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# The Gainesville Iguana

May 2026 ~ vol. 39, issue 5

'a soapbox for Alachua County activists'

*White House indicts SPLC ... Really??*

## Feds: Anti-racism is racist

by John Fugelsang

So the Justice Department has indicted the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Yes. That SPLC. The organization that spent decades bankrupting the Ku Klux Klan is now — according to henchmen Todd Blanche and Kash Patel — secretly helping the Ku Klux Klan.

Sounds intriguing. Lots of FOX content designed to make me respect Kash Patel.

**The people who turned hate into a legal and economic liability**

Let's start with who the SPLC actually is, because this whole black-hearted mega-smear depends on white people not knowing shit.

When I made the film "Dream On" for PBS I got to visit the SPLC's beautiful center in Alabama to interview officials about white supremacist violence in this country.

The SPLC isn't some random think tank; they're the group that looked at the Klan — not as a moral problem — but as a moral opportunity, to financially wreck them.

The Southern Poverty Law Center was founded in 1971 in Montgomery, Alabama — symbolic heart of the old Confederacy — not to talk about solutions to racism, but to treat racism like a defective product, drag it into civil court, and litigate it into submission.

These good people didn't just protest the Ku Klux Klan — they sued them, held them financially liable for terror, and quite prodigiously bankrupted entire Klan organizations.

Over decades, they tracked extremist groups, exposed networks, and built cases that law enforcement often relied on. Their work was in defense of civil rights in a country where those rights have always needed defending.

And people sensitive to white supremacist

causes are not fans. The SPLC did something no one else has consistently managed to do — they made racism expensive.

So I admit, I'm a fan. I only make fun of hate; SPLC makes hate look like a bad investment.

*See SPLC, p. 24*



*This building, at 1204 NW 10th Ave., will be the new home of the Pride Community Center. It was built in 1955 and is 4,591 square feet.*

## Home at last: Pride Center secures its future

by Jan Zumbun and Dex Lewis

After more than two decades of movement, resilience, and community-building, the Pride Community Center of North Central Florida has taken a defining step forward by voting to purchase a permanent home.

At a special meeting on April 19, the Cen-

ter's Board of Directors made the long-anticipated decision to acquire a 4,500 square foot commercial property at 1204 NW 10th Ave. The vote, passed by a strong majority, marks a turning point for an organization that has spent 22 years operating out of temporary spaces, adapting time and again to changing circumstances, includ-

*See PRIDE, p. 18*

# Letter to the editor



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**Want your article, ad, event or PSA in the June/July Iguana?**  
 (Due to come out Thursday, June 4)

**Deadline is Wednesday, May 27**

Submit events, content, questions to:  
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### **The Iguana mission:**

*We believe in advocacy journalism and strive to deliver grassroots progressive news written by those on the ground. We aim to engage readers, get them thinking critically, and ultimately join the activists who fill our pages in the fight for a more just, equitable world. We're also a community calendar, promoting cultural events, because we believe having fun and enriching the heart and soul are as important as engaging the mind when it comes to community building and solidarity.*

I was reading your newsletter & while I agree with much, I have a problem with a bit of hypocrisy in it. Many organizations & companies advertising in the newsletter, the newsletter included, talk about fighting felon47, maga & the despicable right wing conservatives, yet you are all still using & posting on facebook & twitterX. Considering that zuckerbug & nazi musk are both strong supporters, both financially & actively of felon47 & maga in general, don't you think it's time to stop supporting both? I'm not sure how you can continue to be part of both platforms considering how maga leaning & anti-democratic they are.

If you need a social platform, I suggest Bluesky (bsky.app). I neither work for them nor have any financial interest in them, I am just a user of the platform. Unlike the other two, Bluesky users share your principles. If you don't want to switch or require your advertisers to use Bluesky or something similar, please at least require that they & you no longer use facebook or twitterx. It comes across as playing both sides of the fence if you don't stop using them.

Thanks for hearing me out. Keep up the good work!

Chris

*"For evil to survive (maga) good people need do nothing. Vax up, it's still the right thing to do. 8647."*

### **EDITORS' RESPONSE:**

Thanks for your letter — we took it seriously and had a thoughtful discussion about it. We agree with your core point: Facebook is part of a media ecosystem that has helped concentrate power, amplify right-wing politics, and muddy democratic discourse. That's real. And we don't support Zuckerberg, his politics, or the outsized influence of these platforms. (We don't use X.)

But we're still going to use Facebook—for now—and here's why:

**Power lives where the people are.** Like it or not, Facebook is still one of the largest communication networks on the planet. If we want progressive ideas to compete in that space, we can't ignore it. (Facebook has over 3 billion monthly active users, compared to roughly 42 million on Bluesky.)

**We aim to engage beyond our base.** While Bluesky may align more closely with our values, we believe it is important to communicate not only with those who agree with us, but also with those who may not. Expanding the conversation is part of our mission.

**Using the enemy's tools.** We do not pay to use Facebook, nor do we purchase products advertised there. Our presence is a way of using a widely available platform to amplify progressive voices — what some might call using existing systems to advance our own goals. Walking away entirely might feel principled, but it also means ceding that space.

**Our community comes first.** Our advertisers are local businesses, non-profits, progressive political candidates, and grassroots groups. Many rely on Facebook as a way to stay visible. Cutting them off from that tool could hurt the very community we're trying to support.

That said, we're not dismissing your point. We're paying attention to alternatives like Bluesky, and we're open to expanding where we show up. These platforms — and our relationship to them — are evolving, and so will we.

**IGUANA READERS:** What do you think? Email us — pro or con — at [gainesvilleiguana@cox.net](mailto:gainesvilleiguana@cox.net). 🐊

## Publisher notes

# A look on the bright side

Dwelling on the dark side is not healthy, but so easy to slip into. Voting Rights Act negated, attacks on immigrants and LGBTQ+ rights, war on Iran, White Christian Nationalism on the rise, all the way to the absurdity of James Comey indicted for sea shells reading 86 47. It seems overwhelming and hopeless.

I will break the pattern here this time and celebrate the good that we need to sustain ourselves. It will take a lot to overcome the damages done by the folks in charge now, but we will need be resilient, join with existing movements and address new needs that may arise. It will take work organizing our resistance and responses, but it is what we have to do.

First off, kudos to the people of Hungary who show that you can still make democracy work with their overwhelming rejection of their version of Trump, Victor Orbán, at the polls in early April. Orbán tried to cling to power with various tactics right out of the authoritarian playbook that Trump and others are following and have followed, but the people said NO resoundingly, and their celebrations were magnificent.



Joe Courter

Second, in these times of increasing repression against the rights of LGBTQ+ citizens, the Gainesville community has stepped up in a bold move to help the Pride Center secure their own building in which to house all the supportive organizations that have grown over the years. I went to the kickoff fundraiser at The Lynx on April 14, and two of the folks who spoke to the crowd really impacted me. They grew up here in Alachua County, one from Archer, the other from Hawthorne, and both benefitted greatly in their own coming out and personal development from the accepting climate and resources here. It made me proud to reflect on the long run of this paper, and the support we have consistently showed the LGBTQ+ community. See the article on page 1.

Three, around the country there seems to be an electoral Blue Wave building. The group think of MAGA seems to be fracturing, and don't you know it can't happen soon enough. The stale leadership of the Democratic Party is being challenged as well. We in Florida, if we can stick together and do the work, can turn a Senate seat Blue. Similarly the Governor's race is up for grabs this time. The further to the MAGA Right DeSantis goes in his final months, the better. Yes, we are severely gerrymandered, but in a statewide vote, we are not as deep red as some would fear. Remember, Andrew Gillum's race in 2018 against DeSantis for Governor was very close, and in 2024 initiatives for abortion and marijuana did well, just under the 60% needed.

Four, for those that like to get out and enjoy all the cultural activities in a city like Gainesville, this town is cooking! The theater community is very active in multiple locations. The Haile and Cypress & Grove Farmer Markets are really rolling, the various breweries are hosting all kinds of events, the Streatery downtown promises to be ready for FEST and the Downtown Arts Show this Fall, local music is cooking in smaller venues, and Heartwood Soundstage is bringing in great shows to the outdoor stage and drawing people from all over north Florida to our town's many restaurants. We are so lucky to live here.

Five, the growth of independent media sources, and our ability to share information, means the corporate media's hold on political analysis is cracking. The piece by Andrew Reynolds on page 4 was sent to me by longtime friend Brad Tucker, and it said what I wanted to say in this column this time, but better. Yes there are unreliable sources and we need to be aware at all times. Yes, there are completely fake AI-generated photos and stories, but part of the cost of freedom is vigilance, and recognizing those things are just that. Most of all, be sure of what you are sharing to others. The article on page 5 may help with those problems. And sample the podcasts, web pages, blogs and videos displayed on page 20.

Above all, take care of yourselves. Hydration weather is at hand. There will be a June/July edition of the Iguana to come, and then an election edition in August focused on the August 18 primaries.

Thank you for the love and support you've shown this paper over the years. 🐘

## Subscribe!

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

Individuals: \$15

(or more if you can)

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Gainesville Iguana

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

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The poster features two roller derby skaters in action. One skater is in the foreground, wearing a helmet with a star and a white jersey, while the other is behind her. The background is a dark, textured grey.

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The SweetBerries logo is a stylized cluster of berries. The background of the advertisement is a light grey with a subtle pattern of berries.

# White House hoax

by Andrew Reynolds, Political Content Creator, Minneapolis

I am a skeptic.

At the heart of it I am quick to question. A fanboy for Occam's Razor. Leary of convenient but convoluted explanations. And can barely fathom of conspiracies, of wildly public events, standing up to even a bit of scrutiny.

But, now..

I am growing more and more skeptical of my skepticism.

The lying and deception are so pervasive, while often being hilariously obvious and easily disproved, that it makes it very tough to ignore the distinct possibility that things once brazenly unthinkable are happening right in front of us.

If you can tell me Mexico will pay for a wall, you have a health care plan, Biden opened the borders, rigged an election, January 6th was peaceful, you will get a DOGE check, you will get another refund check.

You will end the wars, no new wars, we won the war; killing drug traffickers while pardoning drug traffickers; only picking up the worst of the worst; Renee (Good) and Alex (Pretti) were domestic terrorists; while there is nothing that needs to be done with the Epstein files.

Then it is so hard to see, what feels like a pattern of terrible news and numbers, being overshadowed by news-catching distraction and not put on the Reynolds Wrap (no relation).

It is doubly hard when the confluence of things last night at the White House Correspondence Dinner just don't add up.

But still... It comes from an administration that continues to demonstrate its ineptitude.

And obviously it is not hard to imagine simply that one person is so angry and fed up with President Trump, and this administration, that they do what the authorities are all alleging.

So, after watching and reading quite a lot today:

I have decided, for now, I will let people with far more knowledge, access and expertise (hopefully) continue to seek answers.

And instead keep calling attention to the things that should not be lost in distraction, no matter where the truth lies in those stories.

That we are building and filling modern concentration camps. We are undermining our elections. We are decimating women's rights. We are destroying our economy. And we have a President named specifically in sworn corroborated testimony (used to convict someone for trafficking) sexually assaulting children; who is falling asleep on camera in meetings, posting blatant racism, slurring speech, while having trouble walking, while threatening genocide and apparently ... ordering the generals to launch a nuclear strike.

We have 27 weeks until the midterm elections. And, unless I'm missing something, it feels like we need to stay focused for each and every one of them. 🐢

# Fact-checking websites

*Misinformation is spreading faster than ever. It's critical to double-check what you read, watch and share. Fact-checking websites are tools designed to help you separate truth from fiction. To use these sites effectively: cross-check across 2-3 sources, check publication dates to avoid outdated (mis)information, look at the intent and source behind the claim.*

## AP Fact Check

**Website:** [apnews.com/hub/ap-fact-check](https://apnews.com/hub/ap-fact-check)

“The Associated Press runs a fact-checking portal that addresses misinformation spread through social media and public discourse. It’s direct, clear, and updated frequently.”

**Best for:** News-related misinformation, breaking news rumors

**Bonus:** AP’s journalistic reputation lends credibility

## FactCheck.org

**Website:** [factcheck.org](https://factcheck.org)

Maintained by the Annenberg Public Policy Center, this nonprofit provides in-depth analysis of political claims, misleading ads, and viral misinformation.

**Best for:** In-depth breakdowns of political or policy-related content

**Bonus:** Weekly email newsletter of top fact checks

## Lead Stories

**Website:** [leadstories.com](https://leadstories.com)

Lead Stories is a fast-moving, AI-supported fact-checking site that partners

with Facebook to flag false content. Their red “Hoax Alert” is a signature feature.

**Best for:** Trending viral stories and fake news on social media

**Bonus:** Real-time social monitoring with “Trendolizer”

## NewsGuard

**Website:** [newsguardtech.com](https://newsguardtech.com)

NewsGuard doesn’t fact-check articles individually—it evaluates entire news websites for credibility using a nutrition-label-style rating system. It’s available as a browser extension.

**Best for:** Determining whether a source is trustworthy

**Bonus:** Great for teachers and researchers to teach source evaluation

## PolitiFact

**Website:** [politifact.com](https://politifact.com)

Run by the Poynter Institute, PolitiFact specializes in checking statements made by politicians, public figures, and pundits. Its unique “Truth-O-Meter” ranks claims from True to Pants on Fire.

**Best for:** U.S. politics, elections, government statements

**Bonus:** Easy-to-read rating system

## Reuters Fact Check

**Website:** [reuters.com/fact-check](https://reuters.com/fact-check)

Like AP, Reuters offers timely and neutral fact checks on viral stories, global news, and trending claims. It’s particularly useful for international topics and global hoaxes.

**Best for:** Global fact-checking and photo/video verification

**Bonus:** Clear debunking of manipulated media

## Snopes

**Website:** [snopes.com](https://snopes.com)

Snopes is one of the oldest and most trusted independent fact-checking sites. Originally focused on urban legends, it now verifies a wide range of viral rumors, political claims, and misleading headlines.

**Best for:** Social media myths, viral rumors, hoaxes

**Bonus:** Clear verdicts with detailed sources

*Source: [informationresponsibility.com](https://informationresponsibility.com) ↗*

*Portion of Republicans under the age of 50 who describe themselves as anti-Semitic : 1/4  
As racist : 3/10*

*~ Source: Manhattan Institute (NYC), Harpers, May 2026*



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**Primary Election: Aug. 18, 2026**

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Pd Pol Ad, Approved by Ken Cornell, Dem for Alachua County Commission, Dist. 4

# Mid-term redistricting and the League

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

I started writing this on April 28th, the opening day of the Legislative special session on midterm redistricting, AI, and vaccines. That was a lot to do in four days, unless the legislature ceded all authority to the governor. The Legislature declined to deal with anything but redistricting and gave the Governor what he wanted.

The League of Women Voters has focused on redistricting the whole legislative session. Our national, state, and local levels all oppose it. No matter which party does it, it is rigging the game. The midterm redistricting in Texas unleashed a cascade of what I now call retaliatory redistricting. Maybe it will end with us, maybe it won't.

Let me take my LWV hat off for a moment. Before I retired I taught American and State and Local Government at Santa Fe College. Every standard textbook had a chapter on Voting and Elections. Every semester I discussed the expansion, over American history, of the right to vote and the basic rules governing that activity. Every semester I said these words, "There are two major rules governing reapportionment: 1. Legislative districts must be roughly equal in population; 2. No gerrymandering." And yes, I supported this by referencing court cases.

Which brings me back to the LWV stance....We have been lobbying hard against midterm redistricting in Florida. Tallahassee has been full of LWV members from all over the state. The state LWV has sent talking points to our local chapter, but they can be summarized in one sentence: Partisan gerrymandering is unconstitutional in the state of Florida. In 2010, the Fair Districts Amendment was passed by Florida voters and added to the state constitution. The LWV was instrumental in its creation and passage. It specifically forbids partisan gerrymandering. Not all state constitutions contain this prohibition. Ours does. Lawsuits will follow.

Does midterm redistricting have to be about partisan gerrymandering? No, but here it was. On April 27, the Governor put forth a set of maps, drawn up by someone in the executive branch, which showed a reduction of Congressional districts leaning toward Democrats from eight to four. If any Legislators were consulted, they are not speaking about it. Interestingly, the Governor chose to release these maps, one day before the session began, on Fox News.

Here's what the LWV chapter in Alachua County has done. We have lobbied, too! The state LWV sent the chapters a tool kit of activities and ideas, and we have used several. The most basic one is that we have been encouraging our membership of several hundred to contact our legislative delegation on a regular basis expressing opposition to midterm redistricting. We have had two events writing postcards to our Representatives and to Speaker Perez and Senator Albritton about redistricting. They say, "The voters should choose the politicians. The politicians should not choose the voters." Two weeks ago, League members spent three hours on Sunday and two on Tuesday in Westside Park. People filled out 300 postcards. We bundled them and sent them to the Legislators. Perhaps they had some impact. Four Republican

Senators, including our own Senator, Jennifer Bradley, voted against redistricting.

People often ask me, "Why join the LWV?" Many people who filled out the postcards thanked us for being there. When we thanked them for showing up, they almost all said, "We just wanted to do something. This was easy." Our fundamental job as LWV members is to make participation of all kinds, but especially voting, easy and informed. That's what democracy is all about. 🐿



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# Primary elections upcoming in mid August

Primary elections will take place in mid August and will include several races to be aware of. We will try to help in the upcoming two issues of the Iguana.

Two things to be aware of now:

One: Make sure your voter registration is up to date (have you moved? gotten a new driver's license? desire to change party affiliation from no party to Democrat so you can vote in the primary?)

Two: Will you will be in town to vote Aug. 18, which is still in summer vacation time for many? If you won't be, you

may want to arrange a mail-in absentee ballot. For information, contact the elections office at 515 N. Main St., or call 352-374-5252. They are good folks and eager to help you have your voice heard.

Some candidates in our north Florida area deserve your early support, as they are in tough races against established Republicans: Jason Bellamy-Fults in State Senate District 6 and Amy Trask in House District 21. State House District 3 has multiple Democratic candidates running to succeed Yvonne Hinson-Rawls. We are leaning toward Antione Fields due to

his labor movement background, but no shade on the others — this will be a tough campaign to sort out.

The School Board has a good challenger to beat the Republican-appointed member in Hunter Miller, and progressive-minded Tina Certain is up against a well-funded opponent in the race to succeed retiring Maryhelen Wheeler for County Commission District 2. They could use support, too.

Elections are what you make them, and democracy thrives with participation (and dies without it). Go to candidate forums and other events. Read up on and meet the candidates and get involved in campaigns. It beats staying home. Stay tuned for more in the coming months. ✨

## Cotton Club Museum and Cultural Center May 20: Emancipation Day in the State of Florida

While Juneteenth is recognized as the national celebration of freedom, Florida marks its own liberation on May 20 from 9am to 4pm. It was on this day in 1865 that General McCook read the Emancipation Proclamation, officially freeing enslaved individuals across the state.

To honor this history, the Cotton Club Museum and Cultural Center's Board of Directors is pleased to be the lead event for the City's launching of "Journey to Juneteenth," a month-long commemorative series for Gainesville now in its sixth year. The Museum has chosen this year's theme, "Preserving the teachings of the past to empower the present and future!"

The festivities will commence with a heritage march from Depot Park to the Cotton Club Museum. Residents and

neighborhoods are encouraged to gather at the park to join the procession, which will move toward the museum to the sounds of Freedom songs and Negro Spirituals.

Throughout the day, attendees can experience a variety of indoor and outdoor programs, including:

- Performances by local choirs, drummers, and dancers.
- Spoken word presentations and children's activities.
- Local food vendors and community fellowship.

A central moment of the commemoration will be a flower-laying ceremony at a mock gravesite dedicated to the formerly enslaved men who served and died in the Union Army. ✨

## SUPPORT

### Our downtown businesses

Local independent businesses in the area of the Streatery are being severely affected by the ongoing construction.

Loosey's, Alpin, Voltaire, and How Bazar need our patronage, as will the Bull and others when the construction phase moves east in the coming months.

The end product will be great, but they are in need of our support NOW and in the coming months. Please take time to go there and spend some money (or donate), they are our friends, neighbors and are a vibrant part of downtown culture.

Thank you very much. ✨

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# Lift the cap on Social Security:

## Support the 'Safeguarding American Families/Expanding Social Security Act'

by Mary Savage

The Social Security Trust Fund is predicted to begin shortfall payouts as early as 2032. This means payments will continue to be disbursed to beneficiaries, but at a lower amount. This is just 6 years away.

Congress and the American people should not, and must not, allow this to happen. It bears repeating over and over that Social Security is the retirement cornerstone for most of America's workforce, and provides at least 90 percent of income to more than one-in-five seniors today.

Without Social Security, it is estimated that senior poverty would increase to at least 40 percent. And remember that Social Security provides a modest income for the disabled, surviving spouses and orphaned children. Thankfully, some in Washington have started taking notice.

Democratic Sen. Brian Schatz of Hawaii introduced a bill last December that has gained key support from several major organizations. The 'Safeguarding American Families and Expanding Social Security Act' (SAFE SS) would make the

wealthy pay their fair share into Social Security and increase benefits across the board by about \$150 a month, or \$1,800 annually.

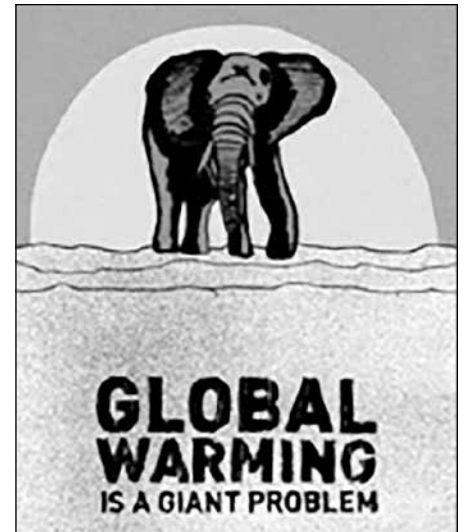
SAFE SS also would adopt the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E) to calculate the annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) to more accurately allow for inflation that many seniors and disabled persons face each time they go to the grocery store.

Eliminating the cap on Social Security payroll taxes to subject all earned income to FICA contributions is long overdue and would provide essential benefit enhancements. At present, the SAFE SS bill has been endorsed by the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, the AFL-CIO, Social Security Works, the Alliance for Retired Americans, and the American Federation of Teachers.

2032 is six short years away. The SAFE SS Act is a good way to bring stability and solvency to Social Security and forego any cruel ideas about raising the

retirement age or privatizing the program that would expose our trust fund to the whims of Wall Street.

Be sure to tell your two U.S. Senators and local Congressional representative to support the Safeguarding American Families and Expanding Social Security Act. Call or write them today. 🐘



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AMY GOODMAN

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## Street artist Banksy strikes again

Elusive street artist Banksy said that a new sculpture that appeared in central London of a man striding off a plinth, with his face blinded by a billowing flag, is his work.

In a humorous video posted on his Instagram account, Banksy showed snippets of how the sculpture was put up in the dead of night. The sculpture appeared to have been erected in the early hours of Wednesday on a plinth on a traffic island in Waterloo Place, near Buckingham Palace.

Before the artist's post, locals and tourists gathered to inspect the statue on the assumption it was Banksy's work because his signature was scrawled at the base of the plinth.

The statue is situated close to those of King Edward VII, who reigned between 1901 and 1910, and legendary nurse Florence Nightingale, as well as the Crimean War Memorial.

Statues are not what Banksy is primarily known for. He is far more famous for his spray-painting on buildings, with his first creations appearing in the early 1990s in his hometown of Bristol in southwest England. He has since gone global and his paintings and installations have sold for millions of dollars at auction. His street art is often targeted by thieves and vandals. Banksy, who has never publicly revealed his identity, is part of a tradition of street artists who viewed the undercover act of posting their art in public as a subversive form of expression. *(From the Associated Press)* ✨

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Links to both can be found on our website:

[www.GainesvilleIguana.org](http://www.GainesvilleIguana.org)



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# UF workers need a greater voice! (and how you can make that happen)

*Contributed by the North Central Florida Central Labor Council*

From the high-profile flops to replace University of Florida President Fuchs, to the blatantly political appointments and installations, to top-down decisions deeply out of step with the UF workforce, it's increasingly apparent that, even off the football field, our state's flagship university has lost its bearings.

It's clear to anyone who's been watching that UF is the ultimate target in Ron DeSantis's aggressive campaign to remake Florida higher ed in his own image (see: [tinyurl.com/Iguana2475](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2475)).

But it's an image that few find alluring. Increasingly, UF employees are either (a) leaving the institution for greener pastures, or (b) cowering in place hoping to slide under the radar long enough to reach retirement or option (a). But there is an option (c), and that is to take part in UF's

long, proud history of resistance to tyranny.

United Faculty of Florida (UFF) (see: <https://uff-uf.org/>), currently representing a sizable portion of UF's faculty, was founded in 1968 in the face of state-sponsored repression, and won its first collective bargaining agreement in 1976. It has safeguarded academic freedom, helped keep guns off campus, improved wages and protected retirement, and won important benefits such as sabbatical and parental leave.

Graduate Assistants United (GAU) (see: <https://www.ufgau.org/>), an affiliate of UFF, won the right to collective bargaining in 1979 and has since won sick leave, raises, tuition waivers, and subsidized healthcare, among other victories.

Both unions organize under the pithy slogan "UF works because we do!" Both have been repeatedly targeted by the FL legislature, (see: [tinyurl.com/Iguana2476](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2476))

neecapping them by ending their members' rights to voluntarily deduct union dues from their paychecks, and then through a series of increasingly onerous requirements that make it harder for them to even exist. But they have fought on and have served as one of the few organized forms of resistance to our state's war on public education.

But even together, the two unions only represent a slice of UF's huge workforce. A much newer union, United Campus Workers (UCW), (see: [ucwfl.org/](https://ucwfl.org/)) is seeking to join the struggle by organizing everyone at UF not already affiliated with UFF or GAU into one big union. Originally born out of a living wage campaign at the University of Tennessee, United Campus Workers formally affiliated with the Communications Workers of America in 2003 and has spread throughout the south, representing thousands of workers seeking better wages and working conditions in so-called "right

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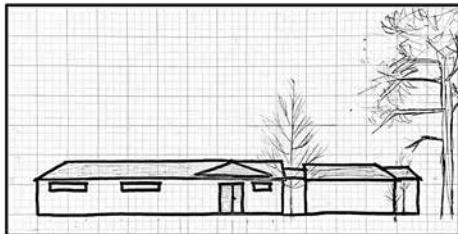


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Membership and '20 for \$20' punch cards are available now if you want to get in early. Single day passes will be available once we open. Questions? Call or text Connor: (352) 562-9636

to work” states. UCW currently has members at UF, FSU, and FAMU, and has big plans to grow into a fighting force pushing back on efforts to undermine higher education workers.

If you’re frustrated with the direction that UF and the rest of higher ed is heading here in FL and want to help turn the tide, here are some significant ways that you can help:

1. If you know ANYONE who works in higher ed in Florida, whether at UF or otherwise, ask them if they are part of their union. Tell them about United Faculty of Florida and its affiliates throughout the state (see [tinyurl.com/Iguana2477](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2477)), tell them about United Campus Workers, <https://ucwfl.org/>, and please encourage them to join. Unions are our single greatest weapon against state tyranny and the oligarchs that are holding our communities and our economy hostage.
2. Please support UCW’s current campaign to reinstate remote work at the University of Florida. Anyone, even folks who are not UF employees, can sign their petition, which they are using as an organizing tool on campus and plan to present to administration once they reach 1,000 signatures. You can find the petition at [tinyurl.com/Iguana2478](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2478), or share this QR code if that’s easier than using the link:

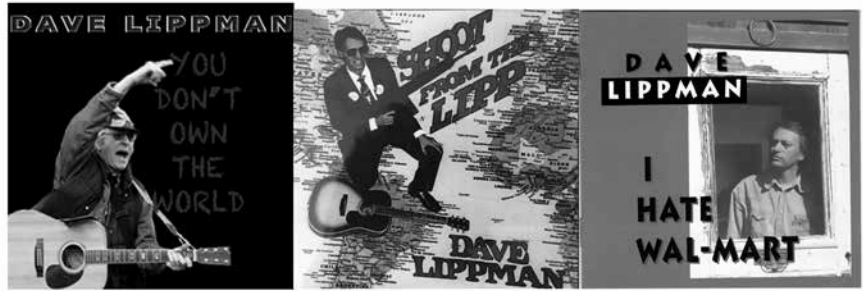


3. And lastly, as we’ve talked about repeatedly in recent months, let’s get to work asap on making some changes to our legislative delegation. Pro-labor forces have had a good run recently and we’ve got a little wind in our sails. Let’s seize the momentum and put our state and federal legislators on notice that campaign 2026 starts now! 🐢

*“The problem with unions today is that there aren’t enough of them.”*  
 ~ Martin Johns

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Between 1980 and 2020 Dave Lippman recorded a number of albums of original songs, along with satirical patter and other matter. Most of these songs are now available for free download at [davelippman.com](http://davelippman.com), under Listen & Watch – Albums. Steal These Songs, Please.



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# Protect our immigrant neighbors: Sign the Gainesville Immigrant Neighbor Inclusion Initiative Petition

by *Ethan Maia de Needell, Immigrant Programs Manager, Rural Women's Health Project*

The landscape of immigration enforcement in Florida (and the country) has shifted dramatically in just a little over a year. These changes have culminated in the Sunshine State becoming the national leader in immigration arrests.

Unfortunately, our city, county, and region are in no way immune from this new reality, despite the lack of visibility and media which prevents many Floridians from noticing.

Standing in support of our immigrant neighbors is critical in these times, and the Gainesville Immigrant Neighbor Inclusion Initiative (GINI) has been gathering signatures from residents throughout our county for our petition ([tinyurl.com/Iguana2483](http://tinyurl.com/Iguana2483)) calling on our elected officials to do just that.

One of the demands in the GINI Petition requests our city and county commissioners to denounce the “indiscriminate and destructive arrests of our neighbors,” as was done in March by Governor DeSantis-appointed sheriffs to his newly formed State Board of Immigration Enforcement. While partnerships between Florida’s local law enforcement agencies (LEAs) and ICE, through “287(g) agreements”, have been in place for several years, it wasn’t until 2025 that the Governor DeSantis administration began to push that all agencies join the most harmful model of the 287(g) — the task force model. This model requires the signing LEA to nominate a number of their officers to train and become certified to make immigration arrests on behalf of ICE. Florida law requires all sheriff’s offices in Florida to enter into a 287(g) agreement, all other LEAs have done so out of agreement, ignorance, or pressure. At this time, Florida also leads

the nation in ICE arrests through these agreements. The most aggressive LEA perpetrating indiscriminate immigration arrests in our state is the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), which has certified their entire force, including the creation of their own immigration enforcement unit.

At least 25 percent of those who have been arrested in our state have committed no crime — most of those charged are for minor criminal traffic offenses like driving without a license, and less than 1 percent of those arrested have any known gang affiliation.

FHP was also recently reported to racially profile drivers for traffic stops, with Hispanic drivers being twice as likely to be pulled over than white drivers — and this was before FHP even signed their agreement with ICE.

We need our leaders to have the courage

## 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:

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Email: [fgsgnv@gmail.com](mailto:fgsgnv@gmail.com)

Leave voice message at: 352-388-1586



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to lead, and calling out these illicit actions and strategies by immigration enforcement is the least we should expect.

Another demand by the GINI Petition is calling on our local commissioners to publicly announce their opposition to ICE's encroachment into our community.

(See story on page 32 for an update on the proposed Bradford County Detention Center.)

Years-long established detention centers like Baker County Detention Center and Glades County Detention Center, both a fraction of the size proposed for Starke, have shown a systemic pattern of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, lack of food and medicine for detainees, and lack of contact with anyone outside (including attorneys and faith leaders).

Unfortunately, Gainesville is also within ICE's scope as they expand their presence nationwide. A recently published "Request for Information" by the agency explicitly targets Gainesville (as well as other cities across the country) as it pursues a new strategy of leasing empty, readily-available office spaces for their officers and attorneys, often without any local awareness and bypassing the regular bidding process.

Though it may not be within their scope to prevent an office being established here or a detention center built in another county, our commissioners should take the example of Orange County and publicly state they are not in support of such expansion into our community. Our immigrant neighbors, upon whom we all depend, deserve to know that the city and county they live and work in has their backs.

This is why another demand from the GINI Petition is calling on our elected leaders to reiterate their support for immigrant inclusion and safety.

When GINI was first created in 2021, there was a more formal partnership between our alliance and the city of Gainesville and Alachua County. This working relationship resulted in the creation of the GINI Immigrant Inclusion Blueprint, a comprehensive outline of specific actions and strategies we as a community, especially our public institutions, can take to improve the safety and inclusion of our immigrant neighbors.

While there have been many important steps taken by our county and city towards this end (interpretation lines

available, positions created, funding for translation, etc.), there have been many obstacles along the way which have yet to be surmounted. Beyond language access, our local institutions have not adequately bridged the gap to interact directly with the immigrant community.

During a time filled with fear, isolation, and mistrust of local government, that gap is often filled with misinformation and rumors as impacted communities desperately seek out answers to their questions and concerns.

Our leaders must make the effort to reach out to our immigrant neighbors and demonstrate why they are safe to go to the hospital during an emergency, that victims of crime can reach out to local

law enforcement, that their children can go to school, and that there is recourse available should their rights be violated.

Therefore we request our commissioners to take the steps and form the relationships necessary to begin addressing those needs.

However, this responsibility cannot solely lay on our local elected leaders — this is a call to action we must all take. Sign onto our petition, find ways to get involved locally, and feel free to reach out to GINI@rwhp.org if you want to learn how to help!

See [gini-initiative.org](http://gini-initiative.org) for more information. 🐾

The poster features a central image of Antione Fields, a smiling man in a suit. Above him is the text "Elect ANTIONE" in a stylized font, with "ANTIONE" in a bold, blocky font. Below that is "FIELDS" in a very large, bold, black font, enclosed in a white rectangular frame. Underneath the frame is "FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 21". To the right of the image, it says "Primary Election: Aug 18, 2026" followed by "UNBOUGHT. UNBOSSSED. READY TO FIGHT!" in large, bold, black letters. A QR code is located to the left of the image. At the bottom right of the image area are social media icons for Facebook and Instagram, followed by "FieldsForFlorida". Below the image area, there is a white box with black text: "From organizing on the ground to working in the legislature, Antione Fields has spent his career fighting for working people and delivering real results. A proud union member, voting rights advocate, and bold progressive, Antione is the clear choice for House District 21." Below this is "He's running to take on the corporate special interests rigging our economy and fight for the future we deserve." At the bottom of the white box is "FieldsForFlorida.com" in a bold, black font. Below the white box, it says "Antione has proudly pledged to never take money from Corporate PACs or Lobbyists." and "Pd. Pol. Adv. paid for and approved by Antione Fields, Democrat, for Florida House District 21."



# Free Fridays Concert Series

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May 8	<b>Gainesville Retro Society</b> (Chicago (band) tribute)
May 15	<b>MusicGNV Live &amp; Local Edition: Teen Showcase</b>
May 22	<b>Mindwalk</b> (Contemporary Jazz)
May 29	<b>All My Phriends</b> (Phish tribute)

City of Gainesville Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs





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<b>Mamma Mia!</b> Sun, May 10   2:00 PM	<b>Tom Miller's Audience</b> Q&A After-Screening Sat, May 16   5:30 PM	<b>Cocktails &amp; Classics Viva Las Vegas</b> Sat, May 23   8:30 PM
<b>Paris is Burning</b> May 29 - 31	<b>Portrait of a Lady on Fire</b> Fri, May 29   8:00 PM	<b>To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything! Julie Newmar</b> Sat, May 30   8:30 PM

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AT HEARTWOOD SOUNDSTAGE




5/9	<b>CLAY STREET UNIT</b>
5/13	<b>FREE: PORCH SESSIONS</b>
5/20	<b>SANTIGOLD</b>
5/22	<b>JAYY WICK</b> WITH FIE SCOOKIE & 239 FLIZZLE
5/27	<b>TEEN OPEN MIC</b>
5/29	<b>OLE 60</b> WITH EVERYTHING GOING ON
5/30	<b>EASY STAR</b> ALL-STARS W/ SUNDUB
6/4	<b>BLACK UHURU</b> W/ MACA REGGAE SAMBA
6/13	<b>STEVE EARLE</b>

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

# And the good news is ...

## \$10B in healthcare funds headed to Florida hospitals that treat the poor, uninsured

by Christine Sexton ~ Florida Phoenix ~ May 1 ~ [tinyurl.com/Iguana2485](http://tinyurl.com/Iguana2485)

The Legislative Budget Commission agreed to give the green light to allow billions in healthcare dollars to flow to Florida hospitals. They approved two budget amendments that, combined, allow the state Agency for Health Care Administration to spend more than \$10 billion on Florida hospitals that treat the poor, elderly, and disabled who rely on Medicaid, a healthcare safety net program administered by both the state and federal government.

## Brace yourself — the Florida Legislature somehow did one thing right

by Craig Pittman ~ Florida Phoenix ~ April 9 ~ [tinyurl.com/Iguana9765](http://tinyurl.com/Iguana9765)

Florida lawmakers advanced a coastal resiliency bill encouraging more natural shoreline restoration methods, such as living shorelines, rather than relying only on hardened infrastructure. This is a rare environmental bright spot from the Legislature because it supports climate adaptation and ecosystem-based protections.

## Campus group provides blood pressure tests, health services to Gainesville homeless community

by Reagan Bresnahan ~ The Independent Florida Alligator ~ April 24 ~ [tinyurl.com/Iguana9766](http://tinyurl.com/Iguana9766)

Hearts for Homeless, a UF student organization, focuses on preventive care by offering free blood pressure screenings, hygiene kits and referrals to local clinics in Alachua County. Every Sunday from 1 to 2pm., the students table at City Hall with Project Downtown to offer food and screenings, which are designed to catch early warning signs before they become serious health problems.

## Court halts Trump administration's anti-wind and solar actions

by National Resources Defense Council ~ April 22 ~ [tinyurl.com/Iguana9775](http://tinyurl.com/Iguana9775)

A federal judge issued a preliminary injunction against five orders the Trump administration issued in an unlawful effort to block wind and solar projects. "The administration should take the hint and stop these illegal attacks on projects that will help meet surging electricity demand and bring down costs for consumers," said Kit Kennedy, managing director for power at NRDC.

## First ICE officer charged with assault for threatening people with a gun in Minnesota

by Max Nesterak ~ Florida Phoenix ~ April 17 ~ [tinyurl.com/Iguana9767](http://tinyurl.com/Iguana9767)

A Minnesota county attorney filed criminal charges against an ICE officer for allegedly brandishing his service weapon at two people in what she said was a first-of-its-kind case in the country. Another county attorney is considering potential criminal charges against federal agents for possible kidnapping, burglary and false imprisonment, among other crimes.

## Hungarian opposition ousts Viktor Orbán after 16 years in power

by Ashifa Kassam and Flora Garamvolgyi ~ The Guardian ~ April 12 ~ [tinyurl.com/Iguana9768](http://tinyurl.com/Iguana9768)

Hungary's opposition Tisza party decisively defeated Viktor Orbán's Fidesz party, ending 16 years of increasingly authoritarian rule. The result is a major international morale boost for pro-democracy forces and a blow to far-right movements that had treated Orbán as a model.

## 'Major victory for democracy': Liberals secure Wisconsin Supreme Court majority for rest of decade

by Brad Reed ~ Common Dreams ~ April 8 ~ [tinyurl.com/Iguana9769](http://tinyurl.com/Iguana9769)

Democratic-backed candidate Chris Taylor won a Wisconsin Supreme Court race by more than 20 points, giving liberals a 5-2 majority through at least 2030. The victory strengthens protections for voting rights, reproductive freedom, and fair maps in one of the nation's most politically important states.

## Poll: NPAs giving Florida Democrats a legitimate chance in November

by Mitch Perry ~ Florida Phoenix ~ April 13 ~ [tinyurl.com/Iguana9770](http://tinyurl.com/Iguana9770)

A month after Florida Democrats scored upset victories in two special legislative elections, a survey shows their top candidates for statewide offices are either in a statistical tie or leading against GOP opponents. The poll of Florida voters suggests that President Donald Trump's increasing unpopularity is spurring non-party-affiliated (NPA) voters to move heavily towards Democratic candidates in some of the biggest races on the November ballot.

## US Justice Department downgrades risk of state-licensed medicinal marijuana

by Jacob Fischler ~ Florida Phoenix ~ April 24 ~ [tinyurl.com/Iguana9771](http://tinyurl.com/Iguana9771)

Medicinal marijuana products that are legal at the state level will see looser federal regulation under an order the U.S. Department of Justice recently published, while a process that could remove the drug in all forms from the federal list of the most dangerous drugs is set to begin in late June.

## Why Cedar Key became a major aquaculture site, known as a 'working waterfront' generating millions each year

by Noah Lantor ~ WUSF ~ April 26 ~ [tinyurl.com/Iguana9772](http://tinyurl.com/Iguana9772)

Cedar Key rebuilt its economy around clam aquaculture after Florida voters approved a 1994 net ban, creating hundreds of jobs while shifting away from more destructive fishing practices. A hopeful story about environmental regulation, community adaptation, and a working waterfront that found a more sustainable path. 🌿



*From PRIDE, p.1*

ing the recent loss of its most recent lease on April 30.

The decision came after a meeting filled with both careful deliberation and unmistakable emotion. As board members and community voices weighed in, a clear theme emerged: the time to act had arrived.

Board member Carolina Cordero captured the urgency succinctly: "The moment is now."

Ocean Raethstein encouraged fellow members to "... move boldly." And Nelida Jean-Baptiste Pellet urged the Board to use both the Center's location and its leadership to deepen its commitment to diversity.

Community members echoed that call. Robert Chapman shared that PFLAG unanimously supports the purchase, while Faith Reidenbach emphasized the opportunity to broaden outreach to Black and other people-of-color-led LGBTQ+ groups. Ashley Bowers offered a line that resonated throughout the room: "The best time to plant a tree is ten years ago. The next best time is now."

When the final vote was cast, the response was immediate and heartfelt. A chorus of whoops, applause, and expressions of joy filled the room, reflecting not just approval, but a shared sense of accomplishment for something long hoped for and dearly won.

The path to that moment was anything but simple. Board Vice

President Dex Lewis and Assistant Vice President Zach Bon-giovani led an intensive search to identify a suitable property, ultimately securing a centrally located building and coordinat-ing the extensive due diligence required for the Board's consid-eration. Their work, along with contributions from many others, was met with deep appreciation from both fellow board mem-bers and attendees.

The Board reviewed inspection reports, repair needs, financing options, and projected costs, including a plan for owner financing over the first two years followed by a commercial mortgage.

While a few members voiced concerns about long-term financial stability and the need for continued community communication, the broader consensus was clear. The opportunity outweighed the risk.

Financially, the purchase has been made possible through a com-bination of foresight and community generosity. A significant be-quest from the late Chuck Woods, described during the meeting by Linda Bassham, provided a foundation. That support has been bolstered by a newly launched capital campaign, which has al-ready raised approximately \$60,000 and continues to grow.

The new space promises more than permanence. It represents possibility. The facility will house the Center's offices, meeting rooms, and program space for its many affiliated groups, while also welcoming allied organizations from across the commu-nity. It will soon become home to treasured resources like the 1,500-volume Audre Lorde Memorial Library, further anchoring the Center's role as both a cultural and community hub.

Additional opportunities are already emerging. Simone Chriss spoke about a potential grant that could support shared use of the space with Camp Silver, expanding the building's reach and impact even further.

Despite the weight of the decision and the challenges ahead, the atmosphere at the meeting was defined by unity, purpose, and pride. In a remarkably short time frame, the Center has moved from uncertainty to ownership, transforming a moment of vulner-ability into one of vision.

Once renovations are complete and the doors officially open, the 10th Avenue building will stand not just as a structure, but as a symbol of resilience, community investment, and a future defined by having a place to truly call home.

**How you can help:** To help us cross the finish line and fund these vital renovations, please consider making a contribution to our capital campaign. Every dollar brings us closer to opening our doors. You can find the Pride Center Building Fund at: [tinyurl.com/Iguana2480](http://tinyurl.com/Iguana2480). And if you have trade skills (plumbing, elec-trical, carpentry) and would like to volunteer your time, please contact us at [director\\_dex@gainesvillepride.org](mailto:director_dex@gainesvillepride.org).



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**From BRADFORD, p. 32**

The sheriff had attempted to put it on the agenda as an action item, but Chairperson Carolyn Spooner insisted it be a discussion item under the sheriff's report instead. Some commissioners commented about the short notice damaging public trust and the ridiculous appearance of deciding at last meeting to keep all options on the table and now being asked to consider only this option.

Despite those concerns, Commissioner Dougherty tried to make a motion to accept the sheriff's proposal, but Spooner sharply responded, "I didn't call for a motion." Then Commissioner Thompson, who consistently votes with Dougherty, burst out with, "I can't vote on this at this time."

That made it clear the sheriff would not have the votes to pass his plan. And, it would have denied consideration of the option proposed by OMI in their Letter of Intent to the county.

The sheriff said that DHS/ICE is no longer interested in moving forward unless he was granted the lease. We hope that's true and this horrific plan doesn't rear its ugly head once again. Meanwhile, the Bradford County Commission is being encouraged by local residents to explore its other op-

tions, including obtaining an environmental assessment of acceptable use.

Opposition groups are at the ready just in case.


Groups represented at the county commission meeting include: Badass Feminists of Gainesville; Baker Interfaith Friends; Bradford County Democratic Party; Bradford Environmental Forum; Indivisible Mandarin; Indivisible St. Johns; NCFL Blue Dots; NCFL Indivisible; Sierra Club Suwannee-St Johns Group; Putnam Co. Dems; Singing Resistance; Solidarity UF; WWALS Watershed Coalition ...



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~ Ernest Hemingway

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# Recommended blogs / web sites



## joycevance.substack.com

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

*"Being a citizen is the most important work any of us can do. As citizens, a key part of our role is to educate ourselves and stay informed."*

## Letters from an American

One of the smartest daily reads out there. Great analysis and observations from a historian. No BS, no hype. Read it.



<https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com>

## WATCH VIDEOS. SHARE. TAKE ACTION.

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[filmsforaction.org](https://filmsforaction.org)

## Today's Edition Newsletter

### Robert Hubbell



Citizen. Optimist. Realist.

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

*"A reflection on today's news through the lens of hope."*

[roberthubbell@substack.com](mailto:roberthubbell@substack.com)



WUFT-TV and WUFT-FM feature PBS programming, local productions and an award winning UF student produced and anchored weekday newscast.

For news, see [wuft.org](https://wuft.org)

For broadcast info, see: [wuft.org/about](https://wuft.org/about)

## The Southern Punk Project

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Here to simplify power & amplify people

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[southernpunk.substack.com](https://southernpunk.substack.com)

## Florida Phoenix

[FloridaPhoenix.com](https://FloridaPhoenix.com), a free, nonprofit news site, covers Florida government and politics with in-depth stories on the latest events, editorial cartoons, and progressive commentary. Many stories focus on emerging innovative ideas or report on the people who are trying to help solve problems and shift policy for a more compassionate world.

## BOLD, UNAPOLOGETIC & WOKE

Tired of mainstream media nonsense?  
100% real news

[youtube.com/@DanielleMoodie\\_](https://youtube.com/@DanielleMoodie_)



## THE LEFT HOOK

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

[thelefthook.substack.com](https://thelefthook.substack.com)

## Robert Reich writes at [robertreich.substack.com](https://robertreich.substack.com)



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

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

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

[mswmedia.com/show/daily-beans/](https://mswmedia.com/show/daily-beans/)



# Editors' picks: News that didn't fit

## Did Florida's attorney general break the law during a Martin Luther King Day legal stunt?

by Jason Garcia ~ Seeking Rents ~ April 27 ~ [tinyurl.com/Iguana2474](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2474)

Five stories to read about Florida politics, with an emphasis on ways that big businesses and special interests influence public policy, including one about Florida Attorney General James Uthmeier issuing a legal opinion in which he declared that his office would no longer enforce more than 80 state laws meant to help understand and undo harms caused by historic racial discrimination.

## Florida congresswoman: 1,500 people remain housed under 'inhumane' conditions at Alligator Alcatraz

by Sergio R. Bustos ~ WLRN ~ Apr. 9, 2026 ~ [tinyurl.com/Iguana2472](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2472)

Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz made an unannounced oversight visit to the Everglades immigration detention center and publicly challenged the conditions there. Elected officials need to keep pressure on the detention system and documenting abuses.

## Hope out of chaos: how the dark era of Trump is creating a new approach to global politics

by Patrick Wintour ~ The Guardian ~ May 2 ~ [tinyurl.com/Iguana2484](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2484)

There is cautious optimism that "a majority of multilateralists" may be able to enduringly reshape the world order.

## Inside MAGA's "Christian Nationalist" Movement: The Real Agenda EXPOSED

with WajahatAli ~ You Tube (video 1:15:18) ~ [tinyurl.com/Iguana2473](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2473)

Great interview with two ex-Christian Nationalists, now outspoken, with Wajahat Ali of Left Hook Podcast. They discuss their backgrounds and how they learned of the dangers and threats of white Christian nationalism.

## The surprising origin of 4 features that superglue kids - and adults - to screens

by Michaeleen Doucleff ~ NPR ~ April 21 ~ [tinyurl.com/Iguana9762](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana9762)

Screen addiction on our devices has origins in the gambling industry, yet Meta and Google dispute the idea that their products are addictive. Scientists have identified key features of social media and other apps that are meant to hold children's attention for as long as possible.

## Trump voter regret is clearly registering now

by Aaron Blake ~ CNN ~ April 6 ~ [tinyurl.com/Iguana9763](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana9763)

In recent polls, 13 percent of Trump voters expressed regret that they voted for him — double the percentage of those who expressed regret for voting for Harris. This is double the percent of Trump voters who expressed regret a year ago. 🐘



### SCAN ME

Scan this code for a full list of Editors' picks with easy links to the articles.

At what point do we start seeing ultra-rich people not as a symbol of success, but as one of societal failure?

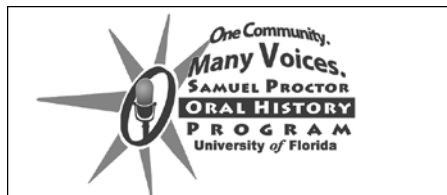


## Protesters rally against union-busting bill on May Day

Approximately 100 plus protesters were on hand to express their frustration with Gov. DeSantis, who signed HB 1296, a potential union busting bill into law, on May Day, which is traditionally known as International Workers Day.

For more information, see "On a day meant to honor workers, governor cements legacy of anti-worker policy" at [tinyurl.com/Iguana2486](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2486) and "Gov. DeSantis signs measure making it easier to decertify teachers unions" at [tinyurl.com/Iguana2487](https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2487). Photo by ChuckRoss. 🐘

## History and the people who make it: Dr. Phyllis Meek



*This interview, which took place on April 13, 1992, is from a continuing series of transcript excerpts from the collection of the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program at the University of Florida.*

*Lisa Heard [H] interviewed Dr. Phyllis Meek [M], the now retired UF associate dean for Student Services and assistant professor of Education, on April 13, 1992. Transcript edited by Beth Grobman. A full transcript of this interview is available at [tinyurl.com/iguana9761](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9761)*

**H: How did you start your career at UF?**

**M:** As I was doing my dissertation [in the mid 1960s], the dean of women at the University of Florida and her staff retired. I was offered the job of assistant dean of women and decided to take it because I thought if I stayed here I would be more likely to finish my dissertation. I was afraid if I left I would not do that. That was an extremely exciting time because there was a lot of activism.

The student activists were challenging the idea of to what extent universities should pay attention to the behavior of students. That was one issue. There were other issues, such as curriculum reform and governance of the university. But the area where there was probably the most response had to do with those of us in Student Affairs. Many of us were sympathetic to a lot of the issues students were bringing up and we thought they were legitimate issues.

For example, we had rules that said a woman student could not stay overnight in a man's apartment. If a male and female student who were not married spent the night in a hotel room, for example, then both of them could be suspended from the university. We had all kinds of curfews for women, but we did not have them for men. I used to think we should have them for men, not women. [laughter]

So we were involved in trying to change quite a few things, and it was interesting. We were doing things from an internal standpoint, but there was a lot of external pressure to look at different policies.

When I first came, we had a ban-on-speakers policy. That is why I think I feel very strongly about First Amendment rights. The first year I was here we also had a ban on publications.

**H: Was there control over what students could say?**

**M:** The ban was on outside speakers. It was on both, but particularly outside speakers. For example, the plaza at that time was not a free speech area. It is a free speech area now. The kinds of speakers who came to campus were very conservative. They certainly were not people who had very radical ideas in any way.

One of the first persons who spoke after that ban was lifted was Madelyn O'Hare. She and her son had led the case to the Supreme Court that banned prayer in schools. She is considered an atheist, and she led that case. I remember that she spoke on the plaza, and it was so crowded that we had to stand across the street by the auditorium.

The Alligator at that time was an on-campus publication. It was the only publication allowed on campus, and that began to be challenged, too.

So there were some very exciting things going on during that time, things that obviously needed to change.

**H: It sounds like a tumultuous time on campus. How did you feel about what was going on? It sounds like you were on the side of the students a lot of the time.**

**M:** I think that most of us in Student Affairs were on the side of the students. We viewed ourselves as being very student-oriented. I think where we sometimes got caught was that, obviously, as administrators we had to go ahead and carry out whatever the position of the university was. It was either that or quit our jobs.

I think what a lot of us were trying to do was to effect change internally. What became difficult was that I was by nature

an activist and also interested in civil rights issues and women's concerns and women's issues. I viewed myself as being a liberal, activist person, and yet being labeled as part of the administration. In those days the student activists saw administration as being the enemy. At times that was difficult to deal with.

I think I felt less frustrated than I might have otherwise, because we were beginning to do a lot of changing. We did away with most of the regulations for women students during that period. We did away with the dress code. We began changing the curfews. At the same time, there was a move to go to co-ed residence halls.

**H: How about the 1970s? What went on here for you?**

**M:** In the early 1970s the women's movement had really become more full-blown. Even on this campus, we had a lot of activity in the 1970s. I remember Gloria Steinem, before she became famous, coming here and speaking. We had forums that involved women's issues in the early 1970s. I used to always go to those. I had been interested in those issues all along, but I became much more aware and much more involved at that time.

**H: Moving into the 1980s, how did women's issues change?**

**M:** The 1980s really proved to be a very exciting time, and there were a lot of changes that began to occur. Again, change is relative, and certainly we did not effect a lot of it. There still have been a lot of things on this campus that have not changed.

For example, while I think that overall the status of women has improved, where we really have not improved is that we still have very few females in leadership roles. We have no female vice-presidents. We have only one female dean of a college. We have very few women who are department chairs. While there are some more women in administrative positions, they are not in the kind of positions where they really effect change or where they have say in who is hired and so forth.

Now, where I think there has been real progress — and this began happening in the 1970s — was opportunities for women

students increased. At least a woman student can now major in anything she wants to, and while there may be some subtle discrimination, I do not think it is nearly to the degree it used to be.

**H: There has been a swing of the pendulum to the right.**

**M:** Very much so. While we continued activism in the 1980s, we had to begin using somewhat different tactics, probably within the system, although there was some push outside as well. So I think it has to be a different kind of activism.

For one thing, the discrimination is not as overt as it used to be. It is still there; there is still plenty of sex discrimination and certainly a tremendous amount of sexism. There is also a tremendous amount of homophobia and a tremendous amount of racism. All those things are present, but they are more subtle than they used to be.

I think, however, something that concerns me in the last three or four years has been a backlash I see happening, particularly a lessening of tolerance for differences on campus.

Now it is a little more acceptable to be overtly racist or overtly homophobic. Well, it has always been all right to be overtly sexist and homophobic. I think for a while it was not appropriate to be racist. Now even that is fair game. But it has always been all right to be sexist. It has always been fair game to be homophobic.

One of the things that I have recently been involved with that I've really enjoyed is a committee on sexism and homophobia.

In 1989, another person on our staff and I decided we needed to do something in a more formalized, systematic way about the issues of sexism. We started out with that, and then became aware of more instances of homophobia occurring on campus. We were aware of gay male students and lesbians being harassed, so we decided to put together the Committee on Sexism and Homophobia.

What I see happening that is distressing to me is a lessening of tolerance for differences. This is becoming more and more the case as the economy gets tighter. It is kind of like Maslow's hierarchy of needs.

A friend of mine used to say that affirmative action is a product of full employment. If you have a lot of latitude, then there is more tolerance. But when things get really tight, as the economy is now, people pull back and want to surround themselves in a kind of protective way with other people

who are most like themselves. They become less and less tolerant of people who are different from themselves. I see that as an alarming trend on campus.

I really do feel that much of this lack of toleration is a reflection of the very selfish, very "me-ism" and "greedism" that has been perpetuated by Reagan and Bush and the ideology that they both represent. I guess Bush has an ideology; I am not sure. It is by default, if nothing else. It has become much more acceptable in our society to be bigoted. People felt that way previously, but now they feel much more free to express it. I find that alarming.

**H: You do not foresee it getting better?**

**M:** Not for a while. If people are worried about survival needs, then those more civilized kinds of things take less precedence.

**H: What has been the response on campus to the homophobia workshops?**

**M:** I would say generally positive. If nothing else, we have at least gotten the issue out in the open. There is a lot more discussion now than there used to be, and I always feel that in an educational environment that is what you want.

I am not saying that the homophobia is less, but I think there is at least more discussion about the kind of bias and prejudice against gays and lesbians that exists. It is more openly discussed, and I feel that is healthier.

I was horrified at the results of the referendum that was put on the ballot during the student government elections that had to do with funding of GLSU, the Gay and Lesbian Student Union. The majority of people voted not to fund it.

Hopefully, one of the things we have accomplished through our committee is that the Gay and Lesbian Student Union did come back on campus. That group had been literally harassed on campus for a while. In about 1987 the students got so tired of all the harassment they received when they would go up for funding or try to get space in the union, that they just pulled out and went off campus.

**H: They continually had to fight for funding.**

**M:** They got harassed beyond belief, so I can understand that. But I was horrified that a campus like ours could not have a gay and lesbian student group, because most campuses do. So I was pleased that those students felt comfortable enough to come back on campus last spring.

I would hope that maybe some of the work we have done through the Committee on Sexism and Homophobia has helped make those students feel more comfortable. We had a program during People Awareness Week where we had a lesbian speaker.

We have done all kinds of workshops on homophobia and sexism. There have been articles in the Alligator. There was a whole group of letters back and forth.

I think discussion is healthy, because my sense in talking with gays and lesbians is that the biggest problem is invisibility.

Up until when we formed the committee, there had been no official acknowledgment that gays and lesbians even existed. Obviously, if national data are correct, 10 percent of the students, faculty, and staff are gay or lesbian or bisexual.

**H: How about in the field of counseling? How has your understanding of sexism and your feminist stance affected your attitudes about counseling or your approach?**

**M:** I view myself not only as a feminist but as a humanist, and I try to use a very humanistic approach in dealing with students. I believe in the basic worth of people. I think that people basically have the ability to grow, that people do want to become self-fulfilled, self-actualized persons, and most of the people I deal with have barriers to that at this point in time.

Fortunately for most of our students, those are situational barriers or maybe a matter of different developmental levels. It's just a matter that they have not matured enough or grown enough to get to the other levels. This includes things such as learning to take responsibility for one's behavior and things of that nature.

*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.*

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*From SPLC, p. 1*

**How to accidentally admit you're on the wrong side of history**

And a White House that's — oh, let's say "unperturbed by" white supremacy - isn't going after the violent white supremacists. They're going after the people who go after the white supremacists.

The Kash Patelian argument, friends, appears to be:

"Hey dude — You know those guys? The ones who infiltrated hate groups, exposed them, and sued them into oblivion? Bro—they were secretly funding them."

And they expect you to nod along, like that sentence makes sense.

Now here's the crime: the SPLC paid informants inside extremist groups. That's it. That's the case.

They paid people inside hate groups ... to gather information ... so they could expose and dismantle those groups. You know; that thing every law enforcement agency has done since crime was invented.

Look, I loved the movie "Mississippi Burning." Gene Hackman's scenes as the FBI agent terrorizing the KKK are spectacular.

But in real life, the FBI used paid informants to help take down the Klan. I know it's shocking, but J. Edgar Hoover was not, in fact, passionate about Civil Rights.

So by the logic of this SPLC case, Kash Patel's own FBI is the America's largest criminal enterprise.

"Tonight on Hannity! The FBI has been funding the mafia, by paying informants ... inside the mafia! Why is the FBI pro-mafia?"

You get the idea. Lord, it's dumb enough for a FOX NATION special. Kash Patel seems to think this will make him a real live boy.

**You generally have to compensate people for infiltrating armed racists**

And the Justice Department knows this, which is what makes it so insulting.

They took "paid informants to infiltrate hate groups" — and re-branded it as "secretly funding racism."

And the Right-Wing White Male Outrage Industrial Complex said "Cool. We'll handle the rest."

So now:

- The SPLC "staged hate crimes"
- The SPLC "created racism"
- My personal favorite — The SPLC "organized Charlottesville." They paid Trump supporters to murder Heather Heyer and chant "Jews will not replace us."

These talking points are *all over* the Nazi Incel Chatroom formerly known as Twitter. I'm waiting for them to blame SPLC for rigging the Civil War.

**And here's where the argument leaves Earth's atmosphere**

The case itself is embarrassing; and

seems to exist to crush the org with costly litigation based on nothing.

Fraud cases, after all, generally require a lie of some kind. But nobody's claiming they were defrauded. No donors to SPLC are complaining.

No one is saying: "I donated so they'd fight hate, and I'm furious they used my money to fight hate in a way that really works."

There's no allegation of personal enrichment, no secret yachts or massive bonuses or offshore accounts.

They paid informants \$3 million over 10 years, to track and destroy white supremacist extremism. If that's "supporting racism," they're the worst enablers in history.

And the legal structure shows they don't intend to ever actually win this case:

Wire fraud; without identifying a lie.

Money laundering; based on that alleged fraud that doesn't exist.

Bank fraud; because they used shell entities to safely pay and protect informants.

You know, like law enforcement does?

It's legally expensive harassment against the people who take down racists, funded by the rest of us.

**The goal isn't justice; it's narrative laundering**

Of course, the bigger play here is that this isn't really about the SPLC, as much as it's about rewriting reality. Because if the people who fought white supremacy have ac-

**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](http://laborcoalition.org)) and/or the AFL-CIO campaign "Department of People Who Work for a Living" ([deptofpeoplewhowork.org](http://deptofpeoplewhowork.org)).
- Keep an eye on the news and support workers elsewhere (e.g., Amazon, Starbucks) who are taking the fight directly to the oligarchs.
- 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](http://unionhall.aflcio.org/north-central-florida-central-labor-council)

[workerscreateallwealth.substack.com](http://workerscreateallwealth.substack.com)



tually been the villains all along, then that means the white supremacists have been the real victims here. Like those white victims of affirmative action. And those victims of January 6th.

Suddenly, Charlottesville wasn't white supremacists organizing a rally to defend statues honoring white supremacists. It was... a crooked civil rights group secretly orchestrating it.

Seriously, this was all over Twitter. Because nothing says "fight racism" like staging a Confederate rally and hoping it goes well.

But this really is the play, friends. They are trying to reshape reality, from

*"Racists did bad things"*

into

*"Racists were manipulated into doing bad things by the crooked people who opposed racism."*

This tells every extremist, in a heavily armed country: "It's not your fault. You were tricked. You're the real victim."

And it tells every civil rights group: "If you're effective... we will come for you."

It's the oldest trick in the book: If you can't defend the behavior, you blame somebody else. Somewhere in Hell, Roy Cohn is proud. And waiting.

**History remembers who fought the Klan — and who fought the people who fought the Klan**

Here's the problem:

The SPLC's cases against the racists worked because they were true.

Every democracy has to have a moral center of gravity—and in the U.S., it's never been held just by the government. It's held in place by institutions and groups willing to confront extremism when that's unpopular, inconvenient, or dangerous.

The SPLC has always been one of those institutions that helps hold the country's moral center in place. It's not perfect, and not beyond criticism. But they've consistently fought to push this country closer to its stated ideals — by making it expensive, inconvenient and not very fun to organize around hate. They're one of the forces that helps keeps the country from sliding backward. Which is why Christian nationalists want to destroy it.

They're prosecuting the people who sued the Klan out of existence. It's a political hit job so aggressively upside-down, that it ac-

identally tells the truth.

Because if your enemies are the people who bankrupted the Klan, we can all see exactly what you are.

And history will know, quite easily, exactly why they were rooting for the wrong side.

Check out Fugelsang's Substack at <https://johnfugelsang.substack.com/>

## United Church of Gainesville hosts author and commentator John Fugelsang

### Sunday, May 24

**10am:** Fugelsang and Rev Dr Talia Raymond will present a dialogue sermon

**11:30 to 12:30:** Fugelsang will speak and do Q&A in the adjacent Reimer Hall

**Location:** 1624 NW 5th Ave

John Fugelsang is an American actor, comedian, writer, television host, political commentator, and television personality.



His first book, "Separation of Church and Hate — A Sane Person's Guide to Taking Back the Bible from Fundamentalists, Fascists, and Flock-Fleeing Frauds," was published in August 2025.



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May 2026



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or  
[info@laborcoalition.org](mailto:info@laborcoalition.org)



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# Gainesville area events

Please notify the Iguana of upcoming events at: [gainesvilleiguana@cox.net](mailto:gainesvilleiguana@cox.net)

Check Gainesville Blue Activism Hub (<https://linktr.ee/gnvbluehub>) and Alachua Community Collective ([alachuacommunitycollective.com/events](http://alachuacommunitycollective.com/events)) for the latest events.

## WEEK OF MAY 3 - 9

**Thu 5/7 Douglas Stuart**, 7-9pm, UF Phillips Ctr (3201 Hull Rd), author of John of John & Lauren Groff talk books, \$15; [tinyurl.com/iguana9776](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9776)

**Fri 5/8 City Hall re-opening**, 10-11am, 200 E Univ Ave, free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9805](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9805)

**Fri 5/8 Free Live Music**, 6-9pm, Skinner Park (15100 NW 142 Terr, Alachua), Sheba the Mississippi Queen concert, free; [tinyurl.com/tinyurl9777](http://tinyurl.com/tinyurl9777)

**Fri 5/8 The Ain't Sisters**, 6:30pm, Depot Village (404 SE 2nd St), with Weeds of Eden, all ages, \$18-25; [tinyurl.com/iguana9778](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9778)

**Fri 5/8 Gvl Orchestra**, 7:30-9:30pm, Santa Fe College Fine Arts Hall (3000 NW 83rd St), season finale: "POPS!", \$22-63; [tinyurl.com/iguana9779](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9779)

**Fri 5/8 Free Fridays Concerts**, 8pm through 9/25, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E University Ave), Gvl Retro Society (Chicago tribute), free; pg 16 & [tinyurl.com/iguana9780](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9780)

**Sat 5/9 Spring Pop Up Shops**, 9am-3pm, Grow Hub (2900 NE 8th Ave), local vendors of art & plants, free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9781](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9781)

**Sat 5/9 Sweetwater Creek Cleanup**, 10am-12pm, Sweetwater Preserve (309 SE 16th Ave), bring water, work clothes, etc, free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9782](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9782)

**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; pg 25 & [tinyurl.com/iguana9783](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9783)

**Sat 5/9 BBQ & Jazz Festival**, 12pm-6pm, Oaks Mall (6419 W Newberry Rd), live local jazz, free admission; [tinyurl.com/iguana9784](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9784)

**Sat 5/9 Jazz on the Green**, 7-9pm on 2nd Saturdays, Celebration Pointe (3528 SW 45th St), Gruv Therapy & others, free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9785](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9785)

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

**Sat 5/9 Roller Derby**, 6pm, MLK Ctr (1028 NE 14th St), Gvl Brawl-Stars vs Jax River City Rat Pack, \$15 adv, \$18 door; pg 4 & [tinyurl.com/iguana9786](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9786)

## WEEK OF MAY 10 - 16

**Tue 5/12 "Gardening for Pollinators"**, 2:30-4pm, Alachua County Ag Auditorium (22716 W Newberry Rd, Newberry), landscaping for bees & butterflies, limited to 100 participants, free w/ registration; [tinyurl.com/iguana9787](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9787)

**Wed 5/13 Breakfast w/ the Mayor**, 9-10am, Democratic Party HQ (901 NW 8th Ave), coffee & light meal w/ Harvey Ward, free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9788](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9788)

**Wed 5/13 "Treasure Island"** radio play, 7-8pm, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), Robt Louis Stevenson's story in audio, free w/ registration; [tinyurl.com/iguana9789](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9789)

**Thu 5/14 "aMAYzing pARTy"**, 6-9 pm, Harn Museum (3259 Hull Rd), art, dance, workshops, free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9790](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9790)

**Fri 5/15 Blue Door Café**, 6-8pm, Dem. HQ (901 NW 8th Ave), Democratic Party potluck, free w/ food contribution; <https://alachuademparty.com/events/>

**Fri 5/15 "for colored girls who have considered suicide / when the rainbow is enuf"**, 8-10pm, runs through 5/31, Acrosstown Repertory Theatre (3501 SW 2nd Ave), classic play w/ poetry & dance, \$20-25; <https://www.acrosstown.org/buy-tickets>

**Fri 5/15 "Gypsy: A Musical Fable"**, 8pm, Star Center Theatre (11 NE 23rd Ave), Sondheim musical of stage life a century ago, \$18-22; [tinyurl.com/iguana9791](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9791)

**Sat 5/16 Seed Saving 101**, 10-11:30am, Grow Hub (2900 NE 8th Ave), garden & seed bank demo, donations accepted; [tinyurl.com/iguana9792](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9792)

**Thu 5/16 Swallowtail Farm Spring Festival**, 12:30pm-9pm, Swallowtail Farm (7301 SE 92nd Terr), music, workshops, food, aerial arts, more (rescheduled from 4/9), \$80; [tinyurl.com/iguana9793](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9793)

**Sat 5/16 Gvl Free Store**, 2-5pm 3rd Sats, Civic Media Ctr (433 S Main St), free stuff for all (masks required); [civicmediacenter.org](http://civicmediacenter.org)

## WEEK OF MAY 17 - 23

**Sun 5/17 Sunday Assembly**, 10am, Curia on the Drag (2029 NW 6th St), coffee talk, free; [sagainesville.weebly.com](http://sagainesville.weebly.com)

**Tue 5/19 "All About Watermelons"**, 11am-1:30pm, Alachua County Ag Auditorium (22716 W Newberry Rd, Newberry), from farm production to recipes & tastings, limited to 50 participants, \$20; [tinyurl.com/iguana9794](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9794)

**Fri 5/22 "Our Town" opens**, 7:30pm, runs through 6/7, Gvl Community Playhouse, (4033 NE 16th Blvd), Pulitzer-winning classic play, \$15 (under 13)-25; [tinyurl.com/iguana9795](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9795)

**Sat 5/23 Community Clean Up**, 9-11am, Blackadder Brewing (618 NW 60th St), trash pickup w/ Keep Alachua County Beautiful, free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9796](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9796)

**Sat 5/23 Emancipation Day**, 9am-4pm, Cotton Club Museum & Cultural Ctr (837 SE 7th Ave), starts w/ march from Depot Park, panel w/ Mayor H. Ward, singing & poetry contest, art, food sales, kids' activities, free; pg 8 & [tinyurl.com/iguana9797](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9797)

**Sat 5/23 "De-Google Your Life"** workshop, 3-5pm, Civic Media Ctr (433 S Main St), bring internet-capable device, masks required/provided, free; [civicmediacenter.org](http://civicmediacenter.org)

## WEEK OF MAY 24 - 30

**Sun 5/24 John Fugelsang**, 10am dialog/sermon & 11:30 talk, United Church of Gvl (1624 NW 5th Ave), author/commentator/comedian on danger of Christian nationalism, free; see pg 13.

**Sun 5/24 "Million Dollar Quartet" final night**, 2pm, Hipp Theatre (25 SE 2nd Pl), stompin' w/ Elvis, Johnny Cash, et al, \$20-45; [thehipp.org](http://thehipp.org)

**Wed 5/27 "Voices of Life"**, 7-8:30pm, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), premiere of documentary on Alachua County Crisis Ctr, w/ filmmaker & CC directors, free w/ registration; [tinyurl.com/iguana9798](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9798)

**Sat 5/27 Nerd Night**, 7:30pm, Theatre of Memory (1705 NW 6th St), "A Few Interesting Manuscripts" from Bill's collection, free w/ RSVP; pg 6 & [tinyurl.com/iguana9799](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9799)

**Fri 5/29 Artwalk**, 7-10pm, downtown Gvl, free; pg 11 & [artwalkgainesville.com](http://artwalkgainesville.com)

**Sat 5/30 Summer Creek Family Fest**, 10am-2pm, Tuscawilla Preserve (211 SE Tuscawilla Rd), bring hat, closed-toe shoes,

long pants, bug spray..., free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9800](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9800)

**Sat 5/30 "African American Education"**, 2-3:30pm, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), panel discussion on rural school segregation in Alachua County, free; [/tinyurl.com/iguana9801](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9801)

**Sat 5/30 Cliff Dorsey, 6-10pm**, High Springs Brewery (18565 NW 237 St, High Springs), country music w/ full band & special guest, \$10 adv, \$15 at gate, 6 & under free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9802](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9802)

Sat 5/30 Sooja Brass Band, 6pm, 1st Magnitude Brewing (1220 SE Veitch St), oompah with attitude, free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9806](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9806)

## WEEK OF MAY 31 - JUNE 7

**Fri 6/5 CMC Movie screening**, 8:30-10:30pm, Civic Media Ctr (433 S Main St), title tba, masks required/provided, free (donations accepted); [civicmediacenter.org](http://civicmediacenter.org)

**Sat 6/6 Ice Cream in the Park**, 1-3:pm, Rockwood Park (2221 NW 2nd St), Alachua Conservation Trust's annual ice cream social, free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9803](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9803)

**Sun 6/7 "Bee City USA"**, 1-2pm, Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Park (1500 NW 45th Ave), Sam Schatz on bees & flowers, free; [tinyurl.com/iguana9804](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9804)

## 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, NW 13th St, north of 23rd Ave

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

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

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

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

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

See [visitgainesville.com/events](http://visitgainesville.com/events) for an event list, updated Thursdays; and don't forget [civicmediacenter.org](http://civicmediacenter.org)!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Women's Club;** [dwcsofs@gmail.com](mailto:dwcsofs@gmail.com), [Facebook.com/dwcsofs](https://www.facebook.com/dwcsofs)

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

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

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

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

**PFLAG** meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm, for now at United Church of Gvl, 1624 NW 5th Ave.

**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, Gvl Fine Arts Ass'n (1314 S Main St), exhibit & conversation, free; [gainesvillefinearts.org](http://gainesvillefinearts.org)

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

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

**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](http://tinyurl.com/iguana9312)

## OPEN MICS

(list may be out of date - check w/ venue)

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

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

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

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

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

**Satchel's:** first Wednesday of the month, 6-9pm, sign up at 5:30pm

**"Front Street"** at Boca Backyard: 4th Wednesday of the month. 7:30-11pm

**Swamp Head Brewery:** 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7-9pm, sign up at 6:30pm

**The Midnight:** every Tuesday, 8pm-?, sign up at 7:30 🍷

*"I wake up every morning determined both to change the world and have one hell of a good time. Sometimes this makes planning the day a little difficult."*

- E.B. White

# Iguana directory

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

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

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

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

**Alachua County Labor Coalition** organizes to support local labor and advance the Medicare for All and A Living Wage campaigns. Meets monthly on the 4th Tuesday at 6pm at Emmanuel Mennonite Church, 1236 NW 18th Ave, Gainesville, [info@laborcoalition.org](mailto:info@laborcoalition.org) | [LaborCoalition.org](http://LaborCoalition.org)

**Alachua County Organization for Rural Needs Clinic** is a not-for-profit in Brooker providing low-cost, high-quality dental care for people with and without health insurance at Alachua, Bradford and Union County residents. The Clinic fulfills its mission with the help of volunteers. 352-485-2772 | [acomclinic.org](http://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](mailto:firstcoastaclu@gmail.com) | [northeastflorida.aclufl.org](http://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](mailto:alachuadsa@gmail.com) | [www.instagram.com/alachuadsa](http://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](http://NAACPacb.org)

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

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

**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](mailto: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](mailto:bgsoatuf@gmail.com) | facebook: UF BGSO

**Citizens Climate Lobby** builds awareness and lobbies for sensible climate policies. 352-214-1778 | [btancig@gmail.com](mailto:btancig@gmail.com) | [citizensclimatelobby.org/chapters/FL\\_Gainesville](http://citizensclimatelobby.org/chapters/FL_Gainesville) | [facebook.com/CitizensClimateLobbyGainesvilleFL](https://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](http://civicmediacenter.org) | [coordinators@civicmediacenter.org](mailto: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](mailto:ClimateRealityProjectgnv@gmail.com) | [facebook.com/groups/climaterealitygnvgroup](https://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](mailto:chispasuf@gmail.com) | [chispasuf.com](http://chispasuf.com) | [facebook.com/chispasUF](https://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:info@communityweatherization.org) | 352-450-4965 | [communityweatherization.org](http://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](mailto:info@conserveflorida.org) | [conserveflorida.org](http://conserveflorida.org)

## Spotlight on: Alachua County Democratic Party

**Alachua County Democratic Party (Alachua County Democratic Executive Committee — ACDEC)** is the official Democratic Party organization representing the over 70,000 Democrats in Alachua County. We are NOT the DNC, we are your local Democratic Party. Our Mission is to elect Democrats!

We meet voters in their communities year-round, having conversations about the issues that matter to them, and building the infrastructure to elect Democrats and share Democratic values for years to come.

Have you been waking up every morning bracing yourself for the next terrifying news coming out of the White House, channel that nervous energy into something positive you can do right here in your community!

Please visit our website ([Alachuademparty.com](http://Alachuademparty.com)) to sign up for a door to door canvassing event, phone banking, socials and/or postcard writing. Experience is not necessary, we will train you!

Have a skill you think would be beneficial to our mission? Do you want to join like-minded people ready to fight to restore Democracy and electing Democrats who share our values? We maintain an office at 901 NW 8th Ave, Suite A-3, Gainesville, Fla, 32601. Contact Call: (352) 373-1730. Email: [comms@alachuademparty.com](mailto:comms@alachuademparty.com).

Get involved! Start by Joining us at one of our monthly Democratic Community meetings at Lifesouth Blood Center, 1221 NW 13th St, Gainesville: May 19 @ 6:30-8pm, June 16 @ 6:30 - 8pm.

When we Organize, We Win! 🐊

**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](http://currentproblems.org)

**Democratic Party of Alachua County** meets monthly on the second Wednesday at 6pm: on Zoom. 352-373-1730 | [alachuadems.org](http://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](mailto:dwcsofs@gmail.com) / [facebook.com/dwcsofs](https://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](mailto:youngersn@outlook.com) | [facebook.com/DivestGainesville](https://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](http://Divestuf.org) | [facebook.com/DivestUF](https://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](https://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](mailto:gnewburn@famm.org) | 352-682-2542 | [FAMM.org](http://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](http://FinalFriends.org@gmail.com) | [FinalFriends.org](http://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](http://www.flippingthesystem.org) | [info@flippingthesystem.org](mailto: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](http://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](http://floridafreespeechforum.org)

**Florida School of Traditional Midwifery** is a clearinghouse for information, activities, educational programs regarding midwifery. 352-338-0766 | [info@MidWiferySchool.org](mailto:info@MidWiferySchool.org) | [midwiferyschool.org](http://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](mailto:FloridaDefenders@gmail.com) | [FlaDefenders.org](http://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](mailto:FLPrisonerSolidarity@gmail.com) | [facebook.com/FLAbolition](https://facebook.com/FLAbolition) | [FLPrisonerSolidarity.org](http://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](mailto:fosba@fosba.com) | [fosba.com](http://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](http://www.folacl.org) and Facebook and Instagram @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](mailto:info@GAAPonline.org) | [Facebook.com/GAAPonline](https://facebook.com/GAAPonline) | [gainesvillepride.org](http://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](mailto:climateralityprojectgnv@gmail.com) | [@climateralityprojectgnv](https://twitter.com/climateralityprojectgnv) | [climateralityprojectgnv.wordpress.com](http://climateralityprojectgnv.wordpress.com)

**Gainesville Books to Prisoners** is a volunteer-run, donation-based organization that sends hundreds of books monthly to incarcerated people in Florida. We pack books at the CMC on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month, 6-7:30pm. We also need brown paper grocery bags and packing tape. Instagram: @gnvbooks2prisoners. Donate funds at paypal.com/gnvb2p

**Gainesville Citizens for Alternatives to Death Penalty** works to abolish the death penalty. Join vigils when Florida has an execution. 352-278-4342 | [mark1343@juno.com](mailto:mark1343@juno.com) | [www.fadp.org](http://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](mailto:GNV4ALL@gmail.com) | [facebook.com/GNV4ALL](https://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](mailto: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](mailto:Richard@371-6772) | [Gainesvilleiaij@gmail.com](mailto:Gainesvilleiaij@gmail.com) | [gainesvilleiaij.blogspot.com](http://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](mailto:info@gainesvilleNOW.org) | [facebook.com/gainesvilleNOW](https://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](http://GainesvilleQuakers.org) | [facebook.com/GainesvilleQuakers](https://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](http://www.GRUnited.org)

**Gainesville Roller Rebels**, a women's Flat Track roller derby team, needs skaters and volunteer assistance. [join@gainesvillerollerrebels.com](mailto:join@gainesvillerollerrebels.com) | [gainesvillerollerrebels.com](http://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](mailto:Stamps4Laffs@yahoo.com)

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

**Generation Action UF**, a student organization dedicated to promoting reproductive justice and health care on

*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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:ichetuckneealliance@gmail.com) | [ichetuckneealliance.org](http://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](mailto:gainesvilleiww@gmail.com) | [iww.org](http://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](mailto:itec1@itec-edu.org) | [itec-edu.org](http://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](http://jewishvoiceforpeace.org/resource/our-vision) | Instagram: @jvp\_gnv | [jvp\\_gnvpod@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:info@lww-alachua.org) | [LWValachua.org](http://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](mailto:msfgainesville@gmail.com) | [facebook.com/MSFGainesville](https://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:gainesvilleng@gmail.com) | [nlg.org](http://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](mailto:nwl@womensliberation.org) | [womensliberation.org](http://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](mailto:ncfawis@gmail.com) | [leanin.org/circles/ncfawis](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:info@pflaggainesville.org) | [pflaggainesville.org](http://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](http://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](mailto:info@prairiecreekconservationcemetery.org) | [prairiecreekconservationcemetery.org](http://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](mailto:Pccncf@gainesville.pride.org) | [GainesvillePride.org](http://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](mailto:info@RepurposeProject.org) | [repurposeproject.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:info@centerforpeacebuilding.org) | [centerforpeacebuilding.org](http://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@rwph.org | www.rwph.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. 🌟



