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The Gainesville Iguana

June/July 2026 ~ vol. 39, issue 6/7

'a soapbox for Alachua County activists'

Mutual aid: Solidarity, not charity

by Joe Courter



The Black Panther Party's Free Breakfast for School Children Program began in 1969, based on the belief that breakfast for children was essential for an optimal schooling experience, and that alleviating hunger and poverty was necessary for Black liberation. Photo courtesy of Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon.

Shortly after the last Iguana came out, I heard two stories that convinced me that the topic of mutual aid needed to be addressed in the next issue, and here we are.

One was a great interview I caught on YouTube by former network, now independent journalist Katie Phang with Kat Abughazaleh, who had just come in second in an open primary in Chicago for Jan Schakowsky's Congressional seat (tinyurl.com/iguana2489). In it she talked about gearing her campaign organizing around mutual aid; her campaign office became a mutual aid hub for the community, and postelection she intended to keep it going.

The other was an NPR story about a Hispanic man who had been wrongly detained by ICE for weeks, and then finally let go, "freed" if you will, but now was without a job to support his family PLUS many thousands of dollars in legal bills. These are the times we are in, and for many it is a major struggle to survive.

I looked around for a good overview of mutual aid and found an article in the National Education Association's NEA Today Newsletter by senior writer Cindy Long, from Jan. 23, from which I pulled the following:

"Mutual aid is the voluntary, peer-to-peer exchange of resources and services for mutual benefit. It's neighbor helping neighbor while building community connections and resilience. A popular slogan of mutual aid is "solidarity, not charity." And if there is a symbol of the current mutual aid move-

See MUTUAL AID, p. 24

Building community with mutual aid

by Kaithleen Hernandez

Mutual aid has had a resurgence in recent years despite it being a practice as old as life on Earth. Civilizations have leaned on mutual aid even in times before money existed as we know it today. It is nothing new but has been conflated to equate to direct service aid when it is much more than that.

There are plenty of examples of how mutual aid has shown up across time globally, and I will let you research that on your own so you can be inspired by the communal ways of the past.

I would like to encourage you to think of the framework of mutual aid in the present day and what it can mean for us to adopt this culturally. Mutual aid is not just about providing a service to someone or helping someone pay their bills. After all, the neighbor you tend to lend sugar to is not just some stranger. There is reciprocity rooted at it, and it can start as small as a simple exchange or a daily acknowledgment. We give to those who participate, and that is not to say we should exclude those who are disabled or unable to recip-

See COMMUNITY, p. 25



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Making democratic change in oppressive social systems

Danielle Chynoweth, co-author of “Remaking Democracy: How We Make the World We Want,” will be

in conversation with trauma expert Meadow Jones, PhD, on:

- June 18, 3:30-4:30 pm, The Villages, 8000 NW 27th Blvd.
- June 20, noon-2pm, Millhopper Library
- June 22, 6pm, Lynx Books

In Remaking Democracy, seasoned organizers and teachers Chynoweth and Elizabeth Adams introduce readers to the Spiral of Change — a framework for making democratic change in oppressive social systems. Using the Spiral of Change, readers will be equipped to analyze the root causes of the issues we face and design solutions that transform themselves as they transform the world.

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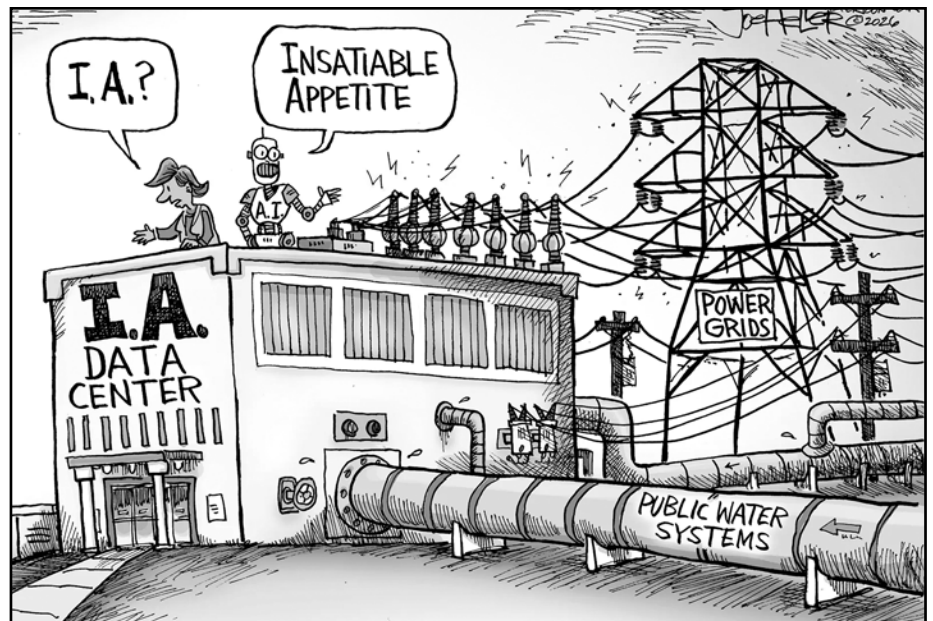
Want your article, ad, event or PSA in the August Iguana? (Due to come out Thursday, July 30)

Deadline is Wednesday, July 22

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.



Is voting mutual aid?

As the gains of the last fifty years seem to be unraveling before our eyes, it is hard not to be angry or depressed. Coming into the 1950s and '60s that new medium of television did a lot to heighten awareness. We could see poverty first-hand in our living rooms. We could see the war in Viet Nam, soldiers lighting villagers' houses on fire with their Zippo lighters. We saw police siccing dogs on black folks in the south. We saw leaders assassinated — both political leaders and civil rights leaders. It led to a greater awareness that changes needed to happen to rectify such injustice. This was the world as I saw it as I entered my teen years.

The pressure for change was catalyzed by seeing people sitting-in at lunch counters, marching in the streets, gathering in the nation's capital, and within the music and culture of the times. These all led to changes in peoples individual consciousnesses. Better people ran for office and some were elected. Laws were made, bad laws were changed, programs to fight poverty and overcome the legacy of racism were initiated. More people being able to vote was one thing, but making sure through fair districts that representation in government was another needed measure to rectifying the blatant injustices of the past.

An earlier catalyst for change was the Great Depression, and that change flowed more from the top with Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal, guided by Frances Perkins. The State actually created jobs for out-of-work people during the Great Depression. Later, soldiers coming back from WWII were provided with the GI Bill, to help them get a leg up as they re-entered society. Integration of schools was an attempt to create more equity in education. Voting rights laws were passed. Women could gain more autonomy in their lives, and not just be living in the economic shadow of their husbands. From the 1930's through the 1980's labor unions were keys to better individual lives with better pay, working conditions and health care.

So, voting for better people made things better. It was a form of mutual aid on a grand scale, and it still is. Elections have consequences. The power of the vote in local elections puts better people (it is hoped) into positions of influence and power. Voting is about math more than ideals: ideals are what drive your participation in the system all the other days leading up to election day. Voting is that one act on that one day that can tip the scales, but it is the necessary background work by all kinds of people at all levels of political campaigns that improves the impact one has when one finally does vote.

The anti-DEI people, the MAGA people, are a manifestation of decades-long reactionary hate for the New Deal and all the progressive changes outlined above. Our U.S. governing system seemed solid but has now been overwhelmed as mega-corporations and the opportunistic ultra-wealthy have taken over our media, our courts, and our legislative branches. They are coming after elections, suppressing the vote and poisoning the flow of accurate information with overwhelming and unchallenged lies and misinformation.

They know elections can defeat them, which is why they are doing what they are doing. It is an active coup, and the way out is not clear, because they seem to be digging in, not willing to leave. The trail of destruction they are leaving can be symbolized in the recent photo comparison of the White House pre-Trump, and what it looks like now: destroyed East Wing, paved-over Rose Garden, and the grotesque preparation for an Ultimate Fighting showcase to celebrate the nation's 250th birthday on the White House lawn ... or what's left of it.

We can overcome our anger and/or depression by finding ways do meaningful work and activities. If not political organizing and protest, participating in mutual aid is another way. Ideally this should be more than hand-outs and helping victims, although that is necessary work. There need to be education, empowerment, and organizing, and preserving our right to vote, and have real representation by supporting and electing better people.

Plug in whatever way you can. 🐉



Joe Courter

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Gainesville Iguana

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Florida budget guts environmental funding

by Ryan Smart, Florida Springs Council

Even during the best of times, the Florida Legislature is impenetrable and opaque to the average Floridian. This is particularly true of the process to create and pass a state budget, the only thing the Legislature is required to do each year.

Disagreements between the Senate and House over the budget are handed off to a “conference committee” composed of a handful of Legislators from each chamber handpicked by leadership. Whatever the conferees come up in their private negotiations, that isn’t vetoed by the Governor, becomes the budget. Those decisions, and the policies tied to them, impact the lives of over 23 million Floridians.

These are certainly not the best of times. For the second year in a row, the Florida Senate and House were unable to pass a budget during the sixty-day Legislative Session. This year, they were forced to come back during “Special Session” to pass a budget. What’s so “special” about Special Session? First, it is held outside of regular Session dates with taxpayers footing the bill for the additional cost. Second, it is limited to specific issues, like passing a budget, reforming property taxes, or building a concentration camp in the Everglades. Third, it makes it nearly impossible for anyone but the most connected lobbyists and wealthy donors to have any say over how our tax dollars are spent.

The 2026-2027 Florida state budget, totaling over \$114 billion

of our money, was decided behind closed doors, without any public input, over Memorial Day Weekend. The only committee meeting on the final budget proposal was held at 10:45 pm on the Sunday night before Memorial Day. No one from the public was recognized to speak. And to no one’s surprise, the outcome of the budget was as flawed as the process to create it.

I work on environmental issues in the Florida Legislature, so that’s what I’ll be focusing on. But the same sad story—public needs being sacrificed for private wants—is true across education, healthcare, and many other issues that Floridians care about deeply.

Overall, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s budget is being slashed to \$2.45 billion, a nearly 40% cut to state environmental programs when compared to 2022. That’s \$1.7 billion in just the next year that will not be used to protect forests and wildlife corridors; restore springs, rivers, and estuaries; fund water quality and water supply projects; or ensure that our permitting and regulatory systems are properly staffed and functioning. All while development runs wild across the state, critical ecosystems and habitats are paved over, and our springs run dry, rivers fill with algae, and endangered species perish.

Looking at individual programs and line items, the most disappointing parts of the 2026-27 budget are the things that are conspicuously absent. Despite a state law requiring the Florida Forever program receive a minimum of \$100 million a year, for the first time in over a decade, Florida’s premier land

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conservation program received no new funding in the budget. (Florida Forever should receive more than a billion dollars a year, if the Legislature cared about voters and the constitution, but that's another story.) That means no funding to purchase new lands for state parks, state forests, or public hunting lands. No funding to buy irreplaceable lands at risk of being bulldozed and development. No funding to protect critical watersheds or habitat for endangered species.

To add insult to injury, the Florida Legislature is clawing-back every single remaining dollar from the Florida Wildlife Corridor funding approved unanimously only a few years ago. The vast majority of this funding, \$225 million, is being transferred to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to purchase agricultural easements that temporarily prevent development, but offer no public access, no public recreational opportunities, and dubious environmental benefits. The remaining funds are prioritized to bailout bad investments by wealthy coastal property owners in Okaloosa County, possibly including Robert Guidry, the same Louisiana real estate developer who received more than \$80 million of our tax dollars for a measly four acres of undevelopable sand after similar language appeared in the 2025-26 budget. Only after the bailouts of wealthy landowners across the state, does any funding trickle down for land conservation to benefit Floridians or our environment.

The picture for water restoration funding is nearly as bleak as it is for land conservation. Although the Everglades was allocated more than \$800 million next year, most of this funding will go to pipes, pumps, and construction projects with limited environmental benefits. Springs funding was maintained at a paltry \$50 million which is so insufficient that

it only guarantees future degradation. The Apalachicola River, Indian River Lagoon, Biscayne Bay, and Florida Keys received even less. Restoring the Ocklawaha River, the most important environmental project in Florida, received not a cent.

Most disappointingly, the Legislature raided the Florida Water Quality Improvement Grant Program, enacted only a few years ago to stop the ineffective and wasteful practice of picking water projects based on pork-barrel politics instead of science and the benefit to taxpayers. Despite a requirement in state law that these funds be distributed to the most effective and beneficial projects, the Florida Legislature is redirecting funds to projects based on partisan politics, rewarding political allies and big donors with hundreds of millions of dollars of your hard earned money.

The budget is the most clear statement of our elected officials priorities. For the current class of elected officials, that priority is rewarding campaign donors with your tax dollars at the expense of our environment and the public good. If that is not your priority, I encourage you to vote this November. 🌿

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Public sector workers: Take action to save your unions!

by Michelle Nolan, UFF-UF Co-President

Calling all unionized public employees!

As you may have heard, the Florida legislature recently passed another piece of union-busting legislation, this one called SB1296. This legislation poses an existential threat to the existence of all public employee unions and the workplace rights we have secured over decades of collective bargaining.

Ever since the 2023 union-busting law (SB256), public employee unions in Florida have been held to an unheard of standard: make sure over 60% of your coworkers are dues-paying union members, or lose your contract and your right to collectively bargain. If our unions have less than 60% dues-paying membership, the only way to avoid union decertification is to hold a recertification election, where workers sign a large number of "Showing of Interest Cards" to authorize an election. And then we have to cast ballots saying "Yes! Of course we still want to have our union! Why do you think we keep doing this over and over every year, no matter how arduous it is?"

Under this year's SB1296, this "Plan B" election method for maintaining our union certifications will be effectively rigged against all of us. Specifically, the law says that, in order for a union to win a recertification election, it must receive "Yes!"

votes, not just from the majority of people who voted, but from a majority of eligible voters. Effectively, every non-vote will be counted as a "No" vote. Make no mistake that this law is once again moving the goalposts in an attempt to kill public employee unions across Florida.

Keeping our unions and contracts under this new law will be a challenge. But we can and will do what it takes.

If you are a public employee in a unionized workplace, the time to take action is now! To ensure your union and your contract live beyond this year, the most important things you can do are join your union today as a dues-paying member (if you're not already a member) and talk to your coworkers about the importance of union membership (if you are already a member). If we can reach the all-important 60% membership threshold, we never have to worry about a recertification election again.

The next most important thing you can do to support your union is sign and return a Showing of Interest Card. Yes, the recertification process is intentionally rigged against public workers and our unions. Yes, it will be more difficult than before to win another recertification election. However, by turning in thousands of Showing of Interest Cards across the state and triggering recertification elections, we ensure that our unions have a viable Plan B while we continue building our membership.

Workers have the power to win. We will organize, we will sign the cards, we will cast the ballots, and then we will remind Tallahassee that you cannot build public institutions that serve the people of Florida without the workers who make them work!

Get in contact with your union leaders today and help us ensure that not a single union is lost to this anti-worker legislative crusade. ✊



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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

On mutual aid and goodbyes Gainesville's volunteer-run Free Grocery Store

by Alfredo Morales

Six years ago, I walked into the Civic Media Center carrying a box of dry goods, wearing a dark green cloth mask and a "Dream Defenders for Bernie" shirt.

After a few hours of unloading, sorting and then packing food into bags for delivery, I left the Civic Media Center with a car full of food and a list of addresses. Each address was a neighbor that had reached out, during a global pandemic, for help.

Free Grocery Store, as it currently exists, began in 2020 as a response to both the ongoing Black Lives Matter uprisings that challenged the racist, carceral systems around us and the government's inability to prevent the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving many of our neighbors without protection.

Free Grocery Store is many things, but primarily it is a community powered mutual aid project, a combined effort from the tapestry of caring, creative comrades

in this city that has freely fed hundreds of people in Gainesville weekly over the half-decade since we began keeping track.

Personally, Free Grocery Store is also how I met the constellation of people that enhance Gainesville, making it a special place full of heartfelt goodbyes before I move out west at the end of the summer.

Mutual aid, the thing that I have claimed to do within the Free Grocery Store over the last six years, can be hard to define.

Some people define mutual aid as an organizing philosophy rooted in the idea of "solidarity not charity." Some others might define mutual aid as a survival strategy, a way of minimizing the damage of capitalism on our communities.

Regardless of the exact definition, it was the study of - and fervor for - mutual aid around the Civic Media Center in 2020 that renewed the Free Grocery Store. What began as a weekly distro of fresh

veggies diverted from the landfill, due to coordination and collaboration between many organizers that have since also left Gainesville, very rapidly turned into a twice-a-week operation of countless volunteers donating, sorting, packing, delivering food and a handful of organizers trying to build something powerful from the anarchy.

Our current operation is fairly simple, although it still requires a lot of labor and coordination.

When you walk in, you grab a paper with a number on it, with some questions on household size and ages that are not required to be answered in order to receive food. While waiting in the courtyard you might find, depending on the day and volunteer capacity, a children's station with toys, musicians giving lessons, herbal medicine, or just me answering questions in broken Spanish.

When your number is called, you come into the space to be greeted by a volun-

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teer who offers grocery bags and assistance for recipients unable to shop for themselves. Otherwise, they are free to “shop” for themselves. Once finished picking out food, recipients head over to a check-out station where another volunteer weighs any food that has a limit, usually farm-fresh produce and proteins; bread is never weighed and neither are the random goodies that Bread of the Mighty Food Bank surprises us with. It’s a simple operation, which can obscure the Darwinian evolution of the Free Grocery Store as it navigated contradictions over the years. Because mutual aid is as alive as the people who do it.

Much like the people who do it, the Free Grocery Store has never been perfect. So much of what is described above came about because of conflict and contradiction, usually in the form of a question.

Who is doing the minutes, the social media captions? How are we introducing new volunteers? What are we going to do with all this bread? How is labor distributed?

The heart of any political project is in how it addresses these questions. We relied on our principle, radical to some, that food is a human right. When we expanded our walk-in services, concerns around COVID safety were addressed in solidarity with disabled volunteers, providing an understanding that making the space accessible to everyone meant creating a safe environment.

We moved to have people wait in the courtyard to allow people ample space to shop, and along with a mask requirement and several air purifiers, we created a clean air environment. Some decisions were significantly more difficult: volunteer capacity and burnout led us to shrinking our pantry dates in 2024 and focusing primarily on walk-up pantries last year.

We had periods of tactical retreat in our ultimate goal to redistribute the means of food production and consumption back into the community. Mutual aid, our survival tactic and framework for achieving this goal, fortunately provided a community ready to provide. We held chili cook-offs at How Bazar, we have a donation drop-off at Working Food, we receive food from Bread of the Mighty Food Bank, we constantly collaborate with Food Not Bombs, and we receive farm-fresh vegetables from Giving Garden, Siembra, Nicoya and others. Free Grocery Store, much like myself, became rooted in Gainesville through the relationship it had built with others.

Last year, I walked into the Civic Media Center to see people already waiting in the courtyard several hours before the pantry was scheduled to open. It was our first in-person pantry since SNAP benefits were frozen for millions across the country, affecting thousands of families in Alachua County.

I opened up the space with the help of some regular volunteers, mostly folks who’ve been to the pantry to receive food often enough that they knew exactly where everything was, and knew, better than I did, where to put everything. I handed a stack of numbers to a volunteer who sat outside long past her number getting called to make sure everyone who walked in also got theirs.

A lot has changed over the past six years, but we’re still in crisis. Reactionary forces have left people starving and surveilled, and more motivated to take action. Free Grocery Store gave me, and so many people, an opportunity to directly do something about it, to use my labor to actively change the conditions around us.

This is mutual aid in action, it’s a creative, collaborative process. It’s engaging your neighbor in solidarity and surviving together. Mutual aid is the soil under the cracked concrete where grass grows.

You can find the Free Grocery Store on Facebook/Instagram as @gnvfgs, and there’s more information on how to get plugged in on our website, gnvfgs.org.

The people carrying on with the mutual aid work are also requesting some specific items for the summer: baby safe foods, formula, healthy and organic non-produce things like granolas and packaged staples like rice, beans, quinoa, oats.

Alfredo is moving to Denver, Colorado at the end of the summer. He hopes to both expand the mutual aid work he does while in Denver and also that the mutual aid projects here in Gainesville continue to flourish from community support. ✨

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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Shut the door on privatizing Social Security

by Mary Savage

The Trump administration has underhandedly moved forward with something most Americans oppose: Privatizing Social Security. Yahoo Finance reports that Texas Republican Sen. Ted Cruz said at the Milken Institute Global Conference in Los Angeles last month the \$1,000 Trump accounts are meant to privatize Social Security!

In usual crude bluntness, Cruz called this a “dirty little secret” that the “Trump Accounts are Social Security personal accounts.” (MoneyWise article by Godwin Oluponmile, May 25)

This follows Treasury Secretary Scott Besent’s unrefined comment last July that Trump Accounts are a “backdoor for privatizing Social Security.” (Politico article by Michael Stratford, July 30) And don’t forget George W. Bush’s failed attempt to send America’s retirement money to Wall Street when he was president in 2005. A public uproar stopped Social Security privatization then and a public uproar is needed to stop it today.

Why? Privatization at any level would literally destroy Social Security, which today provides a modest income for millions of senior citizens, disabled people, surviving spouses and orphaned children. Polls continuously show the American people don’t want Social Security privatized. Americans don’t want part or



all of their FICA payments (Box 4 on your W-2 form) to go to Wall Street. The same siphoning of FICA contributions would also fund the so-called government IRAs Trump is touting.

The Social Security Trust Fund is predicted to send out shortfall payments of between 23-26 percent starting in six years. This means a retiree getting \$2,000 a month will only get \$1,500 a month, unless solid legislative action is passed by Congress. A number of bills have been introduced with real solutions and privatization isn’t one of them, nor is raising the retirement age or enacting means-testing on beneficiaries. The solution is to raise the wage cap on FICA payments so the wealthy pay their fair share into the trust fund.

Social Security is on the ballot in this election year. We have to shake off the current “Hooray for me and to hell with you” attitude of a consumer economy and culture and return to the ideal of “We’re all in this together.”

America’s working people must take on the role of “citizen trustee” to the program’s future. How? Show up at Town Halls and question each candidate about these issues. Don’t let them get away with vague answers. Make sure they say they reject privatizing Social Security. After all, your future and quality of life are on the ballot this election year, too. ✨

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Gnv's Planned Parenthood closing next month

by Radaysha Robinson, WCJB

Patients are reacting after learning the city's Planned Parenthood health center will close its doors next month. Planned Parenthood of Florida says the closure is part of an effort to align health centers with patient needs and changes in patient volume.

The organization says patients will still be able to receive services and access medical records through June 26.

Longtime patient Rebekah Grace Hart worries about what happens next for people who rely on the clinic for health care services.

"I've been getting birth control [for] very low prices. I've been getting an annual women's health STD testing," said Hart.

The nearest Planned Parenthood location after this closure will be in Jacksonville — about 80 miles away.

This is not the first Planned Parenthood location to close in Florida this year. A location in Lakeland shut down earlier this spring.

"I have a lot of friends [who use this facility] and now our option is Jacksonville, so that's really just disheartening because [a lot of people can't] go out of the city to just receive pre-regular healthcare," Hart said.

The closure comes a little more than two years after Florida lawmakers approved a ban on abortion after six weeks. ✪



A group of approximately 40 people gathered at a local resident's (Janice Garry's) home on May 22 to kickoff Jason Bellamy-Fults's Campaign for Florida Senate District #6 (SD6). Jason is running as a Democrat and if he wins the Primary election or continues to be unopposed will likely face the incumbent Florida Republican Senator, Jennifer Bradley, for Dist #6. Pictured rom left to right, are Jason Bellamy-Fults and Amy Trask. Photo by Chuck Ross.

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July 3:	No Concert (Fourth of July Holiday)
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July 17:	A.Sunroom, Lowly Worm & The Fantastic Beverages, Varsity Tuba Quartet
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SNCC Legacy Project condemns Louisiana v. Callais

from NationalCouncilofElders.org

In the 1960s we organized against the killings and brutality of white supremacists trying to stop Black people from voting.

We know what it means to face the darkness and despair of the America envisioned by this decision. The destruction of the Voting Rights Act isn't an aberration or a mistake. Carefully woven between Callais' false claims of "progress" lies the roadmap for the next phase of a long, disciplined project to contain and roll back Black political power in the United States.

We say this as people who fought with determination and commitment for a future in which our communities would enjoy shared and equitable power. While we have yet to achieve the future we envisioned in our youth, we remain undeterred.

First hollowed out in *Shelby County v. Holder*, then further weakened in *Brnovich v. Democratic National Committee*, the dismantling of the VRA is part of a larger grab for absolute power. Over 160 years since emancipation, we fight the precision of modern gerrymandering, where districts are drawn not to represent communities, but to neutralize them. It's in legislative maneuvers that override the will of the people — even after elections have been won. And it's in the quiet, shameless actions of local power structures — like the effort now underway in Louisiana to eliminate the important position of Criminal District Court Clerk in New Orleans, after the first Black person was overwhelmingly elected to that position.

White supremacy has never depended on a single tactic. Rather, it adapts, innovates, and learns. And too often, it counts on us to treat each new attack as if it were isolated.

We've seen this before. And because we've seen it, we're not confused about what this moment requires—Courage, radical imagination, and readiness to act ...

Here is our humble suggestion to the movement for a way forward:

1) We must build and defend multi-racial coalitions.

The forces behind decisions like Callais understand something fundamental: their power depends on division. So, our focus must be on building strong coalitions focused on common needs: housing, wages, healthcare, education, safety, and dignity. We need coalitions strong enough to withstand not only external attack but internal strain.

2) We must invest in local, durable power.

National attention rises and falls. Local power decides outcomes. Courts can redraw maps, but they can't easily dismantle relationships rooted in place. We must organize where we live. We must build infrastructure that doesn't disappear after elections. And we must treat local offices not as mere stepping stones, but as sites of real power, because ultimately, they are.

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3) We must understand the limits of the vote without abandoning it.

Voting remains essential. But voting alone has never been sufficient. We must protect the vote while also building power beyond it that can challenge unjust laws, resist administrative sabotage, hold officials accountable beyond election cycles, and mobilize people even when the system narrows their options.

4) We must prepare for coordinated opposition.

What we're facing isn't random. From courts to legislatures to local administrative bodies, there is alignment. We must respond with the same level of coordination because these aren't isolated fights, but connected ones.

See the full statement at tinyurl.com/iguana2501



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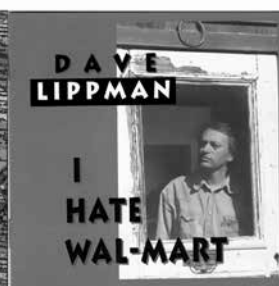
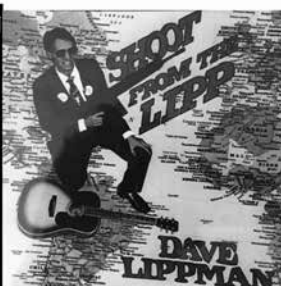
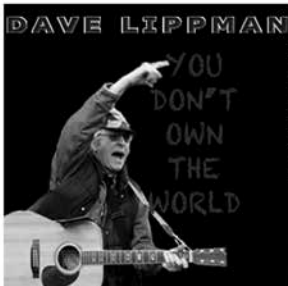
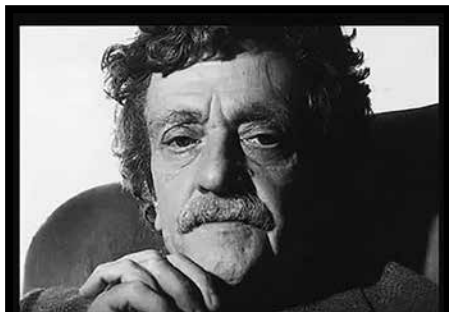
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From shelter to statute: HAVEN is now law

by Amy Trask

I was sipping my hazelnut coffee last week when I got a text that read “Go online RIGHT NOW. He signed it! Congratulations!”

I had tried to prepare myself for every possibility concerning this final step, yet I ran to my laptop in the other room. I opened a new tab, navigated over to the Governor’s Report, double checked on the Senate website, and sure enough — I read “Approved by Governor.”

My kids (who were very confused) followed me and read over my shoulder, then screamed out in excitement. My husband told me how proud he was of me. Tears filled my eyes. It was one of the most profound and surreal moments of my life.

When the Governor signed the HAVEN Act, I felt myself exhale a steady breath that I didn’t realize I’d been holding. It wasn’t just vindication or triumph, or even closure, albeit all of those feelings existed. It was deeper. The only way I could think to describe it is: It was the kind of breath you take when you realize

that a door that was once locked — or a door that never existed before — a door you once needed, is now open for someone else. That means everything to me.

When I wrote HAVEN, I thought of the women and the children that lived in the shelter with me. I thought of friends and neighbors, and folks I had met on the campaign trail that had experienced violence. I thought of how small I felt before I was safe, how broken and scared I felt even after I was safe, how difficult navigating trauma was in a world that asks “well why didn’t you just leave?” and how justice seemed to evade my — and so many others’ — abusers. I thought about how traumatizing it was to realize there was no system designed to catch me.

I pored over research. I consulted with people in law enforcement. I spoke with friends in tech. I spoke with DV shelters, advocates, and survivors. I knew that addressing that gap — the moment when someone needs help but cannot safely call for it — was paramount.

Florida’s 106,615 reported cases of domestic violence per year are estimated to be two to three times higher in reality (the national underreporting average is around 50 percent). In our state, over 70 percent of DV homicides happen when a survivor attempts to leave or seek help, and DV is a leading cause of death for pregnant women. Florida — and really, the country — has no one silent, secure way for survivors to reach emergency services without tipping off their abuser. 911 is dangerous in those moments. Writing out an explanatory text to 911 is dangerous. Ordering a pizza is dangerous. That gap cost lives. HAVEN closes it.

HAVEN begins building the necessary infrastructure for a secure, silent digital pathway to emergency services for people who cannot safely make a call and report violence. It’s



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simple. It's lifesaving. And it should have existed already. Through a generated phone number (not a uniform 3 digit code), a victim can use a unique PIN or code word to call for help. It functions like a panic button — no conversations, no pizza orders, just automatic dispatch to their location via geolocation.

We've been assured this is feasible, but a feasibility study is underway (due by the end of January) to ensure we have the best possible method to designate those generated numbers as emergency numbers with local carriers before we roll it out.

HAVEN also closes a dangerous loophole in access to resources. Currently, "dating" and "domestic" violence are defined separately under the law, yet our resources are designated for the latter. By ensuring statutory congruence, by ensuring they weigh the same, we ensure that survivors of dating violence can access the same resources after the fact, including the Attorney General's Address Confidentiality Program, which can be vital for rebuilding a life free from violence.

Claiming Our Power

With that said, HAVEN isn't just a technological fix — it's a reminder of what happens when everyday people refuse to accept a broken status quo.

The truth is, the government doesn't always see or make space for the people who need it most — not because those people are invisible or unworthy, but because our systems weren't built with them in mind. That's where lived experience comes in. As AOC said, "They'll tell you you're too loud, that you need to wait your turn. But the truth is, they're just not used to people like us showing up." HAVEN is what happens when we show up anyway.

I wasn't (and I'm not) a lobbyist. I wasn't backed by huge political machines. I'm not (yet, anyway) a legislator. I was a survivor with a Lenovo laptop and a stubborn belief that we could do better. I refused to sit by and do nothing when I knew people were hurting the way I had been. And the thing is: that was enough.

I hope, from this bill, you'll be inspired to hear: you do not need permission to change your state, and your power doesn't come from titles.

Florida's Capitol (and DC) can feel distant — geographically, politically, and emotionally — but the truth is simpler: the legislature belongs to the people. The government belongs to all of us — the single parent, the shift worker, the student, the retiree, the person rebuilding their lives after trauma. Our stories are not footnotes; they are blueprints.

And when we bring those blueprints into those halls of power, policy changes. Lives change. Futures change. We need to have the collective courage to say that your story is not a liability — it's a lens — because government works best when it treats people not as problems to manage, but as partners in building what comes next.

I think, especially right now, when so many Floridians feel the ground shifting under their feet, it's easy to feel powerless. We see and feel the impacts of our rights being chipped away — whether it's reproductive freedom, voting access, LGBTQ+ protections, home rule, or the basic expectation that our government should make life safer, not harder. It can feel like the walls are closing in, like the people in charge are more interested in controlling our lives than improving them.

Moments like this are designed to make people give up. To make

us believe we're too small to fight back. To convince us that the system is too rigged, too distant, too hostile to be changed.

And that's exactly why involvement matters. HAVEN is proof that's not true.

Because even in a political climate where rights are being restricted and voices are being dismissed, survivors — people who have every reason to feel powerless — showed up to committees to testify and met with lawmakers to share their story and support. They helped change the law. We walked into the room. We told the truth. And we shook the ground.

This is what it means when we talk about "democratic power being built from the bottom up." When people who have been pushed to the margins step forward, the center of gravity shifts. When we refuse to be silent, the system has to listen.

Florida is strongest when every one of us has a voice, a place at the table, and a Legislature willing to listen. I wrote HAVEN because I knew what it felt like to need a door that didn't exist, and folks from across the state who had felt that same pain stepped forward with me. HAVEN is proof that when we choose each other, we change what's possible.

So, come July 1, HAVEN becomes law. On November 3, we elect our new representatives, senators, and congresspeople.

And when we step into that moment—together—we won't be choosing fear or silence or the status quo.

We will choose us. We will choose progress. We will choose the era that comes next.

And when we do, the ground will shake again—not because we asked for permission, but because we remembered who this government belongs to.

...and they'll be forced to listen. ✨



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~ R.F. Kuang, The Poppy War



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Photo by Chuck Ross

The Gainesville All-Stars will compete against the Miami Gold Coast at the MLK Multi-Purpose Center (1028 NE 14th St., Gainesville) on Saturday, June 27, starting at 6:30pm, with doors opening at 6pm. For more information, see gainesvillrollerrebels.com.

Harper’s Index - June 2006

- Estimated amount that the United States spent on the first two weeks of its war with Iran: \$17,600,000,000
- Number of children whose annual childcare this amount could have paid for: 1,340,646
- Estimated number of public comments submitted to the Trump Administration on its White House ballroom proposal: 32,000
- Percentage of those comments that were positive: 1

Source: harpers.org/harpers-index/

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- Keep an eye on the news and support workers elsewhere (e.g., Amazon, Starbucks) who are taking the fight directly to the oligarchs.
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If the workers are organized, all they have to do is to put their hands in their pockets and they have got the capitalist class whipped.

-Big Bill Haywood

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

workerscreateallwealth.substack.com



And the good news is ...

Appeals court rules Trump's asylum ban at border is illegal

by Associated Press ~ AP News ~ May 24 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2594

A federal appeals court ruled that Trump's order suspending asylum access at the southern border violated federal immigration law and exceeded presidential authority. This decision is a major immigrant-rights victory as it reaffirms that people fleeing persecution still retain the legal right to seek asylum in the United States.

Court upholds protections for Florida's wetlands

by WLRN staff ~ Earth Justice ~ April 15 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2491

A federal appeals court ruled that Florida can't do an end-run around the Endangered Species Act for building in wetlands, upholding an earlier Earthjustice victory ruling that ensures protections for vulnerable species like the critically endangered Florida panther.

Expert warns Trump's 2nd term 'will get worse' as he hits rock bottom with key voters

by Robert Davis ~ Raw Story ~ May 21 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2495

Polling and political analysis show Trump weakening with key voter groups as economic pressures, the Iran war, and dissatisfaction with his second-term priorities continue to mount. This suggests the administration's unpopular agenda may be creating real electoral vulnerability ahead of the midterms.

Florida biologist fired over Charlie Kirk post wins \$485,000 settlement

by Hannah Schoenbaum ~ Associated Press ~ May 21 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2492

Florida officials agreed to pay \$485,000 to biologist Brittney Brown after she sued over being fired for criticizing conservative activist Charlie Kirk on social media following his assassination. The settlement is significant because it reinforces First Amendment protections for public employees and warns state agencies against punishing protected speech.

Jan. 6 police officers sue Trump over \$1.77B 'taxpayer-funded slush fund'

by Jacob Fischler ~ Florida Phoenix ~ May 21 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2493

Two police officers who defended the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 sued to block a proposed \$1.77 billion fund they say would reward Trump allies and people connected to the attack.

Labor unions celebrate world court's ruling that enshrines the right to strike

by Marjorie Cohn ~ Truthout ~ May 26 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2496

The right to strike is under attack throughout the world; labor strikes are currently forbidden or restricted in the majority of countries. Now, in a landmark advisory opinion, the International Court of Justice (the World Court) has determined that the right to strike is protected under the International Labour Organization.

Lawmakers reach deal to restore funding for HIV medication assistance program

by Carlton Gillespie ~ WLRN ~ May 26 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2497

Florida lawmakers have reached a budget deal to fund the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, reversing the cuts made by the Florida Department of Health earlier this year. The new deal, struck on May 25, restores eligibility to 400% of the federal poverty level (\$62,600 per year), reverses the drug restrictions and provides \$75 million to run the program.

Sagging poll ratings, soaring gas prices put GOP in a fix for keeping US House control

by Jonathan Shorman and Jacob Fischler ~ Florida Phoenix ~ May 22 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2498

Rising gas prices and weak approval ratings are putting Republicans on defense as they try to preserve their narrow U.S. House majority. This showing of dissatisfaction over the economy and unpopular Trump policies creates openings for Democratic gains.

Trump so far failing in quest for power over elections as midterms approach

by Jonathan Shorman ~ Florida Phoenix ~ May 11 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2499

As President Donald Trump tries to assert power over U.S. elections, he has raged on social media, cajoled Republican lawmakers and unleashed the Department of Justice on his political enemies. What has he accomplished with all that effort? Not a lot. He has been stymied by the courts, rebuffed by many state election officials and opposed by key Republican senators.

US Senate votes to advance resolution limiting Trump war in Iran as Cassidy flips

by Ashley Murray ~ Florida Phoenix ~ May 20 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2500

The Senate voted to advance a War Powers Resolution limiting Trump's authority to continue the war in Iran without congressional approval, with Republican Sen. Bill Cassidy joining Democrats. The vote is a significant anti-war development because it shows bipartisan discomfort with executive overreach and renewed congressional pressure for accountability.

GOOD NEWS FOR LEFTIES (and America!)



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Unions: The biggest defenders of public education

by Carmen Rose Ward, President
Alachua County Education Association

I will always be a unionist but on June 30 I'm passing the torch on being the teacher union president. I have served as a teacher union president for fourteen years: six years for LCEA (Levy County Education Association) and eight years for ACEA (Alachua County Education Association) from 2018 to 2026. On July 1, Dr. Crystal Tessmann Hall will succeed me as the ACEA President. Our great union will survive, and I hope thrive for the workers.

I started working in the public school system at Kimball Wiles Elementary School as an EDEP after-school activity leader in 1989. Most of my counseling and classroom teaching was at Williston Middle School in Levy County which was incredibly progressive in the late 1990s. It was an encouraging learning/teaching environment that valued unique teaching philosophies and fostered teacher creativity. Student-centered teaching made social skills important and human connections integral. It was an amazing era in education.

However, it wasn't perfect. In the 1990s, we were so underpaid! My union building rep suggested I be a part of a demonstration at a school board meeting for a 3 percent raise. I went — we didn't get it! But I did — I totally got it! I felt the solidarity and I realized that using this power was the only hope we had. I was inspired by the union leaders and staff that spoke truth to power. My union rep encouraged me to take her place, and I said yes to being a building rep.

The union is where we can save public education from privatization; we still are fighting against the privatization of our public good. My favorite union quote from Mother Jones: "Someday the workers will take possession of your city hall, and when we do, no child will be sacrificed on the altar of profit!"

Although she was referring to the exploitation of children in child labor, students are pawns in the for-profit education schemes. Florida's vouchers are gutting public school funding and destroying education experiences for thousands of students in a multitude of ways. It is our union that understands that teacher working conditions are student learning conditions and we all deserve better funding and more respect. It is the unions that have been the biggest defenders of public education. This is why I am deeply union.

The many diverse voices make a union strong, and we are bastions of democracy where the workers are empowered and supported. We are the organized voices of workers who are free, loud and championed. It has been such an honor to represent the public-school educators in our community. I have been in solidarity with wonderfully grateful union siblings. It has been so rewarding to be there and be united even in struggle.

We sure have had some struggles: increased violence and underfunding, pandemic fears, threats of ICE, attacks on LGBTQ students and teachers from the state, attacks on union certifications from the state. But we are still standing strong and united.

The workers that make the public school system function deserve so much recognition and respect. We must continue to stand up and speak up together. I recognize that workers together can change this world for the better and our impact is multiplied when the work that is being done is literally about improving our future generations. Unionism is the antidote to divisiveness.

I was elected on May 19 to be the President of the Retired ACEA unit and I am honored to continue to serve the community of educators. There is a lot that the retired educators can do to support education and the active union members. It will be my goal to encourage this support among the community of ACEA retirees. I am retiring, but I'm not retiring my unionism. 🌿

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Shame on Debbie Wasserman Schultz for running in majority Black congressional district

Below is an excerpt from a letter written by all but two members of the Florida Democratic National Committee:

As Florida DNC members, we condemn Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz’s decision to run in FL-20, a historically Black and majority Black congressional district.

At a time when the Supreme Court has gutted the Voting Rights Act, when Black representation across the South is under coordinated attack, and when Florida Republicans have aggressively dismantled Black political power through redistricting, this decision reinforces the same message Republicans have pushed for years: that Black representation does not matter.

It does matter. Representation matters. Lived experience matters.

Our party cannot credibly denounce the dismantling of Black political power by Republicans while treating one of Florida’s few remaining majority-Black districts as a political opportunity for an incumbent seeking a safer seat. We cannot claim to defend voting rights, racial justice, and representation while undermining Black political power when it becomes politically convenient.

Editor’s note: Regarding the Voting Rights Act passage and its relation to redistricting, and this plea to Debbie Wasserman-Schultz, consider this speech given on March 15, 1965, in the chamber of the House of Representatives, which over 70 million Americans watched on television. President Johnson made it

clear that he was addressing all Americans in the speech, not only southerners or African Americans:

“There is no Negro problem. There is no Southern problem. There is no Northern problem. There is only an American problem.”

The issue at hand was voting rights, yet Johnson made it clear it was the most intrinsic principle of the American promise that motivated his words and justified action:

“Our mission is at once the oldest and the most basic of this country: to right wrong, to do justice, to serve man.”

The problem of voting rights was not something the African American community should bear alone. Instead, all citizens needed to consider it as their cause (you listening, Debbie?):

“What happened in Selma is part of a far larger movement which reaches into every section and State of America. It is the effort of American Negroes to secure for themselves the full blessings of American life. Their cause must be our cause too. Because it is not just Negroes, but really it is all of us, who must overcome the crippling legacy of bigotry and injustice. And we shall overcome.”

This redistricting gambit is so wrong, and her running in this new, whitened district is underscoring that. No, the right to vote is unchanged, but ripping representation that had justly been given to balance out inherent racism is wrong. Or maybe we’re just witnessing the un-woking of America. 🐘

National 50501 is promoting a NATIONWIDE PROTEST
Saturday, June 27 6-8 pm
Depot Park Circle Gainesville
 Theme:
 Reclaiming Patriotism:
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Joyce Vance is a law professor and former U.S. attorney who writes about pressing issues, untangles questions about the legal system, and details what we can do to protect the right to vote.

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THE LEFT HOOK

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

thelefthook.substack.com

Robert Reich writes at robertreich.substack.com



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

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

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

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Editors' picks: News that didn't fit

Black women political candidates are expected to be 'likable,' qualified and tireless. Men aren't.

by Atima Omara ~ Ms. Magazine ~ May 28 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2494

In an excerpt from "Instigators: Black Women Candidates and the Political Ambition Gap," a political strategist examines the barriers Black women face when running for office. Drawing on campaign experiences and research, Black women candidates are often held to higher standards than men, expected to be exceptionally qualified, endlessly hardworking, and personally likable. Racism and sexism combine to create these challenges.

'By this logic, any protest could be a conspiracy': Conviction of Spokane ICE protesters raises free speech concerns

by Stephen Prager ~ Common Dreams ~ May 29 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2505

Civil rights advocates raise alarms after a federal jury convicted three anti-ICE protesters, known as the "Spokane 3," on felony conspiracy charges stemming from a 2025 protest in Spokane, Washington. The defendants, who sought to block the transfer of two Venezuelan immigrants detained by ICE, argued they were exercising their constitutional right to protest. Critics say the Justice Department's use of a rarely applied conspiracy statute could broaden the government's ability to criminalize dissent and collective protest activity. Supporters of the defendants contend the case threatens First Amendment protections and could have a chilling effect on future demonstrations.

CBS awards high school senior who rebuffs network in acceptance speech

by Josh Helfgott ~ Facebook ~ May 28 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2502

High school senior Santiago Campos was given a \$10,000 scholarship from CBS on live TV — and then used his acceptance speech to call out the network for white-washing genocide and selling out real journalism. Campos' winning work was a deeply reported story on immigration enforcement and the fear running through its own community.

Live inside the new Epstein files library in NYC

by Jordan Chariton ~ Status Coup News ~ YouTube (video 43:17) ~ May 14 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2490

A report on the Epstein Files Library in New York City where every publicly available Epstein file is in volumed books along with a large walled timeline. Chariton tours the library with David Garret, spokesperson for the Institute for Primary Facts, and also talks with Arick Fudali, partner and managing attorney for the Bloom Firm that is representing 11 of Epstein's victims. The total number of Jeffrey Epstein's victims is estimated to be over 1,200.

Pentagon puts building blocks in place for Cuba invasion

by Paul McLeary ~ Politico ~ May 27 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2506

The Trump administration is increasingly considering military options against Cuba as tensions between the two countries escalate. U.S. officials cite concerns about Cuba's alleged military activities and security threats, while publicly maintaining that diplomacy remains the preferred path. The report describes a growing U.S. military presence in the region and contingency planning for possible action if negotiations fail. Cuban leaders have condemned the threats as dangerous and provocative, warning that any attack would lead to significant casualties and regional instability. The situation raises concerns that this is the most serious U.S.-Cuba confrontation in decades.

This is the formula that defeated Orbán. It would defeat Trump, too.

by M. Gessen ~ New York Times ~ May 29 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2503

For years, observers believed Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán made it nearly impossible to remove him from power through democratic elections. By reshaping electoral rules, consolidating media influence, and weakening independent institutions, Orbán appeared politically invincible. Yet in April 2026, opposition leader Péter Magyar and his Tisza Party defeated Orbán in a landslide, ending his 16-year rule. Hungary's election offers an important lesson: even leaders who erode democratic norms can be de-

feated when opposition forces unite, voters remain engaged, and democratic institutions retain some capacity to function.

Trump ordered limits on voting by mail. The Postal Service is moving to make states comply.

by Jonathan Shorman ~ Florida Phoenix ~ May 29 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2507

The U.S. Postal Service has begun implementing a key part of Trump's executive order aimed at restricting mail voting, proposing a rule that would require states to provide lists of voters authorized to receive mail ballots. Supporters say the change would help enforce election laws and improve ballot security. Critics, including voting rights advocates, election officials, and Democratic lawmakers, argue that the proposal exceeds federal authority, could disenfranchise eligible voters, and shifts election oversight away from the states.

'We demand freedom': Immigrants on strike in New Jersey prison

by Luis Feliz Leon ~ Labor Notes ~ May 29 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2504

About 300 immigrant detainees at Delaney Hall, a privately operated ICE detention facility in Newark, New Jersey, launched a work stoppage and hunger strike on May 22. Participants are protesting poor living conditions, inadequate medical care, and labor performed for little or no pay. Detainees are demanding freedom and fair treatment within the immigration system. The strike has drawn support from labor, immigrant-rights, and community organizations, while reports of alleged retaliation by guards and escalating confrontations outside the facility have intensified public attention. 🐦



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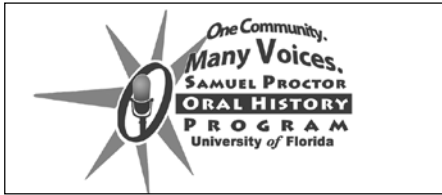
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Remember, remember always, that all of us, and you and I especially, are descended from immigrants and revolutionists.

~ Franklin D. Roosevelt

Oral History Program

History and the people who make it: George McGovern



This interview is from a continuing series of transcript excerpts from the collection of the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program at the University of Florida.

UF Dean and historian Michael Gannon [G] interviewed George McGovern [M] on April 17, 1983. McGovern is a former Democratic senator from South Dakota, and was his party's nominee for president in 1972. In the wave of conservatism in the 1980 elections, McGovern was defeated in his bid for a fourth term in the United States Senate. At the time of this interview, he was the chairman of Americans for Common Sense, a public interest group headquartered in Washington, D.C. He has served as a visiting professor at numerous universities and is the author of six books. Transcript edited by Beth Grobman; a full transcript of this interview is available at tinyurl.com/iguana2488.

G: It is a special delight to talk with a fellow historian, if I might identify you that way. I am very interested [in] your perceptions of the historical process and your understanding of the history of the American people. In view of your own considerable practical experience in politics, does it make a difference to have had the kind of experiences you have enjoyed with eighteen years in the Senate, four years in Congress [the House], and race for the highest office in the land [1972]?

M: I remember there was a format in the 1960 presidential campaign in which the reporters went on television with John Kennedy and Richard Nixon during their [four] debates. After the opening statements by the two candidates, the reporters would then ask each candidate to respond to the same question. The first question was, what one quality do you think commends you to the president of the United States more than anything else? Mr. Nixon answered first, and he said he thought

it was his experience. He gave what I thought was a rather convincing answer about his years as vice president, in the Senate, in the House, and world travel.

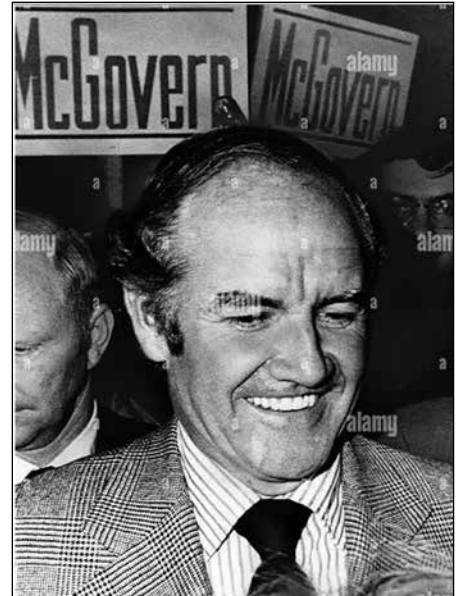
I was wondering what Kennedy would say when it became his turn, because he had much less experience than Nixon. He startled me by saying that he thought his most important asset as a politician was his sense of history. He said, by that I mean the capacity to understand the great underlying values and forces that have shaped American history and also to be able to discern in our own day the forces that are worth supporting and the ones that we ought to oppose. I thought it was a pretty nifty answer.

I have never forgotten about my historical background. I agree with [George] Santayana [Spanish-American philosopher, 1863-1952] that those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it. I think history has a lot to teach us, and we need people in the public life of this country who can bring some long-term historical perspective on the problems of our own time.

G: I should have mentioned that you also had wartime experience. During World War II, you flew a B-24 bomber out of Italy. [You flew] thirty-five or so missions, which won for you the Distinguished Flying Cross. After that, it was your original intention, I believe, to enter the ministry, which had been the profession and calling of your father. Did you go to Northwestern University originally with that in mind?

M: I did. I came out of World War II thinking that whatever time I had left in life I would devote to the cause of world peace. I still think that is the number one challenge before the human race — to find some way to achieve our salvation from nuclear annihilation. I worry about these conventional weapons, too. We are undergoing a revolution where we are becoming vastly more destructive than we were in any previous war.

The experience that I had thirty-five or forty years ago dealing with the destruction in World War II has convinced me that we have to do everything in our power to find some arrangement to break free from the war system.



It is war itself that is the evil. It is not nuclear power that is the evil; it is the war system that is the evil in the international community. Countries have achieved the capacity to utterly destroy each other and maybe to end all life on this planet. We have got to find some better way of settling our differences than killing each other, which could mean the end of the race.

G: I am interested to hear you say that it is not nuclear weapons, as such, that have altered the dimensions of warfare. I would venture to say that man has always been prepared to destroy his enemies by whatever means happen to be at hand. Indeed, many people tend to forget that in the closing years of World War II, the United States was routinely destroying many more lives than were lost in Hiroshima [August 6, 1945] with the A-bomb — with the incendiary fire-bombing of Tokyo [beginning March 1945] and other cities in Japan. In just one night's raid before August 1945 when the A-bomb was dropped, the United States destroyed more lives than were lost with the dropping of the A-bomb.

M: We have already dropped nuclear weapons on great cities. We did that in Japan in 1945 [Hiroshima and Nagasaki, August 1945]. That argument is about whether or not mankind might have the recklessness to use nuclear weapons. We have used them once. That is why I think

it is so important that we invest more time and energy than we have in the past trying to strengthen the international organizations like the United Nations, the peace-keeping capacity that we have to see that war is contained and prevented.

We have, incidentally, about forty wars going on right now around the world. Some of them [are] very bloody conflicts, so the danger and violence is never very far away.

G: You are very much concerned about what is happening in Central America and the United States's involvement in not only El Salvador, but now, most recently, the Honduran-originated excursion into Nicaragua.

M: Dean Gannon, I cannot prove this, but I am convinced in my own mind that the United States is arming, equipping, and training those Honduran forces who are coming across the line into Nicaragua. I think the administration has made a calculated decision to overthrow the Nicaraguan government. They are using elements that once comprised General Somoza's national guard — some of them very brutal, hard-boiled killers — to regroup on the Honduran side, come across the line into Nicaragua and to attempt a military overthrow of the Sandinista government.

I would not argue that the Sandinista government is perfect, but I would say that it replaced one of the most depressive governments in Central America when it overturned General Somoza [Sandinista Revolution in 1979].

I think it is not in the interest of the United States, either in terms of our fundamental national interest or the values that we cherish in this country, for us to get mixed up in a clandestine effort to overturn that existing government in Nicaragua.

G: I know that you are concerned about the military posture of the United States, vis-a-vis the Soviet Union. You have expressed yourself on numerous occasions as gravely worried about the direction the arms race is taking. Do you think that a critical mass has been built up in the arms race which would encourage the theory that the arms race is almost out of human control — that we have almost lost our grip upon weapons that are of such magnitude [that] they seem to have blunted our rational capacity to deal with it?

M: I do think that. When I listen to these scenarios of how a nuclear war could be fought and limited and won, I have the

feeling that I am listening to almost insane ravings, because there is no defense against a nuclear war.

[In the] last speech that the president [Reagan] made, he raised the possibility that maybe through laser beams we could shoot down incoming Soviet missiles and thus remove the danger of nuclear war.

I found that almost beyond comprehension. The reason being this: Let us suppose those laser beams are 99 percent effective — I do not think they could be 99 percent effective. Let us say we could devise a system where if the Russians let fly their 10,000 volley of warheads, that we could knock down 9,000 of them or 9,900 of them. Still, if 100 warheads hit the cities of this country from the Soviet Union, whole cities would just simply disappear. We would have tens of millions of people killed instantly. That is assuming that the system that you build for defense is 99 percent effective.

Nobody, in all the history of the world, has ever devised a defensive system of any kind that was 99 percent effective. I do not care what time in history you are talking about. We have anti-aircraft guns now to knock down planes, but they are not 100 percent effective.

To try to hit a missile traveling at several times the speed of light coming across the horizon seems, to me, preposterous. Back in World War II, if we sent 100 airplanes against the city and we lost ten of them to air defenses, we thought it was a catastrophe. What it meant is that in ten missions, all 100 bombers would be gone, and the amount of damage you could do with 100 bombers was not all that catastrophic.

Today, if you sent 100 warheads against Miami, and you shot down ninety of them and one of them hits Miami, the city of Miami disappears. That raid is an enormous success from a military standpoint, even though the defense was 99 percent perfect. That is the dimension of warfare that I think has changed.

There is no reliable defense if nuclear war comes. I think we are all going to go if nuclear war comes.

G: Is there anyone high in the Reagan Administration who has spoken favorably about a freeze or very strongly about arms control as the number one priority of the administration?

M: If there is, he must have been put under wraps. I have not heard any sentiment of that kind coming out of the administration.

G: The grassroots movement to develop a freeze initiative in our society is fairly unique in our recent experience, is it not? The town meetings are developing these very complex resolutions.

M: I think it is almost unprecedented. I suppose the closest thing we have had to it was the Anti-Vietnam War Movement back in the 1960s and early 1970s. [There was also the] Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and 1960s.

This movement is different from those [others] in the sense that it is so broadly based. It is, essentially, a middle-class, nonpartisan American movement. I can use that old phrase — it is as American as apple pie. It comes out of the churches, out of the discussion groups, out of women's organizations. A lot of lawyers, bankers, farmers, plumbers, and clergymen — and people of all kinds were involved in that movement.

I have spoken to some of the nuclear freeze groups, and it is like talking to any community group that might be there interested in a new gymnasium or interested in a safety campaign. They are just concerned citizens who want to be heard on what they regard as an issue of great importance.

G: Senator McGovern, I thank you very much for coming back to the University of Florida. After your surprise showing in the New Hampshire primary in 1972, you came to this campus to give an address which turned into a very excited rally on your behalf. That was eleven years ago, and we are glad to welcome you back to the campus.

M: Thank you. It is good to be with you. We had a lot of people out. We did not get very many votes, but we did meet a lot of very wonderful people.

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 MUTUAL AID, p. 1

ment in the face of ICE brutality, it could very well be the whistle, a simple but powerful tool signifying awareness, protection, and protest.

“According to Dean Spade, author of ‘Mutual Aid: Building Solidarity Through this Crisis (And the Next),’ mutual aid is “where we choose to help each other out, share things, and put time and resources into caring for the most vulnerable.”

“While the surge in ICE operations in Minnesota shines a spotlight on mutual aid there, community members are banding together to support each other all over the country ... in the year since Trump returned to the White House, as Americans struggle with high prices, cuts to government programs, and volatility in their communities.

“But the practice of mutual aid is not new. Indigenous communities around the world have practiced reciprocal community care for millennia as part of a core belief in the interconnectedness of people and the earth. Caring for each other and the land is critical to everyone’s well-being and was also practiced as a means for survival during colonization.

“In the United States, mutual aid among marginalized groups dates back to the 18th century. In the late 19th and early 20th century, fraternal societies practiced mutual aid, particularly in immigrant communities in major cities like Chicago and New York.

“More recent examples include the Black Panther Party free “Breakfast for Children” program, which began in Oakland, California, in 1969. It started in one local church but then grew into a nationwide initiative. It was dismantled under J. Edgar Hoover’s FBI through a campaign of disinformation, raids, and harassment.

“In the 1980s as HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, gripped the gay community, it launched its own health clinics, food pantries, therapy groups, and community support programs.

“During the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of mutual aid groups jumped from about 50 to 800, according to Mutual Aid Hub. Likely, that number greatly underestimates the actual figure as most mutual aid organizations are small and informal.

“In the current administration, mutual aid is at the core of resistance and survival amid the harsh government crackdown on immigrants and

working-class people. With the costs of healthcare and groceries skyrocketing, the federal government has made cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamps). This 60-year-old program provides support to feed tens of millions of Americans. Then the services were abruptly cut during the government shutdown last November.”

Again, these are the times we are in, the undoing of safety nets in a cruel indifference to the human costs on some perverse principle that these “entitlements” need to be cut like we can’t afford them economically (meanwhile the war machine and fat cat tax cuts are just fine). The system seems totally fucked!

I firsthand watched the evolution of the volunteer-run Civic Media Center in the last decade, but especially after the COVID move away from community education and organization building, to a focus on helping the disadvantaged in our society — people trapped in poverty and people who were incarcerated.

Food Not Bombs, Books to Prisoners and Free Grocery Store activity became more highly valued than hosting community events and discussions, documentary films, and providing space for group meetings.

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My vision of the CMC had been from its founding in 1993 had been that we would raise consciousness among people who would then move on to help change society and correct the ills that were so obvious.

You might say I was a dreamer, but I wasn't the only one. But now, that sort of idealism has faded as things seem to be demonstrably going downhill on so many fronts, and expectation that trying to get help from the powers that be has faded. It's gone from "keep hope alive" to "just hope to survive."

I asked Kaithleen Hernandez, a former CMC coordinator from 2016 to 2019, who went on to get a master's in public health, to write about her take on mutual aid. See her piece starting on p. 1. 🌱

From COMMUNITY, p. 1

rocate. All beings are deserving of care regardless of what they can give.

Yet, mutual aid has become a term that subsidizes when in reality this term is rooted in a rich history of cooperation and collaboration. Egalitarian societies did not just come to be, they worked towards collective progress and viewed themselves as equals. When somebody in community grieved loss, there was more willingness to support because of that history of collaboration amongst each other.

We must bring back the social element to mutual aid. We must create environments where people will want to participate in, to have a share in the process of a project or program. Our society has extracted so

much of what it means to be human, we have allowed linear transfers of exchange and forgotten that reciprocation is what used to bind us together.

Mutual aid is more than just donating cans of food; it's volunteering at the food bank and having relationships that encourage those who receive care to volunteer there. We must remind people that they are part of something, that we want them around no matter what their circumstances. We want to be there for them in times of need, and hope that they will be there for us in times of need.

So, if you leave with anything, please remember to be the neighbor who gives sugar and also the neighbor who asks for sugar. 🌱

Pride Community Center: Building community, brick by brick ... and June Pride guide

by Dex Lewis

The Pride Community Center is officially on-site at 1204 NW 10th Ave., and our focus has shifted to preparing for its public opening. Moving into the building was huge, but our work is far from finished. Our ongoing capital campaign has seen incredible initial success, raising \$120,000 so far, but we still have a long way to go. We are working to unlock matching funds and secure financial support to pay for crucial facility renovations.

Our daily tasks involve managing infrastructure setup, and finalizing facility plans alongside our two local nonprofit partners, Camp Silver, and Unspoken Treasure Society

Our primary structural priority is installing a proper wheelchair ramp. Ensuring full physical accessibility is non-negotiable for our organization, but the logistics and engineering requirements mean this project will be a substantial expense.

This ramp is a major component of the building renovations we still need to fund. If you have expertise in accessible

design, local contracting, or structural engineering, or can help us close the gap to unlock our matching campaign funds, we welcome your support.

North Central Florida June Pride events

While renovation work continues, organizing and community events are in full swing for June. Because new events are added daily, follow us on Facebook and Instagram for the latest updates.

- Ocala Pride Gathering, Saturday, June 6, 1-4pm (for precise details and more information, visit www.ocalap-flag.org.)
- Queer Makers Market, Sunday, June 7, 11am-3pm, Location TBD
- Theatre Connect Student Showcase (Family Pride Days), Tuesday, June 9, 6-8pm, Heartwood Soundstage
- Pride Party, Market, and Drag Show, Saturday, June 13, Time TBD, First Magnitude Brewing Company
- Gainesville Pride Month "KICK"OFF & Field Day, Sunday, June 14, 4-8pm, Heartwood Soundstage

- Nourishing Connections: Intergenerational Pride Social, Saturday, June 20, 5pm, Goldenrod Parlor
- Theatre Connect Cosplay Karaoke, Tuesday, June 30, 6-9pm, Heartwood Soundstage
- Self Narrative's Storytelling Meetup: Stories of Pride, Tuesday, June 30, 7:30pm, The Bull

Next Steps

Securing a permanent building is a historic step for Gainesville's progressive and LGBTQ+ communities, providing a dedicated space for equity, safety, and mutual aid. We are deeply grateful to everyone who has donated, volunteered, or supported this transition so far.

To help us finish the renovations and unlock matching funds, please consider making a contribution to the building fund. We will keep the community updated on our progress and our opening timeline. We hope to see you out supporting these local events in June. Pride Center Building Fund: tinyurl.com/iguana2508. 🌱

Trust Wombat

Our little PSA for Wombat (WMBT 90.1) here is too understated ... it is available worldwide on the web and doing amazing, creative stuff. Example: Memorial Day twice I heard a somber, solo trumpet playing taps, followed by an anti-war song. Blew my mind! The two I heard as follow-up to taps were Jesse Welles "War Is Murder" and Crosby, Stills, and Nash "Wooden Ships"; Kudos to Wayne and the crew. Put it on wherever you are. ~ Joe Courter

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Gainesville area events

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

Check *Gvl Blue Activism Hub* (<https://linktr.ee/gnvbluehub>), *MusicGNV weekly Facebook news of local music* (updated Thursdays), and *Alachua Community Collective* (<https://www.alachuacommunitycollective.com/events>) for the latest.

WEEK OF MAY 31 - JUNE 6

Thu 6/4 Book Swap, 5–7pm, Swamp Head Brewery (3650 SW 42nd Ave), trade gently used adult books in rotating groups, free (w/ book(s)); tinyurl.com/iguana9807

Fri 6/5 “Made in America, 7–8pm (& 6/6), Gvl Circus Ctr (1925 NW 2nd St), student showcase of music from Big Band to Hip Hop, \$20 for 6 & over; tinyurl.com/iguana9808

Fri 6/5 Free Fridays Concerts, 8pm through 9/25, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E University Ave), 3 acts, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9780

Sat 6/6 Juneteenth Film Festival, 5:15–7:15pm, Hipp Cinema (25 SE 2nd Pl), 3 films + live music, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9809

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

Fri 6/8 Black Uhuru, 8–11pm, Heartwood Soundstage (619 S Main St), Macca Reggae samba opens for legendary band, \$32–38 (ticket sales start 6/6) (12 & under free); tinyurl.com/iguana9810

Sat 6/9 Hawthorne City Election, 7am–7pm, Hawthorne Community Ctr (6875 SE 221st St, Hawthorne), free; <https://www.cityofhawthorne.net/city-election>

Sun 6/9 Pride Student Showcase Theatre, 6–8pm, Heartwood Soundstage (619 S Main St), original works by local LGBTQIA+ students, free

WEEK OF JUNE 7 - 13

Mon 6/8 “Teaching Solidarity”, 6–7pm, The Lynx (601 S Main St), UF Prof. Dr. Malini Schueller on critical race reading, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9811

Tue 6/9 Night Gardens, 2:30–4pm, Alachua County Extension Auditorium (22712 Newberry Rd, Newberry), info on night-blooming flowers, pollinators, more, free (w/ registration; limited to 100); tinyurl.com/iguana9812

Thu 6/11 “Angie for US Senate”, 5–8pm, Greater Bethel A.M.E. Church (701 SE 43rd St), Dem. Jax state Rep. Angie Nixon meet-&-greet, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9820

Thu 6/11 Happy Hour Fundraiser, 6–8pm, The Lynx (601 S Main St), help Southern Legal Counsel protect trans rights in FL, free w/ RSVP (donations encouraged); tinyurl.com/iguana9813

Fri 6/12 The Shambles, 6–9pm, Heartwood Soundstage (619 S Main St), classic rock favorites outdoors, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9814

Sat 6/13 Pride Party, 3–10pm, 1st Mag (1220 SE Veitch St), Queer Makers Market 3–7, then

First Drag-nitode to 9, then Big Gay Dance Party, \$10+donation gets \$1off/beer wristband

WEEK OF JUNE 14 - 20

Sun 6/14 No Kings, nationwide street demos and a livestreamed concert

Sun 6/14 Pride Ride, 9–11am, Depot Park (874 SE 4th St), bike ride for LGBTQIA+ community, free (helmets req'd)

Sun 6/14 “Florida’s Story - As Told by Water”, 1–2pm, Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Park (1500 NW 45th Ave), Lars Andersen on key element of all Fla stories, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9819

Sun 6/14 Price Month Kickoff, 4–8pm, Heartwood Soundstage (619 S Main St), adult kickball scrimmage, theatre, dance, more, \$5 suggested donation

Wed 6/17 Youth Night - Open Mic Poetry, 7–9pm, Depot Park (800 SE 4th St), theme of resisting gun violence, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9818

Thu 6/18 “Juneteenth: Honoring the Journey, Advancing the Dream”, 12–7pm, Santa Fe College Blount Hall (530 W Univ Ave), arts, food trucks, live entertainment, history, more, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9817

Thu 6/18 “Remaking Democracy” author, 3:30-4:30pm, 8000 NW 27th Bl. Eastside HS alumna Danielle Chynoweth, w/ trauma expert Meadow Jones, PhD, and performance artist Sheila Bishop, free; pg 2 & tinyurl.com/iguana9823

Thu 6/18 Jonathan Scales Fourchestra, 7pm, Heartwood Soundstage (619 S Main St), steel pans/bass/drums cross-genre band, \$20–32; tinyurl.com/9816

Fri 6/19 Juneteenth Breakfast & Black Music Month celebration, 7:30–9am, Cotton Club Museum (837 SE 7th Ave), part of City of Gainesville’s celebration, \$40; tinyurl.com/iguana9815

Fri 6/19 “Journey to Juneteenth” celebration, 10am, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave), free; tinyurl.com/iguana9821

Fri 6/19 “Company” opens, 8–10pm through 7/12, Acrosstown Repertory Theatre (3501 SW 2nd Ave), Stephen Sondheim Broadway musical, \$20–27; <https://www.acrosstown.org>

Fri 6/19 Pop Canon Reunion, 8pm, Loosey’s Downtown (120 SW 1st Ave), plus Pechoa & Squeaky, \$10; looseys.com/events

Sat 6/20 “Remaking Democracy” author, noon-2pm, Millhopper Library (3145 NW 43rd St), Eastside HS alumna Danielle Chynoweth, w/ trauma expert Meadow Jones, PhD, and performance artist Sheila Bishop, free; pg 2 & tinyurl.com/iguana9823

Sat 6/20 Gvl Free Store, 2–5pm 3rd Sats, Civic Media Ctr (433 S Main St), free stuff for all (masks required & provided); civicmediacenter.org

Sat 6/20 “Storytelling Practices”, 3–4:45pm, Millhopper Library (3145 NW 43rd St), Dr. Jashodhara Sen (UF School of Theatre & Dance) leads storytelling workshop, free w/ adv. registration (limited to 25); <https://arts.ufl.edu/event/public-storytelling-practices-workshop/>

Sat 6/20 Freedom Fest 2026, 3–9pm, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave), music & arts festival w/ kids’ & seniors’ activities, food trucks, more celebrating Juneteenth, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9822

WEEK OF JUNE 21 - 27

Sun 6/21 Sunday Assembly, 10am, Curia on the Drag (2029 NW 6th St), coffee talk, free; sagainesville.weebly.com

Sun 6/21 Protest Song Writing Contest deadline, midnight - see 7/5

Mon 6/22 “Remaking Democracy” author, 6pm, The Lynx (601 S Main St), Eastside HS alumna Danielle Chynoweth, w/ trauma expert Meadow Jones, PhD, and performance artist Sheila Bishop, free; pg 2 & tinyurl.com/iguana9823

Tue 6/23 Hawthorne City Runoff (if needed), 7am–7pm, see 6/9

Tue 6/23 Legislative Review, 6–8pm, Lifesouth Blood Ctr (1221 NW 13th St), Democrats review what did & didn’t happen in Tallahassee, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9831

Fri 6/26 Artwalk, 7–10pm, downtown Gvl, free; pg 14 & artwalkgainesville.com

Sat 6/27 Town Hall, 2–4pm, MLK Ctr (25515 NW 6th Ave, Newberry), Dem candidates for state legislature, others, free; pg 12

Sat 6/27 Gvl Roller Rebels, 6pm, MLK Ctr (1028 NE 14th St), Gvl All-Stars vs Gold Coast, \$15 adv, \$18 door; pg 16 & <https://gainesvillerollerrebels.com/bouts/>

Sat 6/27 All of U.S. protest, 6–8pm, Depot Park Circle (S Main St & Depot Rd), “Reclaiming Patriotism: A Love For Country Is A Love For All Its People”, free; pg 19 & allofus250.org

WEEK OF JUNE 28 - JULY 4

Sun 6/28 Primary Candidate Forum, 1:30pm, UF Bob Graham Ctr (220 Pugh Hall),

candidates for Gvl Mayor, City & County Commission, School Board, more, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9824

Tue 6/30 Pride Storytelling, 7:30–8:30pm, The Bull (18 SW 1st Ave), true stories, includes open mic, free (donations welcome)

Tue 6/30 Pride Cosplay Karaoke, 6–9pm, Heartwood Soundstage (619 S Main St), family-friendly Pride Month wrap-up, free

Thu 7/2 “Florida in 1776”, 11am (& 4pm), High Springs Library (23779 Hwy 27, High Springs), local life 250 years ago, free; <https://www.highspringsmuseum.com/>

Thu 7/2 Spaghetti Fundraiser, 6:30–9:30pm, United Church of Gvl (1624 NW 5th Ave), Pride Ctr event benefitting Immigrant Safety Fund, suggested minimum \$25;

Fri 7/3 “Fanfares & Fireworks”, 6–10pm, UF Flavet Field (Woodlawn Dr), live music, food trucks, fireworks (9:30pm), free; <https://www.wuft.org/fanfares-fireworks-2026>

WEEK OF JULY 5 - 11

Sun 7/5 Protest Song Writing Contest showcase, 6–9pm, Heartwood Soundstage (619 S Main St), songs must be submitted by midnight 6/21, sliding scale/pay-what-you-can; tinyurl.com/iguana9825

Sat 7/11 RAM Free Medical Clinic, 6am (also 7/12) (EHS parking lot open from Friday midnight), Eastside High School (1201 SE 43rd St), Remote Area Medical clinic includes dental & vision services, free (for limited number of patients: arrive early!); tinyurl.com/iguana9826

WEEK OF JULY 12 - 18

Fri 7/17 Maylene & the Sons of Disaster, 6–10pm, The Woolly (20 N Main St), 5 metalcore bands, for ages 18+, \$32; tinyurl.com/iguana9827

Sat 7/18 Gvl Free Store, 2–5pm 3rd Sats, Civic Media Ctr (433 S Main St), free stuff for all (masks required & provided); civicmediacenter.org

WEEK OF JULY 19 - 25

Sun 7/19 Sunday Assembly, 10am, Pride Ctr (1204 NW 10th Ave - tentative), free; sagainesville.weebly.com

Mon 7/20 Voter Registration Deadline, Josiah Walls Bldg (515 N Main St, 3rd floor), register/change parties for Aug 18 primary, free; <https://www.votealachua.gov/205/Register-to-Vote-or-Update-Registration>

Sat 7/25 “Banjo Buffalo’s Wild West Revival”, 7–9pm, Alachua Cty Ag & Eq Ctr (23100 W Newberry Rd), cowboys & Native Americans, storytellers & artists, more, \$18 pre-7/9, \$25 after; tinyurl.com/iguana9828

WEEK OF JULY 26 - AUG 1

Fri 7/31 Artwalk, 7–10pm, downtown Gvl, free; pg 14 & artwalkgainesville.com

Fri 7/31 Grant Peeples, 7–10pm, Heartwood Soundstage (619 S Main St), folk music & more from a master, \$25–38; tinyurl.com/iguana9829

RECURRING EVENTS

Monday Farmers Market, 4–7pm: 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 Woolly, One Love Café, Cypress & Grove, etc.

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

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

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

Art House films: thehipp.org/cinema-3

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

Gainesville official and public meetings: tinyurl.com/iguana9830

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

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

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

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

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

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

Clubes de Escucha, 6–8pm, Curia on the Drag

(2029 NW 6th St), primer y tercer Viernes de cada mes; clubesdeescucha.com

PFLAG meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm, 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

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

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

Jazz on the Green, 7–9pm on 2nd Saturdays, Celebration Pointe (4225 Celebration Pointe Ave), free Basement Sessions, 7pm, The Hipp Basement (25 SE 2nd Pl), mostly jazz, \$10 sliding scale; thehipp.org/events

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

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

Post-Incarceration Peer Support Group, 4–5:30pm (2nd Fridays), Downtown Library (401 E Univ Ave), for anyone 19+ released in last five years, free; <https://attend.aclib.us/event/14900808>

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

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 🍷

Iguana directory

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

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

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

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

Alachua County Democratic Party (Alachua County Democratic Executive Committee - ACDED) is the official organization representing over 70,000 Democrats in Alachua County, whose mission is to elect

Democrats. Get involved if you want to join like-minded people ready to fight to restore democracy & electing Democrats. Alachuademparty.com | 901 NW 8th Ave, Suite A-3, Gvn | 352-373-1730 | comms@alachuademparty.com.

Alachua County Labor Coalition organizes to support local labor & advance the Medicare for All & A Living Wage Campaigns. Meets monthly on the 4th Tuesday at 6pm at Emmanuel Mennonite Church, 1236 NW 18th Ave, Gvn | info@laborcoalition.com | 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 in Alachua, Bradford & Union County with & without health insurance. The Clinic fulfills its mission with the help of volunteers. 352-485-2772 | acomclinic.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Citizens Climate Lobby builds awareness & lobbies for sensible climate policies. 352-214-1778 | btancig@gmail.com | citizensclimatelobby.org/chapters/FL_Gainesville | [facebook.com/CitizensClimateLobbyGainesvilleFL](https://www.facebook.com/CitizensClimateLobbyGainesvilleFL)

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

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

Spotlight on: The Resist Network



Introducing The RESIST Network

by Diane Dimperio

America is currently experiencing what scholars describe as competitive authoritarianism, which means we are at risk of losing our democratic republic. Research shows that 92 percent of countries in this situation that relied on elections only to preserve democracy ended up with an authoritarian government.

But over half of the countries that added Civil Resistance retained a democratic government. Civil Resistance transcends politics and is a non-partisan movement to protect the government envisioned in our Constitution.

Widespread sustained protests that include a broad cross section of Americans are necessary but not sufficient as an effective Civil Resistance. Additional tactics are needed. These include pressure such as boycotts and outreach activities designed to recruit those who are neutral to join the Resistance. The RESIST Network will contribute to the resistance movement in Alachua County by encouraging pro-democracy activities such as boycotts and buycotts, supporting those targeted by the regime, and working against voter suppression and anti-science policies.

We will send one or two messages (emails) monthly that suggest pro-democracy activities. We encourage you to forward them to your own contacts, other groups, and to use the information in your newsletters and/or posts on social media.

We welcome all Alachua County residents to join us. Find more information at theresistnetwork@gmail.com. 🐸

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Democratic Socialists of America believe the economy & society should be run democratically to meet human needs, not to make profits for the wealthy. Check out the local chapter at alachuadsa.org or contact alachuadsa@gmail.com.

Democratic Women's Club of Santa Fe Springs meets @ 3-5pm on the 4th Sunday monthly, except Dec & July, in High Springs. Contact: dwcsofs@gmail.com | facebook.com/dwcsofs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Free Grocery Store is an all-volunteer mutual aid food pantry & garden in Gainesville supporting the right to healthy & nutritious food by distributing free food through delivery & in-person services, & by growing some of the food. The in-person pantry is on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the CMC (433 S. Main St., Gnv.) with sign-ups beginning at 2pm & the pantry opening around 3pm til 5:30pm while supplies last. More info + info on home delivery at gnvfgs.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 & minorities & equal rights for all citizens. fosba@fosba.com | fosba.com

Friends of the Library is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in Gainesville. We support the Alachua County Library District & literacy programs throughout Alachua County. Accepting donations of books, art, records, puzzles, games, etc. We have a huge sale every April & October. 430 N. Main St. | 352-375-1676

| www.folacl.org | Facebook | Instagram @FOLACLD

Gainesville Area AIDS Project, a program of Pride Community Center of North Central Florida, provides toiletries, household cleaners, hot meals, frozen food at no cost to people living with HIV/AIDS. 352-377-8915 | info@GAAPonline.org | [Facebook.com/GAAPonline](https://facebook.com/GAAPonline) | gainesvillepride.org

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

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

Gainesville Citizens for Alternatives to Death Penalty works to abolish the death penalty. Join vigils when Florida has an execution. 352-278-4342 | mark1343@junocom | www.fadp.org

Gainesville for All - GNV4ALL is the Gainesville Sun's initiative to identify & address problems related to inequities & racial injustice in our community. See Facebook for online activities. GNV4ALL@gmail.com | facebook.com/GNV4ALL

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

Gainesville Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice organizes faith communities to work together for immigrant justice. Meetings are the second Monday of the month on Zoom. Richard @ 371-6772 | Gainesvilleiaij@gmail.com | gainesvilleiaij.blogspot.com

Gainesville National Organization for Women focuses on reproductive rights, ending sex discrimination, constitutional equality, promoting diversity, ending racism, economic justice, stopping violence against women, lesbian rights including marriage equality. Contact Lisa @ 352-450-1912 for meeting info | info@gainesvilleNOW.org | facebook.com/gainesvilleNOW

DIRECTORY continued on next page

DIRECTORY from preceding page

Gainesville Quakers have a 350-year tradition of working peacefully for social justice. Silent, unprogrammed worship Sundays at 11, followed by potluck. Visitors welcome. 702 NW 38th St., Gainesville | 352-372-1070 | GainesvilleQuakers.org | facebook.com/GainesvilleQuakers

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

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

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

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

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

Generation Vote is a youth-led, intersectional movement that fights for our right to vote & 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 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 & academic freedom. 352-575-0366 | organizing@ufgau.org | UFGau.org

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

Ichetucknee Alliance focuses on ensuring the restoration, preservation & protection of ecosystems along the 5.5-mile length of the Ichetucknee River, including associated

springs. Meetings are on the 4th Tuesday every other month via Zoom. 386-454-0415 | ichetuckneealliance@gmail.com | ichetuckneealliance.org

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

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

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

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

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

McRorie Community Garden is a community garden where local residents can grow vegetables & 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. mcroriegarden@gmail.com

MindFreedom North Florida is a human rights group for psychiatric survivors & mental health consumers, working to educate the public about harmful psychiatric practices & about humane alternatives to those harmful practices. 352-328-2511 | facebook: MindFreedom Florida

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

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

National Committee to Preserve Social Security & Medicare works to preserve these threatened programs for senior citizens

& families. Local volunteers needed. Marion. Co.FL.1590@gmail.com | ncpssm.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

PFLAG Gainesville is a local chapter of Parents & Families of Lesbians & Gays, the nation's foremost family-based organization committed to the civil rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual & transgender people. info@pflaggainesville.org | pflaggainesville.org

Planned Parenthood Clinic at Gainesville Health Center is a full-service health center for reproductive & sexual health care needs. Offering pregnancy testing & options counseling. 914 NW 13th St., Gnv. | 352-377-0881 | plannedparenthood.org (enter Gainesville FL in "find a health center" box)

Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery promotes natural burial practices that conserve land & reunite people with the environment. 352-317-7307 | info@prairiecreekconservationcemetery.org | prairiecreekconservationcemetery.org

Pride Community Center of North Central Florida has resources for the LGBTQ+ community. 3850 NW 83rd St, 2nd floor, Gnv. Pccncf@gainesville.pride.org | GainesvillePride.org. Library & community room open Mon-Thu 9am-7pm, Fri 9am-5pm (unstaffed).

Repurpose Project, a nonprofit junk shop/community center, diverting useful resources from landfills & redirecting items to the public for art and education, rethinking what we throw away. Help protect the planet & buy used. Check website for hours. 1920 NE 23rd Ave, Gnv |

352-363-8902 | info@RepurposeProject.org | repurposeproject.org

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

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

Rural Women's Health Project is a local health education organization that develops materials promoting health justice for migrant & rural women. Veronica or Adriana @ 352-372-1095 | info@rwhp.org | www.rwhp.org

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

Sandhill Chapter, Florida Trail Association is the local organization to develop, maintain, protect, & promote the Florida National Scenic Trail, a 1,500 mile federally designated trail beginning at big Cypress National Preserve & 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 & Palestine, Iraq, Haiti. 352-376-8600 | Steve@gnvsistercities.org | gnvsistercities.org

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

Student/Farmworker Alliance is a network of youth organizing with farmworkers to eliminate sweatshop conditions & 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 & 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 & community organizing. Instagram: @sunrisemvmtgnv.

The Majorie: Florida's independent reporting outlet dedicated to the critical intersection of social justice & the environment. themajorie.org

The Party for Socialism & Liberation - Gainesville pre-branch exists to carry out the struggle for Socialism inside the U.S. | Linktree/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 unrepresented employees at UF. Part of a national union, the Communications Workers of America is home to a network of higher education workers, United Campus Workers, across the Southeast & Southwest fighting for social & economic justice in our institutions & communities. UCWFL.org | uniteduf@ucw-cwa.org.

UF Black Student Union strives to create, cultivate, & 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 (students, non-students, faculty, staff) that educates & provides a safe space for those of marginalized sexualities & gender identities. UFPridesu@gmail.com | facebook.com/ufpsu | plaza.ufl.edu/jsoto19/PSU

UF Students for Justice in Palestine: In recognition of the failure of society to produce a just & reasonable solution to the Palestine-Israeli conflict, SJP promotes public awareness & activism. We promote international law, human rights, justice for all affected. We welcome a diverse membership from all faiths & 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 & students while building the capacity to fight radical & structural changes. Weekly meetings. ufysda21@gmail.com | facebook.com/ufysda | @uf_ydsa

United Faculty of Florida, UF chapter is run by & for faculty, & represents over 1600 faculty & 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 & the UN's efforts to deal with them. facebook.com/UNAUSAGainesvilleFICChapter | UNA-USA Gainesvillefl.org

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

University of Florida Health Street is a community engagement program that employs community outreach practices to reduce disparities in healthcare & research. Free services include medical & social service referrals, health screenings, Narcan Nasal Spray Kits, clothing/toiletry items, health education, events, support groups. 352-294-4880 | healthstreet.program.ufl.edu/

UF Un-PAC is a non-partisan organization working to reform our democracy & 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. un-pac.org | @un_pac_uflorida | un.pac.uf@gmail.com

Unspoken Treasure Society empowers, uplifts, & advocates for the well-being, equity, and rights of the LGBTQIA+ community. Meetings are held the third Thursdays of the month 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 | voicesforcommonground@proton.me.

WGOT-LP 100.1 FM, a community low-power radio station, operates as part of the Civic Media Center, with progressive talk like Democracy Now!, Thom Hartmann, Ralph Nader, and eclectic music 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. All genders welcome. uf.wise@gmail.com | Facebook.com/UFWiSE | wise.group.ufl.edu/about-wise

Women's International League for Peace & Freedom has promoted 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 all wanting to know about Marxian socialism & 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.





Elections preview, August 18

by Joe Courter

Note, to vote in the Democratic primaries on Aug. 18, (county commission, governor, senators, and representatives) you must be registered as a Democrat. If you are not, you must make that change by July 20, through the supervisor of elections office. Otherwise, you only get to vote in the non-partisan primary races (city, school board, etc.)

We will have one more Iguana after this one before the primary election voting in August. The actual election day is Aug. 18, with early voting and mail-in voting in the weeks before. This is important if you are going to be out of town in that period, as classes will not be resuming for another week, and you will need to arrange for voting by mail with the VERY helpful folks at the Supervisor of Elections office: 352-374-5252.

As the deadline to file to run for office does not end until early June after we print, there may be changes, some may not need a primary and move right to the November ballot.

We'll know more in August when we print again. But this is where we are now, and our feelings. 🐢

Three City Commission races:

District 2 (NW): Nathan Crabbe would be a great addition to the Commission.

District 3 (SW): Casey Willits has been solid.

District 4 (N-NW): Bryan Eastman likewise very good.

Gainesville Mayor: Harvey Ward has been very good in a tough, can't-please-everybody job.

Group 5 County Judge: Eric Atria would be great to have on the bench.

School Board (county-wide voting for all districts):

District 1: Hunter Miller is a good choice to beat the DeSantis-appointed current Board member Plavic.

District 3: Sarah Rockwell should be returned to the Board.

District 5: Annie Muscato and Jancie Vinson are candidates, no preference at this time.

Alachua County Commission (county-wide voting for all districts):

District 2: Tough race; multiple candidates. Two strong women stand out: Donna Bradbrook, a very well-regarded

just-retired long-time County employee, and Tina Certain, a strong independent voice, who is just stepping down from the School Board.

District 4: Ken Cornell has been great and ought to be kept on the job.

There are three Florida House races in our area:

District 10 (NW): Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson is an awesome voice for the environment and things sensible, co-owner of Rum 138. A brave jump into the race.

District 21 (S): The very capable Yvonne Hayes Hinson is stepping down, and there is a very competitive race to succeed her, which includes Malik Moore (former staffer of Hayes Hinson), Antione Fields (strong labor and organizing background), and Xavier Monroe (young, energetic newcomer to politics). Definitely leaning towards Fields.

District 22 (SW): Amy Trask is a real doer, rock solid, and already has made her mark getting the Haven Act passed and signed. Support!!

State Senate District 6 (NE): Jason Bellamy-Fultz is jumping in to give incumbent Jennifer Bradley an overdue opponent. This is a huge challenge but Jason is an awesome organizer and needs our support to make this happen. 🐢



Established
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The Gainesville Iguana

Gainesville's progressive newsletter

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

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

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

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