



Rubio's blind spot on violence

by Howard Simon, MSN

Soon after I arrived in Miami in the late 1990s, Marco Rubio of West Miami was elected to the Florida legislature.

Even back then he was railing against "the Left."

He was not alone. Numerous Miami politicians pandered to the Cuban American

community, directing anger at those allegedly ideologically aligned with the revolutionaries who seized power (and their property) on the island. Rubio's then-roommate and buddy, former U.S. Rep. David Rivera, now a convicted felon, was skilled at this dark art.

They frequently had to convince the community that freedom for people on the island sometimes required censorship in Miami: where Cuban band Los Van Van was denied a performance venue; a member of the film advisory board was fired for suggesting that Cuban artists be permitted to perform in Miami; and the School Board removed a children's picture book portraying the lives of children in Cuba from school library bookshelves.

Rubio has a bigger stage now, but the script has not been significantly revised.

On July 16, now Secretary of State Rubio sponsored a Conference on the "Resurgence of Political Terrorism." His opening remarks surveyed political terrorism around the globe. But it was his skewed version of political violence in our country that drew my attention.

He reached back decades listing violence by the Weather Underground, the Black Liberation and Symbionese Liberation Armies, violence during protests following the police murder of George Floyd, and the assassination of right-wing activist Charlie Kirk.

Not one word about our history of racially motivated violence — from the Ku Klux Klan to the murders of parishioners at Charleston's Emanuel AME Church, the murder of abortion providers, the Oklahoma City bombing that killed 168 people,

See RUBIO, p. 24

Public sector unions face deadline

by CWA Local 3170

Public employees at the City of Gainesville, Gainesville Regional Utilities, Gainesville Housing Authority and the Alachua County Library District represented by CWA Local 3170 have until Nov. 1 to reach 60 percent union membership, or they could lose their union representation.

That deadline is the local consequence of major changes the State of Florida has made to public-sector labor law.

In 2023, Florida passed Senate Bill 256, changing the rules for public-sector unions. Among other things, the law requires many public-sector unions to maintain at least 60 percent dues-paying membership within the employees they represent. Unions that fall below that threshold are required to go through a recertification process.

The law also changed how public employees pay union dues, ending payroll

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Post primary report

by Joe Courter

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Want your article, ad, event or PSA in the October Iguana?
(Due to come out Thursday, Oct. 8.)

Deadline is Wednesday, Sept. 30

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

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

So, yes; the primary election happened, and here is the list of folks, all Democrats, who could be part of a hoped-for Blue Wave. We really need to make it happen, and having Angie Nixon win so convincingly is really a good sign! People are ready for change!

Consider plugging in to help get out the vote. Places that really could use help are some of the local grassroots races.

Jason Fultz, Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson, and Amy Trask are all progressive folks who would be challenging the direction of the Florida legislature. Even if you do not live in their districts, they could use help with campaign work, should you want to venture out of our Blue Bubble here in Gainesville.

Hunter Miller is in a run-off against a DeSantis School Board appointee; help there can really make a difference, too.

The Supervisor of Elections office has a great website for campaign information at votealachua.gov, and the local Democratic Party can help, too, at alachuademparty.com.

Let's do this.

- ✓ **Angie Nixon:** United States Senator
- ✓ **Seth Harp:** Representative in Congress: District 3
- ✓ **Eric Younce:** Representative in Congress: District 6
- ✓ **David Jolly:** Florida Governor
- ✓ **Gwen Graham:** Florida Lieutenant Governor
- ✓ **Jose Javier Rodriguez:** Florida Attorney General
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- ✓ **Joey Mendoza Adkins:** Florida Commissioner of Agriculture
- ✓ **Jason Bellamy-Fultz:** State Senator: District 6
- ✓ **Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson:** State Representative: District 10
- ✓ **Amy Trask:** State Representative: District 22
- ✓ **Ken Cornell:** County Commissioner: District 4
- ✓ **Hunter Miller:** School Board run-off

There will be judges races on the ballot in November:

- ✓ **Circuit Judge, Eighth Judicial Circuit:** Groups 4, 7, 9, and 11
- ✓ **County Judge:** Group 5

There will be constitutional amendments as well. Details coming in the October Iguana. 🐊

Excerpts from Changes IV

Cat Stevens 1971

*Don't you feel a change a-coming
From another side of time
Breaking down the walls of silence
Lifting shadows from your mind
Don't you feel the day is coming
That will stay and remain
When your children see the answers
That you saw the same*

Publisher notes

On feeling a change coming

The words (printed on page 2) and melody of a wonderful Cat Stevens song from 1971's "Tea for the Tillerman" flowed into my jukebox of a brain a day or two after the election. Already buoyed by the statewide victory of Abdul Al Sayed in Michigan in the race for Senate, we had our own Senate race with a surprising victory with Angie Nixon. Yes, as the multiple horrors of this Trump administration bombard our senses and sensibilities and we feel the threat of authoritarian domination coming down the road, it is really easy to feel overwhelmed. I refuse to concede to hopelessness and powerlessness. And here was proof that the control of the corporate Democratic party and huge outside money was being rejected by people who just want sensible, practical policies enacted — health care, education, justice for all, an end to ICE brutality, an end to needless wars. It was a profound feeling of hope in my heart. I could "feel a change a-coming."

It seems the "shadow" over the ideals and policies being put forward by the wave of progressive candidates winning around the country, that dreaded collective tendency the Right calls "Socialism" is "breaking down." It wasn't enough anymore to just erect "walls of silence" around such ideas and aspirations; the needs have become so great and obvious that regular folks are saying we need "changes."

What is driving a lot of this desire for changes? Grassroots political organizing, always the basis for motivating such progressive change, going back to the Civil Rights Movement, the Anti War movement, the LGBTQ movement, and the environmental movements. Right now we see a call for changes to be made, major changes like what happened under the New Deal in the '30s such as Social Security, changes that will "stay and remain." More and more people feel it can happen, "the day is coming," and who is in the forefront of driving these optimistic changes? In many cases it is the young folks, perhaps organizing with Democratic Socialists of America or other affiliated organizations, who recognize their present and future are looking bleak, that people around them are hurting and something needs to be done; not the Hope and Change sloganeering of the recent past, but real change. The younger generation sees, or as Cat Stevens put it, "your children see the answers," and as evidenced by those elections, "that you (elders) saw the same," and many voted that way.

I am no Pollyanna, nor some blind optimist. The above was fun to put together, but we are deep into an authoritarian takeover of this nation. We do still have the ballot box, or at least hope we do, and November looms large as the best chance to exert some influence in Congress. Why is the Right throwing all the roadblocks into voting, making all their false claims? Because they know voting has the power to affect the course they have set as they seek to further entrench their power, and take all the riches they can from a system perched near collapse from the Crypto and High Tech bubbles bursting. Militarized policing and the surveillance state are huge growing threats to our liberties. Climate change is a real thing, and its effects will need to be dealt with.

We progressives oppose the policies of needless pain and violence; the taking away of rights, the suffering of people trapped in poverty and economic insecurity, the assaults on the environment, the environmental and human toll of wars, the genocide happening before our eyes.

The Right sees all this as a threat: that some people don't deserve equal rights, that empathy and helping the poor and disadvantaged is somehow bad, that exploitation of resources should be accelerated, that wars are necessary and that Israeli dominance is the only solution. Our resistance to their forms of violence is in turn portrayed as OUR violent tendencies. Their propaganda machine is very powerful in driving this message. We want changes, they portray our desires as a threat to their rule. And so perhaps we are. We see the need for changes, and maybe the Constitutional weapon we have been given, the ballot box, can begin to turn it around. Maybe, because they are willing to classify our resistance as insurrection, and that seems to be the plan they are heading toward. Do what you can. 🐸



Joe Courter

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Publisher:

Joe Courter

Editors Emeriti:

Jenny Brown

Mark Piotrowski

Editorial Board:

Pierce Butler

Joe Courter

Beth Grobman

Jessica Newman

Digital Content / Social Media:

Aja Dorsey

Production work, contributors:

Joye Barnes

Jenny Brown

Mary Iserman

Vickie Machado

Bobby Mermer

Distribution:

Joe Courter

Melodee Dew

Susan Kaar

Alex Leader

Leon Plympton

Jan Shakespeare

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Federal judge rules in favor of FIU students who sued university for charging them with misconduct after anti-ICE protest

by Jessica Vallejo, Faith Graham, Jayme Berezdivin, Rubén Rosario, WSVN

A federal judge ruled that Florida International University likely violated the First Amendment rights of a group of students who were reprimanded for protesting the presence of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement on campus.

Police body camera footage from March 13 shows several FIU students standing up during an indoor event, their backs to the stage, wearing shirts that say "ICE off FIU." They were protesting the university's decision to allow FIU Police to work with the controversial government agency.

Outside video shows students protesting law enforcement, as well as FIU President Jeanette M. Nuñez as she gets in her car.

Not long after the demonstration, the university charged seven of the students with misconduct for violating an FIU rule prohibiting expressive activities indoors.

FIU officials' actions in the wake of the silent protest resulted in a lawsuit against these officials.

University student Andrew Caro, a plaintiff in the lawsuit, shared his thoughts on the victory on Monday afternoon.

"Knowing that ... our university will not go ahead with punishing us at least until the case finishes is absolutely overwhelming, and we're very happy to hear it," he said. "The video that FIU submitted to the judge showing our demonstration actually worked against FIU, because it just showed how peaceful and just how silent the demonstration actually was."

He also shared the reason behind the demonstrations against the university and lawsuit.

"We're fighting the lawsuit for the same reason why we're engaging in the demonstration in the first place. Our Latino community is consistently under attack and being oppressed by our governments and by the [Department of Homeland Security] and ICE, and the fact that my

university is complicit in that is the entire reason why we engage in the demonstration," he said.

Late last week, the students rallied outside a courthouse in downtown Miami, on the day of their first hearing, with the American Civil Liberties Union in their corner.

"We are committed to getting ICE off FIU," said Caro at the rally.

"ICE has no place in a public university," said another student.

Speaking at the rally on Friday, Nicholas Warren with the ACLU of Florida was confident that victory would be theirs.

"We're feeling very optimistic that the court will block FIU from enforcing this policy and protect all students on campus from being punished for engaging in First Amendment protected speech and expression," he said.

In a filing Sunday, more than five months after the protest, the federal judge ruled in the students' favor, issuing a preliminary

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injunction that orders the university to stop enforcing the policy that landed some of the young protesters in trouble while the case moves forward.

The lawsuit states the students, who are part of a group called the ICEbreakers FIU Coalition, “silently stood for a moment, and then silently walked out.”

“Our demonstration was peaceful, silent and non-disruptive,” said Caro.

“The law is clear: Students have a right to protest on their campus, and the protest that these students engaged in and were punished by the university for was peaceful and non-disruptive, which is exactly what the law protects,” said Nicholas Warren with the ACLU of Florida.

The judge agreed, finding that FIU cannot prohibit peaceful student expression simply because it happens indoors.

The ICEbreakers FIU Coalition shared a post in social media that says:

“Our case continues as we keep fighting to protect our First Amendment Rights on campus and defend our students from injustice.”

A spokesperson for FIU released a statement reading in part: “FIU values freedom of expression and supports an environment that fosters civil discourse and the respectful exchange of ideas.”

The judge’s decision comes just before the first day of classes on FIU campuses.

While the students who filed this lawsuit have won this emergency round, they have not won the entire legal fight. The lawsuit will continue to move forward, and the university can appeal this decision. 🐢



“
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- Harry S. Truman, 1952



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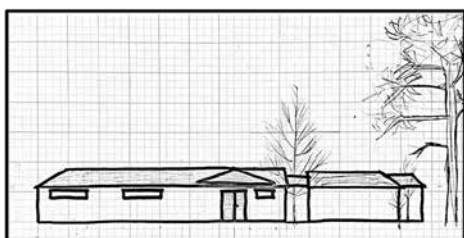
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'Promise Act of 2026' only promises secrecy, cuts to Social Security

by Mary Savage

Attention! Attention! Politicians who may not have our best interests at heart are pushing legislation to establish a "fiscal commission" that would meet in secret with limited, if any, public input to decide the future of our earned benefits and quality of life for ordinary working Americans.

The Social Security Trust Fund is projected to send out payments reduced by 22 to 25 percent beginning in 2032. (A retiree, for example, who gets \$2,000 a month will only get \$1,500 a month.)

While some GOOD bills have been introduced in Congress that would do the best thing to keep Social Security secure and stable into the next century, namely eliminating the Federal Insurance Contribution Act (FICA) wage cap so the wealthy pay their fair share into the program, there also is BAD legislation proposing a "fiscal commission" be created composed of legislators charged with determining Social Security's future.

The BAD legislation is S. 4979, the "Protecting Retirement Opportunities and Maintaining Income Security for Everyone Act of 2026" — also called the "Promise Act of 2026." It sadly and strangely is sponsored by Illinois Senator Dick Durbin, a Democrat. We should all tell our legislators to oppose S. 4979. Why?

The bill shifts the task of forming and debating new Social Security legislation to an exclusive group of lawmakers who would propose in secret "solutions" for Social Security's shortfall and future. They would not go through the normal democratic process of public hearings, Congressional debate and a vote witnessed by the public. The Promise Act of 2026 is a bad idea like every other fiscal commission bill that was introduced in Congress.

What is worse is that the fiscal commission's recommendations would then be fast-tracked through Congress and voted on this fall during the lame-duck session by senators and representatives WHO ARE LEAVING OFFICE and won't be accountable to voters in the future. Any bipartisan pair of Congress members could force votes on plans of their own in just a few weeks! Add to this the recent news that the national debt has reached \$40 trillion — mainly because of military spending and tax cuts for billionaires. But we hear hints and suggestions from Republicans who lie when they say or imply that Social Security has to be cut because it contributes to the national debt. IT DOES NOT.

Senior citizen watchdog groups are alarmed about the situation. The National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare issued a statement that they strongly disagree "with ramming through proposals to cut earned benefits before the public has a chance to learn about them" and that "decisions affecting the retirement security of more than 70 million Americans should be made openly by Congress — not with an unelected panel and under a fast-track process that limits debate and accountability."

What we don't want is any risky privatization of Social Security

or cruel raising of the retirement age or unfair means-testing. What we do want is elimination of the FICA wage cap that would make the wealthy pay their fair share into the Social Security Trust Fund.

What is the FICA wage cap? Wage-earners pay a modest 6.2 percent of their pay up to \$184,500 of income into Social Security. So, if a worker earns \$42,000 a year, they pay 6.2% Social Security contribution on ALL of their wages. But those who earn more than \$184,500 pay 6.2 percent only up to the \$184,500 amount. But someone who earns \$800,000 annually pays the FICA on only \$184,500. Nothing more above that. By eliminating the FICA wage cap, everyone pays into Social Security on all their income. Eliminating the FICA wage cap would bring in more revenue into the Social Security Trust Fund and bring some fairness into the original promise of Social Security to be a trusted social insurance program for the American people.

Maybe you are a retired senior citizen, widow or widower, or someone with a disability who today relies on Social Security to live. Maybe you are getting ready to retire soon and are counting on Social Security to be there for you. Maybe you are a young adult who is far from retirement and doesn't see why Social Security matters to you. Guess what? It absolutely does matter to you. It matters to all of us. Now is not the time for apathy. Now is the time for action. Remember that the people we elect this year will decide whether or not we working Americans can still rely on Social Security in the future. So cast your ballot wisely and be sure to ask the candidates you're voting for how they will make Social Security stronger and ensure its security for decades to come.

Finally, write and call your Congressional representative and two U.S. senators and tell them to oppose the Promise Act, S. 4979. The U.S. Capitol Switchboard phone number (202) 224-3121. Call today and tell them to vote "NO" on S. 4979, the "Protecting Retirement Opportunities and Maintaining Income Security for Everyone Act of 2026." 🐢



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Demand justice for a forest illegally cut down by UF

by Savannah Green

Wetland destruction. Endangered Species Loss. A government fighting its own people.

These are not hypothetical problems in a fictional land – that is what is happening right now at the University of Florida with their recent annihilation of historic Graham Woods.

Just a few weeks ago, the University of Florida cut down nearly every one of the roughly one thousand trees in what was once Graham Woods, a treasured habitat sanctuary in the center of campus. It was south of the basketball arena and home to an endangered species and documented archaeological site, but has now been reduced to piles of broken trees amidst cold construction equipment: a landscape become a deathscape.

All this, at an estimated cost of \$10 million to tax-payers. All this, while ignoring the public who demanded alternatives. And all this, without having a final permit.

You read that right. Before the permit to destroy the forest and wetlands of Graham Woods was finalized, UF cleared the area almost completely, in complete violation of the public trust and rule of law. And we, the people, demand more than just shallow answers, we demand justice. That includes criminal culpability.

According to an article published on UF's own website (tinyurl.

com/iguana2544), citing Florida Statutes, Prof. Michael T. Olexa concludes that "Failure to obtain a permit, failure to comply with regulations, or making false statements to the permitting authorities are all first-degree misdemeanors punishable by a fine of not more than \$10,000 and/or six months' imprisonment."

UF knew what it was doing when it cleared most of the 7.5-acre conservation area during the break weeks between summer and fall semesters, because that would reduce pushback and protest. But what they did not count on was that this time, they would not get away with it, as a group of concerned local citizens, led by the non-profit Friends of Natural Areas, Inc. ("FONA"), are fighting back with a lawsuit challenging their reckless plans with the St. Johns River Water Management District.

In the process, it has come to light that other adjacent projects, including the new dormitory complex which removed ~150 trees and multiple buildings, were also never properly permitted, but have been under construction since last October. UF seems to think it is above the law, but hopefully with a lawsuit and more public awareness, pressure can be put on state law enforcement to investigate the crimes taking place on UF campus, because they are surely not policing themselves.

It is not a question of whether some work needs to be done in the area. The question is whether UF is following the rules, and they simply are not. No final permit, no start work order, no transparency as required by law. They are cheating, and cheaters can't be allowed to win.

Please help support FONA's lawsuit and campaign by donating to them at tinyurl.com/iguana2545, or signing the original petition at tinyurl.com/iguana2546. If you'd like to volunteer, especially if you are an expert in science or permitting, please email SaveGrahamWoods@gmail.com. Thank you! 🐢

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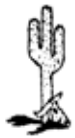
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Why did Gainesville property taxes increase?

by Chuck Ross

At GRU Authority's May 2026 meeting, members considered renewing the long-standing agreement for GRU to bill City Stormwater and Solid Waste fees monthly. GRU would have received about \$1 million, up from \$820,000. Jack Jacobs and David Haslam opposed the agreement, creating a 2-2 impasse with Eric Lawson and Chip Skinner in favor, so the contract failed.

CEO Ed Bielarski recommended renewal, and Interim COO Brian Singleton said the City accepted higher GRU costs to avoid annual tax-bill collection and a possible \$2 million to \$2.5 million revenue loss.

Despite Bielarski's recommendation, support from Skinner and Lawson, and public comments favoring the agreement, Jacobs and Haslam refused to compromise. Their opposition appears driven by hostility toward the City Commission, which Jacobs has shown repeatedly and Haslam has also expressed.

Jacobs called ending the billing arrangement a "win-win" for taxpayers and ratepayers, but it is a lose-lose. GRU lost \$1 million, the City may lose up to \$2.5 million and face transition costs, and taxpayers must now pay annual stormwater and waste fees on their property tax bills instead of monthly through GRU. Calling a potential \$3.5 million loss a win-win defies logic.

Bottom line: GRU ratepayers and City taxpayers save nothing. Instead, Jacobs and Haslam's decision will likely raise fees from both GRU and the city.

That is why property tax bills rose sharply this year: Stormwater and waste fees now appear as non-ad valorem charges on the bill.

Jacobs and Haslam should be removed from the GRUA. Only the governor can do so, but his appointments suggest GRU and the GRUA are not a priority.

In the upcoming election, we must choose representatives who will restore local governmental control, take back GRU, and take back Florida.

Chuck Ross is a retired CPA and a Sierra Club Suwannee-St. Johns Group Executive Committee member. ✨

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Central Labor Council of North Central Florida Election endorsements

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

Congratulations to the recent victors!

- Alachua County Judge Eric Atria
- Dr. Sarah Rockwell, Alachua County School Board

- Reverend Cummings, Marion County School Board
- Mike Crimi, Marion County Commission
- Gainesville Mayor Harvey Ward
- Gainesville City Commissioner Casey Willits

And now on to November!

Governor & Lt. Governor: David Jolly & Gwen Graham

David handily won the primary and will be facing Republican Byron Donalds this November.

<https://davidjolly.com/>

Attorney General: Jose Javier Rodriguez

Brother Rodriguez was a strong early endorsement from the Florida AFL-CIO and the importance of this race can't be overstated.

<https://www.jjr.vote/>

State Senate, District 6: Jason Bellamy-Fults

Jason has a long history of standing up for our community and fighting for the rights of working people. In addition to his labor advocacy, Jason has also been a strong environmentalist, currently serving as Board Chair of the Community Weatherization Coalition.

<https://www.takingbackflorida.org/>

State Representative, District 22: Amy Trask

<https://amytraskforflorida.com/>

Alachua County Commission District 4: Ken Cornell

Ken is running to build on our progress — strengthening infrastructure, protecting our environment and ensuring every family has the opportunity to thrive in Alachua County. Commissioner Cornell was elected to the Alachua County Commission in November 2014, and re-elected in 2018 unopposed, and re-elected for his third term in 2022.

<https://cornell2026.com/>

Putnam County Commission: Joshua Florence

Joshua is a proven public servant with over a decade of frontline experience delivering real results for his community through collaborative leadership. 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.

<https://gowithflorence.com>

U.S. Senator, Congressional District 3, State Rep Dist. 21, & Alachua School Board District 1:

No endorsements at this time. 🐾

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- Please get involved with your workplace union if you're fortunate enough to have one.
- If one doesn't already exist, then consider helping to start one.
- Join a labor-adjacent organization like the local Alachua County Labor Coalition (laborcoalition.org) and/or the AFL-CIO campaign "Department of People Who Work for a Living" (deptofpeoplewhowork.org).
- Keep an eye on the news and support workers elsewhere (e.g., Amazon, Starbucks) who are taking the fight directly to the oligarchs.
- Join our efforts to elect pro-labor politicians, and then help us hold them accountable.
Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/76CtjMSXaauAb2MN7>

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

—Big Bill Haywood

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

workerscreateallwealth.substack.com



An afterthought on the America 250 hoopla

by Joe Courter

The nation's 250th birthday, Trump style, is not over, even as we've passed his July 4th ego tripping events such as the major motorsports spectacle on the streets of our nation's capital.

So here's a local angle looking back on the Bicentennial celebration of 1976 that you might appreciate, and I was glad to learn.

I had just arrived in Gainesville in 1976, and there was this community project going on to build a downtown plaza, using a lot of community labor and the bricks from the recently torn-down courthouse building. I and many others participated in creating what we now know and love as Bo Diddley Plaza. I took for granted this was simply a cool local idea. I did not know this back history until I heard this report on NPR, citing the original report by Louis Jacobson in Politico from June 15. Looking back on the Bicentennial in 1976, he reported:

Planning began a decade ahead of time in 1966, with President Lyndon B. Johnson creating a bipartisan commission to organize the commemoration. Johnson wanted a World's Fair, an echo of the 1876 centennial in Philadelphia. But within two years, Johnson was out of office.

When Nixon became president, he appointed "political cronies and longtime supporters" to the commission, wrote M.J. Rymysz-Pawlowska, an American University historian and author, in an essay on the bicentennial.

Before long, she wrote, critics said Nixon was framing the bicentennial in ways that centered himself and his 1972 campaign. Some said the committee was "corrupt and unwieldy." Others, including the Black Panther Party and the American Indian Movement, said the effort was paying scant attention to the history of racial and ethnic minorities. Alternative bicentennial organizing committees emerged.

Eventually, the Nixon administration responded to the criticism by shifting gears, initiating a more hands-off process of handing out money to local groups without strict federal mandates. The idea was to empower local communities to undertake historical projects meaningful to their own communities.

While some activities were national in scope — including a parade of tall ships, a reverse wagon train from west to east,

and a July 4th fireworks show — the majority were hyperlocal. They ranged from the restoration of a railroad station in Ogden, Utah, to preservation of a historic one-room schoolhouse at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, and a Seafood Heritage Trail in Biloxi, Mississippi.

So, it seems we were part of that effort! Gerald Ford had assumed the presidency in 1974; a more sensible Congress doubtless helped. The powers that were in Gainesville took advantage of the opportunity to do a really great community project we still enjoy today. Jacobson continued:

Trump's approach is decidedly different, historians said.

"Today, the carnival atmosphere of cage fights on the White House lawn and a concert that everyone seems to be backing out of tells you all you need to know," said James Robenalt, a lawyer and scholar of the Watergate period. "There is no serious look at the nation or its complicated history."

Indeed, and there is a serious effort on so many fronts to whitewash our very real, problematic, and profoundly affecting past. I am glad to share this information with you Iguana readers. 🐢



Important election dates

Oct. 5: Deadline to register to vote/change party affiliation for general election

Oct. 19 - Nov. 1: Early Voting

Nov. 3: Election Day

Check your registration status, find out where you vote, request a mail-in ballot (must be done 12 days before the election), and more at the Supervisor of Election website:

votealachua.gov

LIVE MUSIC

SUNDAY FUNDAY 2-5 PM

Sept

- 6 UnTamed Band (Blues Rock) **Free**
- 13 In the Moment (Jamericana) **Free**
- 20 Billy Gilmore (BlueGrass Master) **\$20**
- 27 Quartermoon (Americana) **Free**

Nov

- 1 Gonzo Band (Americana) **Free**
- 8 Jasper Smitty (Guitar Master) plus Dead Honey Collective (Grateful Bluegrass) **\$20**
- 15 Jam (Open Mic w Scott Butsch) **Free**
- 22 Billy Gilmore's Bluegrass Band **\$20**
- 29 Quartermoon (Americana) **Free**

Oct

- 4 Gonzo Band (Americana) **Free**
- 11 UnTamed Band (Blues Rock) **Free**
- 17 SinkHole Serenaders, Billy Gilmore Trio **\$25**
- The DEAL **FUNGI FEST**
- 18 Don Austin **\$15**
- Scott Butsch & The Shroomers **\$15**
- 25 Quartermoon (Americana) **Free**

Dec

- 6 Weeds of Eden (Eclectic Roots Rock) **Free**
- 13 Tom Smith Band (Eclectic Rock) **\$10**
- 20 Christmas Jam (Open Mic w Scott Butsch) **Free**
- 27 Quartermoon (Americana) **Free**



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On partisanship

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

Last month, because of an error on the part of The Iguana, the issue of whether the LWV is partisan surfaced yet again. Even after the mistake was owned and corrected, the LWV membership kept me thinking about the issue. Here's how I addressed the issue in our monthly newsletter.

Early in my teaching career at Santa Fe College, one of my favorite colleagues was a historian named James Gregg. He was a wonderful teacher and researcher. He lived in a house that was like a museum of antique guns. He was from Illinois, and he was a Republican. He was what I now think of as a Lincoln/Eisenhower Republican. We often debated individual policies and political philosophy. We disagreed about the size and scope of government, economic policy, and the NRA, but not about equal rights and environmentalism.

Foreign policy issues were a mixed bag. We both hated corruption. But here's the thing ... we could talk about it because there was

one huge area of agreement: the norms of what political science textbooks call "American Political Culture." Our political ideas, values, and practices have defined what it means to be an American for 250 years. Our consensus on those basic norms is what allowed Jim and myself to engage in a productive and entertaining political dialogue without ever seeing each other as the enemy, despite partisan differences.

What are some of these norms? Both of us, like the founders of our country, believed that the government exists to serve the people, and not the other way around. We both thought that most things should be done by majority rule, but that the rights of minorities must be protected. That was the job of the court system.

We understood the foundational values to be both liberty and equality, and that how to balance those in the real world was what American history was all about. We both loved the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Both of us believed in federalism and keeping as much local autonomy as possible. Most of all, what we agreed upon was the importance of citizenship and participation. We both wished more people voted. We wished more people would educate themselves about the system. We wished people made wiser electoral choices. We wished more people understood what it meant to be a Democrat or a Republican historically and ideologically.

I do not believe that either of us ever thought that this consensus that representative republican government was good for the country would ever erode. But it has. The regime in Washington calls into question the results of elections and ignores the will of the majority in many other ways as well. It openly defies time honored constitutional principles. It violates both the civil rights and civil liberties of American citizens whenever it feels like it. It discourages citizenship and participation in every way possible from breeding distrust in our fundamental institutions to mounting attacks on voting rights.

The state of Florida has followed that lead, while adding dismantling the public educational system and attacking home rule and local government autonomy to the agenda.

Of course, the League opposes all of this at all three levels of our organization. Does that make us partisan?

The people engaging in these acts would have you think so, but that is simply not the case. You may have noticed on the Vote411 site that many candidates do not respond to our questions, and that is deliberate. It is designed to make it appear that the LWV favors one party over another. Here's a hopeful note. Many of our chapters in Florida have Republican members. In those areas, this year, a far higher percentage of local Republican candidates did participate in the Vote411 site than in previous years (about 40 percent). I hope it's the beginning of a trend. James Gregg would have understood the difference between defending the fundamental principles of the American system and partisanship. As League members, it's our job to help the citizenry understand that, too.

Our general election forum will take place at the Graham Center (Pugh Hall) on the UF Campus on Sunday, Sept. 27 at 1:30pm. We hope you will join us in person or in the live stream on the Graham Center website. The forum will also be available for viewing on Vote411.org. 🐾

LWV General Election Forum

Bob Graham Center, Pugh Hall, UF
Sunday, Sept. 27, 1:30pm



THE EROSION OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT: IMPACT & IMPLICATIONS



**WITH DR. GWENDOLYN
ZOHARAH SIMMONS**

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF RELIGION AND
AFFILIATED FACULTY IN THE WOMEN'S STUDIES
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Email: fgsgnv@gmail.com

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END THE CORRUPTION

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LOCAL CONTROL

We live in a diverse state, no one in Tallahassee knows what's better for our communities than the people who live there. If Tallahassee politicians can't help us achieve our goals, they can at least get out of the way. Stop the endless preemptions and respect home rule and local democracy.

PAID FOR AND APPROVED BY JASON BELLAMY-FULTS, DEMOCRAT, FOR FL SENATE DISTRICT 6



Vote NO on Amendment 3!

Property tax – Amendment 3: A wolf in sheep's clothing

by Donna Bradbrook

On Nov. 3, Florida voters will decide on Amendment 3, a sweeping property-tax proposal that would expand homestead exemptions on primary homes and reduce assessment growth on non-homestead properties (including second homes, vacation rentals, vacant land, and commercial property).

In addition to reduced revenues coming into cities and counties, the state's proposed tax amendment would dictate how cities, counties, and voter-approved special taxing districts use property tax revenues by mandating a specific list of how those property tax revenues could be used.

In essence, removing any local control, and turning local governments into a puppet of the Republican legislature.

Amendment 3 was passed by the state during a 2 ½ day Special Session in June, where the hastily worded resolution originally stated that only services related to public safety, education, infrastructure, and natural resources could be provided by a local government.

As an afterthought, the legislators decided

mid-way through the special session to add additional "allowed expenses" including repaying debt, pension payments, and ironically, mandated services such as expenses for the Supervisor of Elections and other constitutional offices.

Considering the state would like Amendment 3 to pass during the November election, it would be important to remember to include the funding for the elections office ...

Currently, the resolution is written to ONLY allow local government offices to use property tax revenues as defined by:

"Ad valorem taxes levied by counties and municipalities shall be used only to:

- Provide for public safety, including law enforcement, fire service, and emergency medical service;
- Provide funding for education and public schools;
- Finance or refinance infrastructure, including expenditures on road and bridge construction and maintenance and stormwater control;
- Finance or refinance natural resource

projects, including flood control measures;

- Issue local bonds for uses consistent with this paragraph and to make debt service payments for existing obligations;
- Meet obligations for retirement benefits of local government employees; or
- Fund the operations and administration of county officers and commissioners established under Article VIII and municipalities, and the expenditures approved by such county officers or county or municipal governing bodies, except those expenditures prohibited by general law."

To make matters even worse, if passed in November by the voters of Florida, DeSantis has stated that he plans to work with the state legislature in the late fall on the details of the implementing legislation.

Remember, in their last elections, Trump and DeSantis won Florida by margins of 13 percent and 19 percent, respectively, so it is a stark possibility this state-wide voter referendum will pass in November.

If this proposed bill is the greatest thing to property owners since sliced bread and isn't



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Sept. 11	Fest 24 Showcase: Wolf Face, Night Mayor, The Mermers
Sept. 18	Latina Women's League Showcase
Sept. 25	Uncle Morty's Rhythm Cream (R&B, Soul, Rock)

going to have unintended societal consequences, why wait to draft the implementation language until after voters have to decide?

By all means, what could go wrong when a lame-duck governor leads the referendum implementation when he will absolutely not have to deal with the fall-out into 2027 and future years?

While we could always use some financial belt-tightening, especially during this economy brought on by ill thought-out federal policy and yet-another never ending war, are you willing to give up the services that we consider important?

The sloppy resolution and scarier unknowns of the yet-to-be-drafted implementation language should cause some serious reflection on what it means to be a member of society.

Are you willing to give up programs and services like jail alternative programs, homelessness prevention programs, animal sheltering and adoption services, mental health and substance abuse treatment, climate mitigation and sustainability, parks and recreation programs, economic development activities, food security, and citizen outreach, engagement, and transparency?

Or as DeSantis states, with the property tax savings, individuals will no longer need to count on local governments for any of the prohibited services.

However, I seriously doubt that will work out as he intends.

Vote NO on Amendment 3! 🐢

UPCOMING EVENTS



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9/16	OLD MERVS W/ RUSTLER
9/18	TOMMY STINSON (INSIDE) WHALE FERAL FT. SOOZA (OUTSIDE)
9/20	THE UNTEACHABLES COMEDY TOUR
9/25	HUDSON MACREADY W/ ALANA CAVANAUGH
9/26	PIERRE BENSUSAN
9/27	THE COLD STARES W/ FORTUNE CHILD
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Iguana meets Iguana

Iguana publisher Joe (right) with Malachi B. and Leche at a recent Cypress and Grove Monday market. Photo by Chuck Ross.

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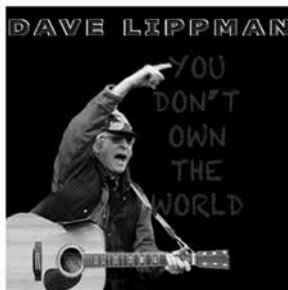


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And the good news is ...

A victory for ‘the right to tell people what they do not want to hear’

by Diane Roberts ~ Florida Phoenix ~ July 20 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2549

The Stop WOKE Act has been struck down. A federal appeals court again ruled against Florida’s “Stop WOKE Act,” which restricted how professors at public universities could discuss racism, sexism and other controversial subjects. Judge Britt Grant, a Trump appointee, wrote that Florida’s attempt to control classroom speech crossed a constitutional line, marking an important victory for academic freedom and the First Amendment.

Advocates sue Trump administration over secret dossiers on ICE watchers

by Brett Wilkins ~ Truthout/Common Dreams ~ July 25 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2550

Civil-liberties advocates sued the Trump administration over allegations that federal immigration agencies have been creating secret dossiers on people who observe, film or document ICE operations. The lawsuit seeks to end the surveillance program and establish that monitoring government agents in public is protected by the First Amendment.

Democratic socialist Angie Nixon scores surprise win in Florida US Senate primary

by Sam Levin and Richard Luscombe ~ The Guardian ~ Aug. 18 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2552

Florida state Rep. Angie Nixon, a union organizer and member of the Democratic Socialists of America, pulled off a major upset in the Democratic U.S. Senate primary, defeating former national security official Alexander Vindman 56.1 percent to 43.9 percent. Nixon won despite being vastly outspent: she had raised about \$975,000 compared with Vindman’s \$16.3 million, making the victory another striking example this year of grassroots progressive campaigns overcoming establishment money.

Bernie Sanders endorses Angie Nixon for U.S. Senate in Florida

by Mitch Perry ~ Florida Phoenix ~ Aug. 20 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2551

Vermont U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders en-

dorsed Florida Democrat Angie Nixon in her battle for the U.S. Senate versus Republican Ashley Moody in November. “Angie’s campaign is proof that Florida voters are looking for candidates who will fight for them and who will take on the greed of the billionaire class,” he said. “This is the future of the Democratic Party. They say Florida is a red state. I don’t believe that’s true. Working people all over this country – in red states, in blue states, in the North, and in the South – are sick and tired of status quo politics and status quo policies. They want change, real change.”

Despite being outspent 10-to-1, Democrat David Jolly likes his chances becoming governor

by Kevin Hardy ~ Florida Phoenix ~ Aug. 18 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2553

David Jolly, who won the Democratic primary, likes his chances of becoming the first Democrat to win the governor’s race in Florida in more than three decades this November. The 53-year-old former GOP Congressman and MSNBC pundit’s confidence appears off the charts even though there are 1.5 million more registered Republicans than Democrats in Florida; he is being outspent by likely GOP gubernatorial nominee Byron Donalds by 10:1; and no Democrat has won anything at the state level since 2018. According to Jolly, in this election year money doesn’t buy popularity.

Federal court allows lawsuit challenging a Florida college’s retaliatory firing over Charlie Kirk posts to move forward

by Mitch Perry ~ Florida Phoenix ~ Aug. 10 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2554

A federal judge rejected an Eastern Florida State College supervisor’s attempt to escape a retaliation lawsuit naming her alongside the college’s board of trustees. The supervisor had moved to dismiss claims arising from her retaliatory firing of a state employee who made social media comments about Charlie Kirk’s legacy. The lawsuit was brought by Erika Santos, a former grant accountant at the college, who was suspended for a month and terminated after the Human Resources department received an anonymous letter enclosing screen shots of her private Facebook page. Her posts discussed Kirk’s well-documented views on sexual assault, abortion, and school shootings, which are matters of public concern and

are constitutionally protected speech. The judge ruled that Santos’s claim against her former supervisor could go forward, finding that previous U.S. Supreme Court case law gave her “fair warning that terminating an employee for speaking as a private citizen on a matter of public concern ... could violate the First Amendment.”

Groups invest in campaign to ‘move on from Moms for Liberty’

by Jay Waagmeester ~ Florida Phoenix ~ Aug. 14 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2555

The Equality Florida Political Action Committee and Southern Poverty Law Center Action Fund announced they’re investing a quarter of a million dollars to support “pro-equality, pro-academic freedom” school board candidates this election season. The \$250,000 will go toward 300,000 mailers to help voters identify which Florida school board candidates are committed to getting politics out of the classroom and to recentering schools away from censorship and back toward student success.

We are finally witnessing the decline of corporate Democrats

by Robert Reich ~ The Guardian ~ Aug. 20 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2556

Reich argues that the upset victories of Angie Nixon in Florida and Abdul El-Sayed in Michigan, both achieved against candidates benefiting from vastly greater financial resources, point to a larger change inside the Democratic Party. He sees the results as evidence that an anti-corporate, working-class economic message can overcome big-money politics and may offer Democrats a stronger path forward.

Why are progressives winning across the United States? It’s not complicated

by Bernie Sanders ~ The Guardian ~ Aug. 19 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2557

Bernie Sanders points to the victories of Angie Nixon, Abdul El-Sayed, Peggy Flanagan and others as evidence that progressive economic ideas are increasingly mainstream rather than politically marginal. He cites strong public support for Medicare for All and argues that candidates campaigning for stronger unions, higher wages, taxes on the wealthy, campaign-finance reform and restraints on corporate power are succeeding because those policies speak directly to working-class economic concerns. 🐼

Editors' Picks: News that didn't fit

Biden family grift vs. Trump family grift: Let's do the numbers

by Dean Baker ~ *Common Dreams* ~ Aug. 12 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana9876

A tally of the comparative numbers comes up with a figure of over \$21 billion for the Trumps and \$8.6 million for the Bidens (none of it going to Joe B). One might quibble about some of the figures – \$13 billion from Venezuela's oil, for instance (on one hand, more recent reports say it's at least \$19 billion now; on the other, it's all stashed in a Qatari bank and no one but the bankers and Trumpistas know what's happening with it) – but it's clear that, if we must talk about “crime families,” one is major Mafiosi and the other is dollar store shoplifters.

Dolly Parton helped us to speak up and join together

by Ellen Cassedy ~ *Labor Notes* ~ Aug. 28 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2557

The working women's movement that began in Boston in the early 1970s was inspiration for Parton's song “9 to 5” and the hit movie of the same name starring Parton, Jane Fonda, and Lily Tomlin. Before the movie, female office workers had never been main characters on the big screen – they were basically invisible. Dolly's example and presence helped create a safe space and build unity among women who didn't necessarily see themselves as part of women's liberation, but definitely believed in fairness and equality on the job.

Friend commits suicide after not receiving help

by Abigail ~ *Substack* ~ Aug. 28 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2559

This Substack piece reflects on Karrie Ford, a troubled local woman known to many folks who took her own life in mid-August. It is a long, powerful recounting of the systemic problem a lot of people face in this society. Abigail wrote: “Karrie was often sad, not just because things were so awful, but because she knew what we could be. Our community can do better. We need to do better because lives depend on it.”

Ice is buying up to \$20 million worth of electric shock gloves

by Sharon Zhang ~ *Truthout* ~ Aug. 12 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2547

ICE plans to spend \$10-\$20 million on thousands of gloves capable of delivering painful electrical shocks to compel compliance. The product's user manual warns that the use of the gloves can “increase the affects [sic] that can cause sudden death.” The article also puts the purchase in the broader context of ICE's greatly expanded budget and enforcement powers.

No more ‘hypothetical situations’: States move to fortify elections against Trump

by Kevin Hardy ~ *Florida Phoenix* ~ Aug. 14 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2538

State lawmakers are preparing for chaos at the polls this November, as Trump pushes for more federal involvement in local voting. Democratic attorneys general and local election officials are looking at ways the federal government could interject itself into local elections and in response, introducing new legislation with the aim of protecting polling places.

The nationwide resistance against Flock surveillance cameras is gaining steam

by Brett Wilkins ~ *Common Dreams* / *Truthout* ~ July 4 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2548

There's a growing national resistance to Flock's automated license-plate reader network and the civil-liberties issues surrounding mass vehicle surveillance. Opposition to these cameras is a democratic and civil-liberties issue. These cameras, first used as automatic license plate readers for standard law enforcement purposes, are now being used for immigration-related searches and other actions supporting U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement during the Trump administration's deadly anti-immigrant crackdown.

Trump-tied law school dean can't even appear in court

by Lisa Needham ~ *Daily Kos* ~ July 28 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana9875

FIU's College of Law has a new Republican-picked interim dean who has been barred by a federal judge from even requesting to be allowed to join in any case in the Southern District of Florida – which includes FIU. Interim Dean Daniel Epstein owes that distinction to his actions representing Donald J. Trump in his failed \$1,776 billion “tax settlement” case.

Trump 2.0 has deleted or altered nearly 400 US datasets, endangering public health, education and more

by Amy Qin and Flávio Pessoa ~ *Guardian* ~ Aug. 18 ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2540

Donald Dumps Discomfiting Data: The Trump regime has deleted dozens of important file sets and altered hundreds, reports a group of data pros (dataindex.us). Numbers needed regarding health, child molestation, air, law enforcement, farmworkers, and much more are gone or rewritten (and this article doesn't even mention the erased FinCEN files needed to track money laundering, evaporating climate crisis datasets, the firing of almost all Freedom of Information Act workers, the virtual gags ordered by the Dept of “War” on military personnel about their living and working conditions, book bans and budget cuts at schools and libraries, attempted suppression of everything and everyone one transgender...) – the lights are going out rapidly.

‘Ugly, un-American attack on our free press’: Stars & Stripes journalists fired for saying they had independence

by Jon Queally ~ Aug. 22 ~ *Common Dreams* ~ tinyurl.com/iguana2541

Three journalists were fired from their posts at Stars and Stripes (the U.S. military's independent news source) for insubordination when they said in an interview that they were independent of the Pentagon and the White House and they would resist any effort to censor the news. 🐞



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joycevance.substack.com

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

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Robert Hubbell



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thelefthook.substack.com

Robert Reich writes at robertreich.substack.com



An emeritus professor of public policy at UC 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."

Support independent voices!

There are many on YouTube or wherever; here are some good choices:

- Gil Duran • Katie Phang • Jess Craven
- Qasim Rashid • Jim Acosta • Allison Gill • Zeteo

Alachua County speaks out against racist, destructive arrests by ICE, Gainesville city commissioners must take a public stand, too

by Ethan Maia de Needell
Rural Women's Health Project

Earlier this month, the Alachua County Board of Commissioners unanimously passed a resolution originally brought to the dais by the immigrant advocacy alliance Gainesville Immigrant Neighbor Inclusion Initiative (GINI), with the support of over 2,500 petition signatures from residents and 17 organizations throughout Gainesville and Alachua County. The petition and resolution demanded our local elected leaders to speak out against the racist and destructive arrests by immigration enforcement in our communities.

This campaign by GINI came after nearly a year and a half into the federal and state mass deportation campaign, with no recognition by our elected leaders on the impact here in Alachua County. Since the beginning of 2025, we have seen the expansion of ICE into our region with the creation of "Deportation Depot" at Baker Correctional Institution (the sister-site to the now-closed infamous "Alligator Alcatraz") a proposed warehouse detention center in Bradford County, and grants from ICE targeting Gainesville as a potential location for an administrative office.

In the 10-month span that GINI recorded immigration arrests in Alachua County, nearly 60 percent of those who went through our jail before getting taken by ICE had no criminal charge. Often these were passengers in cars on the way to or from work, school, and church. Through GINI's immigrant-serving partners we also know that many of those taken had some form of pending immigration case, valid driver's licenses, and even active work permits.

Thankfully, the passage of the Alachua County resolution now joins our community with the growing number of other Florida localities actively resisting. It clearly demands that law and immigration enforcement actions respect our residents' Constitutional rights, calls for clear identification of law and immigration enforcement agents (no masks), acknowledges the damage indiscriminate arrests have on the community, and recommits to the safety and inclusion of our immigrant neighbors.

Elsewhere, the City of South Miami sued the state of Florida to determine whether their city police were required to join the 287(g) agreement (they aren't); the Orange County Commission passed an

anti-warehouse detention center resolution in March and then moved their jail to leave an agreement with ICE; Bradford County Commission refused an offer to create a warehouse detention center after community outcry; the City of Miami Commission is publicly discussing directing their Chief of Police to leave their existing 287(g) agreement; and this is all without mentioning the grassroots community resistance that has appeared in seemingly every city throughout Florida.

Our resistance is needed now more than ever, as Florida jockeys with Texas for the state with the most immigration arrests. These two states alone made up nearly 20,000 arrests out of the national 50,000 total in July as the mass deportation campaign surges on.

Our state has gained its position primarily through "287(g) agreements" – a type of partnership between ICE and state and local law enforcement agencies that has deputized thousands of officers and troopers to serve as immigration enforcement. Florida accounts for a little over 40 percent of the country's total number of 287(g) agreements. This model has allowed immigration enforcement to happen in our community under our noses as agencies like the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) turn mundane traffic stops into an immigration arrest.

Having a resolution passed by our Alachua County Commissioners, GINI is now shifting its focus to their City of Gainesville counterparts. Though the proposed language is a bit different from the county, it strikes at the heart of the same issue – the expansion of immigration enforcement into our region and the indiscriminate arrests that have taken our neighbors and traumatized those left behind.

The city's resolution also places front-and-center the need for Gainesville's Language Access Plan, a formal policy outlining how the city plans to provide language access and methods to hold departments accountable. When last brought to the City Commission, concerns from the dais were laid out – what does the resolution accomplish, what if this affects federal funding eligibility, and what if this increases immigration enforcement?

To the first question, we acknowledge the symbolic nature of the resolution, but argue that when standing up for the constitutional rights of a city's residents is somehow con-

troversial – especially in the face of clear evidence those rights are being infringed upon – that is exactly when those rights should be championed. To not address the issue impacting, both directly and indirectly, thousands of residents is to implicitly say that what is happening is okay. It isn't.

To the second concern, there is nothing within the language of the resolution that violates any state or federal law that would risk funding. This dilemma falsely puts the needs of marginalized communities against each other in an unnecessary binary choice – either we pass the resolution and risk social services funding cuts or we don't pass the resolution and continue providing services. This self-censorship is exactly what the current federal and state administrations want because there is clear evidence regarding similar resolutions that have not resulted in any funding restrictions.

As an advocacy alliance focused on immigrant safety and inclusion, the last concern is always top of mind. When nearly two years of immigration enforcement go by with no public response from city commissioners, the dissolution of the only immigrant-centered position at the city, and continued obstinance around passing a language access plan, and signs point to a rapid increase in immigration enforcement nationally, the community has been unsafe and the very least elected leaders can do is formally acknowledge their fears and clearly state immigrants are welcome and respected at the city.

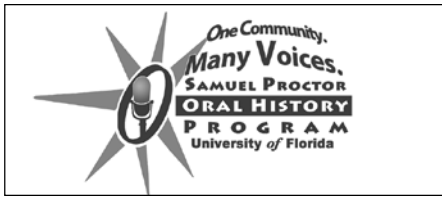
Over 4/5s of immigrant neighbors surveyed by GINI agree they want to see elected officials take a public stand against the violation of their rights – if only to show the city and county they live in, acknowledge and welcome them as an integral part of our community. We ask that the community support our resolution when it is placed on a City Commission agenda. Hearing from residents was critical to the passage at the County level, and it will undoubtedly be critical with the City. Any questions can be sent to us at GINI@rwhp.org. 🐾

"The bosom of America is open to receive not only the opulent and respectable stranger, but the oppressed and persecuted of all nations and religions."

~ George Washington

Oral History Program

History and the people who make it: Heather Loran



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.

Monique Williams [W] interviewed Heather Loran [L] on Oct. 26, 2010. Loran, a first-generation UF student, speaks on what motivated her to come to UF and how the scholarship she received helped. She also gives advice to new students.

Transcript edited for length and clarity by Beth Grobman; a full transcript of this interview is available at tinyurl.com/iguana9874

W: Can you tell me a little bit about yourself – the town you grew up in, your family?

L: I'm from Sumter County. It's about an hour south of here, cow pastures and a Wal-Mart. I graduated salutatorian at my high school. I was very involved in high school; I cheered and did extracurricular activities and such. I applied to UF and yay, I'm here! I'm a Gator. [Laughter]

W: Did you always want to go to UF?

L: Yes. I applied to here, and if not, I was going to the community college back home. I was like, it's happening, I'm doing it.

W: Was it that way with almost everybody that you went to high school with?

L: No. I don't think so. They applied to a bunch of other places. They were just like "Eh, you know, I just want to go to college. I'm not sure."

W: So why the drive to be a Gator?

L: I guess that I'm only an hour south of here, so I hear about Gainesville all the time. My grandpa loves the Gators. He watches the games all the time and I want to be a PA [Physician Assistant], and so they actually have a really good PA program here.

W: So what exactly is a PA? Explain that.

L: A physician assistant, to me I think it's a like good moderation between a nurse and a doctor. It's like less years, you only have two years instead of four years and you don't have a residency, but you can do everything a doctor can. You can prescribe medicine; you can see the patient; it's everything. It's higher than nurse, but lower than a doctor.

W: Nice. What year are you?

L: I'm a sophomore.

W: And you – I assume like UF?

L: I love it.

W: I'm glad you came. How has the Florida Opportunity Scholar Program [FOS] helped you out?

L: Oh tremendously. My grandparents raised me and they don't have the funds or the financial helping for me. I actually would have to had loans and I'm not sure if I'd be able to come here without FOS. It's a pretty big deal.

W: Explain a little bit about the program. Like how you came to know about it?

L: They actually said – because I'm a first generation – that's what FOS is, first generation college students. Neither one of my parents went to college, my grandparents didn't, and there was something about financial need and being the first in your family to go to college.

They have like mentors – I'm a mentor now actually, but I had my mentor when I was a freshman and it helped me so much. Because I came up here and I didn't know nobody and I didn't know what to do and I had somebody I could actually talk to and ask stupid questions. Like if "I need to go here which way should I walk and which way should I turn, what building?" It was really helpful to me.

W: What else are you involved in here on campus?

L: My major is health science and HSSO is like Health Science Student Organization. We do March of Dimes, Gator Babies, we do wheelchair basketball for the Sidney Lanier Disability School, and other stuff like that. I want to be a PA and they have a Pre-Physician Assistant Association. It's kind of a new organization, so it's more like meetings and making sure

you're getting your stuff done and your hours for PA and stuff like that. Gator EMS [Emergency Medical Services], I have my first responder and I'm a CPR [Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation] instructor. We're like the on-call medical help for intramurals through RecSports or like this weekend I did men's water polo. It's really interesting.

I'm a FOS mentor. I have six freshmen mentees; they love me ... I hope [Laughter]. I coordinate events for them. We have ones geared toward service, and one for like bonding, and emotional stimulus; like I took them to a play at the Hippodrome and it was hilarious and they loved it. Then we volunteered at Angel Food Ministries, like you pass out food and stuff; it's pretty cool.

W: What are the academic requirements that you have in order to stay involved with FOS and still have that – ?

L: Still be able to keep FOS?

W: Mhm.

L: After your spring, you know freshman, spring, and summer, you have to have twenty-four credits – that way you're a full-time student – I believe it's a 2.0, so I'm pretty good on that. You have to attend workshops each semester.

When I was a freshman, it was financial literacy because for the majority of people that are awarded the FOS scholarship it's like their first time ever seeing – it was for me – first time ever seeing that amount of money in my bank account. So, it teaches you like don't go out and blow it – everybody wants to go do that, everybody wants to go just blow the money – and different ways you can put it in savings. That way you can spread it out because that money has to last you for the whole entire semester.

This year it's about your resume and stuff for, like, grad school. There's just different workshops that you have to attend. I think that's it.

W: Does FOS carry over to grad school? Are you thinking about it?

L: No. I'm part of the UF Tomorrow Campaign; they raise money for FOS. I actually just did an interview for them and I'm gonna be in the big campaign newsletter that gets sent out to donors.

They actually contacted and are trying to get – like the UF College of Medicine is trying to get a program that’s like FOS, but no, it’s only for your undergrad for four years.

W: FOS helps all majors, so anybody – so I’m like an English and history major ...

L: Yeah, it could still go for you. It’s not geared toward anything. One of my mentees is criminology major. One’s an art history major. I’m health science; they can be totally different. It’s not geared toward – it’s whatever you want to use it for [Laughter].

W: You said your grandparents raised you, how did that come about?

L: My dad actually went to prison when I was young, like I remember him, but not really. My mom, when I was in sixth grade – it’s fifth or sixth grade – she actually decided that she wanted to go do drugs instead of take care of us, I guess.

My brothers actually have a different dad and me and my sister have the same dad. So me and my sister went to live with my grandparents and my little brothers went to live with their dad, and my grandparents have been a godsend; they’re amazing. I love them.

W: That’s wonderful that they were able to step in like that.

L: Yes, they were. Because my grandpa was retired, so my grandma was the only one working. I wanted to go to college; I was set. I was doing it. I was like, “I know you guys can help me, but I’m gonna do it” [Laughter].

W: So your younger siblings, how does that work? Are they as motivated as you are to go college and further their education?

L: They don’t seem like it. I don’t get to see them as much. They live in Alabama right now. Houston and Dallas are my two little brothers, but they don’t seem motivated at all. They hate school. I’m like, “No, no, you have to love it.” They’re like, “There’s no way; once I get graduated there’s no way I want to go to college.” But I will get them talked into it and they will know.

W: That’s amazing that you can be that role model for them. How do you think you’ll be able to give back to UF after you graduate?

L: I become a very successful PA and hopefully, I wanna become one of the

FOS donors. They’ve been so much help to me; I just wanna give someone else the opportunity they gave me. Like I don’t have to have loans; it’s amazing. I don’t know. I just wanna be able to do that for another student.

W: Awesome. Whenever you first came to Gainesville, how was the transition for you personally? I know FOS made it a lot easier.

L: It was very depressing [Laughter]. I actually knew a person that lived up here and he was graduating, so his apartment lease, he still had it. So actually I started here over the summer – 2009 summer B – and he moved; he had a job opportunity, and I stayed at his apartment for free. So that worked out very good, didn’t have to pay rent.

But that means I lived by myself [Laughter] and it was really upsetting. I made my sister drive up here like all the time. My little nephew, she’d bring him up all the time. I’m like, “You guys have to come up.” She’d be like, “I have to go to work.” And I was like, “I know but I can’t do this” [laughter]. It was very depressing.

But I got to know people, I got involved and I barely go home on the weekends anymore.

W: How does that affect the family?

L: My grandparents are actually in Ohio right now because that’s where my great grandpa lives and he’s having little bit of a problem, so they’ve been up there since

May anyway, so I can’t really go down to see them. But my sister comes up often to see me. So it works out.

W: Before we wrap up, are there any words of wisdom you’d like to leave to future Gators aspiring to come to college who were in a similar situation as you?

L: I know academics is a huge thing at UF and you should stay on top of your academics and study, but make sure to get involved. That’s made a huge difference to me.

I like being involved, as you can tell, in different things and helping other FOS students or Gator EMS; make sure you get involved. It makes being a Gator that much more fun. There’s so many opportunities here, it’s endless. I’d say get involved.

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From RUBIO, p. 1

recent violence directed at Jews, Muslims and immigrants, or threats against judges who courageously defend constitutional principles.

Of course, he overlooked thuggery at our nation's Capital on Jan. 6, 2021 and failed to acknowledge studies consistently showing right-wing extremism far more frequent and lethal than left-wing political violence.

But this isn't a "what about-ism" column. Focusing on Rubio's unsurprising bias trivializes my concern.

What captured my attention in Rubio's remarks was a hint of a program to address "radical leftism," defined as "a poisonous resentment cloaked in the language of equality and justice and liberation."

Leftists, he said, "may wear different slogans and ideologies" (calling themselves "anti-capitalist or anti-imperialist or communist or anarchist or Marxist"), but "the same reign of deadly terror, [is] motivated by the same wicked ideas."

"It is time to crush this evil forever," he demanded.

White House Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller warned that "One of the hallmarks of left-wing violence and terrorism is its completely pretextual and disingenuous appeal to civil liberties in an effort to shield its own violence."

Rubio prodded the audience not to fear "raising the alarm too loudly. If you wait until the point where the worst outcome is so obvious that no one can deny it, you've already lost the battle."

The day after Rubio's Ministerial Conference, I was touring the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, located 25 miles north of Berlin. Sachsenhausen was the ingenious architectural model for the complex of concentration camps operated by the Nazi regime. It was designed for indefinite detention of trade unionists, religious dissidents and political opponents of the regime. Later, Jews, Roma and about 10,000 Russian prisoners of war were systematically murdered. From 1936 to its liberation in 1945, approximately 35,000 perished at Sachsenhausen.

I understand that introducing the word "Nazis" into a conversation is often a conversation stopper. But while viewing exhibits depicting the detention of political opponents of the Third Reich, it was difficult to suppress thoughts of Rubio's and Miller's remarks.

If our current government has such a skewed understanding of political violence, blaming political violence only on those harboring leftist ideology; if they see freedom of speech and civil liberties as a cover for terrorism; if democratic elections are insufficient to defeat a despised ideology; if we can't "wait until the worst outcome is obvious;" and if "It is time to crush this evil forever" — can an American Sachsenhausen be far behind?

As noted, in this country political violence inspired by far-right ideology has been more frequent and more deadly than violence inspired by the left.

That's the reality those now in power cannot be permitted to ignore. They put our democracy in danger unless they take politically inspired violence seriously, regardless of its ideological origins.

The November elections are an opportunity we can't afford to miss — to remove those in power who, like Rubio, are so overcome with bias that they only see danger on the left.

Howard L. Simon served as executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida from 1997 to 2018. 🐘

From UNIONS, p. 1

deduction for many public-sector unions and requiring employees to take additional steps to authorize membership and dues payments.

Three years later, Senate Bill 1296 has added another hurdle. The law, which took effect July 1, changes the rules for union certification and recertification elections. This change requires at least 50 percent of the bargaining unit must cast a vote in the recertification election.

For Gainesville and Alachua County Library workers represented by Communications Workers of America Local 3170, these changes have turned membership into a matter of survival.

If their bargaining units do not reach 60 percent membership by Nov. 1, the union could face recertification and potentially lose its status as the employees' bargaining representative.

That could affect more than union membership.

Collective bargaining agreements establish rules for wages, overtime, leave, working conditions, grievances and disciplinary procedures. A union gives employees a collective voice when negotiating those issues with their employer.

Without a certified bargaining representative, workers could lose that collective voice and have to deal with workplace issues individually rather than through a union.

For employees at Gainesville's City government, GRU, Gainesville Housing Authority, and the Alachua County Library District, the issue is therefore bigger than whether someone carries a union card. It is about whether they will continue to have a seat at the table.

Other local Public Sector Unions affected by this legislation are United Faculty of Florida-UF, Graduate Assistants Union (GAU), Alachua County Educators Association (ACEA), Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), each having a different recertification date.

Florida lawmakers have changed the rules. Now Gainesville's public workers have until Nov. 1 to meet them.

Sixty percent is no longer just a membership goal. It could determine whether these workers still have a union.

If you are a City, GRU, GHA or ACLD employee and would like to join, scan the QR code below or call CWA Organizer Jenn Powell at 352-215-2243 🐘



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From TRASK, p. 32

the Agricultural Enclaves bill passed and the Blue Ribbon Projects' near-passage. Local electeds trying desperately to help constituents but tied up by preemption bills. Survivors of violence who feel unseen. Grandparents raising grandchildren. Kids navigating foster care. Families drowning under a cost of living that feels like a tidal wave.

I hear and see their struggle. Fear. That's not the Florida I grew up loving, and it's not the one I want our kids to inherit. I want more for them, and us.

We have a moral duty to stand up for each other: not just for the candidates we personally chose, but for the people who stepped forward at all. When we stand together, we build something bigger than any one race or any one moment. We build a table long enough for everyone who has felt unheard, unseen, or unvalued.

Unity is how we build more seats at the table. It's how we create space – and thereby hope – for voters who feel politically homeless. Unity is how we reach those exhausted by tribalistic warfare, those questioning or weighing whether the cost of voting their party line is worth it, those wondering if there might be something better elsewhere. Unity is how we make room for those quietly asking themselves whether they could vote for a Democrat, or anyone who simply sees them, hears them, and fights for them.

I am a mom and a domestic violence survivor, but I'm also the author of two Senate priority bills this year, including The HAVEN Act, which was signed into law. I am proof that ordinary people can flip the script, start conversations, bring people to the table, and make lasting change for those who need it most. And now, I'm fighting to add "Representative" in front of my name when we defeat Chad "Cracker" Johnson and flip one of the most winnable seats in the state.

I'm just one of so many stories of change. Jason Bellamy-Fults (FL SD-6). Merrilllee Malwitz-Jipson (FL HD-10). Seth Harp (CD-3). Hunter Miller. Angie Nixon. David Jolly. Annette Taddeo. Joey Mendoza Atkins. Whomever else fought to represent you on your ballot.

We can choose how we show up for each other. We can fight for each other.

We can flip the script and change the story, but it's going to take ALL of us.

So let's get out and win. 🐢

"If your actions create
a legacy that inspires
others to dream more,
learn more, do more
and become more,
then, you are an
excellent leader."

DOLLY PARTON



American Federation of Musicians' statement on the passing of Dolly Parton

Today, the entire community of professional musicians mourns the loss of an irreplaceable icon and a generous heart: Dolly Parton.

While the world knows her as a global superstar and philanthropist, we at the American Federation of Musicians of the US & Canada and Local 257 (Nashville Musicians Association) knew her as a steadfast champion for working musicians.

Dolly was always very generous with her time and her money. Her extensive charitable work was never about public perception — she gave simply because she truly cared, always doing everything the right way to make sure that people were taken care of. She overcame every obstacle that came her way and broke down many barriers for women in the music business. Her influence went far beyond the boundaries of country music, but she never lost track of who she was and her values.

"Before she was an icon, Dolly was a working musician," says Tino Gagliardi,

AFM International President. "Dolly never forgot the musicians who helped bring her music to life. By standing firm for solidarity and treating every player with dignity, she elevated our entire profession."

"Throughout her 58 years as a proud member in good standing of Local 257, she set the gold standard for supporting her band and fellow musicians. Dolly and her team consistently filed AFM union contracts for gigs, sessions, and tours, ensuring that the bands, singers, and studio musicians working alongside her received the benefits of union membership," says Dave Pomeroy, President Local 257.

We extend our deepest condolences to her family, bandmates, and millions of fans. Rest in peace, Dolly. Thank you for the music and the solidarity.

For more on Parton and the incredible life she led, check out Heather Cox Richardson's reflection at tinyurl.com/iguana2543. 🐢

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Gainesville area events

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

AUG 30 - SEPT 5

Wed 9/2 Arielle Hebert, 6-7pm, The Lynx Books (601 S Main St), poet reads from new collection "Bottom Feeders", with Asa Drake, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9878

Wed 9/2 Free Porch Sessions, 6:30-9:30pm, Heartwood Soundstage (619 S Main St), Wednesday acoustic jams, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9879

Thu 9/3 UF Soccer, 6:30pm, Disney Stadium (1788 Natural Area Dr), vs Youngstown State, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9881

Fri 9/4 Propagandah, 8-9pm (also 9/11, /18, /25), Skinner Park (15100 NW 142nd Terr, Alachua), outdoors reggae, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9882

Fri 9/4 "Come from Away", 8-10pm, Star Center Theatre (11 NE 23rd Ave), musical of events after 9/11, \$18-22; tinyurl.com/iguana9883

Sat 9/5 Labor Day Breakfast, 8:30-11am, 2332 NE 17th Terr, hosted by Central Labor Council, open to all; tinyurl.com/iguana9884

Sat 9/5 "The Book Party", 1-2pm, Cone Park library (2341 E Univ Ave), celebrating 40th anniversary, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9885

Sat 9/5 Ted McVay, 7:30-9:30pm, Theatre of Memory (1705 NW 6th St), singer/storyteller returns to Gvl, \$21.50; pg 14 & tinyurl.com/iguana9886

Sat 9/5 UF Football, 7:45-10:45pm, BHG Stadium, vs Fla Atlantic - traffic advisory

SEPT 6 - 12

Sun 9/6 UF Soccer, 12-2pm, Disney Stadium (1788 Natural Area Dr), vs Wake Forest, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9887

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/iguana9888

Sun 9/6 Jimmy Buffett Fest, 3-7pm, Heartwood Soundstage (619 S Main St), 8 acts benefitting Save the Manatee Club, sliding scale donations; pg 15 & tinyurl.com/iguana9889

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/iguana9890

Sun 9/6 Sickle Cell Walk, 9am-12pm, Depot Park (874 SE 4th St), join walk & blood drive to support sufferers, free; <https://floridasicklecellcenter.org/walk>

Sun 9/6 Gvl Humanists meet, 1:30-2:30pm, downtown library meeting room B (401 E Univ Ave), free

Tue 9/8 Fall Veg Gardening, 2:30-4pm, Alachua County Ag Auditorium (22716 W Newberry Rd), Cynthia Nazario-Leary teaches Square Foot Gardening Method & more, free (w/ adv registration); <https://tinyurl.com/iguana9930>

Tue 9/8 Science on Tap, 6:30-8pm, Cypress & Grove Brewing (1001 NW 4th St), "Keeping It (Swamp) Eel" talk, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9921

Tue 9/8 Old Time Picking Party, 6:30-9:30pm, Heartwood Soundstage (619 S Main St), open to all (acoustic), free; pg 15 & tinyurl.com/iguana9922

Wed 9/9 "Celebrating Libraries", 3:30-5pm, Tower Rd library (3020 SW 75th St), 40-yr celebration with LEGOs & Magna-tiles, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9923

Wed 9/9 "You Can't Take It with You" opens, 7pm (through 9/27) The Hipp (25 SE 2nd Pl), classic 1936 comedy, 9/10 \$10-30, after \$55; tinyurl.com/iguana9924

Wed 9/9 "Finding Unheard Voices of the Enslaved in Alachua County", 7pm, Matheson Museum (513 E Univ Ave), Coleen DeGroff on her research for "Alachua County Black Book", free with registration; tinyurl.com/iguana9918

Thu 9/10 HealthScreen, 10am-2pm, UF HealthStreet (2401 SW Archer Rd), screenings for hypertension, heart disease, diabetes and stroke at no cost to Florida residents; tinyurl.com/iguana9919

Thu 9/10 "The Exploration of Mars", 4:30pm, Santa Fe College X-213 (3000 NW 83rd St), Dr. Amy J. Williams on rovers & areology, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9920

Thu 9/10 22nd Latino Film Festival opens, free; see box on this page & gainesvillelatinoilmfestival.org

Thu 9/10 "25 Years Later", 5:30pm, UF Pugh Hall Ocora (296 Buckman Dr) (& YouTube livestream), Bob Filippone & Onursal Erol on 9/11 & US foreign policy, free; bobgrahamcenter.ufl.edu/calendar/

Thu 9/10 "Antigone", 8-10pm (through 9/27), Acrowtown Repertory Theatre (3501 SW 2nd Ave), Sophocles' tragedy of love vs authority, \$11:30 Thu, after \$27.05; tinyurl.com/iguana9925

Fri 9/11 Free Fridays Concerts, 8pm through 9/25, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E University Ave), Wolf Face, Night Mayor, The Mermers, free; pg 14 & tinyurl.com/iguana9780

Sat 9/12 Waldo Sweet Potato Festival, 9am-2pm, Waldo City Square (14450 NE 148th Ave), food & family entertainment, free; waldosweetpotatofest.com/

Sat 9/12 Young Leaders for Wild Fla + Creek Family Fest, 10am-2pm, Bubbe's Secret Garden (1225 NW 4th St), environmental education & activities (wear outdoors clothes, bug spray, etc), free; tinyurl.com/iguana9891

Sat 9/12 Fix It Clinic, 11am-2pm, Gvl Hackerspace (4101 NW 6th St), appliance repair-if-possible workshop, free (2 items max); tinyurl.com/iguana9892

Sat 9/12 UF Football, 5:30-8:30pm, BHG Stadium, vs Campbell - traffic advisory

SEPT 13 - 19

Sun 9/13 Gvl Veg Fest, 11am-5pm, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave), eat more plants!, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9893

9/14 Dr. Zoharah Simmons, 11:30am, Eastside High School (1201 SE 43rd St), civil rights veteran at Florida Free Speech Forum, free (adv registration needed) (\$ for lunch); see pg 12 & tinyurl.com/iguana9894

Tue 9/15 "Planning a Fall Vegetable Garden", 6-7:30pm, Working Food (219 NW 10th Ave), workshop, free with registration (donations welcome); tinyurl.com/iguana9895

Wed 9/16 Community Meeting, 6:30pm, UF IFAS Beef Teaching Unit S (3721 SW 23rd St), city planning for SW Study Area, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9896

Wed 9/16 Pearl & the Oysters, 7-10pm, The Wooly (30 N Main St), French-American indie pop duo, \$20 adv, \$25 door; facebook.com/TheWooly/events

Thu 9/17 Author reading, 6-7:30pm, A. Quinn Jones Ctr (1013 NW 7th Ave), Kevin C. Power reads from his novel "Children of the Wild", free (limited seating, adv tickets recommended); tinyurl.com/iguana9897

Fri 9/18 "Hydrofeminism", 11am-2pm, UF Harn Museum (3259 Hull Rd), Sara Garzón on "liquid turn" in art, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9898

Fri 9/18 No.Ctl.Fla Blues Festival, 2-10:30pm (+ 9/19), Heartwood Soundstage (619 S Main St), 2 stages, 8 acts, \$62 adv, \$68-110 door; pg 15 & tinyurl.com/iguana9899

Sat 9/19 Art Club, 4-5:30pm, Art Collective Gvl (6419 W. Newberry Dr (Oaks Mall)), artist meetup every other Saturday, free; artbylale.com/artcollective

Sat 9/19 "Fabulous '50s Festival", 4-8pm, 25435 W. Newberry Rd, car show & live music & vendors, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9900

Sat 9/19 Painting with Bats, 10am-2pm, Lubece Bat Conservancy (18405 CR-231), artist Samm Wehman Epstein guides guests (ages 10+) through animal painting, \$75 w/pre-registration; tinyurl.com/iguana9901

Sat 9/19 Senior Resource Fair, 11am-2pm, Senior Rec Ctr (5701 NW 34th St), estate planning, Social Security, recreation, more, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9902

Sat 9/19 Gvl Free Store, 2-5pm 3rd Sats, Civic Media Ctr (433 S Main St), free stuff for all (masks required & provided); civicmediacenter.org

Sat 9/19 Gvl Roller Rebels, 6pm, MLK Ctr (1028 NE 14th St), Swamp City Sirens vs Millhopper Devils, \$15 adv, \$18 door; pg 15 & tinyurl.com/iguana9903

SEPT 20 - 26

Sun 9/20 Gvl Record Fair, 12-5pm, Cypress & Grove (325 NW 10th Ave), vinyl, CDs, merch, free; pg 8 & tinyurl.com/iguana9904

Mon 9/21 Barbara Brandon Croft, 1pm, UF Smathers Library room 100 (1541 W Univ Ave), talk by "Where I'm Coming From" cartoonist, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9905

Wed 9/23 Freedom to Learn Film Festival, 7pm, Santa Fe College Lyceum (3000 NW 83rd St), 2 documentaries on criminal justice system + filmmaker panel, \$20; tinyurl.com/iguana9926

Thu 9/24 UF Soccer, 6-8pm, Disney Stadium (1788 Natural Area Dr), vs Texas, free; <https://calendar.ufl.edu/event/54396-florida-gators-soccer-vs-texas>

Thu 9/24 Tanya Lee Davis, 7-10pm, Signal (7 SW 1st St), touring "world's shortest comedian", \$? (18 & over); tinyurl.com/iguana9908

Fri 9/25 1st Annual Dolly Parton Day, Nine-Two-Five, free everywhere

Fri 9/25 Artwalk, 7-10pm, downtown Gvl, free; artwalkgainesville.com

Sat 9/26 Latino Festival, 5-10pm, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave), music, dance, food, y comunidad, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9909

Sat 9/26 UF Football, "all day"(?), BHG Stadium, vs Ole Miss - traffic advisory

Sat 9/26 Geeks Free Show, 7-10pm, Geeks (2603 NE 17th Terr), Trustfall/Viloria/III Star all ages show, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9910

SEPT 27 - OCT 3

Sun 9/27 Candidate Forum, 1:30pm, UF Pugh Hall (296 Buckman Dr), local candidates speak & meet voters, free; see pg 12 & tinyurl.com/iguana9911

Thu 10/1 "The Abyss Stares Back", 4-5:30pm, UF Smathers Library room 100 (1541 W Univ Ave), Dr. Stacy Alaimo on science & aesthetics in the deep sea, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9927

Thu 10/1 "After Utopia", 6-7pm, UF Harn Museum, (3259 Hull Rd), Jasmine Kaur Chohan on feminist practice in contemporary Cuban art, free; <https://harn.ufl.edu/calendar/category/lectures-talks/>

Fri 10/2 Fall Plant Sale, 9:30am-5pm (& 10/3), Wilnot Botanical Gardens (2-23 Mowry Rd, UF), details tba, free; tinyurl.com/iguana9913

Fri 10/2 High Bridge, 7:30-9:30pm, Theatre of Memory (1705 NW 6th St), local supergroup returns w/ new set, \$21.50 (adv only); pg 14 & tinyurl.com/iguana9914

Sat 10/3 Pride Festival, 12-8pm, Bo Diddley Plaza (111 E Univ Ave), fabulous & free; pg 16 & tinyurl.com/iguana9928

Sat 10/3 Community Springs Block Party, 12-5pm, 218 NW 2nd Ave, \$5 adv, \$10 door; see pg 5

OCT 4 - 10

Sun 10/4 Gvl Humanists meet, 1:30-2:30pm, downtown library room B (401 E Univ Ave), free

Sun 10/4 Lawton Chiles Gala, 4:30-9pm, Hilton UF (1714 SW 34th St), Alachua County Democrats' annual dinner & silent auction w/ speaker Matthew Frost, \$150; tinyurl.com/iguana9915

Mon 10/5 Final Day to Register to Vote, 8:30am-5pm, Alachua County Elections Office (515 N Main St), register or update registration, free; see pg 11 & tinyurl.com/iguana9916

Mon 10/5 "Youth Arts & Well-being", 11:30am-6:30pm, Hilton UF Conf Ctr (1714 SW 34th St), final One Nation One Project symposium, free w/ pre-registration; tinyurl.com/iguana9917

Alachua County Library District 40th Anniversary Celebration different days at different branches, wrapping up 10/2, 10am-4pm at Downtown HQ Library with arts, crafts, speakers, tote bags, & "an icy treat", free; tinyurl.com/iguana9929

RECURRING EVENTS

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)

FARMERS MARKETS/FOOD PANTRIES

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)

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

Free Grocery Store hosts a walk-in (no IDs or appointment required) pantry of perishable and nonperishable food at the Civic Media Center (433 S Main St) every 2nd Tuesday of the month, 3-6 PM, and another at the Cone Park Library branch (2801 E University Ave) every last Thursday of the month, 2-5pm, while supplies last.

MEETINGS & MEET-UPS

Civic Media Center volunteer meetings, 1st & 3rd Wednesday, at CMC (433 S Main St) & via Zoom

Gainesville official and public meetings: tinyurl.com/iguana9830

County official and public meetings: tinyurl.com/iguana9871

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT

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.

Art House films: thehipp.org/cinema

Basement Sessions, 7pm, The Hipp Basement (25 SE 2nd Pl), mostly jazz, \$10 sliding scale

"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)

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

Jazz on the Green, 7-9pm on 2nd Saturdays, Celebration Pointe (4225 Celebration Pointe Ave), free

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

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

MusicGNV Facebook local music news (updated Thursdays)

Thursday evening Poetry Jam, 8pm at Civic Media Center

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.

"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)

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

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

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

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

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

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

OTHER CALENDARS:

- Alachua Community Collective (on Facebook & Instagram)
- Civic Media Center (civicmediacenter.org)
- Gainesville Blue Activism Hub (linktr.ee/gnvbluehub),
- The Lynx Books (thelynxbooks.com/events)
- Visit Gainesville (visitgainesville.com/events), updated Thursdays 🌟

Every Voice Shapes Our Future 22nd Gainesville Latino Film Festival Sept. 10-27

Sept. 10: Una canción para mi tierra w/ **Mauricio Albornoz Iniesta** via Zoom, Argentina/Colombia/Germany, 2025, doors at 5pm, film at 6 @ The Harn Museum of Art

Sept. 11: Azul y no tan rosa/My Straight Son, Venezuela/Spain, 2012, 6-8pm @ Bazaar47

Sept. 13: Comparsa w/ Anna Hadingham, Guatemala/USA, 2025, 5-8pm @ Smathers Library

Sept. 17: Um Lobo Entre os Cisnes/A Wolf Among Swans, Brazil, 2025, 6-8pm @ Reitz Union

Sept. 19: La Hija del Condor, Uruguay/Bolivia/Perú, 2025, 6-9pm @ The Hippodrome

Sept. 20: Azul y no tan rosa/My Straight Son w/ **Miguel Ferrari**, Venezuela/Spain, 2012, 5-8pm @ Smathers Library

Sept. 24: De pez en cuando/Once Upon a Fish, Dominican Republic, 2014, 6-8pm @ Vecinos

Sept. 26: Eu e Meu Avô Nihonjin/My Grandfather Is a Nihonjin, Brazil, 2025, 10am-1pm @ Matheson History Museum

Sept. 27: La Pecera/The Fishbowl w/ Glorimar Marrero-Sánchez, Puerto Rico/Spain, 2022, 3-5pm @ Cypress & Grove 🌟

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, Gnv | info@laborcoalition.org | LaborCoalition.org

Alachua County Organization for Rural Needs Clinic is a not-for-profit in Brooker

providing low-cost, high-quality dental care for people 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

The Awesome Foundation exists to forward the interests of awesomeness in the universe. The Gainesville chapter awards \$1,000 grants on a quarterly basis throughout the year. Projects must benefit our greater Gainesville community

of Alachua County. To donate, learn more or apply for a grant for YOUR awesome idea, go to awesomегainesville.org

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

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

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

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

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/climaterealitygnvgroup

Coalition of Hispanics Integrating Spanish Speakers through Advocacy & Service is a

Spotlight on: Ain't No Shame Fund

BREAD AND ROSES HEALTH CENTER



@AINT-NO-SHAME

The Ain't No Shame Fund is an emergency resource for patients in need. The funds go directly to covering costs of medical services but also for practical support such as gas money or gift cards for prescriptions or supplies. These resources can help offset the cost of childcare or other expenses that the patients were not expecting, especially since we are now under a six week ban and time is crucial. In these times patients are having to travel further to obtain their healthcare, and the donations here can help them with the situation we are in.

Donations welcome. Scan the QR code to donate.

Do you have an awesome idea to benefit the greater Gainesville community?



\$1K grants awarded quarterly!



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](https://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](https://Facebook.com/FOLACLD) | [Instagram](https://Instagram.com/FOLACLD) @ 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. climateralityprojectgnv@gmail.com | [@climateralityprojectgnv](https://climateralityprojectgnv.org) | climateralityprojectgnv.wordpress.com

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

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

Gainesville for All - 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 first Sunday of the month at 1:30pm to discuss & plan actions that promote humanist values, such as resisting Christian Nationalism & resisting authoritarianism. Check website or meetup for venue gainesvillehumanists1@gmail.com | meetup.com/gainesville-humanists | gainesvillehumanists.com | [Facebook: https://tinyurl.com/Iguana2379](https://Facebook.com/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

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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@gainesvillerollerrebels.com | gainesvillerollerrebels.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](https://www.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](https://www.facebook.com/SAAatUF) | [instagram@studentanimalallianceUF](https://www.instagram.com/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](https://www.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: @sunrisemvmtgmv.

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](https://www.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](https://www.facebook.com/UFCollegeDemocrats) | 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](https://www.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. ufydsa21@gmail.com | [facebook.com/ufydsa](https://www.facebook.com/ufydsa) | 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](https://www.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.



We're building the table together

By Amy Trask
Democratic Nominee for FL HD-22

It was rainy outside, but on primary night, many of us joined the ACDEC (Alachua County Democratic Executive Committee) gathered at Heartwood Soundstage for an election watch party. We watched results roll in live, heard from candidates, and celebrated the wins that came across the screen.

I'll be honest – primaries always give me pause. Maybe it's because the last primary, I was watching the results of my own race with shaking hands and hesitant hope. We called it the "little red wagon campaign" because that's exactly what it was: sweat, tears, caffeine, grit, and a whole lot of faith. No fancy apps. No paid staff. It was just me and my two kids – then six and nine – walking doors with me, flyers printed from my home printer, and cookies or roll-ups made in my kitchen for meet and greets.

I raised less than \$10,000 and talked to every single person I could, even after a major accident (plot twist) left us seriously injured. Somehow, our message resonated. I didn't win, but I won two out of the three counties in my race.

Because of that race, I know what political courage looks like. What fortitude demands. What resilience takes. Ordinary people stepping into extraordinary arenas can change the conversation – and sometimes, change the outcome.

So this year, when I looked at the primaries, I looked with appreciative eyes and a fire in my belly. Every person who steps forward expands the conversation for all of us.

And this primary tested many of us. That's the nature of primaries: they stretch us,

they challenge us, they remind us that democracy is not a spectator sport.

Some of the people we rooted for didn't make it across the finish line. Many did. Some races were agonizingly close. Some revealed openings; others tightened margins. But this primary, in particular, felt pivotal: who will we elect to fight for us in one of the biggest elections – and biggest opportunities – we've had to take our state and country back?

We need leaders who refuse to dim their light. Leaders who stand tall like the lighthouse that has become a symbol in my own work. A lighthouse doesn't choose who it guides. It doesn't ask who you voted for. It simply remains – steady, bright, resilient – so others can find their way to shore.

That's what our communities deserve: a system that values humanity over hierarchy. A system where people don't have to choose between electricity and medication. A system where groceries and rent don't swallow entire paychecks. A system that trusts local governments to govern based on their own needs. A system that invests in public education so teachers want to teach and parents want to enroll their kids.

And Florida delivered some heavy momentum.

We got our top-of-the-ticket fight card: Nixon. Jolly. Javier Rodriguez. Taddeo. Atkins.

Then we saw wins from other big races we were following: Wasserman Schulz. Valimont. Holloway. Grage. Yonce. Jenkins. Driskell. Gantt. Vilchez Santiago. Nieves.

We saw incredible momentum: two Moms for Liberty candidates defeated to flip the Sarasota School Board, and flips

with an Orange County School Board Chair, a Flagler School Board seat, and an at-large Jacksonville City Council Seat.

We saw our own champions: Ward. Atria. Rockwell. Certain. Willits. Crabbe. Randall. Harp.

Now, I know that some folks say, "I don't really care about politics," but politics cares about them, and it's important people know that. It cares about the price and quality of your healthcare; it cares about your grocery bill and your gas bill; it cares about your child's classroom, your rent, your safety, and your future. It cares about whether you can afford to live in the state you call home. Now that we know who's in the ring, we can't afford to bungle this up.

The chaos we're seeing in Tallahassee and Washington isn't normal, and it's not sustainable. It's not what Floridians deserve.

Corruption, greed, and backroom deals don't have to be the status quo. Our future is not written in stone, no matter who insists it is. We need eight seats to break the supermajority in the state House, four to flip the US Senate.

Real change is not only possible, but within reach, so we cannot afford to stay home. We cannot afford to let exhaustion or frustration silence us. The stakes are simply too high.

Every day, I hear from people who are rationing medication because they can't afford refills, or skipping doctor visits because they're terrified of the bill. I meet parents who put back diapers or formula at checkout because their paycheck didn't stretch far enough. Farmers worried about losing the green we all depend on, especially after legislation like

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