and their legacy of organizing for justice. The speech blended celebration with a call to action, urging New Yorkers to carry forward the Irish tradition of compassion and solidarity in confronting modern injustices and supporting one another across communities.

Trump's Iran folly reflects authoritarian blowback with Ruth Ben-Ghiat

by Wajaahat Ali ~ You Tube (video with transcript 26:43) ~ March 19 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2393

Ruth Ben-Ghiat, a scholar of authoritarianism, explains how Donald Trump, like fascists before him, will continue to double down on failed wars and reckless policies as he loses popular support. Unfortunately, that means America, and the world, will continue to burn.

Understanding the Trump cult (and more)

by Lucas Bean ~ lucasbean.substack.com (video 6:10) Feb 15 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2416

In short (2-10 minute) videos, Lucas Bean shares insights about the Trump cult and people in the MAGA movement using peer-reviewed and documented scientific and psychological studies to explain their behavior and twisted rationale. Other topics in his series include: "Why addicts love the Trump cult," "The MAGA movement is falling apart," "How Trump cult hijacked very lonely people," "Why Trump attracts so many emotionally broken people," "Trump supporters defend things they know are wrong," "Why the Trump cult pulls in broken people." Fascinating stuff.

Video of 'complete chaos' caused by ICE at hearing on government shutdown

YouTube (video with transcript 5:10) ~ March 25 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2422

Video compilation of why ICE needs to be reformed, presented to Congress by Rhode Island Democratic Rep. Seth Magaziner. The violence and destruction instigated by ICE on protesters is horrific and not for the faint of heart. Viewer discretion advised.

What your Legislature did instead of taking care of you

by Diane Roberts ~ Florida Phoenix ~ March 23 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2414

Florida lawmakers spent much of the 2026 legislative session focusing on ideological or political priorities instead of addressing everyday issues like affordability, health care, and public needs. Actions such as culture-war legislation, power struggles, and symbolic measures distracted from solving real problems facing Floridians. The Legislature failed to deliver practical relief or meaningful improvements in people's lives; the session was out of touch with what residents actually need. 🐸



SCAN ME

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The League, the Legislative Session, and a correction

by Donna Waller,
President, League of Women Voters of Alachua County

The correction first ... This is a town of sharp readers. I was very quickly alerted to the fact that last month, I misstated the date of the primary. The correct date is August 18, 2026. The date I gave, July 20, 2026, is an important one, too. That is the last date by which you can register or change parties if you want to vote in the primary. I apologize. Please correct your calendars.

Onward to the Legislative session ... As you doubtless know, the LWV engages in advocacy. This year the state LWV asked us to focus on three legislative priorities. Here they are and here's how the legislature did.

1. Don't make voting harder. The Legislature passed the Election Integrity Act (HB991). The governor will surely sign it. It definitely makes voting harder. It doesn't take effect until January 2027. There will surely be litigation. Get everyone you know registered now!

2. Don't engage in mid-term redistricting. The Governor has called a special session on midterm redistricting for April 20. The legislature has not shown great enthusiasm, especially the Senate. Let everyone, especially the House committee members and our own legislative delegation, know why it's a bad idea (Just for starters, it violates the state constitution.) The League will be holding a public workshop on the issue on Tuesday, April 14 at 6pm. The location will be announced on our Facebook page and website as soon as it is confirmed.

3. Please fully fund the election system. The Legislature's only constitutional requirement is to pass a budget. They didn't. There will be a special session after Easter. Maybe they will camp on to the redistricting special session. Maybe the two sessions will flow together. Either way, it will cost the taxpayers a lot of money. Who knows how much will be left for funding free and fair elections?

The LWVFL focused on these issues, but if you love democracy, you should make note of the continued attack on home rule and local government. Some of these issues will be on the ballot in November, and you will be hearing about them from the League in the coming months. Pay attention and remember that your vote is your voice. 🐘

Local elections preview

by Joe Courter

To everyone, but especially students: the City of Gainesville decided to move its elections from spring to fall for this year, so the slate of races is compressed.

Yes, it is cost saving, but that means some voices will not be heard when the Primaries take place in August—August 18, to be exact, over a week before classes begin on August 26. Lots of people may still be out of town and will need to vote absentee if they want to be heard. This will take pre-planning on your part.

There will be four city races: the mayor (city wide) and three district commissioners this year.

These offices have direct bearing on your lives, and with the smaller pool of voters casting votes (as opposed to a statewide race), each vote has more weight, especially the city ones.

If there are only two candidates, the Primary is bypassed and it goes right to the November ballot. That is in flux until the candidate filing deadline in June. The same is true for the two school board races.

For sure in August will be a contested Primary for at least one county commission race, maybe both. Likewise, the senator and governor's races. The Florida House and Senate races may also be on the ballot in August.

The point is, be ready with your voter registration and getting your absentee ballot set up. And VOTE. In this election, with all the voter suppression tactics going on, it really matters because, well, look at all the crap going on.

We will have more on elections in the May Iguana and in the June/July Iguana, and then in August we will publish a voters' guide, which you will be able to find at www.gainesvilleiguana.org, even if you are out of town.

Democracy is meaningless without your participation, and your power is multiplied when you do work to expand the pool of voters ... your friends, family, neighbors and co-workers. 🐘



Jason Leopoldo of Bloomberg News is the Brechner Center Freedom of Information Award winner this year. He will assess how the laws and practices affecting FOIA requests have changed during the current administration.

Monday April 20 at the Eastside Culinary Institute at 11:30

Reservations through floridafreespeechforum.org are required and must be made by Monday April 13.

From NO KINGS, p. 32

The Gainesville protest was one of over 100 in Florida, and 3,300 across the nation. Protests against the Trump Administration were held in blue and red states, as protesters across the nation joined in unity to support American democracy and against unconstitutional policing tactics, Trump's disastrous tax cuts for the wealthy, his war on basic science, his ongoing illegal foreign wars and destruction of our basic rights and liberties.

During the protest, three people needed basic medical attention, but otherwise, there were no major incidents.

The organizing coalition included: 50501gnv, Gainesville Women for Democracy, Badass Feminists Gainesville, Democratic Women's Club of Alachua County, Indivisible Gainesville, and the Party for Socialism and Liberation. 🐘

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PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE AGENDA

LET'S WIN THE CLASS WAR



People's Progressive Agenda is a group
of local activists and organizers united
against billionaires, racism and the Trump
agenda. Join us every Sunday at
Massey Park, @ 34th St. & 8th Ave.



**& scan the QR code
to join us on
Facebook**



Badass Feminists Gainesville

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

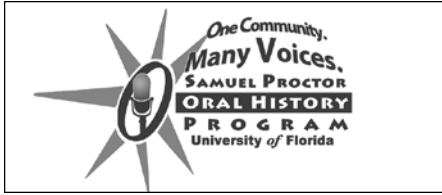
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please join our Facebook group!

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Oral History Program

History and the People Who Make It: Gary Appelson



This interview, originally published on April 3, 1994, is from a continuing series of transcript excerpts from the collection of the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program at the University of Florida.

Doris Edwards [E] interviewed Gary Appelson [A], the now retired policy coordinator at the Sea Turtle Conservancy, Inc. in Gainesville. Transcript edited by Beth Grobman.

A full transcript of this interview is available at tinyurl.com/iguana2392.

E: How did you get interested in environmental [issues]?

A: My interest in the environment began in college [at UF]. I was amazed at a lot of the things I was learning in college. It was during the Vietnam era and it was easy to be exposed to a lot of very different kinds of ideas.

E: Is that why you studied political science?

A: I actually studied political science because I did not know what else to study. I chose political science [because] it did not seem too difficult at the time. But Gainesville during the late 1960s, like lots of places, was extremely politically aware and active. I was not aware of racism in the country and civil rights and Martin Luther King and Indian rights and environmental issues, women's issues – just a whole host of things. In high school I was never introduced to those things and nobody ever talked about them.

All of a sudden, I came to Gainesville during the height of the anti-Vietnam War era and I was overwhelmed by all of the things that were going on in the world. We were always having speakers on campus. Congressmen and senators were coming here. Students were always very irreverent and asking all kinds of piercing questions; there was no respect for authority. Dynamic speakers came to campus. One month was Jane Fonda, one month was Rod Serling, one month was Dan Rather.

Microphones were set up at the Plaza of the Americas – a large meeting area in the center of campus – and we had a direct link to Capitol Hill and to congressmen. We had lengthy discussions about all kinds of political issues, almost every weekend. It was a time and a place to be aware of all of these things and speak your mind and learn a lot.

I was overwhelmed by what I saw going on in the environmental arena. I was overwhelmed by the destruction of the planet. I was enthralled with Greenpeace's tactics. Taking a boat and going into a nuclear test zone and threatening to stay there, even if they set off a bomb, was an incredibly brazen and brave thing to do. Greenpeace effectively stopped the French from testing nuclear weapons off the coast of Alaska. They stopped whaling all around the world. It was very impressive; direct action was the thing to do at the time. The Vietnam protests were extremely successful. I am convinced that it was the large-scale protesting around the country that ended the Vietnam War.

So with all of this, it was easy to latch onto something and believe in political activism and believe in democracy and believe in putting your foot down and telling people you want change. So that is what I started doing ... In law school, I chose environmental law as the area I wanted to specialize in ... I was studying cases and finding out what was going on with pollution. I was amazed at the extent of deceit and malicious intent and disregard for the environment by the American corporate structure. The situation was sad; it was pathetic. Oil companies and car manufacturers and chemical companies were destroying the planet and not caring and not paying any attention to who they were harming or what they were doing.

E: So you are saying that they continued to do it after they were aware of it?

A: Without question, the corporations in America and around the world were extremely aware of it.

They knew exactly what they were doing. There were toxic chemicals that were not allowed to be dumped in the United States, that they were taking to other

countries and dumping. Air pollution was bad for people, [as] they were spewing out into the environment.

This was the time when the government – the EPA [Environmental Protection Agency] was being formed. NEPA [National Environmental Policy Act] was being instituted. The Council for Environmental Quality was being formed. The Department of the Interior was trying to set up more parks. All of these issues in the environment were going on. And from a legal perspective, the reason for all of these laws, including the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, was because government officials, pushed by environmental groups, were being forced to look at the total collapse of the natural system by corporations, mainly in the industrialized countries of the world.

In America, the response was this tremendous laying down of environmental laws, to try to quell the destruction that was going on. And the culprits were mainly corporate America and a public that was refusing to pay attention, or did not care, or was not tuned in to the environment.

E: I think when groups like Greenpeace and some of these others are out there banging their drums and carrying placards, a lot of the public sort of looks at them like, "That is sort of the lunatic fringe. Just how important is it?" I think it sometimes takes a while before people separate this lunatic fringe from, "Well maybe that is really true!"

A: I think that is true. I think that is why environmentalism is so big now. It has taken twenty years for this lunatic fringe to become accepted by middle class America as a viable force. The Sierra Club was considered [to be] a bunch of idiots.

S: What is the Sierra Club?

A: The Sierra Club is probably the oldest environmental organization in the country. It was formed by famous environmentalists in the early part of the century. Their goal was to set up national parks and take people out into the wilderness and show them what was being destroyed and what needed to be protected. It has grown into an organization of millions of people around the country with thousands of local chapters. They do whatever they can

through lobbying or outings or education to inform the public about environmental problems and to aid in the public's appreciation of the natural world.

E: I think there are not an awful lot of ethics [in business, in general].

A: From my perspective, there was no environmental ethic. An American corporation would do anything. You have dozens of examples. You have Love Canal, fighting the Endangered Species Act, [etc, etc]. Oh, it just goes on and on. They all sort of coalesced around the nuclear power issue; it was something that every environmentalist could be against.

Here was the American corporate structure taking the most toxic, deadly material on the face of the planet, holding it up to the American public and saying, "We're going to produce energy with this material and we are not going to dispose of the waste. We are going to let you deal with it later." When I looked at this – I do not have the words to describe how appalled I was at what they were trying to promote for energy use in the United States and around the world.

E: What do you think are the environmental issues here in Florida?

A: When I came to Florida to go to college, Florida was being totally destroyed environmentally. And it was so hopeless. People who were in the environmental movement at that time were just throwing up their hands in disbelief. In fact, they were running from Florida. It was just so hopeless here. No one wanted to listen to environmentalists.

I came back here in 1988 and I saw that it was the same old thing; the state of Florida was still being trashed. But there was a big difference. Then the environmental movement was respected. The things that I had been complaining about are appreciated. People looked around and saw that Florida was being destroyed and that all of these things that the environmentalists were yelling about were valid. The wetlands were being destroyed. The wildlife was being destroyed. The forests were being destroyed. The oceans were being polluted. The rivers were being channelized. And everyone all of a sudden was waking up and looking around and saying, "Wow, the quality of life in Florida is being destroyed."

Today, what we have in Florida, is an environmental regulatory system that is probably better than any found in any state in the country. It is too bad that

it took so long for it to get going. But now the environmental movement and the environmental regulatory system in Florida is a very driving force – to make sure that the environment does not get trashed to the degree that it was earlier on.

It is kind of fun being involved here in Florida today. I am an outdoor person, so I started to get involved in outdoor activities here. I became involved with Paynes Prairie and the area just south of Gainesville. It is full of wildlife. In fact, in all of the time I have spent outdoors, I do not think I had ever seen anything as spectacular as Paynes Prairie in terms of wildlife – except for Alaska.

I was going to Paynes Prairie a lot and hiking through it and bird watching and canoeing Newnans Lake. I was amazed at the wildlife. One day I was walking through Paynes Prairie, and ran into the park biologist, Jim Weimer. I said, "This is just such a remarkable place." And he said, "Yes, but you would not believe what people are trying to do. They are trying to cut the water off to Paynes Prairie ... There are people south of Paynes Prairie who believe that the water that flows onto Paynes Prairie would serve the public better if it was diverted away from Paynes Prairie and down to Orange Lake, a lake south of Paynes Prairie. Thereby it could raise the lake levels and ensure that the lakes continued to be viable fishing areas for recreational fishing."

And I said, "You mean to tell me that here, in 1990, with an area protected like Paynes Prairie, people are still trying to subvert the system of protection for special lands like this?"

And he said, "Yes, people want to see Paynes Prairie destroyed so that the lake levels can be augmented."

I just could not believe it, so I started looking into this issue. And sure, low and behold, Senator Kirkpatrick, who is a recreational fisherman, was trying to have the water cut off to Paynes Prairie. In fact, [he] had been successful.

The water flow to Paynes Prairie – when I was looking into this – had been cut off for ninety days as a test run, to see if it would have any negative consequences on Paynes Prairie Preserve, and any positive consequences for Orange Lake. What that implied was that, if indeed it had no negative impact on the Prairie and it did have a positive impact on Orange Lake, then we could say, "Hey, let's take water from a protected preserve and send

it on down to Orange Lake to be used by recreational fisherman."

I just could not believe that. This land was protected. It was a state preserve, it was a national, natural landmark, it was protected in the national system as well, and these private interests were going to do what they had been doing in the 1960s, 1970s, and early 1980s. They were going to destroy an incredible environment for their own personal needs, and I was just amazed. So I jumped on it as a new issue and got involved in the protection of Paynes Prairie.

E: Now there is some other talk about trying to build a development of houses also on the edge of Paynes Prairie, right? By the golf course, I think.

A: Yes. Paynes Prairie is a microcosm of what goes on everywhere. Everybody wants to be around the protected areas. It is just sort of a mixed blessing, you protect an area. Once you set it aside and give it this protection, all the growth and development is held at bay for a while, and what you end up with is this beautiful area in the middle of the sea of growth and development, so everybody wants to get as close as they can to it.

It becomes an invaluable resource. The same thing happens around national parks, the same thing happens around all the protected rivers, and the protected bays, and the protected estuaries. It is a mixed blessing.

You give these areas protection, and they increase in value in the public's mind because the public wants to use them. So, you have to continually stay on guard forever. Developers are going to want to ring Paynes Prairie Preserve with housing complexes and high rises so people can have views.

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 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. ☛

From BETZ, p. 13

made a difference. Here are a couple of stories from her amazing career as a Humanitarian Activist. Read these and know who Jacque really was.

“She purchased and loaded boxes of paper goods (toilet paper, bandages, writing pads, tampons, plain paper, etc.) onto the Dutch sailing ship, The Fre, which sailed to Nicaragua past the harbor that had been mined by the CIA as part of an illegal blockade by the American government.

“When she was working in Washington, D.C. she helped draft parts of the Clean Water Act. Years later in Florida Jacque testified in a trial about pollution of the Everglades by giant agribusiness corporations. When asked by the argibiz attorney why she was so sure her interpretation of the rules was more correct than their company’s, she replied, “Because I helped write that rule.” The court ruled against the polluter.

“But from among the amazing stories of Jacque’s activism this one really stands out:

“Jacque and her labor activist Gainesville friend Pat Fitzpatrick brought me to one of the huge Florida migrant labor camps operated by Agribusiness. It held thousands of field workers imported from Haiti and the Dominican Republic who were kept in intolerable conditions. Workers were being smuggled into the country and then forced to pay exorbitant “transportation costs” leaving them in debt-bondage. No medical help, no porta poties — so the workers had to relieve themselves into the furrows of the fields — miserable housing, substandard water, horrible food, and (by virtue of the papers they’d had to sign to come for work) they were not allowed to leave the camp.

“Wages were underpaid, phone contact with friends and family was prohibited and anyone who fell sick or was injured (they worked with machetes and other sharp tools) was shipped back home without pay.

“The scene was horrendous.

“There were six or seven of these camps — a true Gulag in America. And nobody knew about this: no reporting, no press, no objections. And the conditions kept getting worse.

“We drove into the single company-town street where the migrants had no choice but to overpay for goods, and we stopped at the laundromat. The place went silent when we walked in. We were the only white people they’d ever seen in there. Jacque put a load of clothes into the washer. After a while, Patrick said aloud, “This place really sucks! I’m going outside and have a smoke.” After a few minutes a young black man went outside and bummed a cigarette. A few minutes later another joined them and they fell to talking.

“When we left the laundromat after the wash was dried and folded, we drove past the gate and out of that hellhole. But we had gotten the information we needed: names and contacts of people held there who might be willing to talk further and speak up about the conditions.

“Later that night Jacque and I were hanging out at a biker bar Jacque was incensed. She was on a tear about the conditions there. “Don’t you know people in New York, in the press, the media who could take up this story?” she asked me. I could only bring up the names of some writers for the ‘underground’ press, the radical magazines. Jacque already knew those folks from the Rainbow Gatherings and dismissed them as having a limited audience.

“Well, the only other media link I know is Bob Fass’s WBAI radio show. That has a pretty wide reach. It’s on Thursdays at midnight.’

“Right,’ said Jacque, ‘and it’s Thursday at 11:45 right now.’ So, from the pay phone at the bar, I called up Bob Fass and told him I’ve got someone with me who has an incredible story to tell. He put Jacque on the phone, live on the air, and she went on with Bob for two hours.

“Eloquent, coherent, heart-felt. Bob’s phone lines lit up with callers with questions, advice, and moral support. And most importantly, a young reporter from the New York Times was listening in. The reporter followed up with Fass — and with her editors, and the Times produced a whole series of investigative journalism articles calling the situation, “Virtual Slavery,” and explained how the bosses charged workers more for food and rent than they earned, ensuring they remained in permanent debt.

“The direct result of that journalism was Congressional hearings and the passage of laws that greatly improved living conditions and migrant workers’ rights. Did that make those camps like Florida vacation condos? Of course not. But did it make the lives of thousands of hard workers more tolerable, safer, more just, and more humane? Yes, it did.

“Thank you, Jacque, for being who you are, and for inspiring the rest of us.” ✨

From Jacque Betz’s Living Will, in her own words:


“I recognize that death is natural and is but a phase in the cycle of life. I do not fear death as much as I fear the indignity and futility of deterioration, dependence, and hopeless pain.”

It was her preference that she not be kept alive by artificial means or heroic measures. A small circle of friends, including Pastor Becca from the Westminster Presbyterian Church, gathered at her bedside.

Talking among ourselves, we felt that our beloved Jacque had one of her best days ever at the No Kings III rally doing what she loved most, protesting, activating and embracing her community.

Friends planned to gather in Gainesville at Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery on Monday, April 6 at 11am for her burial.

- From Barbara McGovern’s post on the Rainbow Gathering 2026 Facebook site.



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From **FOREWARNED**, p. 1

Changing the rules prior to election

Partisan redistricting — “packing” or “cracking” communities of interests, thereby diminishing the power of their vote.

Additional burdens on voter registration and voting. The pending SAVE America Act, now before Congress, requires documentary proof of citizenship. This is a particular problem for women who take their husband’s last name resulting in a mismatch of her name on her birth certificate and her passport or driver’s license. New Florida legislation limits acceptable forms of identification, explicitly excluding university-issued IDs.

Election officials could reduce opportunities to vote by imposing additional restrictions on voting by mail or limiting days, hours and locations for early voting. Eligible, but inactive voters could be prematurely purged from voter rolls.

Election Day and Early Voting Period

We should anticipate last-minute changes in location of polling places, especially in targeted precincts.

Voters are discouraged from voting by faulty election administration — for example by insufficient functioning voting equipment or staffing.

Voters have been subjected to disinformation about voting locations, hours, closures and eligibility. In this election there could be disinformation about voters being arrested for outstanding warrants or unpaid fines if they show up at a polling location.

We can anticipate aggressive challenges of a voter’s eligibility by election officials or activist groups.

Threats to prosecute technical violations as voter fraud or to send federalized troops to “monitor” elections or to send ICE to arrest ineligible non-citizens attempting to vote will have the effect of depressing voter turnout.

Law enforcement should be prepared to deal with mobs attempting to disrupt voting.

Post Election

Election officials could reject valid votes — mailed ballots received after Election Day though postmarked before, or valid provisional ballots, or by changing rules for ballot curing.

We have already witnessed election officials refusing to certify election results or certify timeliness.

The President has threatened to (and expressed regrets that he failed to) seize ballots and/or voting machines.

This time around law enforcement should

prepare for mobs attempting to prevent the swearing in of the winner of an election.

This can’t be a complete list. Desperation breeds inventiveness. Nevertheless I hope this list helps pro-democracy activists prepare to defend our electoral democracy.

The coming elections will be a test of the integrity and fidelity to the oath of office of public officials at many levels—especially the judiciary, but also state and federal legislators, election administrators, prosecutors and law enforcement.

And it will test the courage of ordinary citizens including the army of civic and professional associations that De Tocqueville noted were so significant in American life.

We cannot be passive observers. We can’t put our heads down and wait for the storm to blow over. There is no savior on the horizon. An engaged public, prepared to take to the streets, is the cavalry that will save American democracy.

Howard L. Simon, Ph.D., served as executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Florida from 1997 to 2018. ✨

*“The right to vote is the foundation of all other rights.”
~ Franklin D. Roosevelt*

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

Always check *Gvl Blue Activism Hub* (<https://linktr.ee/gnvbluehub>) and *Alachua Community Collective* (<https://www.alachuacommunitycollective.com/events/>) for the latest.

WEEK OF APR 5 - 11

Thu 4/9 BARD & Broadside Poetry Festival opens, 6-8pm, Harn Museum Auditorium (3259 Hull Rd), open mic poetry kicks of month of events around town, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9706>

Thu 4/9 Swallowtail Farm Spring Festival, 12:30-9pm, Swallowtail Farm (7301 SE 92nd Terr), music, workshops, food, aerial arts, more, \$?; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9707>

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/iguana9708>

Fri 4/10 "Disagree Better", noon, UF Pugh Hall Ocora (296 Buckman Dr), ex-Congressman Ric Keller on "civil conversations in divided times", free; <https://bobgrahamcenter.ufl.edu/calendar/>

Fri 4/10 "BIG Culture & Arts Festival", 6pm-5am 4/12; downtown Gvl; >100 artists, 8 stages, \$65+; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9709>

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/iguana9710>

Fri 4/10 Free Live Music, 6-9pm, Skinner Park (15100 NW 142 Terr, Alachua), The Flattlanders concert, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9711>

Sun 4/10 CMC Benefit Show, 6:45-11pm, Civic Media Ctr (433 S Main St), acts TBA, \$?, <https://www.civicmediacenter.org/>

Fri 4/10 "Prodigal Son", 7:30pm through 4/13, UF Fletcher Hall, \$15-20; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9712>

Fri 4/10 Free Fridays Concerts return: 8pm through 9/25, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E University Ave), Crooked Counsel ('60s-'70s rock), free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9713>

Fri 4/10 "Disney's Descendants: The Musical", 8pm through 4/19, Star Center Theatre (11 NE 23rd Ave), children of Disney villains at prep school, \$18-22; <https://www.starcentertheatre.org/>

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 Badass Feminists Gvl, 10am-noon every Sat, Oaks Mall (6419 W. Newberry Rd), weekly protest of Trump (et al) atrocities, free; pg 21

Sat 4/11 Newberry Main St Spring Festival, 10am-4pm, (25370 W Newberry Rd, Newberry), live animals, food trucks, bounce houses, live music, battle enactments, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9714>

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/iguana9715>

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/iguana9716>

Sat 4/11 Santa Fe Spring Arts Festival, 10am-5pm 4/11-12, Santa Fe College (3000 NW 83rd St), 150+ artists, live music, much more, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9717>

Sat 4/11 Skin Cancer Screening, 10am-2pm, Healthstreet (2401 SW Archer Rd), appointments preferred, walk-ins okay, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9718>

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/iguana9719>

Sat 4/11 GAZE Gvl Arts & Zine Expo, 11am-5pm, Sequential Arts Workshop (1314 S Main St), comics & zine fest, \$10 suggested; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9720>

Sat 4/11 "One Million Counterextinctions", 3-6pm, Roper Park (401 NE 2nd St); create solutions for climate crisis in clay (for all ages), free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9721>

WEEK OF APR 12 - 18

Sun 4/12 "Fighting Authoritarianism", 2-4pm, The Woolly (20 N Main St), discussion & training led by Nat'l Women's Liberation, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9722>

Sun 4/12 People's Progressive Agenda, 2-4pm, Massey Park (1001 NW 34th St), weekly solidarity rally, free; pg 21 & <https://www.pccncf.org/>

Tue 4/14 PCCNCF Capital Campaign, 6-8pm, The Lynx Books (601 S Main St), kickoff party for new home for Pride Ctr, free, pg 2 & <https://www.pccncf.org/>

Wed 4/15 Santa Fe Springs Plein Air Paintout opens, 9am-3pm, Rum Island Springs County Park (1447 SW Rum Island Terr, Ft White), 3 days of artists working publicly in 3 parks, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9723>

Wed 4/15 Bicycle-Pedestrian Master Plan, 5-7pm, UF?IFAS Extension office (22712 W Newberry Rd, Newberry); presentation and public input on final draft of countywide plan, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9724>

Thu 4/16 "Financial Intelligence", 3-5pm, Ironwood Golf Course (2100 NE 39th Ave), workshop for small business owners, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9725>

Fri 4/17 Wilmot Gardens Plant Sale, 9:30am-5pm & 4/18 9am-3pm, from grasses to trees, free admission; <https://wilmotgardens.med.ufl.edu/>

Fri 4/17 Fla Museum Plant Sale, 10am-4pm & 4/18 10am-2pm, UF Fla Mus. of Natural History (3215 Hull Rd), 100s of pollinator-supporting plants, free admission; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9726>

Fri 4/17 "Saving My Alachua Environment Art Exhibition", 3-7pm (& 4/18 9am-3pm), Laniakea Montessori School (636 NE 1st St - park at Thomas Ctr), 500+ works from K-12 students, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9727>

Fri 4/17 Streatery Spring Market series, 4-10pm Fri-Sun through May 3, SW 1st Ave (W of Main St), merchants, music, workshops, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9728>

Fri 4/17 Town Hall, 5:30-7:30pm, Unitarian Fellowship (4225 NW 34th St), "Survival shouldn't be the ceiling", free; see pg 7

Fri 4/17 "Black Cowboys & Cowgirls", 6-9pm 4/17-18, Cotton Club Museum (837 SE 7th Ave), history,

horses, lassos, & line-dancing, free(?); <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9729>

Fri 4/17 Blue Door Café, 6-8pm, Dem. HQ (901 NW 8th Ave), Democratic Party potluck, free w/ food contribution; <https://alachuademparty.com/events/>

Sat 4/18 FOL Book Sale opens, 9am-6pm (+ noon-6pm 4/17-22), amazing prices on books, art, media, more (bring boxes!), free entry; <https://folacld.org>

Sat 4/18 Visibility Brigade, 3:30-5:30pm every Sat, I-75/39th Ave overpass, Badass Feminists Gvl protest, free

Sat 4/18 Wombash '26, 6pm, 1st Magnitude Brewery (1220 SE Veitch St), local radio concert, free(!); pg 15 & <https://wmb901.com/wombash-2026/>

Sat 4/18 Eric Diamond, 7:30pm, Theatre of Memory (1705 NW 6th St), songwriter/poet returns, \$21.50; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9730>

Sat 4/18 Re-Use & Recycle Day, 9am-noon, Santa Fe College NW Campus (3000 NW 83rd St, Parking Lot 10, Teaching Zoo entrance), donate wearable clothing, non-perishable food, school supplies & dispose of paint, chemicals, electronics, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9731>

Sat 4/18 Party for the Planet, 9am-3pm, Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo (3000 NSW 83rd St), animals, talks, play space, food trucks, live music, \$10 adults, \$6 ages 4-12; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9732>

Sat 4/18 Pet Adoption, 9am-1pm, Parks Ford (3333 N Main St), no-cost cat & dog adoptions, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9733>

Sat 4/18 "Josefina's Gift", 2-5pm, Greentree Park (3700 NW 19th St), play set in 1820s New Mexico, w/ live mariachi music & pottery workshop, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9734>

Sat 4/18 Gvl Free Store, 2-5pm 3rd Sats, Civic Media Ctr (433 S Main St), free stuff for all (masks required); civicmediacenter.org

WEEK OF APR 19 - 25

Sun 4/19 Sunday Assembly, 10am, Curia on the Drag (2029 NW 6th St), coffee talk, free; sagainesville.weebly.com

Sun 4/19 WGOT brainstorming, 3pm, Civic Media Ctr (433 S Main St - use back gate), bring ideas & potential volunteers for community radio, free; <https://wgot.org/>

Mon 4/20 Fla Free Speech Forum, 11:30am, Eastside High School (1201 SE 43rd St, Culinary Institute), Jason Leopold on Freedom of Information Act in the 2nd Trump administration, free w/reservation; pg 20 & <http://floridafreespeechforum.org>

Wed 4/22 Earth Day Tree Giveaway, 10am-noon, MLK Ctr (1028 NE 14th St), trees & award ceremony for local environmentalists, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9735>

Thu 4/23 Survivors of Violence Art Exhibit reception, 5:30-7:30pm, Harn Museum (3259 Hull Rd), one-day showing of survivors' artworks, free

Fri 4/24 Alachua County Arts Council Artists Conference, 8am-5pm, Thomas Ctr (302 NE 6th Ave), useful info for working artists, free w/ registration; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9736>

Fri 4/24 Santa Fe River Preserve Bioblitz, 9am-noon, Santa Fe River Preserve (27025 N. SR 121, Alachua), iNaturalist survey of wildlife, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9737>

Fri 4/24 Artwalk, 7-10pm, downtown Gvl, free; pg 9 & artwalkgainesville.com

Sat 4/25 “Nature Challenge”, 4/25—28, local parks, trails, backyards (see link), survey wildlife & send pics to iNaturalist.org, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9738>

Sat 4/25 Great American Cleanup & Tire Roundup, 8am-11am, Westside Park (1001 NW 34th St), Keep Alachua County Beautiful cleans multiple sites, free (lunch provided for volunteers); <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9739>

Sat 4/25 Earth Day Tree Planting, 9:30am-12:30pm, Alachua County Fire Rescue HQ (1125 NE 8th Ave), tree-planting how-to (wear work clothes, bring water & sunscreen), free; pg 9 & <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9740>

Sat 4/25 5th Avenue Arts Festival, 10am-7pm, Sun noon-7pm, SFC Downtown Blount Ctr (NW 6th St & 2nd Ave), “Our Sound” celebrates black music in Alachua County, plus artists, food, bounce house, & more, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9741>

Sat 4/25 Tree Fest, 12-11pm, Swamp Head Brewery (3650 SW 42nd Ave), family activities, tabling, bands, 12-5pm, beer & food till 11pm, 4 trees planted for each beer; <https://www.treestfest.com/>

Sat 4/25 Pioneer Days, 10am-5pm & 4/26, Railroad Ave (23517 NW 185th Rd, High Springs), live music, vendors, shoot-out, food, kids’ corral, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9742>

Sat 4/25 Roller Derby, 6pm, MLK Ctr (1028 NE 14th St), Gv1 All-Stars vs Tampa Bruise Crew, \$15 adv, \$18 door; pg 16 & <https://gainesvillrollerrebels.com>

WEEK OF APR 26 - MAY 2

Sun 4/26 Tuscawilla Headwaters Preserve Bioblitz, 9am-1pm, Barr Hammock Preserve South Trailhead (300 SE 175th Ave, Micanopy), iNaturalist animal/plant/fungus survey (limited to 40 volunteers), free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9743>

Sun 4/26 Record Fair, noon-5pm, Cypress & Grove Brewing (1001 NW 4th St), vinyl, CDs, cassettes, more, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9744>

Sun 4/26 Rev. Billy C. Wirtz, 7pm, A. Quinn Jones Museum (1013 NW 7th Ave), Blues on the Patio presents the irreverent reverend & his piano, donations accepted; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9745>

Sun 4/26 “Secret Show”, 7-9pm, United Church of Gv1 (1624 NW 5th Ave), 3 acts benefitting Work Tour & Rural Women’s Health Project, \$23.18; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9746>

Wed 4/29 “The Novel”, 7:30-9pm, Theatre of Memory (1705 NW 6th St), Nerd Night w/ award-winning novelist Joe Haldeman, free w/ RSVP; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9747>registration/nerd-night-the-novel

Thu 4/30 “The Amazing Give”, 8am-8pm, community-wide, joint fund-raising campaign by/for local nonprofits; <https://www.theamazinggive.org/>

Thu 4/30 Nat’l Women’s Liberation meeting, 6:30pm, Curia on the Drag (2029 NW 6th St), follow-up to 4/12 talk, free; <https://www.facebook.com/NWLGainesville/>

Thu 4/30 Fla School of Massage Open House, 6:45-8pm, FSM (6421 SW 13th St), learn to rub people the right way, free; <https://floridaschoolofmassage.com/>

Fri 5/1 Mayday Protest, 5-6pm, Univ Ave & W 13th St, speak out about you-know-what & you-know-who, free

Sat 5/2 Master Gardener Volunteer Spring Plant Sale, 8am-1pm, Alachua County Agriculture & Equestrian Ctr, 23100 W Newberry Rd, Newberry, >6,000 plants, free parking; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9748>

Mon 5/2 May 4th Social, 10am-6pm also 5/3, SFC Blount Hall (530 W Univ Ave), Star Wars festival, free

tickets: <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9749>

Mon 5/2 ICE Concentration Camp in Bradford County?, 1:30-4:30pm, Bradford County Public Library (456 Pratt St, Starke), NC Fla Indivisible hosts community conversation on proposed ICE “detention center”, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9750>

Mon 5/2 “Home Is Where the Heart Is”, 9am-1pm, Morningside Nature Ctr (3540 E Univ Ave), play set in 1854 w/ live music, weaving & blacksmithing demonstrations, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9751>

Mon 5/2 “Pizza on the Farm”, 4-7pm, Swallowtail Farm (17603 NW 276th Ln, Alachua), food & drink, live music, bonfire, limited to 75 persons, \$80; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9752>

WEEK OF MAY 3 - 9

Sun 5/3 “Florida’s Story, as Told by Water”, 1-2pm, Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Park (1500 NW 45th Ave), Lars Andersen on Florida from undersea to today, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9753>

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/iguana9754>

Thu 5/7 Douglas Stuart, 7-9pm, UF Phillips Ctr (3201 Hull Rd), author of John of John & Lauren Groff talk books, \$15; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9755>

Fri 4/10 Free Live Music, 6-9pm, Skinner Park (15100 NW 142 Terr, Alachua), Sheba the Mississippi Queen concert, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9756>

Sat 5/9 Spring Pop Up Shops, 9am-3pm, Grow Hub (2900 NE 8th Ave), local vendors of art & plants, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9757>

Sat 5/9 Floridiana Festival, noon-6pm, 1st Magnitude Brewing (1220 SE Veitch St), vintage items, live music, food trucks, sponsored by Matheson Museum, free; <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9758>

Sat 5/9 VFP Peace Poetry Reading, 2-3:30pm, Unitarian Fellowship (4225 NW 34th St), K-12 poets read their winning works, free; <https://vfpainesville.org/>

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 Gv1, 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 Wooly, Wormhole, One Love Café, Cypress & Grove, etc.

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

See [visitgainesville.com/events](https://www.gainesville.com/events) for an event list, updated Thursdays; and don’t forget [civicmediacenter.org](https://www.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/iguana9759>

County official and public meetings: <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9760>

Democratic Women’s Club meets 3rd Mondays, 11:30am (except Dec & Jan), B’Nai Israel (3830 NW16th Blvd); gilledoris@hotmail.com

Democratic Women’s Club of Santa Fe Springs meets 4th Sunday 3-5pm (except Dec & July), High Springs Women’s Club; dwcocfs@gmail.com, [Facebook.com/dwcocfs](https://www.facebook.com/dwcocfs)

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; [clubedesescucha.com](https://www.clubedesescucha.com)

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

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

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

Artist Meetup, 5:30-7pm 2nd Thurs, Gv1 Fine Arts Ass’n (1314 S Main St), exhibit & conversation, free; [gainesvillefinearts.org](https://www.gainesvillefinearts.org)

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

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

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

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 | acomclinic.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

Badass Feminists protest against the Trump administration every Saturday morning. If you are looking for a way to take action, please

join the Facebook group **Badass Feminists Gainesville**.

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/bgso)

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

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

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

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

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

Spotlight on: Generation Vote



Generation Vote is a youth-led, intersectional movement that fights for our right to vote and a just democracy for all. The newly founded chapter at the University of Florida aims to be a reliable, nonpartisan resource for young people in Alachua County year-round to empower our fellow Gen-Zers to get out the vote.

In this time of backsliding into authoritarian rule, GenVote at UF also focuses on spotlighting anti-democratic legislation. Most recently, our focus has been on the national SAVE America act, and its Florida copycats, which would disenfranchise millions of Americans by imposing a modern-day poll tax through Documentary Proof of Citizenship requirements.

To learn more about our organization or get involved, please see the national website, <https://www.genvote.org>, or follow our chapter on Instagram, @genvoteuf. 🐦

EVENTS from preceding page

"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 🐦

"The vote is precious. It is the most powerful non-violent tool we have in a democratic society, and we must use it. ~ John Lewis

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 each month 3-5pm (except Dec & July) in High Springs. Contact: dwcsofs@gmail.com / facebook.com/dwcsofs

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

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

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

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

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

Flipping the System is a non-profit organization dedicated to eradicating sexual violence on campuses. Through educational programming and events, FTS believes that a future free of sexual violence is possible. www.flippingthesystem.org | info@flippingthesystem.org | [@flippingthesystem](https://twitter.com/flippingthesystem) | 954-589-7626

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 [@FOLACL](https://twitter.com/FOLACL)

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](https://facebook.com/GAAPonline) | gainesvillepride.org

Gainesville Area Chapter of Climate Reality Project addresses the climate crisis for future generations. The chapter mobilizes people to become powerful activists and push for aggressive climate action. The hope is to transform society and to change the world. climateralityprojectgnv@gmail.com | [@climateralityprojectgnv](https://twitter.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](https://twitter.com/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. 352-278-4342 | 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

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

DIRECTORY continued on next page

DIRECTORY from preceding page

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.

Generation Vote is a youth-led, intersectional movement that fights for our right to vote and a just democracy for all. The UF chapter aims to be a reliable, nonpartisan local resource year-round to empower Gen-Zers to get out the vote. See the national website, <https://www.genvote.org>, or follow the local chapter on Instagram, @genvoteuf.

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 | jvp_gnvpod@gmail.com

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

Madres Sin Fronteras (Mothers Without

Borders) is a local grassroots immigrant-led organization working to protect the rights of immigrants' families in our community and to ensure all are treated with dignity and respect msfgainesville@gmail.com | facebook.com/MSFGainesville

McRorie Community Garden is a community garden where local residents can grow vegetables and learn how to do so. It is at 615 SE 4th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601 Volunteer Day is on the last Sunday of every month. mcorriegarden@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 gun violence by electing gun sense candidates, advocating for policies that save lives, educating parents on responsible gun storage. Alachua County events listed at momsdemandaction.org/events

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

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

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

The Resist Network: In order to prevent an authoritarian take over, the U.S. must execute a peaceful, strategic Resistance. The RESIST Network supports the Alachua County Resistance through dissemination of messages that suggest meaningful and doable prodemocratic activities. The Network messages promote boycotts, buycotts, social justice, fact based decision making and free speech. Messages will oppose voter suppression, disinformation, and corruption. Messages will be sent via email once or twice a month. Organizations and individuals who wish to join should email theresistnetwork@gmail.com

River Phoenix Center for Peace-building provides solution-based innovative ways to resolve conflicts, and offers related services such as mediation, communication skill building and restorative justice. 352-234-6595 | info@centerforpeacebuilding.org | centerforpeacebuilding.org

Rural Women's Health Project is a local health education organization that develops materials promoting health justice for migrant

and rural women. Veronica or Adriana @ 352-372-1095 | info@rwhp.org | www.rwhp.org

Samuel Proctor Oral History Program focuses on story-telling, social justice research, social movement studies, oral history workshops. oral.history.ufl.edu

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

Sister City Program of Gainesville links Gainesville with sister cities in Russia, Israel and Palestine, Iraq, Haiti. 352-376-8600 | Steve@gnvsistercities.org | gnvsistercities.org

Student Animal Alliance is a UF-based group whose purpose is to educate and bring fellow animal lovers together to better the lives of the animals around us. StudentAnimalAllianceUFL@gmail.com | facebook.com/SAAtUF | instagram@studentanimalallianceUF

Student/Farmworker Alliance is a network of youth organizing with farmworkers to eliminate sweatshop conditions and modern-day slavery in the fields. billy@sfalliance.org or brett@sfalliance.org | facebook.com/sfalliance

Sunday Assembly Gainesville is a secular congregation celebrating life with talk, music, sing-along, discussion, fellowship. Meets the 3rd Sunday of the month. SundayAssembly32601@gmail.com | SAGainesville.weebly.com

Sierra Club, Suwannee-St. John is a local group within the nation's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization, representing 14 North Central Florida counties. ssjsierra@gmail.com | sierraclub.org/florida/suwannee-stjohns | 561-707-4565

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 & activism in our community. We promote international law, human rights, justice for all affected. We welcome a diverse membership from all faiths and nationalities who believe in the attainability of peace. sjpuflorida@gmail.com

UF Young Democratic Socialists of America is a student-run socialist organization dedicated to organizing students to fight for the needs of workers and students while building the capacity to fight radical and structural changes. Weekly meetings. ufydsa21@gmail.com | facebook.com/ufydsa | @uf_ydsa

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

United Nations Association - Gainesville Chapter works to heighten citizen awareness/knowledge of global problems and the UN's efforts to deal with them. facebook.com/UNAUSAGainesvilleFIChapter | UNA-USA Gainesvillefl.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@stevellittler.com | wilpfus.org

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



No Kings III

Huge crowds across nation



An estimated 4,000 protesters participated in the No Kings III march and rally in Gainesville on March 28. Organizers said more than 8 million people turned out at over 3,300 No Kings protests throughout the world. Photo by Chuck Ross.

by Bill Radunovich

Thousands of protesters from Gainesville and surrounding areas showed up on March 28 to march and protest against the ongoing unconstitutional and anti-democratic actions of the Trump Administration and the war on Iran.

Beginning at 11:30am in Depot Park, protesters marched to Roberson Park at SW 6th Street, where they rallied while hearing a variety of speakers, including elected officials and representatives from local organizations. The Weeds of Eden band entertained the crowd between speakers. The estimated crowd size, at its peak, was 4,000 participants.

Keynote speakers were Warren Goldstein, an award-winning author and former chair of the Department of History at the University of Hartford, and Zohara Simmons, senior lecturer emerita at the University of Florida, and an activist who worked

in the Civil Rights Movement as a member of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee. (Listen to Simmons' speech at tinyurl.com/iguana2415)

Other speakers included David Arreola, former Gainesville City Commissioner and founding member of Gainesville 50501; Carmen Ward, President of the Alachua County Education Association; and Evelyn Foxx, President of the Alachua County Chapter of the NAACP.

Elected officials and candidates who attended or addressed the audience included Sarah Rockwell, Alachua County School Board; Casey Willits, Gainesville City Commissioner; Ken Cornell, Alachua County Commissioner; Seth Harp, Democratic candidate for US House District 3; and Amy Trask, Democratic candidate for Florida State House District 22.

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

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