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The Gainesville Iguana

a soapbox for Alachua County activists'

August 2026 ~ vol. 39 ~ issue 8

Get ready to VOTE! PRIMARY AND LOCAL ELECTIONS ARE ON AUG. 18

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

Editors' note: A previous version of this article included a link to the Democratic Party's candidate forum. This was an error introduced by the Iguana staff, not something originally included from the League of Women Voters, which is a strictly nonpartisan organization. The error has since been fixed.

We are only a few weeks away from the primary and local elections on Aug. 18. The League of Women Voters wants to make sure that you are ready to vote. Here's what you need to do and how the LWV can help.

Everyone who votes on Aug. 18 must

be registered by now. If you missed that deadline, be sure you register so that you can vote in the general election in November. If you are registered, you may still request a vote by mail ballot, but do it immediately. The deadline is Aug. 3. Ballots have gone out already. The turnaround time for mine in the mail was a week, so don't dawdle! Early voting is Aug. 7-15. You may check your voting status through the League's VOTE411.org site or the Supervisor of Elections Office at votealachua.gov. Make sure your family and friends know all this, too.

Next, educate yourself on the candidates and their positions. Meet them in person, if you can. It is always illuminating to

talk with the candidates one on one, and in Alachua County, most of them are accessible. If you can't encounter them in person, access our June 28 forum on our LWV Youtubes or from the Graham Center website. All the candidates gave thoughtful answers to the League's questions. The candidates all gave thoughtful answers to the League's questions. Last, but certainly not least, go to VOTE411.org. There, you will find candidate profiles and answers to more LWV questions.

You have used the LWV resources and made your decisions. Now you are ready to vote, but as an engaged citizen, you are not ready for the election. Your next step

See GET READY, p. 25

VICTORY:

Federal appeals court decisively rejects Florida's 'Stop WOKE Act'

by Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE)

Following a First Amendment lawsuit filed by the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, a federal appeals court ruled today that Florida's "Stop WOKE Act" — a broad ban on what faculty at public universities may discuss in the classroom — violates the First Amendment rights of Florida university faculty and students. The ruling affirms a previous court decision that blocked the legislation from taking effect.

"Though the government has plenty of ways to promote its own viewpoint, puppeteering every university professor in the state is not one of them," wrote Judge Britt C. Grant of the U.S. Court of

See VICTORY, p. 25

NO
MORE
WAR(S)

See page 6 for the cost (so far) of the Iran War

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Want your article, ad, event or PSA in the September Iguana?
(Due to come out Thursday, Sept 3.)

Deadline is Wednesday, Aug. 26

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

The Iguana mission:

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



Angie Nixon, a member of the Florida House since 2020, is running to be the next U.S. Senator for Florida as a Democrat. She spoke at Westminster Church in Gainesville on the afternoon of Sunday, July 19 and covered a number of topics for well over 15 minutes. It was an impressive speech; see tinyurl.com/iguana2527 to watch the video. We need to get out the vote to elect Angie Nixon as Florida's next U.S. Senator. Photo by Chuck Ross.

Longtime Gainesville activist to receive Susan B. Anthony Award at Women's Equality Day luncheon

The Friends of Susan B. Anthony is pleased to announce that Pam Smith will receive the Susan B. Anthony Award at their annual luncheon on Saturday, Aug. 22. Pam has a long history of activism for many different causes: women's rights and health care, anti-nuclear protests, and environmental issues. She helped to organize the Southeastern Women's Health Conference here in 1976, where she co-conducted one of the first workshops specifically on child incest. Recently, she was instrumental in founding Gainesville Women for Democracy, which has over 3000 members, and has been a prime mover in the No Kings protests. This luncheon began as an informal birthday party for Susan B. Anthony over forty years ago, and is now held in conjunction with the anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote. Each year a local woman is recognized who exemplifies the spirit of Susan B. Anthony.

The luncheon theme for 2026 is: "Our Vote is Our Voice: Women's Political Power." The featured speaker will be Dr. Teresa Cornacchione, Civic Engagement Coordinator from the Graham Center.

For further information, and instructions on how to register for the luncheon, please check the website: www.fosba.com or contact Barbara Oberlander at 352-378-6447. 🐢

Publisher notes

Normalization

As we move through the normality of the days of our lives, we each have our own windows on the world we live in. There are the ones we have created for ourselves (house, job, family, car; if we are lucky), and the stuff going on in the remote world that has no direct impact on our lives except how much we choose to be aware of it. Many of us are the type of people who crave awareness of what's going on, and this impacts us because we are bothered by what we are seeing. It affects us, our sense of responsibility; this is OUR government doing all these horrible things. What we are seeing now, in an avalanche of disturbing developments created in the span of one administration, really challenges us to cope, let alone focus on doing our part to find our way out of it.

We see wars with no end game. Social safety nets being shredded. Immigrants being rounded up. On and on and on. All just everyday news. These have become our new normal. And then there is the normalization of having a person like Trump as commander in chief with no guardrails being put on him from Congress, the courts, or the media (with few exceptions). That man-child even managed to taint World Cup with his improper meddling!

There is so much to be gloomy about if we are only looking out at all the negative things going on that the lived experience of our lives can become overshadowed by it. Resistance is both needed, and therapeutic. I truly love World Cup. It felt great that our World Cup crowd at Cypress & Grove did some strong booing at that clown's picture every time it was on the screen at the Final Sunday. Some folks were for Argentina, some for Spain, but we all were together on that. The true experience of World Cup is sharing the joy of being a citizen of this planet, and seeing folks from the globe come together around that construct is a wondrous thing, even while being aware of the downward track things seem to be going in the world. So many great human stories and drama.

A couple weeks ago I was in Chicago for the semi-annual Labor Notes Conference; 4,500 labor activists from around the country and world come together every two years for four days. (Labor Notes writers did a good overview, which is in the Eds' Picks on page 18). I had a good recharge of my positive vibes there as well. One speaker on Friday night really struck a chord with me. Paul Osadebe is with the Federal Unionist Network, and he spoke of how various federal workers came together at a workshop at Labor Notes in 2022 and that was the catalyst for their organization. In 2024 at Labor Notes they met again, and with Trump's re-election on the horizon, they knew their organization faced real challenges ahead, and that meant they organized, strategized, and were ready to resist when Trump and DOGE started in on them in 2025. That spunky little magazine and their semi-annual conferences had a direct effect on thousands of lives as they resisted the firings, layoffs, and shutdowns!

So we all do what we can. Individually, we can vary our information sources, the windows we look out of; that can surely help. Celebrating and participating in what we have in our community and being more positive is a form of resistance, too. Preserving our right to vote, and electing better people is essential, but so is all the other organizing that we can do that lasts beyond the time of the election: environmental and human rights work, doing mutual aid for those impacted by the times we are in, etc.

This town is full of great people, who have made it the Blue Dot that it is. We all make it shine brighter.

Hang in there, and don't sleep on this primary election on August 18 in Alachua County, where ALL voters will have a say in the Universal primaries (see the articles on page 1 and 24). And there's a voter's guide on page 32 if you want my suggestions. We will recap and look ahead in the September Iguana. Meanwhile, one more month of this 90's and 70's crap. 🐸



Joe Courter

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

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Gainesville Iguana

P.O. Box 5155, Gainesville, FL 32627

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

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The Weekly Show with Jon Stewart:

Mayor Zohran Mamdani on socialism, politics & NYC

This is an excerpt from a July 22 interview with Jon Stewart of the Weekly Show interviewing New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani.

JON STEWART: So in some respects, is it about the priorities you have about the quality of life for those [people], even if they don't make [a lot of money]? Because universal pre-K or universal childcare — those kinds of things, you know, de Blasio might have brought that up ... I think that the caricature of democratic socialism is that ... it's a completely different ideology than those that we have seen, or is it, perhaps, just a different nomenclature?

ZOHRAN MAMDANI: I think part of it is that words have lost their meaning over time.

JON STEWART: There we go. This is where I'm getting to is, is it really about the label?

ZOHRAN MAMDANI: I think if you go back to some of the Democrats that we most admire — FDR, LaGuardia — you will see a lot of democratic socialist principles in their vision. And if you think about a lot of what we've come to accept as just the facts of life across our country, a lot of it is still driven by democratic socialist principles. Now, if today, you and I were to introduce the idea of a building that lends out books for free, we would be slandered in the same way that so many new ideas are slandered today, and yet, that's the library, and the same thing with the fire department, and the same thing with public schools.

And it's to say that a lot of politics has been a debate about who deserves what, and I would prefer a politics that debates how we

can deliver that to everyone. And to deliver it at a standard that is so good, that no matter how much money you have in your pocket, you opt for that. And I think at its best, the New York subway is an illustration, where no matter how much money you have in your pocket, you understand that if you want to get from point A to point B, the best way is to get on that train.

JON STEWART: That's for sure. So to that end, was there ever a consideration for you, because of the priorities that you have, why take on the label of Democratic Socialist, knowing that it comes with a lot of other baggage that may not be helpful to you in your pursuit of what are — what was it about what they were saying that drew you — as opposed to running as the things that you're suggesting to me, if you ran on these as a Democrat — it's not I wouldn't say like, "What? What the heck?" It sounds very much in line with that. It sounds like what you're doing differently is you're being competent, or ruthlessly pursuing those goals and chipping away at them. So why take that on?

ZOHRAN MAMDANI: You know, I want to be honest with people about what it is that I actually believe in. And I also think what we've seen over many decades is a fear-mongering in our politics where anything that we disagree with, or anything that portends significant change is described as if it is socialist, at times as if it is communist. And the intent of that is to end the conversation there and then. And it especially happens when you're talking about something that would disproportionately benefit working people.

I think it's important because we keep speaking about some of the inequities and inequalities that we see in our city as if they are bugs in a system as opposed to features in them. If we truly want to reckon with one in four New Yorkers being in poverty, we have to also ask ourselves about if it's important to change the framework with which what we determine success to be.

Also, being a Muslim Democratic Socialist, I thought it would be pretty straightforward.

See the full video (53:35) at tinyurl.com/iguana2528 or read the entire transcript at tinyurl.com/iguana2529. ☘



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For more info:

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Email: fgsgnv@gmail.com

Leave voice message at:

352-388-1586



‘We welcome the other here’

On July 13, ICE agents shot and killed 26-year-old Johan Sebastián Guerrero in Biddeford, Maine. Below is an excerpt from a speech by Maine Speaker of the House Ryan Fecteau.

RYAN FECTEAU: For me, I put this moment into context by my own experience living and growing up right here in the City of Biddeford. I think it’s important that we capture, just for a second, what this community is. This is a community that was built by immigrants. Those mills, those mills that stand in the center of our city were built by immigrants. My grandparents came here in 1964 with my dad from Quebec to work in those textile mills with other immigrants. We are a community of immigrants. We are a community of immigrants. We have always been a community of immigrants. We will always be a community of immigrants no matter what we face, no matter what they try to do. We will continue to be a community that was founded by, built by/for immigrants.

... Americans who called this place home for many centuries, for many decades, or the Albanians who also were here. And one of the things that I always find so inspiring is if you go to Woodlawn Cemetery here in Biddeford, there’s a part of the cemetery where you’ll distinctly know the gravestones because they’re all turned towards Albania. Biddeford had a large Albanian population when those textile mills were roaring, and we also were home to the first mosque in the United States.

We were French-Catholic; we were Albanian-Muslim. We are Albanian-Muslim today; we are French-Catholic today. We are many things today because we have always welcomed the other. We have always been welcoming to our neighbors and we will not stop. We will not stop.

This is my message to the federal government. Get out of our state. Get out of our city. We welcome the other here. We welcome immigrants here. We are a welcoming state. We will not change. We will not change for Donald Trump or anyone else. This is a place that welcomes our neighbors.

See the full video of his speech at tinyurl.com/iguana2530 🦎



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‘Imagine all the better things that could have been done’: Trump has blown \$37.5 billion on Iran War

by Jessica Corbett

While economists have warned for months that the true cost of President Donald Trump’s illegal war on Iran could be trillions of dollars, U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth estimated that it’s currently about \$37.5 billion.

That figure came from a line of questioning by U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), as Hegseth appeared before the Senate Appropriations Committee to support Trump’s June supplemental funding request, which includes tens of billions for the Pentagon.

Hegseth told Durbin that the \$37.5 billion estimate includes what’s been spent so far, plus some projected spending through the end of the fiscal year in September — an exchange quickly met with fury by various critics, many of whom pointed out the range of ways that money could have been better spent by an administration allegedly dedicated to combating “waste, fraud, and abuse.”

“Imagine all the better things that could have been done with \$37.5 billion,” Jonathan Cohn, political director for the group Progressive Mass, wrote on Bluesky.

Noting that the Strait of Hormuz “is still closed,” progressive writer Alex Cole similarly said, “Imagine what \$37.5 billion could’ve done for veterans, schools, or healthcare.”

Congressman James Walkinshaw (D-Va.) specifically noted: “That could cover a full school year of free lunches for 30 million children. Or a full year of childcare for nearly 2 million kids.”

“Trump finds money for war while families get excuses,” he added, as working people struggle with rising costs of housing, groceries, and gasoline—the price of which has soared due to Iran restricting strait traffic over U.S. attacks.

The liberal political group American Bridge 21st Century highlighted how Trump and congressional Republicans have attacked programs for working families while giving more tax cuts to billionaires and waging war on Iran.

“THIS from the administration that said there was no money for food assistance, Medicaid, and healthcare tax credits,” the organization said.

Since Trump joined with Israel to start bombing Iran on Feb. 28, most congressional Democrats, legal experts, and other critics have argued that the war—for which the president never secured support from Congress—is not only foolish but also unlawful under both international and U.S. law.

Citing Trump’s attempts to evade limits of the War Powers Act of 1973, Congressman John Larson (D-Conn.) said Monday that he is preparing legal action against the administration and a new bill to cut off funding for the war on Iran, which has killed over 3,000 people according to the Iranian government.

Previous war cost estimates from the U.S. Department of Defense have been met with scrutiny. After Pentagon comptroller Jules “Jay” Hurst offered the \$25 billion figure in April, Stephen Semler, a senior fellow at the Center for International Policy, estimated that the government spent at least \$71.8 billion during the first two months of the war, or around \$1.2 billion per day.

As for the U.S. death toll, at least 17 service members have been killed and many

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more wounded. The New York Times revealed Monday that the Pentagon hid dozens of American military injuries from Iranian strikes on bases in Jordan last week.

Two Iranian-Americans, a U.S. veteran, and a nurse disrupted Hegseth's Tuesday appearance before the Senate, according to CodePink. In addition to that anti-war group, the protesters were from the National Iranian American Council (NIAC) and Vets About Face DMV.

"Pete Hegseth and this administration will be remembered for the killing of innocent civilians and children. They have

protected neither the American people nor our security, only the interests that have lined their pockets," said Bella of NIAC, who joined the protest.

"While Americans struggle to afford their lives, this government always finds billions to bomb our families in Iran, Palestine, Lebanon, and elsewhere," Bella added.

"This is a repugnant betrayal of humanity. It is illegal, and the American people will hold them accountable."

This article was originally published by commondreams.org on July 21. 🐾

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Make Social Security secure: Momentum builds to ‘scrap the wage cap’

by Mary Savage

At the invitation of Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, Social Security Works President Nancy Altman testified in late June before the Senate subcommittee on Social Security, of which Sanders is a ranking member.

Nancy told the Senate that the projected 2032 Social Security shortfall, which is estimated to be 23-25 percent, is the result of Trump administration policies.

Several bills have been submitted to Congress to eliminate the FICA wage cap. We'll see what happens knowing full well that what is said today doesn't mean it will be signed into law tomorrow. We have to wait and observe and keep speaking up. Below is what Nancy Altman said to subcommittee members:

Social Security was enacted to provide basic economic security when wages are lost in the event of disability, death or old age. Therefore, the first question we should ask is, what level of benefits should Social Security provide?

Today's benefits are low by virtually any measure. Cutting those already inadequate benefits will deepen the nation's looming retirement income crisis. And cutting benefits will hurt the economy. By the same token, expanding Social Security's modest benefits will increase economic security and strengthen the economy.

That leaves the question of how the expanded benefits are financed and the shortfall eliminated. It is imperative to recognize that, after Congress enacted the Social Security Amendments of 1983, the subsequent Trustees' Report projected that Social Security was funded for the full 75-year valuation period and beyond, which ran through 2058.

But the actuaries didn't anticipate the huge income and wealth inequality that followed the 1983 amendments. Recent decades have seen a dramatic increase in the share of income going to those at the top. That inequality has cost Social Security more than \$1.5 trillion since 1983. That is \$1.5 trillion that should have gone to Social Security but instead stayed in the pockets of the wealthiest among us.

This year's trustees report has projected that Congress must act by 2032. That is

one year sooner than last year's report projected. The earlier date is the result of Trump administration policies, specifically, its first reconciliation bill giving tax breaks to the wealthiest and its hostility to immigrants, who every year contribute tens of billions more dollars to Social Security than they draw out. Moreover, the administration's tariffs and its war of choice against Iran will undoubtedly increase unemployment and inflation, harming Social Security even more.

The 2032 date is best understood as an action-forcing event. The question isn't whether Congress will act, but rather what it does and whether that action will come transparently, through regular order, or through an undemocratic closed-door, fast-tracked process.

Two pieces of good news: First, there is no question we can afford an expanded Social Security, whose total cost at the end of the century is less than 7 percent of GDP.

The second piece of good news is that, as polarized as the American people are, we are united about Social Security. Poll after poll reports that from MAGA Republicans

to progressive Democrats, the American people overwhelmingly reject benefit cuts even if paired with some revenue increases. To be clear, raising the retirement age and means-testing benefits are benefit cuts. The American people strongly and overwhelmingly prefer more revenue, ideally paid by the wealthiest Americans. They also strongly support benefit increases. This is also the best policy.

What should not happen is the establishment of a commission whose recommendations are privileged and fast-tracked. That would be unprecedented and a deep disservice to the American people. Such a commission's only purpose would be to insulate and protect members of Congress from facing political accountability. Instead, all Social Security legislation should go through regular order, as it always has. Thank you. 🐢

"Social Security is not just another government spending program. It is a promise from generation to generation."

~ Hank Johnson

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What is capitalism?

By Alachua County Democratic Socialists of America

What is capitalism?

A seemingly simple question, but it is a question that has puzzled radicals and conservatives, academics and working people alike, for centuries now. Adam Smith, the Scottish Enlightenment thinker who provided much of the intellectual foundation for modern capitalism, saw its defining force as one of economic rationalization, efficiency, and the blooming of human potential and wealth through increased production and free trade.

From his perspective in the eighteenth century, maybe he was right. But from our vantage point in the twenty-first century, when big business has overwhelmed and overtaken democratic processes, driven imperialist adventurism from Venezuela to the Strait of Hormuz and beyond, and fueled racial, ethnic, and religious bigotry, that rationality is hard to see.

Advocates for capitalism like Margaret Thatcher have argued that there is no alternative, that capitalism is natural, an outgrowth of intrinsic human behaviors. But is that true?

In order to answer the question, we must understand what capitalism actually is, and more importantly, how it works. From an understanding of its internal processes, its logical and illogical developments, and the relationships it constructs between those who have and those who have not, we see why the liberation and efficiency promised by people like Smith, Thatcher, and the current American administration curdles over and over again into exploitation, criminality, and the violent repression of dissenting views.

For Karl Marx, the great intellectual forebear of the socialist movements of the nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first centuries, the reason for this was obvious. For him, capitalism was not a theoretical conception of human behavior. It was a social structure built by human beings, a historical product of choices made across centuries, and ultimately a source of immense social, cultural, and political power, one reserved only for those with the resources to own and exploit the immense productive powers of capital and labor alike.

From basic first principles, Marx and others who followed him sought to dissect capitalism from its origins to its noxious end-points. They saw in capitalism the division of society itself into those who possess property and those who possess nothing but their own labor.

They also realized that capitalism was internally contradictory. In order to make use of their immense holdings of capital – the factories and machines that gave industrial capitalism its astounding productivity – capitalists needed more and more workers, brought together to share the same labor, the same exploitation, and the same resentments.

As the working classes grew, they became increasingly radicalized by the realization that while the workers themselves lived on the knife's edge, paid nothing more than the wages needed to stay alive, and sometimes not even that, their labor was the key to the profits that the capitalist class used to build opulent mansions, to expand production around the world, and to ensure that the political class

was wrapped around their finger. Through organization and radicalization, the workers developed their own forms of resistance and power, a force that could challenge capitalists' claims to economic and social dominance. As Marx argued, capitalism had created its own gravediggers.

This analysis has undergirded revolutionary movements, working-class radicals, and oppressed peoples who saw in the vision of an alternative genuine liberation and a future for humanity defined by freedom and equality.

To learn more, join Alachua County Democratic Socialists of America on Aug. 13 for our upcoming "What is Capitalism" event at Bazaar47 (60 SW 2nd St, Gainesville). Our Political Education Committee will describe the material and intellectual origins of capitalist thought, the historical twists and turns it has taken as it has stretched across the planet, and realities of capitalism in our own present, where financialization, technological development, and raw greed have created the conditions that define our current struggle.

We are also hosting a movie screening of "Seeds for Liberation" at Bazaar47 on August 27. This documentary examines the long struggle for freedom in Palestine, told through the voices of Palestinians. It serves as a reminder that imperialism, racism, and capitalism are interwoven, and that in order to defeat one, we must defeat them all.

Things are dark right now. The world order promised by Trump and his minions is one of unending hatred, exploitation, and bloodshed. Their vision is apocalyptic. But they are not all-powerful. Working together, we can reject the horrors they promise. Working together, a better future is possible. ✨

"Capitalism is the extraordinary belief that the nastiest of men for the nastiest of motives, will somehow work for the benefit of all."

~ John Maynard Keynes

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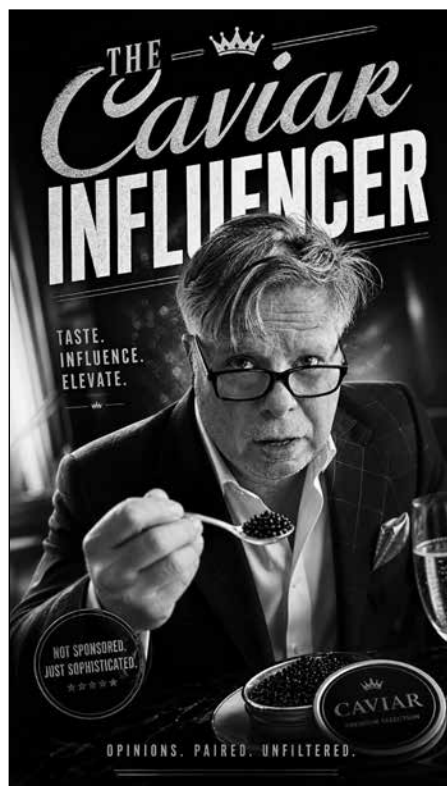
Between 1980 and 2020 Dave Lippman recorded a number of albums of original songs, along with satirical patter and other matter. Most of these songs are now available for free download at davelippman.com, under Listen & Watch – Albums.

Steal These Songs, Please.



Performance artist Tom Miller's wildest reinvention yet?

The Gainesville icon is chasing the world of caviar



by Kim Min-seo

For most people, the phrase “career change” means updating a résumé.

For Tom Miller, it means spending months studying the history of sturgeon, contacting caviar producers across multiple continents, enrolling in one of the

world’s most respected caviar education programs, and announcing, with complete sincerity, that his next artistic obsession involves tiny black pearls served on a mother-of-pearl spoon.

If history is any indication, nobody should be surprised.

The longtime Gainesville performance artist, filmmaker, playwright, actor, humorist, and professional curiosity chaser has built an entire career around asking, “What happens if I dive completely into something unusual?”

His answer has produced decades of experimental performances, public happenings, films, paintings, writing, and theatrical work that have earned him a reputation as one of Florida’s most delightfully unpredictable artists.

His newest canvas?

Caviar.

Not as a luxury status symbol.

As history.

As craftsmanship.

As storytelling.

“I’ve always believed food tells stories,” Miller says. “Every culture has dishes that represent history, geography, survival, celebration, and identity. Caviar happens to be one of the oldest luxury foods on Earth, but most people know almost

nothing about it beyond the stereotypes.”

Instead of treating caviar as something reserved for billionaires and celebrities, Miller wants to demystify it.

His plan is refreshingly transparent.

He’s starting at the beginning.

Rather than pretending to be an expert, Miller intends to document the transformation from enthusiastic beginner to genuine authority, inviting viewers along for every success, mistake, surprising discovery, and expensive lesson.

That journey has already begun.

Miller is currently enrolled in the AP-WASI Caviar Professional certification program, an intensive educational course widely respected within the luxury food and hospitality world. The curriculum dives deeply into sturgeon species, production methods, sustainability, harvesting, grading, service, storage, tasting methodology, regional traditions, and the science behind one of the world’s most misunderstood delicacies.

“It’s basically caviar college,” Miller laughs.

If everything goes according to plan, he expects to complete the certification over the next couple of months, adding a rare professional credential to an already unconventional résumé.

But he’s not waiting until graduation to begin sharing what he’s learning.

Over the past several weeks, Miller has been reaching out to caviar producers, importers, distributors, aquaculture farms, and luxury food companies around the globe, introducing himself, asking questions, and building relationships within an industry that values knowledge as much as exclusivity.

Those conversations have already led to his first official partnership.

Miller recently became an affiliate ambassador for Regalis Fine Foods, one of America’s best-known purveyors of luxury ingredients, including premium caviar, truffles, wild mushrooms, Japanese seafood, and other exceptional culinary products.

“It’s exciting because every expert starts somewhere,” Miller says. “I’m not trying to skip to the end. I want people to watch the journey happen in real time.”



That philosophy is expected to become the defining feature of his newest online project.

By design, Miller's first caviar review premiered on National Caviar Day, Saturday, July 18. The date wasn't chosen by accident. He wanted the launch to serve as the official beginning of what he hopes becomes one of YouTube's most entertaining and informative journeys into the world of caviar.

The debut video will introduce viewers to the channel's mission while kicking off a long-running series of tastings, interviews, educational features, culinary adventures, industry visits, historical deep dives, blind comparisons, and conversations with the people responsible for producing some of the world's finest roe.

Unlike many influencer channels that chase quick clicks, Miller's goal is to create something with staying power.

Think less "Look how expensive this is," and more "Let's understand why this exists."

He hopes viewers who discover the channel now will be able to say they were there from the very beginning.

His ambition is certainly not modest.

Miller hopes to grow the channel from zero subscribers to one million, while evolving from curious newcomer into one of the internet's most trusted and entertaining voices on caviar.

It's the kind of improbable challenge that somehow sounds perfectly reasonable coming from a man whose artistic career has consistently refused to fit into neat categories.

Those interested in following the journey can find Miller's YouTube channel at: tinyurl.com/iguana2531. And yes, Miller has been waiting a very long time to say this.

"Like, Share, and Subscribe."

He laughs after saying it, admitting it feels strangely satisfying to finally utter one of the internet's most recognizable phrases.

"I've always wanted to officially say those words."

If readers enjoy watching someone pursue mastery in real time, Miller hopes they'll become part of the story from day one by subscribing to the channel, sharing the videos with fellow food lovers, and following along as he navigates the fascinating world of caviar, one tin at a time.

Supporters who would like to help fuel the project, from educational materials and tasting experiences to travel, interviews, production equipment, and the countless costs involved in documenting the journey, can also contribute through Miller's Buy Me a Coffee page: tinyurl.com/iguana2532. Every contribution helps move the project forward as he attempts something few creators have documented publicly, becoming an expert while the audience watches every step along the way.

Hey, Readers!

We are now accepting both Venmo ([gnv-iguana](https://venmo.com/gnv-iguana)) and PayPal (gainesvilleiguana@cox.net) donations.

Links to both can be found on our website:

www.GainesvilleIguana.org

Whether this experiment ultimately produces the internet's next great culinary educator or simply another unforgettable chapter in Tom Miller's wonderfully unpredictable artistic life remains to be seen.

Either way, one thing already feels certain.

The performance has begun.

Only this time, the curtain rises with a chilled tin of caviar instead of a spotlight.

Originally published by the Daily Kos on July 16. See more at www.dailykos.com.

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Central Labor Council of North Central Florida election endorsements

What follows is a list of candidates that your Central Labor Council of North Central Florida has endorsed thus far this election cycle. We hope that you will join us in supporting these champions for working Floridians.

Governor & Lt. Governor:
David Jolly & Gwen Graham

Attorney General: Jose Javier Rodriguez
Brother Rodriguez is uncontested in the Democratic Primary for this race, so you won't see his name on your ballot. But please take a moment to check him out. He won a strong early endorsement from the Florida AFL-CIO and the importance of this race can't be understated.

State Senate, District 6:
Jason Bellamy-Fults

State Representative, District 22:
Amy Trask

Alachua County Judge 5: Eric Atria
Eric Atria and his wife Stacie moved to Gainesville in 2002 and quickly fell in love with the local community. They decided to establish their careers and start their family here in Alachua County. After graduating from UF Law in 2004, Eric spent the next 21 years doing public defense, ensuring that due process was followed in the pursuit of justice in

over 10,000 criminal cases. He spent 12 years as the director of legal interns for his agency, personally mentoring dozens of UF students as they gained real world experience in criminal defense. In addition, Eric has dedicated a significant portion of his career to pro bono work, helping people unable to afford legal services in a wide variety of civil cases. For this, he received the highly esteemed Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Award in 2025. He is an adjunct professor at the University of Florida, creating and teaching an experiential criminal law class.

Eric is also a long-time local musician and founding member of Morningbell and The Shoddy Beatles. After spending two decades in a courtroom, Eric chose to run for county judge in order to serve his community in a larger role. He believes that everyone who comes before the court deserves an equal opportunity to be heard while being treated with dignity, respect, and fairness.

Alachua County School Board District 3:
Dr. Sarah Rockwell

Dr. Sarah Rockwell is a mother of two children with disabilities, a lifelong educator, and a trusted advocate for students and families. She brings more than 20 years of classroom, research, and community experience to her work on the Alachua County School Board.

Dr. Rockwell earned her bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in Special Education from the University of Florida, concentrating on early childhood disabilities, reading disabilities, and Autism. During her tenure on the school board, Dr. Rockwell has worked to improve literacy rates, helping to narrow the literacy gap by 5 points. She has also been a strong advocate for students with disabilities, LG-BTQ+ students, employees, and families.

Alachua County Commission District 4:
Ken Cornell

Putnam County Commission:
Joshua Florence

Joshua Florence is a proven public servant with over a decade of frontline experience delivering real results for his community through collaborative leadership. He served as a lieutenant with the Melrose Fire Department, where he was instrumental in founding the Community Resource Paramedicine Program and the Water Rescue Team, and was a proud IAFF member during a career tenure with other fire departments. Through partnerships with nonprofits, healthcare providers, and civic organizations, Joshua helped build community collaborations that improved services and outcomes for residents.

Alongside his fire service, Joshua also

	AFL-CIO North Central Florida Central Labor Council Annual Labor Day Breakfast	
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works as a medical assistant at a pediatric clinic, giving him hands-on experience supporting children and families through preventive healthcare. This dual background in emergency response and patient care gives him a ground level understanding of the gaps families face in getting affordable care, insight he brings into policy conversations about county services.

A proud “Double Viking,” Joshua earned an Associate’s degree in Emergency Medical Services and a Bachelor’s degree in Organizational Management with a concentration in Healthcare Administration from St. Johns River State College. He is currently a candidate for a Master’s degree in Executive Healthcare Administration at the University of Central Florida, building policy expertise to serve county government.

His commitment to service began with earning the rank of Eagle Scout and continued through recognitions including Volunteer Firefighter of the Year (2021) for Putnam County and the State of Florida, as well as the Florida Board of Education Commissioner’s Leadership Award. Each of these milestones reflects one throughline: a willingness to show up, work hard, and put the community’s needs first.

Joshua brings this experience, education, and results driven approach as he seeks to serve District 4 on the Putnam County Board of County Commissioners, ready to turn a career of service into a career of solutions.

Marion County School Board District 3: Eric Cummings

Marion County Commissioner District 2: Mike Crimi

City of Gainesville Mayor: Harvey Ward

Gainesville City Commission District 3: Casey Willits

U.S. Senator, Congressional District 3, State Rep Dist. 21, Alachua County Commissioner District 2, & Alachua School Board District 1: no endorsements at this time. 🐾



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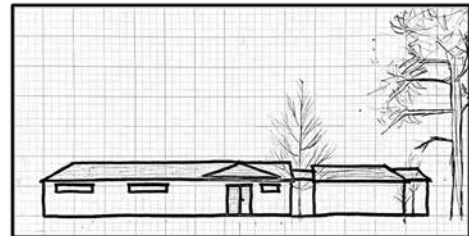


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And the good news is ...

A secret fan donates nearly \$1 million to help save South Florida's rare pine rocklands

by Jenny Staletovich ~ WLRN Public Media ~ July 17 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2537

One of the rarest forests in the world, found only in South Florida and the Caribbean, and home to a host of endangered plants and animals, is getting a boost from an anonymous patron. The unnamed donor gave \$925,000 to a coalition of environmental groups to preserve and manage pine rockland, which the groups turned over to Miami-Dade County's Environmentally Endangered Lands program. Only 2 percent of the county's pineland remains, and despite years of efforts to buy and preserve land, some plots have languished on an acquisition list for decades.

Contrary to Trump's claims, immigrants create jobs in their communities. These Florida businesses are proof

by Paula de la Cruz-Fernández ~ Good Good Good ~ Feb. 24 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2518

Immigration to the United States is often framed as a problem to be managed, controlled, or punished. Immigrants are often derided for crossing the border without authorization or "taking jobs" from U.S. citizens. This rhetoric has intensified when Donald Trump has been in the White House. Trump and officials in his administrations have repeatedly characterized immigrants as a drain on national resources. But research on immigrants tells a different story according to the Gainesville Business History Project, a research initiative at UF that studies the long-term patterns of the town's business history.

DSA candidates are winning Democratic primaries — can they do it in Florida?

by Mitch Perry ~ Florida Phoenix ~ July 10 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2519

DSA candidates in New York, Pennsylvania, and Colorado have had recent electoral successes. And in Florida, Democratic Socialist Oliver Larkin, a 34-year-old former union organizer, is running in the Aug. 18 Democratic primary against Jared Moskowitz in South Florida's newly configured Congressional District 25, which now

runs along the southeast coast from Delray Beach to Miami Beach. The only DSA-aligned lawmaker holding political office in Florida is Richie Floyd, a former electrical engineer and Pinellas County science instructor who narrowly won a city council seat in St. Petersburg in 2021, but has garnered no opponents for re-election this year. In his four-and-a-half-years in office, he's carved out a reputation as an advocate for tenant rights, improving public services, and fighting on working-class issues.

This Florida drag queen doubles as a marine animal conservationist

by Meghan Cook ~ Good Good Good ~ May 28 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2521

Miss Toto is a triple threat: a drag queen, a marine animal conservationist, and a driving force for LGBTQ+ youth. In her annual Drag N' Tag event, Miss Toto teams up with scientists from the Field School Foundation to take boats out of Biscayne Bay, Florida and tag sharks for hands-on marine science research. While attendees wait for the sharks to appear, Miss Toto treats them to a drag show on the water. To top it all off, proceeds from the event go directly to Pridelines, a community center for LGBTQ+ youth in Florida.

Trump dismantled a federal climate website. Women rebuilt it.

by Jenae Barnes ~ 19th News ~ July 8 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2522

After the Trump administration shut down the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's official climate information website, Climate.gov, and Rebecca Lindsey became one of the roughly 280,000 federal workers to lose their jobs, she knew something had to be done. Lindsey joined forces with former NOAA employees Anna Eshelman, and Mary Lindsey, her older sister, to become the core team behind the deactivated site's successor, Climate.us, preserving over 15 years of key climate data and resources. The trove features key maps, educational materials and climate indicator reports, including the now-deleted Fifth National Climate Assessment, the government's most comprehensive analysis of climate change that was at risk of being lost to the public. "Trusted climate information should not disappear when politics change," Lindsey said.

US Supreme Court upholds birthright citizenship, rejecting Trump order

by Ariana Figueroa ~ Florida Phoenix ~ June 30 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2523

The U.S. Supreme Court struck down President Donald Trump's attempt to redefine the constitutional right to birthright citizenship. In the decision, a majority of the justices upheld the country's long understanding of automatic citizenship by birth on American soil, regardless of the immigration status of a newborn's parents. The majority opinion, written by Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., found the president's executive order violated the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. "Citizenship, then and now, was the right to have rights — to freely participate in our political community," he wrote. "The Framers of the Fourteenth Amendment extended that promise to 'every free-born person in this land.' We keep that promise today."



With teams representing Boston, LA, NY, and San Francisco, the Women's Professional Baseball League's inaugural season starts August 1.

San Francisco's Fireballs name was inspired by Lillie Hitchcock Coit, who, as a young girl, volunteered with the city's fire department. The NY Heights' moniker is Dorothy Height, the "godmother of the civil rights movement." The Boston Hunters' team name was inspired by Boston physician Harriot Kezia Hunt, a woman's rights activist. The LA Queens was named for Lizzie Murphy, known as "Queen of the Diamond," who was the first woman to play against major league players in the early 1900s.

Source: The Associated Press, MSN; Image: @wpbl_official/Instagram 🐾

Editors' picks: News that didn't fit

'Dialogue is all the rage': why is the right pouring millions into 'civil discourse' initiatives on US campuses?

by Alice Sperti ~ *The Guardian* ~ June 28 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2514

The "civility industrial complex," now estimated at \$200 million/year, wants students to "engage in constructive dialog," and NOT to, say, accuse the Israeli Defense Forces of atrocities and genocide. Who benefits? The Guardian has a useful breakdown of the new campus "dialog" movement, much of which is backed by conservative donors and is designed to defuse student activism, particularly around issues such as Israel-Palestine and racial justice, rather than address the underlying conflicts.

"Fighting Back": Mahmoud Khalil sues Trump admin, pro-Israel groups for conspiracy to suppress speech

by Amy Goodman with Baher Azmy and Mahmoud Khalil ~ *Democracy Now!* ~ July 31 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2510

This interview features Palestinian activist Mahmoud Khalil discussing a federal civil rights lawsuit accusing Trump administration officials, two pro-Israel organizations, and a conservative think tank of conspiring to suppress pro-Palestinian advocacy by violating his constitutional free speech rights. Khalil argues that the coordinated campaign targeted him and other activists through arrest, detention, and deportation efforts, and says the lawsuit seeks both accountability for those actions and protection of First Amendment rights for future activists.

Harvard student SHREDS Trump over \$2.2 billion funding cut in graduation speech

by Donald Taylor ~ *You Tube* (16:40) ~ May 28 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2513

Andrew O'Donohue, a Harvard Ph.D. candidate in political science whose research focused on democracy, authoritarianism, and political upheaval around the world,

was one of Harvard's Commencement speakers for the 2026 graduation ceremony. In addition to discussing the damage to educational exploration caused by the Trump administration's cuts, he urges graduates to approach disagreements with humility by "listening like you might be wrong," arguing that genuine curiosity and the willingness to reconsider one's own views are essential for strengthening democracy and overcoming polarization. This is difficult in an era of social media and political division, he says, but real progress depends on treating opponents as fellow human beings rather than enemies and remaining open to learning from one another.

Her brother was convicted of terrorism over a protest he didn't even attend

by Russell Payne ~ *Salon* ~ July 22 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2524

Earlier this year, Daniel Sanchez-Estrada was sentenced to 30 years in prison for moving a box of zines. He was charged with corruptly concealing a document or record, one of the nine people convicted in the prosecution following last year's noise demonstration at the Prairieland Detention Center near Dallas in northern Texas. Unlike the others convicted in this case, Sanchez-Estrada was not at the protest and maintains he had no role in its planning. The case has been widely criticized for its application of terrorism charges against protesters. Sanchez-Estrada's conviction, in particular, has been criticized for the harsh sentencing applied and his tangential connection to the protest.

How Florida's Cuban diaspora and the Israeli lobby came together – and are coming apart

by Greg Grandin ~ *The Intercept* ~ July 2 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2511

A powerful alliance between Florida's wealthy Cuban exile political network and the pro-Israel lobby has shaped decades of aggressive U.S. policy toward Cuba and Latin America. However, that coalition is beginning to fracture as demographic changes, shifting public opinion, and new political priorities reshape both groups. Grandin contends that these evolving dynamics could eventually weaken support for long-standing interventionist policies, even as influential hard-line factions continue to wield significant power in Washington.

America is plagued by shoplifting. I went to the headquarters of the war on "shrink." I couldn't believe what I saw.

by Alexander Sammon ~ *Yahoo!news* ~ July 13 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2536

Major retailers such as Walmart, Target, and Amazon are increasingly relying on sophisticated surveillance technology, data sharing, and predictive analytics to identify and deter shoplifting, often tracking customers long before any theft occurs. These expanding anti-theft systems raise significant privacy and civil liberties concerns, as ordinary shoppers can be monitored, flagged, or even misidentified based on algorithms and behavioral patterns rather than evidence of a crime. And guess what? America's leading "lab" that experiments with ways to prevent shoplifting is located at the "UF Innovate Hub" on SW 2nd Ave in Gainesville.

League of Women Voters denounces Trump's false, outlandish, indefensible claims related to election security

by Jane Spear ~ *Facebook* ~ July 18 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2526

The League of Women Voters strongly denounces President Trump's false, outlandish, and indefensible claims related to the security of US elections. Continuing to spread allegations that have been repeatedly debunked by experts through countless court proceedings not only erodes public confidence in the democratic process but also further weakens the institutions that protect our freedom to vote. This is yet another brazen attempt to undermine elections and suppress voter turnout.

Learning, recharging, uniting at Labor Notes 2026

by Alexandra Bradbury & Luis Feliz Leon ~ *Labor Notes* ~ July 2 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2509

The 2026 Labor Notes Conference brought thousands of union activists together to share organizing strategies, celebrate recent victories, and build solidarity across industries, generations, and communities during a period of political uncertainty. Speakers highlighted successful worker campaigns, immigrant-led



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organizing, and the power of strikes to develop leadership and unity, emphasizing that lasting change comes through collective action and mutual support.

Lying, cheating, stealing Trump just told us exactly what he will do in November if Dems win

by Thom Hartmann ~ *Common Dreams*
~ July 17 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2516

Trump has made it clear he'll do anything to hang onto his power – he knows if he loses that power his entire house of cards collapses. He'll mobilize ICE and the National Guard's "Rapid Reaction Force" to seize

ballot boxes and crush the inevitable "insurrection" by "left-wing communist radical domestic terrorists." He'll declare a state of emergency, invoke his NSPM-7, and blame it on a foreign country and/or "Antifa." He'll declare protesting a crime, and tear gas will fill our streets ... Hartmann gives suggestions as to what we can do now to prepare.

The country is 'not divided,' but 'being divided'

by MeidasTouch ~ *Facebook* ~ July 19 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2525

Hunter Biden says he spent the last several months talking with Americans across the

political spectrum and came away convinced the country is "not divided," but "being divided" by an oligarchy that profits from conflict. In a lengthy statement, he calls for a "New New Deal," universal healthcare, AI dividend payments, and accountability for Donald Trump and his administration, arguing that "truth and reconciliation, not revenge" is the path forward. "The question is not whether we will lose our democracy. The question is whether we will fight to take back what has already been stolen." 🐘

Donation drive for homeless women at GRACE Marketplace shelter in Gainesville

Women and the elderly are the fastest growing homeless population demographic. Let's help them by donating whatever we can now through Labor Day. What's needed most at this time are the following: New or gently used: hats, sandals, sneakers, shorts and T-shirts for outdoor summertime wear. Reusable water bottles, insect repellent, sunscreen, electrolytes, towels, new undergarments (briefs), tampons. Other needed items can be found at the Grace Marketplace web site: tinyurl.com/iguana2533

Please drop off donations at Grace Marketplace, 3055 NE 28th Dr. (off of NE 39th Ave.) from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call the shelter at 352-792-0800 for directions or more information. To arrange for pickup of donations, call Mary Savage at 352-870-2267. This drive is organized by Ceremonial Services for Lifecycle Events in Ocala. 🐘

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Recommended blogs / web sites



joycevance.substack.com

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

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

Letters from an American

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<https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com>

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Today's Edition Newsletter

Robert Hubbell



Citizen. Optimist. Realist.

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

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roberthubbell@substack.com



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Florida Phoenix

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THE LEFT HOOK

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

thelefthook.substack.com

Robert Reich writes at robertreich.substack.com



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

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

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

mswmedia.com/show/daily-beans/



While my rights gently weep in the free State of Florida

by Roxy Nightshade

Women's liberation has taken a huge hit in the state of Florida, and other freedoms—along with the right to vote—are now falling with it.

In June 2022, *Roe v. Wade* was overturned, ending the 49-year constitutional right to abortion, and leaving it up to the states to decide a woman's right to autonomy over her body. In the "Free" state of Florida, as DeSantis has so proclaimed on the signs as you enter the state on the highway, the "Heartbeat Protection Act" (SB 300) prohibits abortions after 6 weeks of pregnancy, basically banning abortion early in the first trimester.

Amendment 4 was a right-to-abortion initiative in 2024, which was defeated due to the state requiring a 60 percent vote for approval, with the amendment procuring 57 percent. So much for women having rights over their own bodies. We now have fewer rights than our mothers had in the 1970s.

Now in 2026, it gets worse. Florida legislators have been busy concocting bills reminiscent of Orwell's "1984." A couple horrid bills have passed. A third, thankfully, died before it could come to fruition.

HB 1471, or the "Outlawing Activism" bill, was signed into law by DeSantis on April 6. ACLU Florida, Equality Florida, Florida Immigrant Coalition and other organizations strongly opposed this bill, urging calls from the public to ask their representatives to vote "No."

Unfortunately, most of our Republican state reps are so busy brown-nosing DeSantis that they no longer seem to care what their constituents think, and they voted along party lines. It is screaming McCarthyism and allows the state to label people and groups they don't like or don't agree with as domestic terrorists without due process, using the term to censor Floridians who disagree with the government.

It gravely infringes on our First Amendment rights and is an unconstitutional attack, which serves to intimidate, rather than protect, the public. Its vague definitions of "domestic terrorist organizations" can be used to silence advocacy groups, student organizations and faith groups. It can be used to target legitimate, peaceful activism that differs from the governor's point of view. Students who "support or promote designated terrorist organiza-

tions" can be expelled and universities that have ties to these organizations can lose state funding.

On April 1, Gov. Ron DeSantis signed the Elections bill (HB 991), also known as the Florida SAVE Act. The law takes effect on Jan. 1. The law requires people who need to update or change their voter registration and those voting for the first time to prove their citizenship. DeSantis claims this law will protect voter registration. In reality, it is unfounded propaganda and not supported by any evidence that there's rampant, wide-spread non-citizen voting.

To prove citizenship you will need one of the following: Birth Certificate, U.S. Passport, Certificate of Naturalization or Certificate of Citizenship, or Consular Report of Birth Abroad. A birth certificate is the easiest way and if you were born in Florida, you can order a certified Florida birth certificate through Vital Records Online. If you were born in another state, you'll need to request the certificate from that state's vital records office. The Florida Real ID driver's license does not provide proof of citizenship.

For current registered voters, if state or federal databases can't verify your citizenship, you may be required to submit additional documentation to remain registered. If records are missing or inconclusive, you may receive a notice requesting proof. Having a certified birth certificate or valid passport ready protects you in either case. But, that's IF your name matches.

This bill is an outright attack on women, because as tradition has it, in heterosexual marriage it's the woman who changes her name when she gets married. If your current legal name differs from the name on your birth certificate — due to marriage, divorce, or a court-ordered name change — you will likely need to provide a certified marriage certificate, divorce certificate, or court order connecting your birth name to your current legal name.

In reality, this is just another way for DeSantis and the far right to disenfranchise millions of voters by requiring documents from the government that cost money, and will significantly decrease the number of people in the state who can vote. Florida doesn't have a good public transportation system, so the requirement to get to the office and obtain all the documents and then prove your citizenship is a deliberate attempt to limit the people's voice in

Florida. This will affect married people who have changed their names, people of low income status, minorities, the elderly and people with disabilities.

HB 945/ SB 1712 was an Orwellian "Mass Surveillance" bill which also challenged Free Speech and First Amendment rights. This bill would have created a powerful new state intelligence unit with authority to surveil and conduct "direct action missions" against individuals and organization based on their views or opinions. The bill's definition of who could be targeted was so broad it included journalists, activists, non-profit leaders, political organizers, and everyday Floridians exercising their first amendment rights.

The bill was found favorable in three House committees — Government Operations Subcommittee, Judiciary and Budget — but by the grace of the universe DIED in the State Affairs committee. Even though this bill is no more, it's important to be aware of what legislators are trying to pass.

Next time you drive by a "Welcome to the Free State of Florida" sign on the state line, really question how true that statement is. Maybe if you're a white, straight, rich male. The rest of us just continue to fight while our rights are stolen from us. We must be aware and cognizant of different bills that Florida legislators are attempting to pass and how they affect our rights, and fight them tooth and nail.

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Oral History Program

History and the people who make it: Judge Charles Burton



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.

Julian Pleasants [P] interviewed Judge Charles Burton [B] on April 5, 2001. Burton recounts his firsthand experience serving on the Palm Beach County canvassing board during the disputed 2000 presidential election between George Bush and Al Gore, describing the manual recounts, legal battles, and extraordinary political pressures that surrounded Florida's vote. Reflecting on the controversy months later, he argues that election officials at every level should have remained nonpartisan, criticizes both political parties for injecting politics into the recount process, and calls for clearer statewide standards, improved voting technology, and greater voter education to restore confidence in elections.

Transcript edited for length and clarity by Beth Grobman; a full transcript of this interview is available at tinyurl.com/iguana2515.

P: How did you come to be a member of the Palm Beach County canvassing board?

B: I was appointed to the bench in May of 2000 by Governor Jeb Bush. Sometime around August, I received a call from our chief judge's office asking whether I would serve on the canvassing board, which oversees elections. I was told the function of a canvassing board was mostly supervisory, making sure the voting equipment was working properly. I had no idea then what the following November would bring.

P: What were your responsibilities on Election Day?

B: Election Day was like any other day for me until about 4 p.m. We went to the Supervisor of Elections office, reviewed absentee ballots that had to be examined, checked signatures when necessary, and

made sure the voting equipment was functioning properly. After the polls closed, we ran the ballots through the counting machines, verified there were no errors, signed the paperwork, and expected to go home. That is what normally happens.

P: When did you realize this was going to be an extraordinary event?

B: It is funny because I had voted myself by absentee ballot the Friday before. When I got to the office that afternoon someone showed me the butterfly ballot and said, "Go vote for Gore. So I put in a ballot and punched out Gore and, what is the problem?" Well, people had been complaining they accidentally voted for Buchanan.

At first I probably did not pay much attention to it. As the evening went on, we realized it was a close election, but honestly, Gore was ahead in Palm Beach County. He had won Palm Beach County by over 100,000 votes, so I really was not thinking anything unusual was happening here.

Around 3:30 a.m. I went home, thinking Gore had carried Florida. I was awakened later that morning and told to come back because Bush had been declared the winner, then the result changed again, and now there was going to be a recount.

P: Describe how you organized the manual recount.

B: Under Florida law, if the margin is one-half of one percent, a candidate can request a manual recount. The machines separate ballots they cannot read into a "reject" pile. Those rejected ballots are examined by hand to determine whether the intent of the voter can be determined.

Palm Beach County was divided into precincts. Three precincts were selected by the Democratic Party, three by the Republican Party, and three by the canvassing board. We began counting those ballots while the county continued rerunning all ballots through the machines.

P: How accurate is a hand recount?

B: One thing the media demonstrated very clearly is that hand recounts are not very accurate. Different people can look at the same ballot and honestly disagree about whether a vote should count. If you hand the same stack of punch-card ballots to two people, you may not get the same result. The process is simply too subjec-

tive to produce absolute certainty.

P: Why did Theresa LePore choose the butterfly ballot? Did you have any input?

B: It was entirely her decision. Florida law gives the supervisor of elections responsibility for ballot design. The Division of Elections specifies what information must appear on the ballot, but the design itself is left to each county supervisor. It was not a canvassing-board function.

Theresa's primary concern was complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Because there were so many presidential candidates, the print would have been extremely small had everything appeared on one page. She believed splitting it across two pages would make the ballot easier to read. Unfortunately, what seemed like a good-faith effort created tremendous controversy.

P: How accurate are punch-card voting machines?

B: I certainly do not claim any expertise beyond what I learned during this election, but I do know this: technology alone is not the answer. My view is that voter education is every bit as important. Until people understand how to vote correctly, whether with punch cards or newer technology, we are always going to have problems.

P: During the recount there were conflicting opinions from the Division of Elections, the attorney general, and your own attorney. How did you deal with that?

B: We were trying to be nonpartisan. I was a judge sitting there trying to follow the law, and every day the legal advice seemed to change. The Division of Elections was saying one thing, the attorney general another, and our own attorney had concerns about both positions. Rather than rush into a decision, we asked the Division of Elections and the attorney general to give us guidance so we could proceed under the law.

P: At one point the canvassing board voted two to one to proceed with the recount, and you dissented.

B: I felt the motion was premature. My concern was not whether votes should be counted. My concern was that we should

first know what the law required. We were receiving conflicting legal opinions, and I believed we should resolve those questions before moving forward.

P: Did you think Secretary of State Katherine Harris and Attorney General Bob Butterworth acted objectively?

B: No. I believed both offices were acting in partisan ways. That was frustrating because the canvassing board was trying to do its job under tremendous public scrutiny while political officials were sending conflicting signals. Our responsibility was simply to conduct the recount according to Florida law.

P: Did you think Secretary Harris should have recused herself?

B: Looking back, she probably should have, and I think the attorney general should have as well. When public officials have such visible political affiliations, it becomes much harder for the public to believe that election decisions are being made impartially.

P: The Florida Supreme Court allowed the recount to continue. What was your reaction?

B: I believed the court sincerely wanted every legal vote counted. At the same time, the rules seemed to change as the process unfolded. One county was applying one standard, another county a different one. That troubled me because elections should be administered consistently.

P: Do you think the Gore campaign made a mistake by requesting recounts in only selected counties?

B: I do. If you are going to have a recount in a statewide election, it ought to be statewide. Otherwise, it creates the appearance that recounts are being requested only where one side believes it may gain votes. Whether or not that was the intent, appearances matter in elections.

P: So you believe statewide standards are essential?

B: Absolutely. One of the biggest lessons from this election is that voters throughout the state deserve to be treated under the same rules. If identical ballots are judged differently depending on the county, people naturally begin to question whether the system is fair.

P: How did the canvassing board decide what constituted a vote?

B: We tried to be as consistent as possible. Earlier opinions had suggested a “one-

corner” standard for punch-card ballots, and after consulting with the county attorney we continued applying that standard. We were not trying to invent new rules. We were trying to apply one rule consistently to every ballot that came before us.

P: Did the board work well together despite political differences?

B: Yes. We disagreed at times, but everyone understood that our responsibility was to administer the election fairly. We tried very hard to leave politics outside the room. As the recount continued, I think we developed mutual respect because everyone recognized how important it was for the public to have confidence in what we were doing.

P: What was it like working under such extraordinary pressure?

B: There were lawyers everywhere, observers challenging ballots, television cameras, and intense public attention. After a while you almost became numb to it. Our focus had to remain on the ballots in front of us. If we allowed ourselves to become distracted by the politics surrounding the recount, we could not do the job we had been asked to do.

P: What lessons have we as a country learned from this election?

B: I certainly hope we have learned that when people tell you to get out and vote, your vote really does count. This election proved that. What also struck me was how many eligible people never voted at all. That is a sad commentary. In an election this close, there were still millions of people who chose not to participate.

P: So improving elections is about more than new voting machines?

B: Absolutely. Better equipment is important, but people also need to understand how to vote. We need better voter education. We need people to register, people to participate, and people to have confidence that their vote will count.

Here in Palm Beach County there were problems, but people came out in tremendous numbers because they believed their vote mattered. People need to stay involved.

P: How has this election changed Palm Beach County?

B: Other than being the butt of jokes around the country, I think Palm Beach County has clearly found itself under a microscope. Looking back, I think what happened here was less about Palm Beach

County than about what can happen anywhere. Every state ought to look at what happened and ask what improvements can be made. I hope people learn from it instead of simply assigning blame.

P: How has the experience changed your own life?

B: Other than people recognizing me on the street, I think it reinforced my belief that public officials have to do their jobs without regard to politics. When you accept a responsibility like serving on a canvassing board, you have to follow the law as best you can and let the consequences fall where they may.

P: Theresa LePore became the focus of enormous criticism. Looking back, how do you feel about that?

B: I think Theresa has had a rough time. She was trying to make the ballot easier to read, particularly for older voters and people with disabilities. She clearly made a mistake, and she has admitted that, but I also think she was unfairly demonized. People make mistakes. That should not erase a lifetime of public service.

P: What lessons have we as a country learned from this election?

B: I certainly hope we have learned that when people tell you to get out and vote, your vote really does count. This election proved that.

What also struck me was how many eligible people never voted at all. That is a sad commentary. In an election this close, there were still millions of people who chose not to participate.

We need better voter education. We need people to register, people to participate, and people to have confidence that their vote will count. Democracy depends on it.

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 publics 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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‘Universal Primary Contest’: What’s that? AKA, Why the August 18 election is a one-time chance

by Janice Garry

I received my vote by mail ballot and saw the words “Universal Primary Contest” on two choices on the ballot. I had no idea what that meant. So, I did some research and talked with people who know about these things. Let me share what I learned.

Florida has Universal Primary Contests under some circumstances. Per the Supervisor of Elections of Marion County, that means that if all the candidates for a given seat have the same party affiliation, thus there will be no opposition in the general election, all voters of all parties or voters with no party affiliation can vote for the candidates in the primary election.

Translating that into the Alachua County election, for the race of State Representative, District 21 (retiring Yvonne Hayes Hinson’s seat) and the County Commission, District 2 (retiring Marihelen Wheeler’s seat), all registered voters can vote. That’s because all the candidates are Democrats and there is no other party with a candidate. That situation makes those races Universal Primary Contests.

Here’s the clincher. The candidate who has the most votes for those seats, wins the seat. Those races will not be on the general election ballot. The winning candidate does not have to get over 50 percent of the vote. For each of those races, there are multiple candidates, so getting over 50 percent by any one candidate is unlikely. That’s part of the reason the Aug. 18 election is a one-time chance.

Additionally, there are a number of other races on the ballot that

will or could be decided by the vote from the Aug. 18 primary even though they are not Universal Primary Contests. Non-partisan races are County Judge Group 5, Gainesville Mayor, and School Board District 3. Since there are only two candidates in each race, one candidate winning over 50 percent of the vote is likely. Other races, School Board District 1, and Gainesville City Commission Districts 2 and 3, are non-partisan and could be decided by the August 18 election if one of the three candidates receives over 50 percent of the votes.

All elections at all levels of government are important, as we can see from the federal and state fiascos that beset us. In our daily lives, our vote for local leadership has much impact. I have been following the county commission race carefully. In my mind, with the state preemptions – taking over decisions that used to be made by local leaders, it is important for our leadership to know what choices have been taken away from us and what tools we have to preserve the values and culture of our unique Alachua County.

In addition, we have the looming Amendment 3 referendum on our November ballot that, if passed by 60 percent of Florida voters, will take away over \$50,000,000 of income from Alachua County in 2027. It would significantly reduce homestead property tax revenue and, by necessity, make the county and cities raise other taxes and fees to cover emergency services and some 250 other county programs, like veterans’ services and the animal shelter. We need the best, most experienced leadership we can get to discourage the passage of the referendum and to respond to it if it passes.

Bottom line: each of us needs to be an informed voter. Please see Donna Waller’s article on page 1 for candidate information sources. The Alachua County Democratic Party hosted a series of forums for each race. They are posted at: tinyurl.com/iguana2534. The Alligator did a nice summary of the county commission forum which you can find at: tinyurl.com/iguana2535.

There is a whole lot of stuff going on that hits us in the gut but we have little control. We have more control in our local elections where we can meet candidates, read about them, watch them on videos and choose them for their qualifications and their plans for our community that reflect our values and priorities. Let’s vote by August 18! 🐊

From VOTE!, p. 32

Gainesville Mayor: Keep Harvey Ward, lots of community experience and good at doing what mayors do as a visible representative of our community.

Gainesville City Commission District 2: Nathan Crabbe will be a great fit, long time Gainesville Sun editor, great knowledge on our community and communication skills.

Gainesville City Commission District 3: Keep Casey Willits; he’s been doing a solid job and should be retained.

Also see page 14 for Central Labor Council endorsements. 🐊

2026

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From VICTORY, p. 1

Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit in the decision. “Forcing an official government line—in a college classroom of all places — is exactly the ‘pall of orthodoxy’ that the First Amendment will not tolerate.”

In September 2022, the FIRE filed a lawsuit challenging Florida’s “Individual Freedom” law (dubbed the “Stop WOKE Act” by its proponents). FIRE’s lawsuit — on behalf of a professor, a student, and a student group — argued that the higher education provisions of the act unconstitutionally chill free expression and mandate faculty censorship on the state’s college campuses. In today’s ruling, a majority of the Eleventh Circuit panel agreed.

“Today’s important decision means that college remains a place where professors and students are allowed to debate controversial topics—even if politicians disagree with them,” said FIRE senior attorney Greg H. Greubel. “Today’s ruling makes clear something we’ve known for a long time: Governments cannot censor their way to freedom.”

The ruling by the Eleventh Circuit (which covers Florida, Alabama, and Georgia) is a crucial victory for academic freedom and free inquiry on our public campuses. The court joins the Second, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and Ninth Circuits in holding that the First Amendment protects public university faculty’s academic freedom when they engage in teaching and scholarship. No appellate court has come to a different conclusion.

“As a professor, I shouldn’t have to choose between teaching to the best of my ability or facing punishment,” said Professor Adriana Novoa, who teaches Latin American history at the University of South Florida. “This decision is such a relief to professors who care about their students and want them to become well-rounded and informed. It will allow me and countless other professors to teach our classes without government interference.”

The appeals court held that Florida’s “Stop WOKE Act” violates the First Amendment because it “bars Florida’s educators from promoting or endorsing” disfavored ideas about “race, color, sex, and national origin” while allowing criticism of those same ideas. As the court explained, the law targets eight concepts, including whether a person is inherently biased based on race or sex, whether privilege or oppression is determined by race or sex, and whether virtues such as “merit, excellence, hard work, fairness, neutrality, objectivity, and racial colorblindness” are racist.

The court emphasized that “the First Amendment trusts students to figure it out for themselves” and rejected Florida’s claim that it may control professors’ speech because it pays their salaries. “Florida’s restrictions are, as the State admits, an attempt to force uniformity of thought on students by curtailing the free exchange of ideas in universities—the very environments traditionally regarded as laboratories for expression and truth seeking,” wrote Judge Grant.

The Eleventh Circuit’s ruling means that the district court’s November 2022 injunction halting enforcement of key parts of the act in Florida’s public universities remains in place. In its injunction, the district court called the act “positively dystopian.”

FIRE represents Professor Novoa, former student Sam Rehek, and the First Amendment Forum student organization in the suit, with Florida attorney and FIRE Legal Network member Gary Edinger serving as local counsel.

FIRE’s challenge to the Stop WOKE Act was heard alongside a related challenge filed by the ACLU, ACLU of Florida, and NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

Amicus support from across the ideological spectrum included briefs from the Academic Freedom Alliance, American Association of University Professors, Cato Institute, First Amendment Lawyers Association, Profs. Amna Khalid and Jeffrey Aaron Snyder, LatinoJustice, Learning for Justice and the Florida Freedom to Read Project, The New Press, policing scholars and organizations led by Law Enforcement Action Partnership, the National Education Association, United Faculty of Florida, National Black Law Students Association, Stand for Freedom, and PEN America.

Originally published on July 7 at fire.org. 🐉

From GET READY, p. 1

is one that I, as president of the local LWV chapter, must skip. Once you have picked your candidates, work for them. Support them with your time and your money. Give house parties and introduce them to your neighbors. Talk politics with everyone you know. Put up yard signs. Try to choose candidates who favor the interest of the many over the interest of the few, even if you are one of the few. That’s what democracy is about.

Turn out to vote, and make sure others do, too. If you have the time and energy, volunteer with the Supervisor of Elections office as a poll worker or on the canvassing board. Take others to the polls. Vote early and wear your “I Voted” sticker, so everyone knows you think it’s important. Take it as a personal responsibility that everyone you know casts an informed ballot. Roll up your sleeves and get busy. This is what democracy is all about, democracy is what America is all about, and you can’t have a democracy without citizens.

Amanda Gorman has written a beautiful children’s book called “Change Song.” Follow her advice and make yourself an instrument of change. Each of you is “just what the world needs.” Be sure to play your part. 🐉

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Gainesville area events

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

Check Gainesville Blue Activism Hub (linktr.ee/gnvbluehub), MusicGNV's weekly Facebook news of local music (updated Thursdays), and Alachua Community Collective (tinyurl.com/iguana9872) for the latest.

JULY 26 - AUGUST 1

Wed 7/29 "florida/woman", 7-10pm (through 8/1), Gvl Fine Arts Ass'n Gallery (1314 S Main St), Jessica Carter self-portraits of transgender experience, free; gainesvillefinearts.org

Wed 7/29 Author Colson Whitehead, 7-9pm, Phillips Ctr (3201 Hull Rd), Pulitzer Prize winner on new novel "Cool Machine", \$15; tinyurl.com/iguana9832

Thu 7/30 "Rocky Horror Picture Show", 8-11pm, The Wooly (20 N Main St), live stage production of cult classic, \$19.50 (\$25.50 for under-21); tinyurl.com/iguana9833

Fri 7/31 Free Fridays Concerts, 8pm through 9/25, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E University Ave), Uncle Mosie & Matthew Fowler, free; pg 5 & tinyurl.com/iguana9780

Fri 7/31 "13" the Musical, 8-10pm (through 8/16), Acrosstown Repertory Theatre (3501 SW 2nd Ave), NYC teen starts over in small town, \$20-25; tinyurl.com/iguana9834

Fri 7/31 "Threshold" Art Experience, 6-9pm, Hyatt Place (212 SE 1st St), performance/installation/collaboration, free?; tinyurl.com/iguana9835

Fri 7/31 Grant Peeples, 7-10pm, Heartwood Soundstage (619 S Main St), "leftneck" folk singer w/ Bad Dog Mama, \$32 adv/\$38 door; tinyurl.com/iguana9829

Fri 7/31 Artwalk, 7-10pm, downtown Gvl, free; artwalkgainesville.com

Sat 8/1 Homowo-Afi African Festival, 9am-7pm (also 8/2), Montecocha Community (19024 NE 21st St), music, dance, poetry, vendors, food, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9836

Sat 8/1 Depot Park 10th Anniversary Celebration, 7-11pm, Depot Park (874 SE 4th St), 7pm Kids' Dance Party, 9pm supergroup Hogtown Homegrowns, food trucks, train rides, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9837

Sat 8/1 Cade Museum free admission day, 10am-6pm, Cade Museum (811 S Main St), Gvl's premier science museum for families waives tickets for "Decade at Depot" Day; cademuseum.org/events/

Sat 8/1 "Florida Wild Woman" concert, 7:30-9:30pm, Theatre of Memory (1705 NE 6th St), Shana Smith with Raihan Alam, \$21.50; pg 4 & tinyurl.com/iguana9838

AUGUST 2 - 8

Sun 8/2 "Protecting Our Local Water Resources", 1-2pm, Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Park (1500 NW 45th Ave), Elise Felt on engaging the next generation, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9839

Sun 8/2 Gvl Humanists meet, 1:30-2:30pm, downtown library meeting room B (401 E Univ Ave), free; <https://gainesvillehumanist.com/meetings>

Sun 8/2 Jamaican Independence Day celebration, 2-6pm, Blackadder Brewing (618 NW 60th St), DJs & live talent play roots reggae, ska, & more, plus Caribbean food & drink, free entry; tinyurl.com/iguana9840

Sun 8/2 "Sweethearts of the Swamp" tour, 7-11:30pm, Loosey's Downtown (120 SW 1st Ave), Tele and the Ghost of Our Lord, Jordan Burchel & Rustler play original Floridiana, \$14.64; tinyurl.com/iguana9841

Mon 8/3 HealthScreen, 10am each Mon & Thu, Healthstreet (2401 Archer Rd), tests for hypertension, heart disease, diabetes, & stroke, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9842

Wed 8/5 Author Judith Bense, 7pm, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), archeologist & author of "Early Spanish Florida" on multiple communities who shaped this region, free w/ registration; mathesonmuseum.org/events

Fri 8/7 EARLY VOTING Begins, 9am-6pm (Aug 7-15), Supervisor of Elections Office (515 N Main St) & 7 other locations, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9843

Sat 8/8 Fix It Free Clinic, 11am-2pm, Gvl Hackerspace (4101 NW 6th St), 2nd Saturdays appliance repairs, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9844

Sat 8/8 "Dressed to the Nines", 2-10pm, Cypress & Grove Brewing (1001 NW 4th St), 9th anniversary "fancy-dress" celebration with live music, free entry; tinyurl.com/iguana9845

Sat 8/8 Adopt-a-Thon, 10am-7pm, Alachua County Animal Resources (3400 NE 53rd Ave), free goodies bag & no adoption fees for hundreds of dogs & cats, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9846

AUGUST 9 - 15

Sun 8/9 Jim Lauderdale, 7pm, Heartwood Soundstage (619 S Main St), Grammy-winning American roots folksinger (under 18 must have parent or guardian), \$38 adv, \$44 door; tinyurl.com/iguana9847

Thu 8/13 "What Is Capitalism?", 6-8pm, Bazaar47 (60 SE 2nd St), doc hosted by Gvl Democratic Socialists of America, free; <https://alachuadsa.org>

Sat 8/15 Gvl Free Store, 2-5pm 3rd Sats, Civic Media Ctr (433 S Main St), free stuff for all (masks required & provided); civicmediacenter.org

Sat 8/15 1st Mag 12th Anniversary, all day (evening events 8/12-16), 1st Magnitude Brewing (1220 SE Veitch St), details tba; pg 16 & facebook.com/FirstMagnitudeBrewing

AUGUST 16 - 22

Tue 8/18 Fla Primary - VOTE! Find your polling place at tinyurl.com/iguana9848

Thu 8/20 The Wirebirds, 7:30-9pm, The Lynx Books (601 S Main St), chamber folk music sextet, \$10; tinyurl.com/iguana9849

Sat 8/22 Pollinator Party, 10-11am, Gvl Garden Club Butterfly Sanctuary (1350 NW 75th St), learn about pollinators & join in Great Fla Pollinator Census, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9850

Sat 8/22 "A Legacy of Excellence", 2-3:30pm, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), panel on African-American education in segregated Alachua County, free w/ registration; tinyurl.com/iguana9851

Sat 8/22 Acrosstown Repertory Theatre Annual Gala, 6-9pm, Lyrico Conservatory (3601 SW 2nd Ave), fundraiser w/silent auction ("cocktail attire encouraged"), \$50; acrosstown.org/gala

Sat 8/28 Women's Equality Day Luncheon, 11:30am-1pm, Best Western Gateway Grand (4200 NW 92nd Blvd), Susan B. Anthony award presentation & speaker Teresa Cornacchione, PhD, \$27 (21 & under-\$43 (22+)) (reserve by 8/15); pg 2 & fosba.com

AUGUST 23 - 29

Sun 8/23 Author Coleen Degroff, 2:30-4pm, Millhopper Library (3145 NW 43rd St), "Finding Unheard Voices in Public Records" talk on researching local Black history, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9852

Thu 8/27 Gvl Reads fundraiser, 4-8pm, 1st Magnitude Brewing (1220 SE Veitch St), supports month-long reading festival, \$10 wristband for drink discounts; tinyurl.com/iguana9854

Thu 8/27 "Seeds for Liberation", 6-8pm, Bazaar47 (60 SE 2nd St), doc hosted by Gvl Democratic Socialists of America, free; alachuadsa.org

Fri 8/28 Artwalk, 7-10pm, downtown Gvl, free; artwalkgainesville.com

Fri 8/28 Juvenile, 6-10pm, Heartwood Soundstage (619 S Main St), rap legend w/400 Degreaz Band (under 18 must have parent or guardian), \$50 adv, \$63 door; tinyurl.com/iguana9855

Sat 8/29 "African & African-American Legacies in Fla", 10am-4pm, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), live music & 5 speakers on African-American history, free w/ registration; pg 7 & tinyurl.com/iguana9856

Sat 8/29 "Union 101", 2-4pm, IBEW Hall (2523 NS 6th St, talks on union history & working for City of Gvl, GRU, ACLD, GHA, etc, free

Sat 8/29 Gvl Roller Rebels, 6pm, MLK Ctr (1028 NE 14th St), Swamp City Sirens vs Millhopper Devils, \$15 adv, \$18 door; tinyurl.com/iguana9857

AUGUST 30 - SEPT. 5

Sun 8/30 Drag Brunch, 12am-2pm, 1st Magnitude Brewing (1220 SE Veitch St), Emma Graton hosts fabulous drag artists, music, & costumes for 18 & over, \$18 (includes drink); tinyurl.com/iguana9858

Fri 9/4 Propaganjah, 6-9pm, Skinner Park (15100 NW 142nd Terr), part of Levitt Amp Alachua Music Series, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9868

Sat 9/5 "Friendship and Freedom", 9am-1pm, Morningside Nature Ctr (3540 E Univ Ave), play about young girl during Civil War who finds freedom in the north, plus old schoolhouse tour, choral group singing freedom songs & spirituals, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9869

Sat 9/5 Labor Day Breakfast, 8:30-11am, Central Labor Council (2332 NE 17th Terr), breakfast and fellowship in celebration of working people everywhere, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9860

Sat 9/5 The 4411, 7-10pm, Signal (7 SW 1st St), alt-rock from Austin, \$20.51; tinyurl.com/iguana9863

Sat 9/5 "Our Gulf, Our Future", 5:30-7:30pm, UF Pugh Hall Ocora (296 Buckman Dr) (also livestreamed on YouTube), short documentary & panel talk on storms & recovery in Cedar Key, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9864

Sat 9/5 Gator Football, 7:45pm, BH Griffin Stadium (157 Gale Lemerand Dr), vs Fla Atlantic Owls: traffic advisory!

SEPTEMBER 6 - 12

Sun 9/6 "Connecting Community with the Outdoors", 1-2pm, Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Park (1500 NW 45th Ave), Austin Burton on nature and the local economy, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9865

Sun 9/6 Jimmy Buffett Fest, 3-7pm, Heartwood Soundstage (619 S Main St), 8 acts benefitting

Save the Manatee Club, sliding scale donations; tinyurl.com/iguana9866

Sun 9/6 Blues on the Patio, 7-9pm, A. Quinn Jones Ctr (1013 NW 7th Ave), Sheba the Mississippi Queen w/ Dr. Jules Cool Blues, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9867

Thu 9/10 22nd Latino Film Festival opens, details tba; tinyurl.com/iguana9870

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 42nd St & NW 16th Ave

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

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

Please support GNV live music venues, they all have calendars: Heartwood Soundstage, Satchel's, Loosey's, Boca Backyard, the Wooly, 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: tinyurl.com/iguana9871

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

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

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.

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

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

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; tinyurl.com/iguana9873

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 6:30pm

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/

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.org | LaborCoalition.org

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

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

Alachua DSA is part of the largest socialist organization in the U.S., The Democratic Socialists of America (DSA). They have organized to build working-class democracy & 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://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

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

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

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

Spotlight on: Awesome Gainesville



The Awesome Foundation exists to forward the interests of awesomeness in the universe. We are the Gainesville chapter of the Awesome Foundation, Awesome Gainesville, experimenting with simple, lightweight funding structures that foster the creation of surprise and delight.

Each chapter in the Awesome Foundation community operates entirely independently: there is no actual organization "in charge" of the Awesome Foundation. In fact, we are not a real foundation at all! We are just a group giving our own money to awesome ideas in the greater Gainesville community.

We award \$1,000 grants on a quarterly basis throughout the year and review submissions in March, June, September, and December.

Projects must benefit our greater Gainesville community of Alachua County. To donate, learn more or apply for a grant for YOUR awesome idea, click the QR code or go to awesomегainesville.org



HELP! Protect and Save our Rivers and Springs



oursantaferiver.org freetheocklawaha.com

Learn Your Part. Do Your Part

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

Code Pink: Women for Peace is a women-led grassroots peace/social justice movement utilizing creative protest, non-violent direct action & 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 | 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.org | 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.folacld.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 | 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. climaterealityprojectgnv@gmail.com | climaterealityprojectgnv.org | climaterealityprojectgnv.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. Donate funds at paypal.com/gnvb2p

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

Gainesville for All - 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@gainesvillrollerrebels.com | gainesvillrollerrebels.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@lwv-alachua.org | LWValachua.org

Madres Sin Fronteras (Mothers Without Borders) is a local grassroots immigrant-led organization working to protect the rights of immigrants' families in our community & 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. gainesvillnlg@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. | Linktr.ee/psl_gainesville | psl_gainesville@proton.me | pslweb.org/join

UCW Florida (CWA Local 3165) is a union of Florida public sector higher education workers open to 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-Israel 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. ufysa21@gmail.com | facebook.com/ufysa | @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.





The Iguana recommends:

US Senator: Angie Nixon

US Representative District 3: Seth Harp

Governor and Lieutenant Governor: David Jolly and Gwen Graham

Florida CFO: Annette Taddeo

Florida Agricultural Commissioner: Donald Prichard

Florida State Representative District 21: Antione Fields (or Malik Moore)

Alachua County Commission District 2: Donna Bradbrook (or Tina Certain)

Alachua County Judge 5: Eric Atria

Alachua County School Board District 1: Hunter Miller

Alachua County School Board District 3: Sarah Rockwell

Gainesville Mayor: Harvey Ward

Gainesville City Commission District 2: Nathan Crabbe

Gainesville City Commission District 3: Casey Willits

The Iguana's take on the August 18 elections

by Joe Courter

FIRST THING ... VOTE! Some of these races will be winner takes it, no November decision, as they are Universal Primaries. And note depending on where you live (district 21 and city) some races may not be on your ballot.

Taking it from the top:

US Senator: Please support the underdog Angie Nixon against Alexander Vindman in the primary. This Senate race may be in reach if there is a Blue Wave, and Angie is a much stronger campaigner.

US REPRESENTATIVE District 3: Vote Seth Harp to be the Democrat against Kat Cammock. Seth is the best opponent Dems have had to beat Kat. This race will also have a 3rd party candidate in November. More in the next issue.

Governor: The strong team here is David Jolly and Gwen Graham ... that is the strongest the state party offered up. It could really do well in November against the DeSantis replacement candidates.

FL CFO: Annette Taddeo by far the strongest candidate for a win in November.

FL Agriculture Commissioner: Donald Prichard.

FL State Representative District 21 to replace Yvonne Hayes Hinson: Multiple acceptable candidates here. My top three are Malik Moore, Xavier Monroe, and Antione Fields. Fields is more the progressive candidate with a strong labor union background, has been in Tallahassee trying to advocate for Labor, and whom I hope would get in and carry a progressive message. Moore most recently served as Chief of Staff to the chair of the Florida Legislative Black Caucus. He could hit the ground running.

County Commission District 2: Two strong candidates here and likewise a hard call. Tina Certain and Donna Bradbrook both have decades-long histories of service in Alachua County, Tina as an accountant with GRU, and then just completed terms on the School Board, and Donna as an active part of the Alachua County government in multiple roles. Both are very quali-

fied, and Tina would have been my pick, but Donna came on the scene after retiring from County government employment and just brings too much experience of getting stuff done within the system, so I have to go with her.

County Judge 5: Continuing the trend, two really good options here with Eric Atria and Abroncee Martin. Eric is active in the community as a musician, as a lawyer with 21 years of public defense work, teaching at the Law School, as well as performing a lot of Pro bono work. Abroncee has been a long time strong presence in the Public Defenders office and has a lot of support from within the workers there. We win either way but I will go with Eric, he's worked really hard for this.

School Board District 1: Hunter Miller against the DeSantis appointee Plavic. Hunter for sure.

School Board District 3: Sarah Rockwell has been doing a great job and should be re-elected.

See VOTE!, p. 24



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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

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