



# The Gainesville Iguana

May/June 2013  
Vol. 27, Issue 5/6

## 8th Annual Memorial Mile Display - May 25-27

by Gainesville Veterans for Peace

When the Gainesville chapter of Veterans for Peace first came up with the idea of Memorial Mile eight years ago, we had no idea that, in 2013, we'd still be displaying the tombstones of American service members who died in Iraq and Afghanistan. We thought the wars would be over, that the U.S. would be disengaged from these unjust occupations.

But instead, the 10th anniversary of the invasion of Iraq just passed (with relatively little fanfare), and we're going on 12 years in Afghanistan. Instead, the state of warfare is in flux, and the U.S. is waging even more secretive attacks through drone strikes, killing an unknown number of innocent civilians.

This is why we will erect the Memorial Mile display by sunrise on Sat., May 25, along the Solar System Walk. The display will stay up through sunset on Memorial Day, May 27.

Veterans for Peace encourage the public to stop by and walk the stunning mile at any time, believing this is the best way to take in the reality of these wars. Each tombstone representing individual Americans also represents the friends and family of the deceased who were and still are affected by these wars.

Memorial Day began as a simple, somber ritual of remembrance and reconciliation after the Civil War, then called Decoration Day. Since that time, Memorial Day has continued to honor U.S. service mem-

See **MEMORIAL MILE**, p. 2



*Memorial Day is about remembering the cost of war, and these tombstones only represent the U.S. dead, not the many times more wounded, the Iraqi, the Afghan and others killed, maimed and displaced in the past 11-plus years of war. See the display for yourself May 25-27. Photo by Mary Bahr.*

## Update on Adena Springs Ranch Battle

By Karen Ahlers

Close scrutiny by citizen activists is making a big difference in the Adena Springs Ranch consumptive use permit application process. Citizens, backed by a team of attorneys and professional scientists, are pleased that the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) has issued a third Request for Additional Information (RAI) to better understand potential impacts to Silver Springs and the Ocklawaha River from Adena's proposed 5.3 million gallon per day (MGD) average withdrawal.

"The real impacts to Silver Springs will come at the worst possible time during dry periods when irrigation is most needed," said Water Action Team (WAT) hydrogeologist Dr. Todd Kincaid. "What we should

be focused on is the maximum daily withdrawal, based on Adena consultant reports, of 24.8 MGD." Kincaid notes that on Table

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bers who have died in all wars; by the early 20th century, this day was an occasion for more general expressions of memory, as ordinary people visited the graves of their deceased relatives, whether they served in the military or not—a far cry from the national “holiday” of barbecues, brewskies and beaches that many Americans celebrate today.

Memorial Mile will be made up of more than 6,660 model tombstones lining the north and south sides of NW 34th Street just east of 8th Avenue near the Solar System Walk. Each tombstone remembers an American service member who died in Iraq or Afghanistan, and includes the service member’s name, date of death, age, branch of service, rank and hometown. They will be arranged by theater and date of death. Tombstones with American flags on the top represent service members with local ties whose tombstones have been visited by friends and family.

Veterans for Peace will have available, on site at an information table, a book that directs visitors to specific tombstones. Every year, people come to the Memorial Mile to place flowers and other expressions of love at the tombstones of their loved ones and friends.

This is the eighth year of Memorial Mile and the fifth year the display has crossed over to the south side of the street. More than 210 tombstones were added since Memorial Day last year.

Veterans for Peace believes that these losses and the corresponding wars cannot be adequately understood with facts and figures alone. The visual impact of the tombstones conveys the reality of these numbers.

This year’s event will also feature the Peace Ribbon from Code Pink. This is an ongoing grassroots project in which individuals and groups make panels honoring the victims of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq by creating a cloth memorial to fallen service members and Afghan and Iraqi civilians. The Peace Ribbon contains 225 panels. To find out more about the Peace Ribbon, go to [www.codepink4peace.org/section.php?id=17](http://www.codepink4peace.org/section.php?id=17).

Parking will be available at nearby West Side Park.

For more information, visit [vfpgainesville.org](http://vfpgainesville.org). 

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**Gainesville  Chapter 14**

## Letter to editors from Penrod winner

Dear Iguana,

I am extremely proud of receiving the John A. Penrod “Brigadas” Award for Peace and Justice. John Penrod was a great activist and humanitarian, who continues to inspire us to follow his example of a decent, intentional life. There are many activists and groups who work on causes in the Alachua County community. I would like to highlight the work of two of those groups that I have worked with, to point out the importance of group solidarity.

The 130 Meal Limit campaign sought to end the limit on the number of hungry folks who could eat at St. Francis. It was a beautiful effort that needed the many people, some of them first time activists who worked on this campaign. The ISO and ISO members like Katie Walters, a past Penrod winner, were instrumental in ending this inhumane practice of not providing food for more than 130 people per day.

I got involved because I volunteer in the kitchen at St. Francis, and it dehumanized not only those who were turned away, but was dispiriting to all who saw hungry people turned away. Members of the Central Labor Council, Veterans for Peace and the Labor Party also kept the pressure on those who had the power to overturn this inhumane ordinance.

I got involved in the Labor Party because of my friend Kimberly Hunter, another Penrod winner, who was a staff person for the Labor Party and a fierce, driven member of another group I work with, the Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice. I joined the Labor Party because I wanted to support Kimberly and also I liked that the Labor Party had become actively involved in supporting labor issues such as the teacher’s demonstrations against cuts to education funding.

The Labor Party is now putting their resources into helping pass the Wage Theft Ordinance in Alachua County, which was another example of a group of committed folks who came together, used the different skills they had to wage a beautiful campaign. Victory is sweet.

Decades ago when I was organizing during an eight-year farm worker-led boycott campaign in rainy Washington State, we all came out twice a week for boycott activities because we knew that our friends were getting soaked in the freezing cold. We didn’t want them to be out there by themselves. This is what organizing means to me, standing with my comrades in the struggle, together.

I am so honored to be the Penrod Award winner this year, but really I can think of dozens of folks that I have worked with in the last five years who I believe are collectively being honored by this award for all of our grinding, focused advocacy work. I accept this honor on behalf of all of us.

Thank you to the Labor Party, Veterans for Peace and United Faculty of Florida for sponsoring this award.

Don’t give up, don’t give in, love and support each other, we can do it together.

Thank you,

*Sheila Payne, 2013 Penrod Award Winner*

*From the publisher ...*

## Self-Radicalization & Self-Pacification

*by Joe Courter*

Self-radicalization is a term that came to the fore after the Boston Marathon bombing; the big question of how these two young men could, on their own, come up with the rationalization to do such an awful act on their own. It is a concept that troubles people when they contemplate the wide range of information available on the Internet which can deviate from the accepted norms and narrative of our society and culture. And of course we can see examples of behavior based on a set of constructed principles that groups and individuals adopt and act upon. That is normal human behavior. There is always the chance that the normal human behavior of forming or adopting some paradigm to live by will, in some people, be taken to the extreme



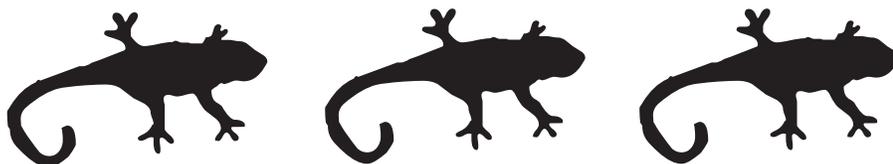
From the adoption of strict dietary principles, the fanatical fixation on sports teams, complete devotion to one form of music over all others, or one religion over all others; it is also what we humans do. Very troubling here is where “American Exceptionalism” fits in; one nation over all others.

One of the quite-neglected skills that our U.S. culture lacks is critical thinking; it is not emphasized in schools, and our media, with its bi-polar form of discussion, make it seem over-simplified. There is that common narrative everyone accepts, and then we argue shading within that narrow paradigm. There is a hubris that develops and a closing of the mind to alternatives. Taken further, there is a hostility that can develop to those who do accept a different point of view. We can see no better example than the hostility to single-payer healthcare, a practice most of the world uses. It is, as Obama said, “off the table.”

I believe there is a very healthy form of “self-radicalization,” and that is when the blinders come off, and through study and critical thinking, you can see that things can be another way. That’s what the slogan of the World Social forum meant by “Another World is Possible.” That’s what the founding fathers thought when they threw off British colonialism.

It is “Self -Pacification” I worry about. It’s the idea that protests are bad, that debating religion or politics is rude and unseemly, that mindset that chants “USA, USA, USA.” The unquestioning “patriotism” that leads to our U.S. foreign policy, its drones and occupations, its support of authoritarian rulers; that these are not being made topics of debate or discussion is, to say the least, unhealthy.

Now, through the Internet and expanded sources of information, we do have the tools for “self-radicalization” and critical thinking, and that’s a good thing. And I hope this paper helps.



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## SPRINGS, from p. 1

#1 in Adena's CUP application dated April 15, 2013 that 49.3 MGD is needed for the project. This raises concern that Adena will request a modification to increase the permitted amount to make the project economically feasible.

The Adena application has been reduced from an original request for 13.26 to 5.3 MGD.

The SJRWMD's issuance of three RAIs is significant in these days of streamlined permitting for agricultural permits and is indicative of WAT's positive impact. Adena is now preparing an application for an Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) to address contamination from surface water runoff that flows through the Oklawaha Aquatic Preserve to the Ocklawaha River, an officially designated Outstanding Florida Water. SJRWMD staff have assured WAT attorney John R. Thomas that no CUP will be issued until the Environmental Resource Permit is processed.

WAT's simultaneous participation in SJRWMD's development of Minimum Flows and Levels (MFL) for Silver Springs and DEP's development of a Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) ties in closely with their review of the Adena project. MFLs are set to prevent significant harm from occurring to natural systems from over consumption and BMAPs are to address high levels of nutrients at the springs. WAT believes Adena's impacts to water quality at Silver Springs must be considered in the BMAP.

Documents submitted by Adena estimate a reduction in flow at Silver Springs in the range of 1.6 MGD to 3.1 MGD. WAT experts note that this range exceeds the amount of water SJRWMD has identified as available in the latest MFL draft, scheduled for adoption later this year. Adena has not done a full accounting of where the requested 5.3 MGD will come from.

WAT works throughout the permitting process with an eye toward defending their position in court if necessary. A more rigorous review of the Adena permit than many thought possible is being done by SJRWMD. WAT believes the original permit for 13.2 MGD would have been granted in April 2012 if their professional, independent review had not come to bear.

Adena has until Sept. 16, 2013, to respond to the third RAI letter or to request an extension to the response time frame. When the application is considered complete, District staff will determine if the requested allocation of water meets District permitting criteria.

Tax deductible donations to the Water Protection Fund at Southern Legal Counsel, Inc., a non-profit public interest law firm, are used to support WAT's science and legal teams. Contributions can be made at [www.southernlegal.org](http://www.southernlegal.org) or mailed to SLC/WPF, 1229 NW 13th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601.

Prior to the permit application being received, District staff met with the applicant to discuss their plans. The applicant originally discussed applying for a permit to withdraw 27 MGD, but that amount was reduced to 13.267 MGD after meeting with District staff. The application currently under review is for 5.3 MGD for agricultural and livestock uses. The responses that the District received to its RAIs on Dec. 14, 2012, and April 18, 2013, are avail-



Citizens protest outside the newly constructed IFAS Frank Stronach Plant Science Center in Citra. Adena Springs Ranch owner Stronach donated \$1.4 million to IFAS. Photo by Mark Long.

able in the "RAIs" section of the permit application web page here <https://permitting.sjrwmd.com>.

For more information contact Karen Ahlers at [ahlers.karen@gmail.com](mailto:ahlers.karen@gmail.com) or call 352-546-3560. Visit [www.wateractionteam.org](http://www.wateractionteam.org).

## 2013 Peace Poetry Contest

by Jessica Newman

The 4th Annual Peace Poetry Contest, organized by Gainesville Veterans for Peace, was a great success this year with more than 230 total entries and 32 winners from grades 1–12. The Public Reading for the winners took place on May 11 at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

Below is the 1st Place poem for grades 1–5 by Caden Kresak, a 4th grader from Archer Elementary School.

You can read all of the winning poems at the Veterans for Peace website at [vfgainesville.org](http://vfgainesville.org). You can also see a video of the Public Reading there, thanks to the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program.

### If We Try

If there are no boundaries  
Between north and south, west and east  
And we all share the land,  
Then we can all live in peace

If we help one another  
Aid the poor, spread the feast  
And we all share Earth's goods  
Then we can all live in peace

If we can agree to disagree  
The whole world sign a treaty  
And we use words not weapons,  
Then we can all live in peace

No folded flags for mothers  
All the violence has ceased  
If we all accept our neighbors,  
Then we can all live in peace

Caden Kresak, 4th Grade, Archer Elementary School  
1st Place, Grades 1–5

# Racism: A Personal Memoir

By Arupa Freeman

*This memoir was originally published on April 13 on Arupa Freeman's blog, Vermont and Other States of Mind – vermontandotherstatesofmind.blogspot.com.*

My first encounter with racism occurred in Vermont, in 1949, on the green and fragrant lawn of a Bennington College professor, in a little cul de sac where the neighborhood children ran from yard to yard, blown along by the Tao of childhood. I was four years old. I suddenly saw a black child, a boy about seven. I was absolutely thunderstruck with amazement. I walked straight up to him and said, "What happened to you?" The professor's wife pounced on me and pulled me off to a far corner of the yard.

She got up in my face, her hands on my shoulders, and said, "Jeremy is a little negro boy. You must always be nice to him and never say anything about him being negro or about how he looks. Do you understand? You must promise me."

"Yes Ma'am. I promise."

I later learned that Jeremy was a Herald Tribune Sunshine Fund child. That now-defunct New York City newspaper sent low-income inner city kids to Vermont every summer, to give them a vacation out of the city. Another reason for incessant niceness—on top of being disabled and having some kind of skin condition, Jeremy was poor.

Polite, genteel racism was the custom in Vermont in the fifties, at least on the rare occasions a person of color appeared among us. Everyone was nice. Vermont did at least have a long history of support for civil rights. The house I lived in was over a hundred years old and was believed to have been a station on the Underground Railroad. It was said that, after the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act, black persons on their way to Canada were hidden in our coal bin, down in the cellar.

I often went to the coal bin—I dreamed of finding a piece of coal that would still have the lacy imprint of a fossil fern. While I was there, I would lay full length in the coal and imagine that I heard the dogs of the slave traders baying in the distance. I would tremble and pray to be delivered, and compliment myself on my incredible courage. By this time I was eight and knew that being black was not a disability or a skin condition.

In June 1963, after I graduated from high school, my grandmother, who had raised me, sent me to Oklahoma to live with my mother and her new family. Oklahoma was a shock. My first day there I picked up a copy of the newspaper, *The Daily Oklahoman*. On the front page was a story reporting that the Oklahoma State Legislature was having a formal debate on whether or not Heaven is integrated. Much like our own legislature here in Florida, this deliberative body was not made up of rocket scientists.

This debate was occasioned by civil disturbances in Oklahoma City, by black teenagers who wanted to be allowed to go to the city's amusement park, where they had ferris wheels, a roller coaster, whack-a-mole games, cotton candy.... Black kids were not allowed to go in and enjoy these delights. They formed groups, described in the newspaper as "mobs," who tried to

rush the gates of the park, described by the paper as "riots." I couldn't imagine why anyone would want to keep kids of any color out of an amusement park. More evidence that I was growing up on Planet Crazy, a place run by the inmates.

I got a job that summer working for a temp agency called Manpower. They sent me to a textbook publishing company to run their office copy machine. This was shortly after the U.S. Congress had passed a fair employment act, stating that companies could not discriminate in hiring based on skin color. That first day of a grownup job in the grownup world, I walked in to a large room filled with desks. On the wall over the rows of desks hung a sign:

WORK WITH VIGOR

OR YOU'LL BE REPLACED

BY A N\*\*\*\*R!

The sign didn't have asterisks in the final word.

It was a lousy summer. My home life was fairly questionable, and the temperatures stayed over the hundred-degree mark for most of July and August. The District Attorney offered to give a medal to an old white man who defended his convenience store by shooting a Native American boy, a sixteen-year-old, in the back because this child was trying to steal a sox-pack of beer. I hunkered down, like a person who finds herself behind enemy lines, and got through that summer of 1963.

In the Fall of 1963, I enrolled at the University of Oklahoma. That first semester I joined Students for A Democratic Society, and started doing actions to integrate clubs and restaurants around campus. I particularly remember one blind date I went on, to a popular bar called "Louie's."

The owner, Louie, looked like a classic Oklahoma redneck, straight out of central casting. No one had ever seen a black patron at this bar. I was assigned to go there on a date with a black kid from OU's basketball team. I am a horizontally challenged person, at barely over five feet tall, and Bernard, my date, was well over six feet tall. We looked like Wilt the Stilt and Shirley Temple out for a night on the town. We were served beer and fries just like everyone else. Either Louie recognized a set up when he saw one, or maybe he wasn't such a bad old boy. I was disappointed that we didn't get thrown out. I loved drama.

Maya Angelou once said that racism is like a cobweb that you walk into, or more that you are born into. You keep pulling it off, this strand and that strand, but you can never get all of it. Over the years, since my debut as a civil rights activist, I found out how true that is. My first lesson was in an English class.

The black guy sitting next to me slipped his hand under my skirt and stroked my knee. No worse than that, but still unwelcome. He stared straight forward as if I didn't exist, and I sat frozen. If he had been a white guy I would have decked him, but I didn't dare risk an incident where I would come off as a racist white girl accusing a black guy of something. I just never sat next to

*See RACISM, p. 6*

**RACISM, from p. 5**

him again.

When I started dating black guys, I was amazed to discover that they could be jerks, just like their white counterparts. I had bought into positive stereotypes about how all black guys are deep and full of soul and poetry. Even in my thirties, when I moved to the south, I remember meeting my first black nerd, with the black shoes, white socks, thick glasses and a pen protector in his shirt pocket. I was surprised. Even black guys who are jerks are cool, or had been in my limited experience.

I joined the coalition of artists who ran the Acrostown Repertory Theater, a grassroots, cross-cultural theater where I found myself working along side black artists from the community, as well as in theater projects based in the gay and lesbian community.

I found out that there's a lot more to integration than wearing slogan t-shirts and marching in parades. It's in actually working with people that the old resentments and old stereotypes — strands of the cobweb—come to light and can be eradicated.

It also takes accommodation. When Kathy Freeperson and I put on large shows involving straight and lesbian

women, black women, working class women and single mothers, we discovered that having onsite child care was a necessity.

Also, providing transportation to those who didn't have it. Far too many amazing artists go unrecognized and unchallenged because of such barriers to participation. If you do what it takes to give these artists a chance, the results are rich and various.

It is no different in the business of providing services to homeless and hungry people. At 68 I'm still pulling off strands of the cobweb.

Racial profiling seemed so outrageous until the day I found myself doing it.

I realized that—all unconsciously—I thought a young black homeless guy was more likely to sell a donated tent to buy crack than other demographics. In reality, I could name a couple of old white homeless women who have sold tents for crack.

That experience, of me doing racial profiling, horrified me into raising my consciousness. I discovered that to stay out of the cobweb I have to be with another human being in the moment, tuned in to the individual they are, a snowflake like no other in the universe. 🐞

# Election Reflection

by Joe Courter

So what can be said about the Mayor's race in Gainesville? Disappointing, heck yeah, but not a surprise.

Through the culmination of many factors, Craig Lowe was a very much weakened candidate, quite sad and tragic in some ways, but self-inflicted in others. Ed Braddy, on the other hand, was able to capitalize on all the anti-biomass fervor to build a motivated coalition, use his own talents as a public speaker and sound bite artist, and utilize a backlash against Lowe to score a win.

But that win was an interesting split, with the eastern districts (1 & 4) going for Lowe and the west (2 & 3) for Braddy.

For progressive-minded folks, this is significant because District 3 is Susan Bottcher's district, and she will be up for re-election in the next cycle, along with Todd Chase (conservative NW district 2), and then an at-large open race as Thomas Hawkins is term-limited.

The balance of power hasn't shifted yet; it's still Gainesville and not Brad-dyville, but it ought to be a wake-up call to progressive-minded folks. And with Braddy as Mayor, there will be a very interesting new dynamic to the meetings; he's smart, both quick-witted and abrasive, and a committed libertarian free-marketeer. It will be a challenging situation for all involved.

There is also a nasty situation due to a perceived slight within some in the African-American community and allies over a ham-handed large donation that came into Craig Lowe's campaign from the Florida Democratic Party during the late stage of the primary while fellow Democrat Scherwin Henry was still in the race, followed by another controversy over a Democratic Black Caucus decision to work for Republican Braddy over Lowe, which has also caused bad blood within the local Democratic Party.

As Will Rogers said, "I belong to no organized party, I'm a Democrat."

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# Gainesville organizes for immigration reform, hopes to influence passage of comprehensive bill

by Liz Getzman

A group of local residents and organizations gathered at Gainesville's Mennonite Meeting House on Tuesday, May 7, to continue organizing a coalition on immigration reform within the Third Congressional District of Florida.

Organized by Gainesville's Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice, and under the leadership of Marihelen Wheeler, former Democratic primary candidate for Florida's House of Representatives, the coalition hopes to influence the U.S. Congress to pass a comprehensive immigration reform bill in the coming months. A specific goal of the group is to work directly with Ted Yoho, U.S. Representative for the Third Congressional District.

Edwin Enciso, organizer for Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR) NOW, a Florida-based group that advocates for state and national immigration reform, joined residents Tuesday evening to help organize the Immigration Summit on Saturday, June 1, at 1 p.m. at the Fairfield Presbyterian Church in Marion County (15096 NW Highway 225, Fairfield, FL 32634).

According to Enciso, district "teams" such as the Third Congressional District's coalition are needed to pressure congressional representatives to advocate for reform.

"We may see regressive forces rally this summer — just as we saw happen to health care in 2009 — if we fail to obtain enough congressional pledges of support now," Enciso says.

According to the Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice, the district coalition is non-partisan and open to individuals of all political spectrums. Additional organizations that have pledged support include the National Farm Worker Ministry, the Alachua County Democratic Women, the Florida Farm Bureau, and Alachua County's League of Women Voters (LWV).

"The League of Women Voters strongly supports comprehensive immigration reform," said Kathy Kidder of the Alachua County LWV. "We need an efficient system for legal entry into the United States, including programs allowing workers to enter and leave for seasonal or temporary work. Verification documents and employer sanctions for hiring unauthorized workers, improved safeguards against illegal immigration, and reforms that meet U.S. business and employment needs should also be part of the legislation."

Dr. Samuel Trickey, a board member and past president of National Farm Worker Ministry, said, "The agricultural guest worker provisions in the proposed Comprehensive Immigration Reform were negotiated by authentic farm worker groups, led by United Farm Workers. National Farm Worker Ministry is pleased to support that. It's far better than a rerun of the old bracero program, which would have been utterly wrong and unjust."

Janell Hendren, National Affairs Director for the Florida Farm Bureau, agreed that the guest worker provision is fair to both farm workers and their employers. She said Florida Farm Bureau is committed to the comprehensive immigration reform package in the Senate bill.

To learn more about the coalition, contact the Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice at [gainesvilleiaij@gmail.com](mailto:gainesvilleiaij@gmail.com).



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# “Dirty Wars” shines a light

by Joe Courter

Jeremy Scahill has become one of the investigative journalists of our times.

From his humble beginnings as a stringer on Amy Goodman’s Democracy Now! (I was recently told Amy actually hired him out of her own pocket initially), he hit major recognition with his 2007 book *Blackwater*, on the private mercenary army so heavily involved in the Bush war efforts

in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere, even New Orleans post-Katrina.

Now Scahill is out with his new book, *Dirty Wars: The World is a Battlefield*, and it a riveting chronology of the expanding war footprint the U.S. is making in the Middle East and Africa, and the resulting blowback of these actions, especially the use of drones and the impact of the civilian killings they repeatedly cause.

Additionally, the documentary movie, also called *Dirty Wars*, will be released in June; it follows Scahill as he goes around the world’s hot spots to report and interview on-the-scene and sometimes under fire, researching for the book.

Below are some links to Jeremy Scahill on Democracy Now! and on Tavis Smiley’s PBS show, and a related link to a Yemeni who testified before Congress on the impact a drone attack had on his village.

This is the new way of war, and no one is revealing it like Jeremy Scahill.

“**The World Is a Battlefield: Jeremy Scahill on ‘Dirty Wars’ and Obama’s Expanding Drone Attacks**” - [http://www.democracynow.org/2013/4/24/the\\_world\\_is\\_a\\_battlefield\\_jeremy](http://www.democracynow.org/2013/4/24/the_world_is_a_battlefield_jeremy)

**Tavis Smiley Interview with Investigative Journalist Jeremy Scahill** - <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/tavissmiley/interviews/investigative-journalist-jeremy-scahill/>

**Statement by Yemeni Farea Al-Muslimi** before the United States Senate Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights, on April 23 regarding “Drone Wars: The Constitutional and Counterterrorism Implications of Targeted Killing” - <http://www.judiciary.senate.gov/pdf/04-23-13Al-MuslimiTestimony.pdf>. 🐶

SOCIALISM

2013

CHICAGO ★ JUNE 27-30

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## A full weekend of radical politics, debate, and entertainment

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Millions of people have come to the understanding that capitalism is no longer working. From extreme weather caused by climate change and the relentless drive to slash workers’ living standards to the epidemic of police brutality, the signs of a society in crisis are all around us. The question isn’t whether society has run amok; the question is what to do about it.

The Socialism 2013 conference will bring together hundreds of activists from across the U.S., and around the world, to tackle the many discussions and debates that confront anyone interested in changing the world. How can women’s liberation and LGBT equality be won? What will it take to win real justice for immigrant workers? Can organized labor make a comeback? What lessons can be learned from the revolutions shaking the Middle East? Why is Marxism relevant today?

Featured speakers include teachers on the front lines of the fight to defend public education, anti-racist fighters against police brutality and the New Jim Crow, trade unionists, Marxist authors, radical historians, and much more. Start making your plans to attend.

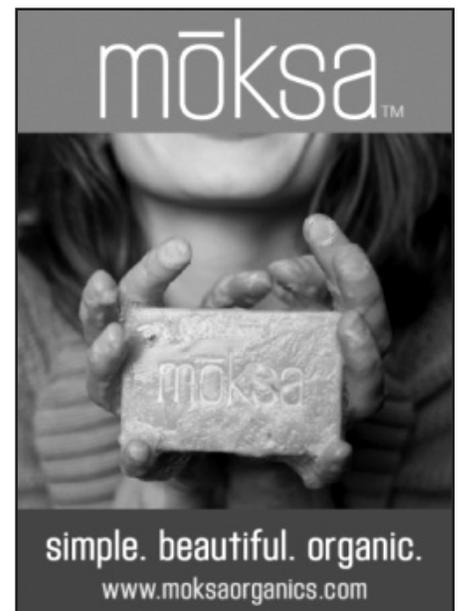
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**Join the Gainesville ISO carpool to Chicago!**

**More info:**  
[gainesvilleiso@gmail.com](mailto:gainesvilleiso@gmail.com) or 352-260-2075

Attend our weekly meetings: Thurs @ 7pm in room 210, UF Building, 105 NW 16th St

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# Civic Media Center Events

## May/June 2013

- Every Wed. Zine Workday, 12-2 pm
- Every Thu. Weekly Volunteer Meeting, 5:30 pm
- Every Thu. Poetry Jam, 9 pm
- Mon, May 27 "Into the Fire: The Hidden Victims of Austerity in Greece," new documentary about how austerity measures in Greece are negatively affecting migrant workers and refugees, 7 pm
- Tue, May 28: Wild Iris Feminist Open Mic, 7 pm
- Fri, May 31: ArtWalk: Haitian Heritage Month, Photographs & Poetry by Zazou, Dance by Sebastien, Drumming & paintings by Adrian Rhodes, 7-10pm
- Mon, June 3: "Eyes of the Rainbow," documentary about the life of Assata Shakur, 7 pm
- Mon, June 10: NOW Feminist Film, 7 pm
- Mon, June 17: "5 Broken Cameras," first-hand account of life and non-violent resistance in a West Bank village surrounded by Israeli settlements, by Palestinian farmer Emad Burnat, 7 pm
- Wed, June 19: Intervention Skills Workshop/Discussion, 7 pm
- Sat, June 22: WGOT Event at CMC, check website for details
- Mon, June 24: Stonewall Dems Film, 7 pm
- Tue, June 25: Wild Iris Books Feminist Open Mic, 7 pm
- Thu, June 27: FREE HIV testing
- Fri, June 28: ArtWalk, 7 - 10 pm
- Mon, July 1: "The Central Park Five," documentary that examines the 1989 case of five black and Latino teenagers falsely convicted of raping a white woman in NYC's Central Park, 7 pm
- Mon, July 8: NOW Feminist Film, 7 pm
- Mon, July 15: Stonewall Democrats of Alachua County present: "Angels in America" Chapters 5 and 6, award winning miniseries, set in 1985, about two couples facing the AIDS epidemic during the Reagan administration, 7 pm
- Tue, July 16: Deep Space Showcase Puppet Show, 8 pm
- Wed, July 17: Intervention Skills Workshop/Discussion, 7 pm

433 S. Main Street (352) 373-0010  
www.civictimediacenters.org

*Parking just to the south at SE 5th Ave., (see sign) or after 7 p.m. at the courthouse (just north of 4th Ave.) or GRU (2 blocks east of CMC)*

*Check website for details and additional events.*



## Wild Iris is still coming!

So here we are heading into summer, and we're still waiting for the new space to be ready. We hope you've been following us on Facebook and online where we're posting pictures of the progress. While we have some downtime, we're getting things ready behind the scenes with a fresh new inventory upgrade, online stock availability, creative displays, Wild Iris merchandise, and signage created by our bad-ass interns, and new training modules for our amazing volunteers.

In the meantime, don't forget that you can support us by shopping online at [wildirisbooks.com](http://wildirisbooks.com) - we're still offering free domestic shipping on any order over \$25, and we've got millions of print and e-books to choose from. Find us in the social networking world you like the most, sign up for our newsletter and stay in touch.

We'll also continue to host Feminist Open Mic in The Courtyard, last Tuesday night of every month from 7:30-9pm, poets, musicians and all creative types welcome. 🐾

## Film Alert

### "The Reluctant Fundamentalist"

In mid-June, the Hippodrome Cinema will show "The Reluctant Fundamentalist," taken from the novel of the same name by Pakistani author Mohsin Hamid. It tells the story of the impact that the 9/11 attacks had on a then-successful young Pakistani working on Wall Street and how he responds to both changes in American society and U.S. foreign policy in the years following. Check the Hippodrome's website [thehipp.org/cinema](http://thehipp.org/cinema) or call 375-4477 for film dates and times.

And congrats to the Hippodrome for 40 (!) years of bringing cultural enrichment to our community. They've come a long way from an old Seven-Eleven off Hawthorne Road. 🐾

# Iguana Directory

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

**Notice to readers: If there is inaccurate information in this list, please let us know. If you are connected to an organization listed here, please check and update so others can be accurately informed about your contact information. Thank you.**

**Art Lab** is a group for artists who are continually expanding their skills and knowledge. Comprised of makers from various backgrounds encompassing a wide range of mediums from forged iron to spun wool to graphic design. We hold technique workshops, artist talks and critiques, professional practices meetings and critical thinking discussions. [GainesvilleArtLab@gmail.com](mailto:GainesvilleArtLab@gmail.com). <http://GainesvilleArtLab.org>

**Alachua County Labor Party** meets monthly and organizes to support local labor and advance the national campaign for universal, single-payer health care. Annual memberships are \$20/year. Please contact us to join or for the most updated info: [FloridaLaborParty.org](http://FloridaLaborParty.org), [ACLP@FloridaLaborParty.org](mailto:ACLP@FloridaLaborParty.org), 352.375.2832, 14 East University Ave., Suite 204, Gainesville, FL PO Box 12051, Gainesville, FL 32604

**American Civil Liberties Union** Currently no local chapter. For info on forming new chapter, or ACLU info, contact Jax office 904-353-7600 or [bstandy@aclufl.org](mailto:bstandy@aclufl.org)

**Amnesty International** UF campus chapter of worldwide human rights movement; [www.facebook.com/ufamnesty](http://www.facebook.com/ufamnesty) or [UFAmnesty@gmail.com](mailto:UFAmnesty@gmail.com).

**Bridges Across Borders** Florida-based international collaboration of activists, artists, students and educators supporting cultural diversity and global peace. [office@bridgesacrossborders.org](mailto:office@bridgesacrossborders.org), 352-485-2594,

**Citizens Climate Lobby** (Gainesville Chapter) provides education and activist opportunities to bring about a stable climate. Meetings are the first Saturday of each month at 12:30, usually at the downtown library's Foundation Room. 352-672-4327, [www.citizensclimatelobby.org](http://www.citizensclimatelobby.org), [cclgainesville@gmail.com](mailto:cclgainesville@gmail.com)

**Civic Media Center** Alternative reading room and library of the non-corporate press, and a resource and space for organizing. 352-373-0010, [www.civicmediacenter.org](http://www.civicmediacenter.org).

**The Coalition of Hispanics Integrating Spanish Speakers through Advocacy and Service (CHISPAS)** Student-run group at UF. [www.chispasuf.org](http://www.chispasuf.org)

**Code Pink: Women for Peace** Women-led grassroots peace and social justice movement utilizing creative protest, non-violent direct action and community involvement. [CodePink4Peace.org](http://CodePink4Peace.org), [jacquebetz@gmail.com](mailto:jacquebetz@gmail.com).

**Conservation Trust for Florida, Inc.** Non-profit land trust working to protect Florida's rural landscapes, wildlife corridors and natural areas. 352-466-1178, [ConserveFlorida.org](http://ConserveFlorida.org)

**Democratic Party of Alachua County** Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 7: p.m. in the second floor auditorium of the County Administration Building at SE 1st St. and University Ave. Office is at 901 NW 8th Ave., 352-373-1730, [AlachuaCountyDemocraticParty.org](http://AlachuaCountyDemocraticParty.org)

**Edible Plant Project** Local collective to create a revolution through edible and food-producing plants. 561-236-2262 [www.EdiblePlantProject.org](http://www.EdiblePlantProject.org).

**Families Against Mandatory Minimums** Work to reform Florida's sentencing laws and restore fairness to Florida's criminal justice system. PO Box 142933, Gainesville, FL 32614, [gnewburn@fammm.org](mailto:gnewburn@fammm.org). 352-682-2542

**The Fine Print** An independent, critically thinking outlet for political, social and arts coverage through local, in-depth reporting specifically for Gainesville's students. [www.thefineprintuf.org](http://www.thefineprintuf.org).

**Florida School of Traditional Midwifery** A clearinghouse for information, activities and educational programs. 352-338-0766 [www.midwiferyschool.org](http://www.midwiferyschool.org)

**Florida Defenders of the Environment** An organization dedicated to restoring the Ocklawaha and preserving Florida's other natural resources. 352-378-8465 [FlaDefenders.org](http://FlaDefenders.org)

**Gainesville Area AIDS Project** provides toiletries and household cleaners at no cost to people living with HIV/AIDS. Hot meals and limited frozen food are also available at no cost, [www.gaaponline.org](http://www.gaaponline.org), [info@gaaponline.org](mailto:info@gaaponline.org), 352-373-4227, Open Tuesdays 10-1 and last Friday of month 5-71

**Gainesville Citizens for Alternatives to the Death Penalty** concerned people in the Gainesville area who are working to abolish the death penalty in Florida. Participate in vigils when Florida has an execution. Meet the first Tuesday of every month at St. Augustine Church and Catholic Student Center (1738 W. University Ave.) 352-332-1350, [www.fadp.org](http://www.fadp.org).

**Gainesville Food Not Bombs** is the local chapter of a loose-knit group of collectives worldwide who prepare and share free, vegan/vegetarian, healthy, home-cooked meals, made from local surplus, with all who are hungry. Meals are at 3 p.m. every Sunday at Bo Diddly Community Plaza. Prep starts at 11 am. Get in touch if you'd like to help. [gainesvillefnb@riseup.net](mailto:gainesvillefnb@riseup.net). [www.facebook.com/#!/groups/143660782367621/](http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/143660782367621/)

**Gainesville Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice (IAIJ)** meets biweekly to discuss relevant immigration issues and ways to bring political education to the community through workshops, presentations, advocacy and action. [gainesvilleiaij@gmail.com](mailto:gainesvilleiaij@gmail.com) or [www.gainesvilleiaij.blogspot.com](http://www.gainesvilleiaij.blogspot.com)

**Gainesville Loves Mountains** works in partnership with Appalachian communities to end mountaintop removal coal mining and create a prosperous economy and sustainable future for the region and its people. We believe that the single, best path our community can take toward a stronger economy, better jobs, and a healthier environment for all is energy efficiency. We are also building a campaign for a local ordinance requiring all rental properties to meet basic energy efficiency standards. [gainesvillelovesmountains@gmail.com](mailto:gainesvillelovesmountains@gmail.com) <http://www.facebook.com/GainesvilleLovesMountains> 352-505-2928

**Gainesville Women's Liberation** The first women's liberation group in the South, formed in 1968, the organization is now part of National Women's Liberation. [WomensLiberation.org](http://WomensLiberation.org)

**Graduate Assistants United** Union that represents all UF grad assistants by fighting for improved working conditions, community involvement and academic

freedom. 352-575-0366, officers@ufgau.org, www.ufgau.org

**Green Party** Part of worldwide movement built out of four different interrelated social pillars, which support its politics: the peace, civil rights, environmental and labor movements. www.GainesvilleGreens.webs.com

**Grow Radio** Non-profit company that will provide the opportunity for community members to create and manage unique, engaging, educational, locally-generated programming to promote fine, musical and visual arts and humanities for the enrichment of, but not limited to, the Gainesville community. www.growradio.org. PO Box 13891, Gainesville, 32604, 352-219-0145 (v), 352-872-5085 (studio hotline)

**Harvest of Hope Foundation** Non-profit organization that provides emergency and educational financial aid to migrant farm workers around the country. www.harvestofhope.net or email: kellerhope@cox.net.

**Home Van** A mobile soup kitchen that goes out to homeless areas twice a week with food and other necessities of life, delivering about 400 meals per week; operated by Citizens for Social Justice. barupa@atlantic.net or 352-372-4825.

**Industrial Workers of the World** Local union organizing all workers. Meetings are at the Civic Media Center the first Sunday of the month at 6 p.m.. Gainesvilleiww@gmail.net. www.gainesvilleiww.org

**Interfaith Alliance for Immigrant Justice** Organizing faith communities to work together for immigrant justice. Meets 2nd Mondays at 6 p.m. at La Casita, 1504 W. University Ave. (across from Library) GainesvilleIAIJ@gmail.com; 352-377-6577

**International Socialist Organization** Organization committed to building a left alternative to a world of war, racism and poverty. Meetings are every Thurs. at the UF classroom building at 105 NW 16th St. at 7 p.m. gainesvilleiso@gmail.com.

**Kindred Sisters** Lesbian/feminist magazine. PO Box 141674, Gainesville, FL 32614. KindredSisters@gmail.com, www.kindredsisters.org.

**Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program** needs volunteers to join its

corps of advocates who protect the rights of elders in nursing homes, assisted living facilities and adult family care homes. Special training and certification is provided. Interested individuals should call toll-free (888) 831-0404 or visit the program's Web site at <http://ombudsman.myflorida.com>.

**MindFreedom North Florida** Human rights group for psychiatric survivors and mental health consumers. 352-328-2511.

**National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)** Support, education and advocacy for families and loved ones of persons with mental illness/brain disorders. 374-5600, ext. 8322; www.namigainesville.org.

**National Lawyers Guild** Lawyers, law students, legal workers and jailhouse lawyers using the law to advance social justice and support progressive social movements. nlggainesville@gmail.com or www.nlg.org

**National Organization for Women Gainesville Area** www.gainesvillenow.org. info@gainesvilleNOW.org NOW meeting info contact Lisa at 352-450-1912.

**Planned Parenthood Clinic** Full-service medical clinic for reproductive and sexual health care needs. Now offering free HIV and free pregnancy testing daily from 9-11 a.m. and 1-4 p.m.. Located at 914 NW 13th Street.

**Pride Community Center of North Central Florida** Resources for the gay/lesbian community, open M-F, 3-7, Sat. noon-4 p.m.. Located at 3131 NW 13th St., Suite 62. 352-377-8915, www.GainesvillePride.org.

**Protect Gainesville Citizens** Group whose mission is to provide Gainesville residents with accurate and comprehensible information about the Cabot/Koppers Superfund site. 352-354-2432, www.protectgainesville.org.

**RiverPhoenixCenterforPeacebuilding** provides innovative ways to resolve conflict in Gainesville and provides services like mediation, communication skill building and restorative justice. www.cemterforpeacebuilding.org. 2603 NW 13th St. #333, 352-234-6595

**Sierra Club** Meets the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville - 4225 NW 34th St. 352-528-3751, www.ssjsierra.org

**Sister City Program of Gainesville.** Links Gainesville with sister cities in Russia, Israel and Palestine, Iraq, and Haiti. Meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Mennonite Meeting House, 1236 NW 18th Avenue (across from Gainesville HS). For more information, see: <http://www.gnvsistercities.org>.

**Student/Farmworker Alliance** A network of youth organizing with farmworkers to eliminate sweatshop conditions and modern-day slavery in the fields. More info on Facebook, search "Gainesville Student/Farmworker Alliance."

**Students for a Democratic Society** Multi-issue student and youth organization working to build power in our schools and communities. Meetings are every Monday at 6:30 p.m. in Anderson Hall 32 on the UF campus.

**UF Pride Student Union** Group of gay, lesbian, bi and straight students & non-students, faculty and staff. www.grove.ufl.edu/~pride.

**United Faculty of Florida** Union represents faculty at University of Florida. 392-0274, president@uff-uf.org, www.UFF-UF.org.

**United Nations Association, Gainesville Florida Chapter.** Our purpose is to heighten citizen awareness and knowledge of global problems and the United Nations efforts to deal with those issues. www.afn.org/~una-usa/.

**United Way Information and Referral.** Human-staffed computer database for resources and organizations in Alachua County. 352-332-4636 or simply 211.

**Veterans for Peace** Anti-war organization that works to raise awareness of the detriments of militarism and war as well as to seek alternatives that are peaceful and effective. Meetings are the first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m.. 352-375-2563, www.afn.org/~vetpeace/.

**WGOT 94.7 LP-FM** Community low-power station operating as part of the Civic Media Center. wgot947@gmail.com, www.wgot.org.





Mayo-Junio

The Gainesville Iguana

May-June

Iguana, c/o CISPLA, P.O. Box 14712, Gainesville, FL 32604 (352) 378-5655 www.gainesvilleiguana.org



Sunday Domingo

Radio Notes: Find schedules for WUFT, WGOT, and Grow Radio, our local non-corporate stations, at www.s.wuft.org, wgot.org, & growradio.org respectively. WGOT is a part-time over-the-air broadcast; and like Grow radio is streamed on the internet. More info on local independent radio on pg 21.



On the music side of things, those on the east side or with antennas might appreciate the music on Jacksonville's public radio station at 89.9 FM, ranging from acoustic to electronic, jazz and blues, in an eclectic and pleasant mix in the evenings and night. LISTEN TO AND SUPPORT COMMUNITY RADIO!

For more events, event details, and irregularly updated calendar entries, see www.gainesvilleiguana.org/calendar.

Monday Lunes

Tuesday Martes

Wednesday Miercoles

Thursday Jueves

Friday Viernes

Saturday Sabado



26 Food Not Bombs makes free vegan/vegetarian meals. Suns: prep starts 11 am: gainesvillefnb@riseup.net. Moyers & Company on WUFT-TV, Sundays, 1 pm. Fla Coalition for Peace & Justice weekly potluck & ecovillage tour, 4 pm: fcpj.org.

27 Memorial Mile Final Day - walk it, drive it, bike it - but see it and reflect on the cost of war: NW 8th Ave, E of NW 34th St. Into the Fire: Hidden Victims of Austerity in Greece at CMC, 7 pm. 1647: 1st Witch hanged in Salem, Mass. MEMORIAL DAY

28 Alachua County Comm meets, 2nd & 4th Tues, 9 am & 5 pm, County Admin Bldg; citizens' comment, 9:30 am & 5:30 pm. Free HIV testing, 4th Tuesdays, CMC, 6:30-8 pm. Wild Iris Feminist Open Mic Night, CMC Courtyard, 7 pm.

29 Avenue Q opens at Hipp, 7 pm - see thehip.org. Much Ado About Doris: Improv Comedy at Lightnin' Salvage.

30 CMC Volunteers, 5:30 pm. Blues Pioneers featuring Willie Green at Thomas Center Spanish Court (306 NE 6th Ave), 6:30 pm. Raisin in the Sun final weekend at Actors Warehouse, 608 N. Main St; info: actorswarehouse.org. Open Poetry at CMC, 9 pm.

31 Critical Mass Bike Ride, 5:30 pm, UF Plaza of Americas. Gay Movie Night last Fridays, Pride Ctr, 3131 NW 13th St, \$2, 7:30 pm. Artwalk all over town & especially down at S. Main arts & culture center, 7 pm. The String Kings rock at Free Friday concert, Bo Diddley Plaza, 8 pm. Greenland Is Melting and Antique Animals (Jax) at The Atlantic.

June 1 Citizens' Climate Lobby meets 1st Saturdays, downtown library, noon. Immigration Summit, Fairfield Presbyterian Church, 15096 NW County Rd 225, Marion County, 1 pm. Veg For Life vegan potluck, UUF, \$1+veg dish, 6:30 pm. 1926: Norma Jean "Marilyn Monroe" Mortensen (or Baker) born.

2 IWW meets 1st Sundays, CMC, 6 pm. Women's Movie Night, 1st Sundays, 7 pm, Pride Ctr, 3131 NW 13th St. 1863: Harriet Tubman & 300 Black US Soldiers free 750 slaves. 1865: Last Confederate Army surrenders.

3 Free Organic Farming Workshop, 17603 NW 276th Lane, Alachua, 9 am; registration required: foginfo.org or 352-363-1093. Transportation meeting: County Admin Bldg, 5 pm; info: 955-2200. Eyes of the Rainbow (Assata Shakur documentary), CMC, 7 pm: see pg 16. 1906: Josephine Baker born.

4 School Board, 6 pm. There will doubtless be events scheduled that aren't on this calendar at press time: check various websites and listings, and support events in our wonderfully active community. 1989: Tienanmen Square Protesters massacred.

5 Veterans for Peace meet, 7 pm: call 352-375-2563 for directions. 1783: Montgolfier Brothers launch first hot-air balloon. 1977: Apple Computer launches Apple II.

6 CMC Volunteers, 5:30 pm. Open Poetry at CMC, 9 pm. 1884: 1st Roller Coaster opens in Coney Island, NY. 1921: Hermann Rorschach debuts his blots. 1933: 1st Drive-in Movie Theater opens, in Camden, NJ.

7 Wine Tasting Benefit for mental illness recovery, The Doris (716 N. Main St), \$50 & up, 5 pm. Little Jake Mitchell & the Soul Searchers at Free Friday concert, Bo Diddley Plaza, 8 pm. Whether here or anywhere: please support live music! 1848: Paul Gauguin born.

8 Christians & Muslims read Koran together, Emmanuel Mennonite Meeting House, 1236 NW 18th Ave, 10 am, 2nd & 4th Saturdays.. Kids Music & Food Festival, Forage Farm, 7204 SE CR 234, \$15 (kids under 5 free), 1-7 pm - contact anna@foragefarm.org. 15 Juneteenth Celebration, Fred Cone Park (2841 E. Univ Ave): music, food, speakers - 10am-2 pm. Gvl Roller Rebels All-Stars vs Duval Derby Dames, Alachua County Fairgrounds Exhibition Hall, 7:30 pm. Other Voices sing at Sandhill Stage, \$15, 8 pm.

9 Keep up with the CMC at www.civicmediacenter.org for events created after this calendar was printed, and into the future (also see pg 9). 1891: Cole Porter born.

10 Feminist Film tba presented by NOW, CMC, 7 pm. 1910: Chester Arthur "Howlin' Wolf" Burnett born. 1928: Maurice Sendak born.

11 Alachua County Comm meets - see 5/28. 1898: US Marines land at Guantanamo, Cuba. 1979: Marion Michael "John Wayne" Morrison dies.

12 DEC meets, County Commission meeting room, 2nd Weds, 7 pm. 1929: Anne Frank born. 1967: US Supreme Court bans laws against interracial marriage in Loving v. Va case.

13 CMC Volunteers, 5:30 pm. Open Poetry, Thursdays at CMC, 9 pm. 1865: William Butler Yeats born. 1971: NY Times prints 1st of "Pentagon Papers."

14 Peoples Heath Conf, UF Health Professions Complex, 5-9 pm & Sat, 8 am-5 pm; info, 273-2167. Transgender Movie Night, 2nd Fridays, 7 pm, Pride Ctr, 3131 NW 13 St. Wester Joseph's Stereo Vudu, Free Friday, Bo Diddley Plaza, 8 pm.

22 WGOT benefit, CMC, details tba at civicmediacenter.org. The Currys play Sandhill Stage, Prairie Creek Lodge, 7204 SE County Rd 234, \$20, 8 pm. 1969: Cuyahoga River catches fire.

16 FATHER'S DAY BLOOMSDAY 1963: Valentina Tereshkova becomes 1st woman in space.

17 5 Broken Cameras (Oscar-nominated Palestinian doc on nonviolent resistance in West Bank), CMC, 433 S. Main St, 7 pm. 1954: CIA overthrows elected Guatemalan government.

18 School Board, 6 pm. PFLAG 3rd-Monday meeting at United Church, 1624 NW 5th Ave, 7 pm. 1983: Dr. Sally Ride becomes 1st US woman in space.

19 Humanists meet, UUF, 4225 NW 34th St, 7 pm. Intervention Skills Workshop, CMC, 7 pm. JUNETEENTH 1945: Aung San Suu Kyi born. 1947: Salman Rushdie born.

20 CMC Volunteers, 5:30 pm. Open Poetry, CMC, 9 pm. Please support Citizens Co-op, a growing community resource. Shop Co-op first & keep your \$\$\$ local! (see ad, pg 23)

21 Fast Lane brings the funk to Bo Diddley Plaza for Free Friday series, 8 pm. SUMMER SOLSTICE 1788: US Constitution takes effect.

29 IGUANA Deadline for July-Aug issue is July 3rd; write gainesvilleiguana@cox.net or call 378-5655 with events, updates, advertisements & info.

23 If you appreciate this calendar, please consider supporting the Ig with a donation &/or subscription: PO Box 14712, Gainesville FL 32604. FULL MOON

24 Stonewall Democrats film showing at CMC, 7 pm. 1970: US Senate repeals Tonkin Gulf Resolution.

25 Alachua County Comm meets; see 5/28. Alachua County Labor Party meets: 6:30 pm, ACEA Hall; info, 375-2832. Free HIV testing, 4th Tuesdays, CMC, 6:30-8 pm. Wild Iris Feminist Open Mic Night, CMC Courtyard, 7 pm.

26 Stonewall Democrats, 901 NW 8th Ave, 6 pm, 4th Wednesdays. 1892: Pearl Sydenstricker (Buck) born.

27 CMC Volunteers, 5:30 pm. Open Poetry, CMC, 9 pm. National HIV Testing Day: Free HIV testing, CMC, noon-6 pm. 1869: Emma Goldman born. 1880: Helen Keller born.

28 Critical Mass - see 5/31. Gay Movie Night - see 5/31. Artwalk - see 5/31. De Lions of Jah play Bo Diddley Plaza Free Friday concert, 8 pm. 1969: Gays riot at Stonewall Inn, NYC.

6 Veg For Life vegan potluck, UUF, \$1+veg dish, 6:30 pm. 1946: George W. Bush born. 1946: Sylvester Stallone born.

30 Operation Catnip Spay Day, 8 pm - see facebook.com/operationcatnip. 1950: Harry Truman orders US troops to Korea.

July 1 The Central Park 5, CMC, 7 pm. 1972: 1st Issue of Ms. Magazine published.

2 1964: Lyndon Johnson signs Voting Rights Act.

3 Veterans for Peace meet, 7 pm. 1978: US Supreme Court rules against George Carlin's "Seven Dirty Words".

4 CMC Volunteers, 5:30 pm. Sierra Club may meet at UUF, 7:30 pm: see ssjsierra.org. Open Poetry at CMC, 9 pm. INDEPENDENCE DAY

5 All American Song Fest, Bo Diddley Downtown Plaza: free, 8 pm. 1998 (& after): World ends, according to Church of the Subgenius prophecy.

1946: George W. Bush born. 1946: Sylvester Stallone born.

# History and the people who make it: Rosa B. Williams

*Transcript edited by Pierce Butler*

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

*Rosa B. Williams, long-time Gainesville community organizer, was interviewed by Joel Buchanan [B] in 1996.*

**B: Where were you born, Rosa?**

In Starke, Florida. My mother was a housewife. When I was small I can remember her working out ... taking in laundry at her house. But she never worked out after I got bigger. My father, ... Roosevelt, first he was cutting cross ties, then he worked at a sawmill and then when he came here to live, he worked two jobs, Alachua General Hospital and the University of Florida.

**B: Did you have a responsibility on the farm?**

Yeah feeding the pigs, cows, chickens, doing everything else. We planted peanuts and all but we did have to go out and cut okras and potatoes. We used to make about 25 cents for a little basket.

**B: What was your first job?**

Working at Alachua General Hospital running the elevator, for about five years.

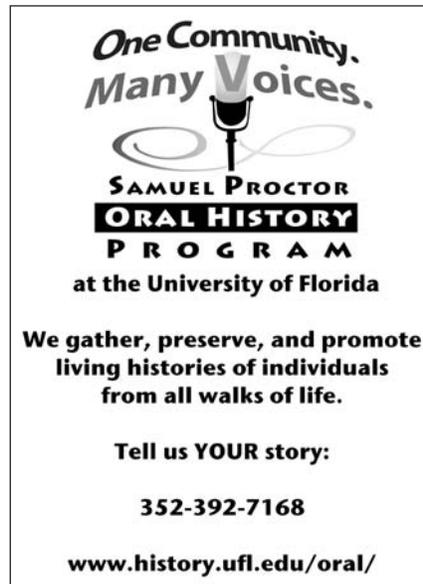
**B: What did you make a week?**

\$13.50. That always stuck in my mind. I went to work as a maid [for] Deborah and Jane Stearic, until the beginning of the 70s. She's the one that really started pushing me out there. She used to go to the library and pick up my books for me. She said one day that she wasn't going to, and I was going to go myself. And when I say "push," if it had not been for her I wouldn't have went to the library and insist that I get a library card, which I was the first black person which finally got one. It took us about two or three months.

Then when the Democrat Club was home around here, she was insistent that I go to their lunches and things and I was the only black person, you know.

**B: Do you remember what it was like trying to get that library card? Were they nice to you?**

Well they wasn't rude but they would just ask me so many questions which they had to check out like what church, what organizations I was a member of, some neighbors they had to verify that I live where I say that



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I did.

**B: Were you active in the Civil Rights Movement?**

Yes, I was very active in that. The Gainesville Women for Equal Rights, and there were a whole bunch of us. We had sometimes more whites than we had blacks. It was during the time when Reverend Wright first came here. He was the pastor of that church and we was meeting down there like every day.

**B: How did you become a member of the Gainesville—**

Women for Equal Rights? I think it was Jean Chalmers who finally asked me, and Barbara Higgins who come in at the same time, she was the first black president of the Gainesville Women for Equal Rights, also.

They was out actually recruiting black women because they was working on Civil Rights issues. You know, getting it so blacks could sit at the counter, go to the library like I had did, integrate some boards.

At that time some of the black members didn't think that Barbara and I should have been over there because we didn't have that high education.

I didn't even deal with it, you know what I'm saying? My old saying is that Rosa takes care of herself. So to me, it was just like rain falling. I don't worry about what people say. I don't have time to. And I say I must be doing something good, if they're taking out their energy time to talk about me.

**B: They were also in charge of helping to establish the first black daycare center,**

**is that correct?**

Ah, it was a day school... We had our classes in a mobile, out there by Lincoln Middle School.

**B: What was your role in the NAACP?**

I was one of the vice presidents for a long time. We had a large membership and a very good organization. We used to meet on Sunday nights downstairs at old Mount Carmel Church. That place would be packed.

**B: Tell me some of the places that you picketed,**

The College Inn, and the Walker House. Jean Chalmers and me would go into places to see if they would serve us, some of them wasn't going to, or some of them would say, "Tell Jean we'll serve her, but we don't have to serve you." We both would leave.

And then a black and a white person would go and apply for a job, the black person would go first and see what the company had to say, and then an hour later, the white person would go and apply for that same job, and then we would compare notes, and there were some that we needed to be working on, and we'd start working on that also.

**B: Was your life ever threatened?**

Uh-huh. I had peoples call to my house, but I got to cussing them out, they didn't call me back.

**B: Were you ever afraid being on the picket line?**

No. I was just hoping wouldn't nobody spit on me or something, no. At that time, Joel, that age and time, you don't be scared. Because you was out there with a whole bunch of other people, and everybody was out there, we knew, for a right cause.

**B: When you left the Stearic's, what did you do then?**

I went into Bell Nursery Daycare Center and the Community Action Agency.

**B: How long did you work there?**

The Community Action Agency? Probably about five or six years. I was there way before Oscar and them came. Me and, um, Reverend Kimmon and Don Red and Helen Cesaire and Elizabeth from Archer, was about ten of us was the first blacks who they hired at the Community Action Agency. At the time, they didn't have an office, it was in the courthouse. Harvey Weston was the administrator.

I was the Supervisor of Outreach. That's how the Hawthorne Daycare Center got started, the High Springs Daycare Center, the Archer Daycare Center, the Newberry Daycare Center, the Northeast Daycare Center, they got started from the outreach workers.

**B: And Bell Nursery, one of the oldest daycare centers in the Fifth Avenue community.**

I'm not sure about that because St. Augustine was maybe older.

**B: So you worked there as a cook. When you left Bell Nursery and Community Action Agency, where did you go?**

I stayed in daycare, this was in the head A-four-C office. Alachua County Coordinated Child Care. They was the one who was funding these daycare centers. So I went in the office along with Armani Frankfield. Certifying the peoples, you know, when they applying for daycare.

**B: Was the Community Action Agency, when you were there, pretty much a black organization?**

In town, but out in Hawthorne, Archer, Waldo, and all of those places it was mixed. And Grove Park even was mixed.

**B: Why is it that you're enjoying what you're doing now?**

Because its giving me a chance to work and do something for some peoples who did not ask to be born the way they are, and they are the most forgotten bunch, you know. Tacachale have a hard time getting money out of the state, but the prison system get everything what they want. These people, you know, they just born like they was. They enjoy the same thing what everybody else enjoy, and I just like getting volunteers to make things more better for them.

**B: The black-on-black taskforce that you chaired, do you feel that you've been very helpful through that organization?**

Yes, mm-hm. That organization is for to help organize and support other crime watch organization. We call it Departers Against Crime, where we place somebody with a child with need, to go to a basketball game, to take that child out somewhere.

**B: As the director of the United Gainesville, what have you all done there that's important?**

Porters Oak Community Center. The county give us the old Bridge House Building, and so we proceed to remodel it with the help of the city, and I'm really proud of that because the Porters area has not had the recreation facilities they deserve to have. Also you

didn't see them make laws to small business and things, I'm really proud about that, just knowing we have helped someone expand their business or begin a new business.

**B: Give us the name of a few of those people that you have been very instrumental in working on their elections.**

Jimmy Carter, Bob Graham, and around here in town, Leveda Brown, Charles Chestnut, Kate Barnes, Neil Butler, that was the first time I put so much effort into an election. Sid Martin. All of his. Jon Mills, yeah. I just go door to door and get other peoples to go knock on doors or pass out literature and encourage them to go vote for them.

Now I get money from the candidates to get these kids who go door to door. But I'm never paid.

**B: This year I had the privilege to attend your legislative barbeque at your home. What started that, and why is it held at your home?**

They came here for one weekend for an FSU game, and I forgot which one it was that said something to me out there in the President's Box, said We all should have some real food sometime when we come down here. I said, Well, we'll have to think about that. I said, but you need more than one person to do it. So we just started talking and making plans for the next two years when FSU came here again.

**B: How do you feel when you have the President of the University of Florida, all the legislative body at your home for a barbeque?**

I just like doing it you know for the peoples to have a representative for what come from out of town. We have lots of help. Lots of people pulled in to pull that off. The University of Florida, Shands Hospital foot the bill for everything.

I was the chairman of the Democrat Club. We didn't have to go by the same rules as the Democrat Executive Committee. We could endorse peoples or do whatever we wanted to do. We could go out actually in the community and do more things.

**B: Now were you very much involved when we had our first black chief of police Atkins Warren. I heard that you were on a selection committee for that.**

I was. For Wayland and Atkins.

**B: Do you think that Atkins was helpful when he was here?**

He was helpful when he first came here, but he got caught up in the circle ... lots of people got caught up in. Here's Atkins, and here's

about five or six captains or lieutenants, and the actual policemen cannot get to Atkins. And that was Atkins downfall, I think.

**B: Jimmy Carter visited your home, is that true?**

Yes, uh huh. You know the peoples living in the community most enjoy when I have these big affairs because they know they going to be able to come there and get some food, all that beer was left, I give it away to people in the neighborhood.

**B: Have you ever been offered a position to aid these persons in office?**

Yeah. I was not interested in that.

**B: You still live in the Fifth Avenue area, and people talk about it being a ghetto and so-forth, why are you still where you are?**

I like the area and I like the peoples there. It's center, it's easy to get anywhere you wants to go. A long time ago, we used to have all kind of running around, people shooting, and doing this-that and the other, but the area is getting back to being what I used to know.

**B: How close were you to Sid?**

Real close. That means we call each other every night.

**B: What's this brochure about the Rosa B. Williams Scholarship at the Shands teaching hospital and clinic?**

Its about a \$100,000 scholarship that's going to be used for anybody that's going into any of the medical fields. They just told me about it about two weeks ago.

**B: You have a building named in your honor, there's a scholarship in your honor, what about the Rosa B. Williams Street?**

No, [laughter].

**B: You don't want that?**

No.

*A full transcript of this interview is available at <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00014806/00001>.*

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# Revolutionary Assata Shakur is no terrorist

by Bill Fletcher, Jr.

*This article was originally published on May 14 by the New Pittsburgh Courier. Read more at [www.newpittsburghcourieronline.com](http://www.newpittsburghcourieronline.com).*

When the FBI announced that they were placing fugitive Assata Shakur (Joanne Chesimard) on the list of most wanted terrorists and that they were offering an additional \$1 million for her capture, it caught most of the world by complete surprise.

Assata has been living quietly in exile in Cuba where she was given political asylum for 30 years. The former member of the Black Liberation Army escaped captivity after being tried and convicted—under controversial circumstances—in connection with the killing of a New Jersey State policeman. Several other allegations against her were dropped either through acquittals or mistrials.

Assata Shakur had been a member of the Black Panther Party, later joining the Black Liberation Army. Like many other Black activists in the late 1960s and early 1970s, she witnessed the vicious repression of the Black Freedom Movement—and other movements of the time—by agencies of the U.S. government, including through the use of the now notorious COINTELPRO (the FBI's Counter Intelligence Program). COINTELPRO involved the infiltration and disruption of organizations that the FBI concluded were a threat to the U.S. elite. Disruption included rumor-mongering, provocation, the encouraging of splits, imprisonment and murder. The intensity of the repression of the Black Freedom Movement, in this case, led many activists to conclude that, at a minimum, self-defense was necessary. For others the conclusion was that a military arm of the Black Freedom Movement was needed.

Whether one agrees or disagrees with the conclusions arrived at by Assata Shakur, one thing is very important: she was never a terrorist. Let us be clear about the meaning of this word that we hear so regularly these days. A “terrorist” is someone who uses military methods/violence against civilians in order to advance a po-

litical objective. There is nothing in the activism of Assata Shakur that displays anything approaching terrorism. Additionally, since her exile, she has not been involved with any activities in the U.S.A. that could be construed as terrorist.

So, what is this about? It appears that the main inspiration for this outrage is to derail any efforts at the normalization of relations between the U.S. and Cuba. Upon the reelection of President Obama, there have been rumors circulating that there



*Assata Shakur. Photo courtesy of [www.assatashakur.org](http://www.assatashakur.org).*

might be efforts to remove Cuba from the list of countries supporting terrorism. There were additional suggestions that there might be efforts towards normalization.

There are groups in the U.S.A. who oppose normalization of relations with Cuba and they will do anything that they can to disrupt such efforts. Whether those elements convinced the FBI to take this step is irrelevant. The fact is that this step complicates discussions about

changing the terms of U.S./Cuban relations. Right-wing Cuban exiles as well as ultra-conservative elements in our political establishment have an interest in the status quo; most of this country is more interested in improvement in relations with Cuba.

For this reason, we need to understand the upping of the ante on Assata as not only a threat to her existence, a violation of Cuban and international law, but also a cynical move to disrupt efforts to end the Cold War in the Western Hemisphere.

Now is the time to demand that President Obama and Attorney General Holder reverse the decision of the FBI. Let's end this ridiculous melodrama.

On May 3, Assata Shakur wrote a powerful open letter shedding light on her side of the story and encouraging others to be a voice for the voiceless. You can read that letter here: <http://revolutionaryfrontlines.wordpress.com/2013/05/03/an-open-letter-from-assata/>.

You can also read more about Assata Shakur at the Civic Media Center. Resources and books about Assata can be found here: <http://www.civicmediacenter.org/search/library/assata>.

On Monday, June 3, at 7p.m., the Civic Media Center will show *Eyes of the Rainbow*, a 1997 film by Gloria Rolando about and featuring Assata Shakur as part of their Monday documentary film series. Donations requested, and there will be a discussion after the film with Kali Blount. For more information and links on Assata, go to [www.afrocubaweb.com/assata.htm](http://www.afrocubaweb.com/assata.htm). 🐾



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# Editorial board's picks

*What we're reading right now*

*Below are some stories the Iguana's editorial board wanted to include in this issue, but we didn't have the space. Have an article you think our readers should be aware of? Email links to [gainesvilleiguana@cox.net](mailto:gainesvilleiguana@cox.net).*

## **“The Last Letter: A Message to George W. Bush and Dick Cheney from a Dying Veteran”**

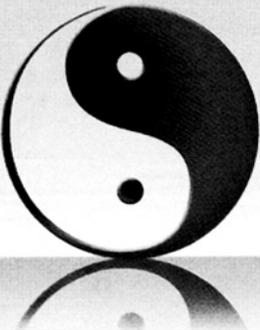
This letter, penned by anti-war activist and paralyzed Iraq War veteran Tomas Young on the 10th anniversary of the Iraq War, is a scathing condemnation of the Bush Administration's decision to invade Iraq. In February, Young—who has spoken out against the wars that ruined his and thousands of others' lives—publicly stated that he had decided to end his own life some time in the next few months. See more at Truthdig: [http://www.truthdig.com/dig/item/the\\_last\\_letter\\_20130318/](http://www.truthdig.com/dig/item/the_last_letter_20130318/)

## **“An Open Letter to the Indigenous Peoples of Guatemala”**

Guatemalan former dictator Efraim Rios Montt was brought to trial and found guilty of genocide and crimes against humanity for the mass killings and rapes of Guatemala's indigenous Ixil Peoples. The roots of the Gainesville Iguana go back to Central America organizing against U.S. foreign policy in that region in the mid '80s. It is great to see, at long last, some light shined on that dark period, and so important to see Washington's hand in it exposed. See more at Common Dreams: <http://www.commondreams.org/view/2013/05/15>

## **“The major sea change in media discussions of Obama and civil liberties”**

The mainstream media is up in arms about the Justice Department's secret, unjustified seizure of two months' worth of telephone records from Associated Press reporters and editors (a New York Times editorial called the act an “assault on the press, and democracy, too”). Glenn Greenwald gives a good analysis of the situation: “It is remarkable how media reactions to civil liberties assaults are shaped almost entirely by who the victims are.” Read the full article here: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/may/15/obama-civil-liberties-sea-change>.



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# “We won’t stop ‘til the morning-after pill is available to all, regardless of age”

By Jenny Brown and Stephanie Seguin,  
Members of National Women’s Liberation

This article was originally published by the Guardian on May 13. See more at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentis-free/2013/may/13/plan-b-ruling-available-over-the-counter>.

We have been fighting for a decade for something so basic: for women in America to have easy access to safe and affordable birth control, including the “morning-after pill” (sometimes referred to by the specific drug name of Plan B).

We won a key victory when a federal judge ordered the Obama administration to make the morning-after pill available over-the-counter—in other words, to make it available without a prescription. Unfortunately, our fight didn’t end there as the administration tried to delay, but last week the courts again ruled on the side of women’s access to birth control, regardless of age.

There’s been a lot of talk in the media about the role the judge is playing in the advancement of pill access. But the nine original plaintiffs in the case aren’t just names on a piece of paper; we are dues-paying members of National Women’s Liberation, and we’ve led a decade-long grassroots campaign to get the pill over-the-counter.

The lawsuit was just one of many actions we took in this fight.

While U.S. women have been losing on many other fronts, from the religious exception to birth control coverage in Obamacare to a wave of restrictive state abortion laws, we’ve been steadily gaining ground on the morning-after pill, even if it sometimes feels like Zeno’s dichotomy paradox as we approach the finish line.

In 1999, the morning-after pill was made available in the U.S. by prescription only, a ludicrous requirement for a safe contraceptive that is more effective the more quickly it is taken after unprotected sex.

Still, when we first set out to demand over-the-counter status, we were counseled that we should pursue a more reasonable goal, such as requiring that rape victims be pro-



Stephanie Seguin (NWL) testifies as Gainesville activists, led by NWL as part of a national “Week of Action,” put the morning-after pill on the shelf during a feminist flashmob at a local CVS on Friday, May 17.

NWL’s goal is to stir grassroots activism to pressure the Obama Administration to drop its appeal, which is blocking the April 5 federal court order to make the Morning-After Pill fully over-the-counter with no age restriction—just like aspirin. Flashmobs or banner drops were held during the week in a dozen cities across the U.S., in collaboration with Women Organized to Resist and Defend. See [www.womensliberation.org](http://www.womensliberation.org). Photo by Pete Self. Courtesy of National Women’s Liberation (NWL).

vided the pill in hospitals, a demand that wouldn’t even help most rape victims. Instead, we followed a cardinal rule of the radicals of the 1960’s Women’s Liberation Movement: we demanded what we really wanted, rather than toning down to be respectable.

We pledged to “give a friend the morning-after pill,” in violation of the prescription requirement. We faxed our pledges to the Food and Drug Administration—over 4,400 faxes from women in every state. We threw the pill into the crowd at rallies, and gave it away as a door prize at fundraisers.

We insisted that women’s voices be represented on the FDA’s scientific panel considering whether the pill should be put over-the-counter. We testified about the mundane day-to-day slip-ups that made the morning-after pill an important tool for women. We told how the prescription requirement had delayed and deterred us, leading to abortions, which were much

more expensive, traumatic and time-consuming.

We quoted the famous 1969 Redstockings abortion speakout: “We are the experts on our own lives,” not doctors, not pharmacists, not the Food and Drug Administration director, or even President Obama.

In the hearing, we unfurled a list of the 38 countries (now 63) where the morning-after pill was already available without a prescription. One testifier pointed out that when she visited France, health workers handed out the morning-after pill with condoms in bars. Why was the U.S. so behind?

Our experiences were those of most women: broken or forgotten condoms or condoms men refused to wear. Yes, some of us have been raped. But we didn’t want full access to the morning-after pill because we lived in fear; we wanted full access because the results of medical advances should be in our hands — the birthright of

every woman and girl.

Despite a 23-to-4 vote on the panel in our favor, the FDA delayed and delayed.

Fellow feminists worried that we were being too militant when we invited them to join us in blocking access to the FDA's building, the way the FDA was blocking our access to the morning-after pill.

They were wrong. Our testimonies and sit-in (nine of us were arrested in January 2005) gave encouragement to FDA staffers who disagreed with the agency's actions. The assistant FDA commissioner for women's health, Susan Wood, resigned in disgust in August that year.

When the FDA was finally ordered to place the pill over the counter for ages 17-and-up, we continued to demand full access for all ages. The powerful rely on

half-measures to divide women — in this case younger from older — but it hasn't worked because we focused on how the restrictions affected all women.

While creating unacceptable hurdles for younger women and girls, the regulation placed the pill behind the pharmacy counter for all women, who now had to show ID to prove their age.

We echoed abortion pioneer Lucinda Cisler, who responded to partial legalization of abortion in 1970, saying, "We will not accept insults and call them 'steps in the right direction.'"

Then, on April 5, U.S. Federal Judge Edward Korman ordered the administration to make the pill available on drugstore shelves for all ages.

The FDA inched forward again, all the

while insisting they weren't responding to the court order. They've now made one brand of pill available to customers 15 and older to be placed on the shelf next to condoms. However, all purchasers will have to prove their age, and those younger than 15 still need a prescription. And a one-brand monopoly will keep high the already outrageous price.

Two days later, the Obama administration asked Korman to suspend his order while they appeal. The judge denied the request.

We're not waiting to see if the government pursues further appeals. On May 14, women in at least eight cities held flash-mob actions to put the drug on the shelf where it belongs, with no age restrictions.

Help National Women's Liberation finish the fight. Learn more at [www.womensliberation.org](http://www.womensliberation.org). 

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## Struggle for wage theft ordinance not over yet

*By Diana Moreno*

On April 16, the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners voted 3-2 in favor of passing a Wage Recovery Ordinance in Alachua County. The coalition behind the victory, The Alachua County Wage Theft Task Force, spent months outreaching to the religious and business community, as well as lobbying their elected county representatives to pass a local solution to our state's wage theft epidemic. But what should have been a night of celebration for workers and organizers in Alachua County was muted by the ongoing legislative session and our representative's efforts to kill our ordinance in Tallahassee.

When the Florida capitol entered its last weeks of session, activists from across the state were watching closely as three pre-emption bills tried to move through both chambers. These bills — SB 726, HB 655, & SB 1216 — would have destroyed the Task Force's efforts to protect workers from wage theft, as well as Orange County's efforts to win paid sick-leave for their community.

Clearly, our state representatives' distaste for "big government" disappeared quickly when the bottom line of powerful business and special interests groups was being threatened. In the end, session came to a close with only one of the three bills (HB 655) making it through. We were spared the gutting of our ordinance, although our Orange County friends were not as lucky.

The Task Force faced opposition from the top from the very beginning. The Florida Chamber of Commerce, a powerful force in Tallahassee politics, made it well known that one of their top priorities during this year's legislative session was to defeat grassroots efforts to pass anti-wage theft, living wage, and paid sick-leave ordinances; and they backed their lobbying efforts with the one thing community activists usually lack — money.

In Orange County's struggle to get paid sick-leave on the bal-

lot, the opposition was one of the wealthiest and most powerful industries in the state — Disney. We knew that what we lacked in money, we had to make up in public support. Not only that, we spread our efforts to the state level, knowing that our success depended on the death of SB 1216, a bill sponsored by our own state senator.

Our campaign was held together through the unpaid efforts of a few dedicated community members, and the donations and support of area residents. The only large donation we received came through our North-Central Florida Central Labor Council, and it was used to fund a study on wage theft in Alachua County by a research institute at Florida International University.

It took months of presentations and community forums, gathering signatures, and meeting with community leaders and county commissioners to gain legitimacy. We were lucky to have a mostly open and receptive county commission, and lucky that we could count on the solidarity from seasoned anti-wage theft activists from across the state.

The main lesson we learned through this hard-fought campaign is that despite the growing influence of money and outside interests in our state government, a coalition of well-organized citizens can still defeat the status quo in Tallahassee.

Money cannot cover up the fact that workers in this state are in desperate need of better protection, and it cannot silence the voices of the thousands of victims of wage theft who will finally have a means of redress in Alachua County.

We won this time, but the fight is not over. Nothing is stopping our legislators from bringing up these bills again for years to come. It is up to us to continue fighting.

Learn more at the Alachua County Wage Theft Task Force's website at [acwttf.wordpress.com](http://acwttf.wordpress.com). 

# Stephen Coats: teacher of solidarity, Presente!

by Paul Ortiz

Stephen Coats, the longtime executive director of the U.S. Labor Education in the Americas Project (US/LEAP) died suddenly on April 1 at 61 years old.

This is a terrible loss for the labor movement in the Americas, and it is only bearable because Stephen trained and fortified so many activists (including the writer) to carry on his work.

For decades, the terms “international labor solidarity” and Stephen Coats were virtually synonymous. As coordinator of the U.S./Guatemala Education Project (US/GLEP) during the 1990s, Stephen relentlessly kept U.S. labor activists apprised of the repression of labor and social justice activists in Guatemala and throughout Central America. Brother Coats taught us that the death of one labor organizer in Guatemala was a blow to the labor movement in the United States.

In the era of Reaganism and Thatcherism, US/GLEP taught consumers to see the connections between low prices in the U.S. and low wages in Latin America. In those days, companies like Old Navy, the Gap, and Starbucks scoffed when we used the term “corporate social responsibility.”

I recall a senior manager in retail telling me after a fire had killed workers in a factory that supplied clothing to his store that, “those workers were not directly employed by us; therefore, we have no responsibility for what happened.”

This answer was not good enough for Stephen Coats, and he gave us the educational tools we needed to keep pressure on U.S.-based retailers while workers organized new unions in Latin America.

Stephen played a critical role in helping both labor unionists as well as high school and college students build international solidarity committees throughout the 1990s.

The campus-based student anti-sweatshop movement was a major achievement of this era. US/LEAP provided us with scripts, statistics, and worker testimony to present to neighbors, shoppers, and managers in order to demand that people in the United States understand that our lives as consumers were intimately linked to the working conditions of laborers throughout the Americas. We used these materials in informational picket lines, in store sit-ins (the direct predecessor of today’s “flash mob” tactic), and in guerilla street theater.

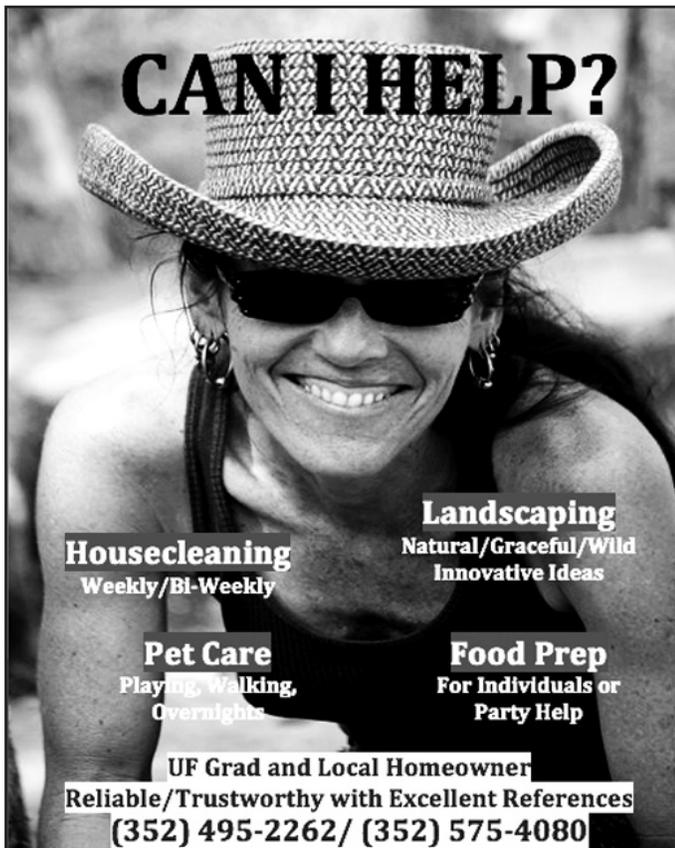
Stephen Coats leaves many important legacies behind as a community organizer. It makes me smile every time I shop at a grocery store, winery, mall outlet or coffee shop and see the “Fair Trade” section with products and educational materials explaining the chain of production and the roles that each of us must vigilantly play to understand that an injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

Just twenty years ago, it was unthinkable that U.S. firms would accept the idea of “corporate responsibility.” This is part of Brother Coats’ legacy and the legacy of thousands of fair trade warriors activated by US/LEAP and other Central American solidarity groups of the 1980s and ‘90s.

The struggle for international labor solidarity is far from over. We can honor Stephen’s memory best by becoming active in the struggle to remind workers in the U.S. that our fates are bound up with those of our brothers and sisters in the Global South.

Visit US/LEAP’S web site for more information: <http://www.usleap.org/>

Stephen Coats, Presente! 🐶



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## WORSHIP WITH FRIENDS

Gainesville Quakers warmly invite you to attend our weekly meeting for worship held in our beautiful meetinghouse nestled among majestic oaks.

An unprogrammed meeting of Friends, we follow the tradition of gathering in silence to wait upon the Light.

**11 a.m., Sundays**  
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# March Against Monsanto

Gainesville will be joining at least a dozen cities in Florida that will be marching as part of a global movement for justice and health. On Saturday, May 25, activists around the world will unite to March Against Monsanto. Joining Joanna of Gaia Grove to organize the march are Occupy Gainesville, the Zen Hostel, local organic farmers, student groups and others. Everyone is invited.

## Join us in Gainesville on May 25!

**1 pm** – Meet at the Harn Museum of Art at UF (SW 34th Street and Hull Road) to prepare signs for the March

**2 pm** – March from the Harn to Publix on the corner of 34th Street and University Avenue

**3 pm** – Demonstration at Publix (if driving straight to Publix, please park across the street)

For more information about the March in Gainesville, check out the “March Against Monsanto-Gainesville, FL” Facebook page.

For more information on Monsanto, check out a recent report by Food & Water Watch on CommonDreams.org. “How U.S. State Department ‘Twists Arms’ on Monsanto’s Behalf” - <http://www.commondreams.org/headline/2013/05/14-2>.



## WGOT 94.7 LP FM

*Gainesville's Progressive Community Radio Station*

WGOT is on the air:

**Sunday:** 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

**Mon, Wed, Fri:** 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. & 8 p.m. - 5 a.m.

**Tuesday and Thursday:** 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. & 8 p.m. - 9 p.m.

**Saturday:** 1 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Check out [wgot.org](http://wgot.org) for upcoming events and a detailed schedule.

We are now streaming 24/7 using Shoutcast. You can find the WGOT stream under the Shoutcast directory. To listen from your iOS, Android, or Blackberry mobile device, you can use any radio streaming apps such as Tune In. We are now listed in iTunes Radio under the Eclectic category. Direct feed at [www.wgot.org/listen/](http://www.wgot.org/listen/). 94.7 is a Low Power FM station with a transmitter at NW 39th Ave and I-75, so best reception is within 5 miles, but many people are able to pick up the station in their car. Questions? Comments? E-mail us at [info@wgot.org](mailto:info@wgot.org).



**Democracy NOW!** airs  
Mon.-Fri. 1 p.m. & Mon.-Thur. 8 p.m.

## GROWRADIO.org

### programming schedule

Grow Radio is a listener-supported, Gainesville-based Internet radio station that provides community members an opportunity to create and manage engaging, educational, informative, locally-generated programming to promote fine, musical and visual arts and humanities for the enrichment of the Gainesville community.

#### Sunday

- 9 a.m. Generic Radio Program
- 11 a.m. Buffalo Girls
- 1 p.m. The Atomic Age
- 5 p.m. Joe and Craig Show
- 7 p.m. The A.M.H. 2 Hour ...
- 9 p.m. The Sum of Your Life
- 11 p.m. Seoulmates-Kpop Radio

#### Monday

- 12 a.m. Seoulmates-Kpop Radio
- 11 a.m. Dr. Bill's Super Awe ...
- 1 p.m. The Kitchen Sink
- 3 p.m. Ecstasy to Frenzy
- 5 p.m. The Four Passions
- 7 p.m. Maium
- 8 p.m. New Day Rising
- 11 p.m. Female Trouble

#### Tuesday

- 8 a.m. Narcolexi
- 10 a.m. The Root
- 12 p.m. What's the Story?
- 2 p.m. Street Nuts
- 6 p.m. America in the Evening
- 8 p.m. river rail rhythm
- 10 p.m. The Experiment

#### Wednesday

- 9 a.m. Sax and Violins
- 1 p.m. The 2nd Ave. Shuffle
- 3 p.m. The Quiet City
- 5 p.m. A Brazilian Commando
- 7 p.m. Downtown Sound
- 9 p.m. The Otherness
- 11 p.m. Radiodeo

#### Thursday

- 12 a.m. Radiodeo
- 11 a.m. Get on the Right Thing ...
- 12 p.m. Things Be Blowin' ...
- 4 p.m. Hope & Anchor
- 6 p.m. Erosion
- 8 p.m. florida rules
- 10 p.m. Lost Sharks

#### Friday

- 11 a.m. The Breakup Song
- 1 p.m. 4D Meltdown
- 3 p.m. Swamp Boogie & Blues
- 5 p.m. Da Funk
- 7 p.m. Acme Radio
- 9 p.m. The Bag of Tricks

#### Saturday

- 11 a.m. Jazzville
- 3 p.m. Boots and Cats
- 5 p.m. Alewife Outbound
- 7 p.m. Planet of Sound
- 9 p.m. Reality Bites

# Amy Goodman interviews General Wesley Clark

## Is this some grand game?

by Joe Courter

As we watch the killing in Syria, and what we have seen of the destabilization and suffering in nation after nation in that region, I have not been able to forget this interview done by Amy Goodman on Democracy Now! on March 2, 2007 with Gen. Wesley Clark. So many of these strategically located countries have come into turmoil in the last decade.

Was the rather spontaneous “Arab Spring” in Tunisia and then Egypt the cover to move ahead on this? In reading Jeremy Scahill’s new book *Dirty Wars*, or even listening to the recent segment he’s done on Democracy Now! (please do it!), it paints a picture of a ruthless and amoral attempt to destabilize nation after nation for the benefit of U.S. and western interests.

The so-called “War on Terror” is leading to loss of liberty at home, drone wars multiplying American enemies, and in its wake a self-destructing Iraq and Afghanistan as a narco-state awash in U.S. dollars and weaponry.

Is this the foreign policy we want? Has Obama been an extension of the Bush administration’s foreign policy agenda? We are, in the words of George H. W. Bush, “in deep doo-doo.”

See the video of the interview here: [http://www.democracynow.org/2007/3/2/gen\\_wesley\\_clark\\_weighs\\_presidential\\_bid](http://www.democracynow.org/2007/3/2/gen_wesley_clark_weighs_presidential_bid).

AMY GOODMAN: Now, let’s talk about Iran. You have a whole website devoted to stopping war.

GEN. WESLEY CLARK:  
[www.stopiranwar.com](http://www.stopiranwar.com).

AMY GOODMAN: Do you see a replay in what happened in the lead-up to the war with Iraq — the allegations of the weapons of mass destruction, the media leaping onto the bandwagon?

GEN. WESLEY CLARK: Well, in a way. But, you know, history doesn’t repeat itself exactly twice. What I did warn about when I testified in front of Congress in 2002, I said if you want to worry about a state, it shouldn’t be Iraq, it should be Iran. But this government, our administration, wanted to worry about Iraq, not Iran.

I knew why, because I had been through the Pentagon right after 9/11. About ten days after 9/11, I went through the Pentagon and I saw Secretary Rumsfeld and Deputy Secretary Wolfowitz. I went downstairs just to say hello to some of the people on the Joint Staff who used to work for me, and one of the generals called me in.

He said, “Sir, you’ve got to come in and talk to me a second.” I said, “Well, you’re too busy.” He said, “No, no.” He says, “We’ve made the decision we’re going to war with Iraq.”

This was on or about the 20th of September. I said, “We’re going to war with Iraq? Why?” He said, “I don’t know.” He said, “I guess they don’t know what else to do.”

So I said, “Well, did they find some information connecting Saddam to al-Qaeda?” He said, “No, no.” He says, “There’s nothing

new that way. They just made the decision to go to war with Iraq.” He said, “I guess it’s like we don’t know what to do about terrorists, but we’ve got a good military and we can take down governments.”

And he said, “I guess if the only tool you have is a hammer, every problem has to look like a nail.”

So I came back to see him a few weeks later, and by that time we were bombing in Afghanistan. I said, “Are we still going to war with Iraq?” And he said, “Oh, it’s worse than that.”

He reached over on his desk. He picked up a piece of paper. And he said, “I just got this down from upstairs” — meaning the Secretary of Defense’s office — “today.” And he said, “This is a memo that describes how we’re going to take out seven countries in five years, starting with Iraq, and then Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and, finishing off, Iran.”

I said, “Is it classified?” He said, “Yes, sir.” I said, “Well, don’t show it to me.” And I saw him a year or so ago, and I said, “You remember that?” He said, “Sir, I didn’t show you that memo! I didn’t show it to you!”

AMY GOODMAN: I’m sorry. What did you say his name was?

GEN. WESLEY CLARK: I’m not going to give you his name.

AMY GOODMAN: So, go through the countries again.

GEN. WESLEY CLARK: Well, starting

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with Iraq, then Syria and Lebanon, then Libya, then Somalia and Sudan, and back to Iran.

So when you look at Iran, you say, "Is it a replay?" It's not exactly a replay. But here's the truth: that Iran, from the beginning, has seen that the presence of the United States in Iraq was a threat — a blessing, because we took out Saddam Hussein and the Baathists. They couldn't handle them. We took care of it for them.

But also a threat, because they knew that they were next on the hit list. And so, of course, they got engaged. They lost a million people during the war with Iraq, and they've got a long and unprotectable, unsecurable border. So it was in their vital interest to be deeply involved inside Iraq. They tolerated our attacks on the Baathists. They were happy we captured Saddam Hussein.

But they're building up their own network of influence, and to cement it, they occasionally give some military assistance and training and advice, either directly or indirectly, to both the insurgents and to the militias. And in that sense, it's not exactly parallel, because there has been, I believe, continuous Iranian engagement, some of it legitimate, some of it illegitimate. I mean, you can hardly fault Iran because they're offering to do eye operations for Iraqis who need medical attention. That's not an offense that you can go to war over, perhaps. But it is an effort to gain influence.

And the administration has stubbornly refused to talk with Iran about their perception, in part because they don't want to pay the price with their domestic — our US domestic political base, the right-wing base, but also because they don't want to legitimate a government that they've been trying to overthrow.

If you were Iran, you'd probably believe that you were mostly already at war with the United States anyway, since we've asserted that their government needs regime change, and we've asked congress to appropriate \$75 million to do it, and we are supporting terrorist groups, apparently, who are infiltrating and blowing up things inside Iraq — Iran. And if we're not doing it, let's put it this way: we're probably cognizant of it and encouraging it. So it's not surprising that we're moving to a point of confrontation and crisis with Iran.

My point on this is not that the Iranians are good guys — they're not — but that you shouldn't use force, except as a last, last, last resort. There is a military option, but it's a bad one. 🐸



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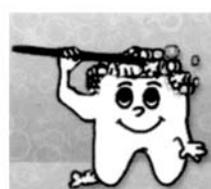
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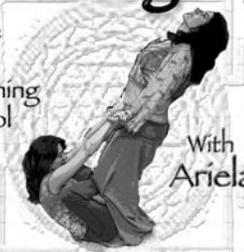
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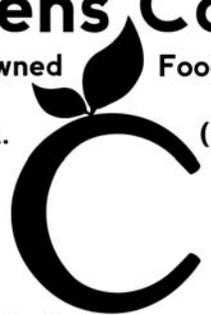
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# The Gears Grind On

## South Main Community Update

by Christopher Fillie

We are now almost into June, and the deal for the South Main Arts community to vacate its long-term lease on the .85-acre parcel between SE 5th and SE 6th avenues (as well as negotiations on the parcel immediately to the East owned and occupied by Everyman Sound) is still making its way through the gears of the City. The deal was proposed to make way for the City Of Gainesville Fire Department's Fire Station Number One to move and expand.

The land is currently occupied by the Repurpose Project, the Church of Holy Colors, Vibrant Community Development, Gainesville Compost, and parking for the Citizens Co-Op, the Civic Media Center, Display Gallery, the Sequential Artists Workshop, The Green Building Cooperative, Ricardo Cavallino and Associates Architecture, and (soon) Wild Iris Books. While we have agreed and understood that it is necessary to build a fire station that will be able to handle the growth forecasted in the central city through such projects as Innovation Square and the proposed Cade Museum, we are proceeding with caution and staying firm to our demands to mitigate the impacts to the needs and goals for the community we have grown into. We are being asked to give up a generous long-term lease and an agreement to purchase

the property, for the betterment of the city. To date, the City has made good faith efforts to plan to provide on-street public parking to the area and to agree to community input for an urban design that will not discourage pedestrian traffic and social vibrancy through the arts and cultural corridor we have envisioned from downtown to Depot Park. We hope that they can agree to hold up their end of the bargain, and end this period of uncertainty. We have been informed that sellers with comparable offers have approached the city. Issues of environmental contamination, if they should be found, and funding approvals from the City Commission could all make another property more suited. To prepare for this, we have negotiated a back-up contract with the owner and are securing commitments from the local community for investment capital. Who knows what the future will bring? In every crisis, lies opportunity.

One clarification must be made here: the 514 S. Main St. "South Main Community Arts and Culture Center," housing the CMC, Co-Op etc., is in no way at risk of sale, eminent domain, or any other such change. It is only the expansion of our community to the South, and those businesses located and that had planned on locating here, who may be impacted if the deal goes through. 🐢

# The Gainesville Iguana

(established 1986)



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## Grassroots Support Keeps it Going



### What the Civic Media Center does:

- repository of information
- creator of community events
- incubator for future activists and organizers

### What you can do:

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### For information:

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- email: coordinators@civicmediacenter.org
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