

Building Citizen Power

BY KINDRA MUNTZ, SARASOTA ALLIANCE FOR FAIR ELECTIONS

It's time for a new era of "We the People" in Sarasota County.

Despite massive opposition to the proposed redistricting of Sarasota County in 2019, County Commissioners pressed on with flawed data and a brazenly gerrymandered map—a racially gerrymandered map at that—to change district boundaries prior to the 2020 census. It was a blatant attempt to bypass the will of the people.

In November 2018, Sarasota County voters passed a referendum for Single Member Districts—a structure that would enable each County district to have more direct representation and accountability from our elected officials. Out of fear of losing control, the Commissioners and a handful of powerbrokers gerrymandered the districts prior to the 2020 census and disenfranchised the entire community of Newtown Harbor from the 2020 County election.

Citizens from around the county appeared at County Commission meetings from May to November 2019, to speak in opposition to this

rushed effort. Newspaper editors and various City Council members from Venice, North Port and Sarasota opposed it. Despite evidence that the current districts were within the 10% "Safe

in 2019. Despite promises to make the redistricting process "fair, inclusive and transparent", they held private meetings with the consultant, submitted a survey to the public then disregarded the results, and rejected three maps provided by the consultant in favor of a map submitted at the last minute by someone named "Smith" (referring to Adam Smith, who coined the phrase "the Invisible Hand"). That map turned out to have been created by former GOP chair Bob Waechter – no stranger to Sarasota politics. Waechter made the headlines in 2012/13 when he was charged with felony identity theft for stealing a GOP rival's identity to thwart her efforts to run for the County Commission. The 'Smith' map was pushed most heavily by Commissioner Mike Moran, who seemed to stand to benefit the most from the map as it moved both of his likely opponents out of the District. The redistricting map was finalized in a 3-2 vote by Commissioners Moran, Detert (who is also up for re-election) and Maio.



Citizens protest recent Sarasota redistricting.

Harbor" guidelines of the U.S. Supreme Court, the Commissioners hired a consultant in a no-bid contract to come up with numbers that inflated the discrepancy between districts to justify redistricting

This County Commission is not working on behalf of the people. They are so opposed to single member districts that their next move will be to destroy them. It is time for We the People to work

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The Time is Now for Gender Equality

BY CHRIS SERIO MARTIN, UN WOMEN

SARASOTA, FL - Voices are rising around the globe and demanding a better, more equal, world for women and girls. Advocates are pushing for political rights, economic opportunities, and ending gender violence. For United Nations Women, the time is now for gender equality.

"Many people have been blind about how gender inequality affects so many people," said E. Scott Osborne, president of UN Women USA Gulf Coast Chapter. "We cannot have social, economic or political progress on the big issues, such as climate change and economic inequality, unless we bring diverse voices to the table."

Leading the charge is UN Women, working toward gender equality in more than 90 countries around the world. Locally, UN Women USA Gulf Coast Chapter (GCC) is one of the strongest chapters



Participants in the Gulf Coast Chapter's Walk to support the efforts of UN Women to end violence against women (Feb 2019).

in the U.S. with programming that builds networks of advocates supporting positive change for women.

Each year, GCC hosts a fundraiser, "Walk With Us: Support Initiatives to End Violence Against Women." On February 1, many local organizations working to improve women's lives will gather, share about their work and raise money for UN Women programs aimed at stopping violence against women and girls. (Information at unwomenusa.rallybound.org/gccwinterwalk.)

voices through film.

This year, Through Women's Eyes is expanding its March 6-8 offering with an opening night at Burns Court and two days at Regal Hollywood 11 Cinemas. For 20 years, Through Women's Eyes has presented the very best in films from around the world. (Information and ticket packages are available now and sell out quickly at throughwomenseyes.com.)

"The Through Women's Eyes film festival is more

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"While conditions vary from country to country, one of the most difficult things about violence against women is its universality," Osborne said. "Drawing attention to the statistics around gender violence can radically improve women's lives and change law enforcement, health and education. UN Women works not just to aid individual women, but also to change the political, legal and social conditions that breed violence against women."

The Gulf Coast Chapter has championed another form of activism by producing Sarasota's own Through Women's Eyes International Film Festival, which has become a leader for elevating women's

The 2020 Florida Legislative Session convenes Tuesday, January 14, 2020 and is scheduled to end on March 13. For more information on what to expect this year and how to contact your legislators, see page 10.



Hispanic Community Doubles in Sarasota & Manatee

BY IRENE ENRIQUEZ-SIMPSON

PRESIDENT, LEAGUE OF UNITED
LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS
(LULAC), SARASOTA COUNCIL
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Florida is one of the country's most diverse states. Over one third of households here speak an additional language at home, which adds to the great diversity of cultures, experiences and literacy that enrich our local communities in countless ways. The most recent population figures released by the Census in 2015 show that Florida grew by 1.46 million people from 2010 to 2015. Hispanic individuals represent 51 percent of the growth.

Despite this recent influx, our state's Hispanic heritage dates back to the beginning. It was famed Spanish conquistador Juan Ponce de León who arrived on our shores in 1513, and perhaps inspired by the magnificent tropical flora, he named this land "Florida", and proceeded to establish a settlement here. After 300 years, eventually Spain would cede Florida to the United States in 1819,



Photographed at the LULAC State Convention are: (left to right) Geri Chaffee, LULAC Education Chair, Manatee School District Superintendent Cynthia Saunders, Dr. Rosa Castro-Feinberg, LULAC Florida Government Relations Chair, Irene Enriquez-Simpson, LULAC Sarasota President, and Jennifer Perez, LULAC Sarasota Vice President and 2019 LULAC Florida Woman of the Year.

and the state was admitted into the union in 1845.

In a state with one of the largest Hispanic populations in the country, neither Sarasota nor Manatee had local LULAC councils. That changed two years ago and LULAC Sarasota grew quickly to become one of Florida's largest and most active councils. Founded in 1929, LULAC stands for the League of United Latin American Citizens and is the oldest and most well-respected Hispanic civil rights organization with over 1,000 councils nationwide.

LULAC Sarasota's first major initiative was to address inequity in our public education system, not just for Hispanic children but also for children of poverty and other racial/ethnic minorities. Most might be alarmed to learn the brutal fact that in our "A" Sarasota district, over 50% of 8th graders of Hispanic heritage graduated last year one or more levels behind in English, and worse in math. This is unacceptable, considering 20% of the district's 43,000 students are Hispanic! These young men and women are now struggling in high school, and if history is an indicator, many will end up dropping out or being pushed into alternative or adult education programs.

With strong advocacy from LULAC Sarasota and many supporters from the community, Manatee School District has now embraced bilingual education, opening its first program this school year, with plans to expand to three more schools next year.

LULAC was there every step of the way as Sarasota School Board eventually approved Dreamers Academy, the first Spanish immersion tuition-free public charter school in the district, which is set to open August 2020. Amazingly, Dreamers Academy was instrumental in saving Sarasota's two YMCA fitness centers by acquiring a portion of the land enabling the centers to pay down their debt and remain open. The two organizations have plans to create programs that will engage children and Y members as they help each other learn and grow stronger as a community.

The Hispanic population in Sarasota and Manatee counties doubled to more than 80,000 from 2000 to 2013, as the total population grew about 20 percent to 710,000. In 2018, both counties' major cities, Sarasota and Bradenton, have approximately the same number of residents, 58,000, of which 18% and 16% are Hispanic, respectively. Many of the recent arrivals are poor and working in two or three jobs, mostly in hard labor, and their children are English Language Learners in our schools.

Helping these students break the cycle of poverty, integrate into our great country and contribute their talents will take creativity and advocacy, which LULAC hopes to continue to bring to Sarasota, working closely with so many other groups who have established a solid footprint and body of work.



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WSLR+Fogartyville is a center for creative expression and community engagement that amplifies the voices of our diverse community and promotes peace, sustainability, democracy and economic and social justice.

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Black History Month Program at New College: Interrogating the Meaning of Liberation, Justice, and Belonging

In February 2020, New College of Florida will host its sixth annual Black History Month (BHM) celebration. With a combination of artistic and academic events, the BHM celebration will examine the meaning of liberation, justice and belonging for individuals in global Black communities. The program contains events that are appropriate for people with different interests and community members of all ages. All events, unless otherwise noted, are free and open to the public.

The celebration kicks off with the annual “Sur La Bay” concert on Saturday, February 1st, which will feature four acts as well as performances by high school and college student dancers and singers. The program will run from 3:00-10:00 PM and will take place on the Bayfront behind College Hall. The program features local singer Undine Shorey, Afro-Cuban Rumba Group Totin "Arará" Agosto y La Liga Rumbera, Miami-based artist Sekajipo for the People, local hip-hop group Iimperial, and local DJ and educator Karim Manning.

We will continue the tradition hosting the “New Schools of Black Thought” academic symposium will bring together artists, activists, and academics to discuss a contemporary topic of significance to black communities.

The “African Diaspora Film Festival” will take place on Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm. The films include *The Last Black Man in San Francisco* on February 4th; *BlackKkKlansm* on February 11th; *Bravado Magenta*, which analyzes racialized masculinities in the context of coloniality, on February 18th; and Filmmaker Bocafoja will be on campus on February 18th to talk about his film after the screening as well as participate in additional events.

The Black Literature Read-in, a public event where audience members read excerpts from their favorite pieces of literature written by black authors, will take place on Tuesday, February 25th. This year will feature a presentation by Tyree Worthy, a New Orleans-based writer, planner, and publisher. Worthy will also facilitate a workshop about curation and community engaged art on campus.

The program will also feature a number of speakers presenting on various aspects of the global black experience. The month will conclude with the Dances of the African Diaspora dance class at Sarasota Contemporary Dance. You can find out the latest information about Black History Month by visiting: <http://www.ncf.edu/black-history-month>.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, February 1st - **Sur La Bay Festival**
- Location: College Hall and Bayfront, New



Hip hop artist Sekajipo for the People will perform at the Sur La Bay Concert on February 1st.



College of Florida - Time: 3:00 - 10:00 PM

Tuesday, February 4th - **African Diaspora Film Festival Movie: The Last Black Man in San Francisco** - Location: Gender and Diversity Center - Time: 6:30 - 9:30 PM

Friday, February 7th - **Open Mic Night featuring Mathew “Cuban” Gonzalez** Location: Four Winds Cafe - Time: 7:00 - 10:00 PM

Saturday, February 8th - **Day-Long Symposium - New Schools of Black Thought Symposium**

-- Title: “Systemic Injustice and the Meaning of Citizenship in America’s Democracy”

Location: Sudakoff Conference Center - Time: 10 AM - 8 PM

Tuesday, February 11th - **African Diaspora Film Festival - Movie: BlackKkKlansman** Location: Gender and Diversity Center - Time: 6:30-9:30 PM

Wednesday, February 12th - **Communities in Transit presents Dr. Camilla Hawthorne “The Ethics of Diaspora: Race, Citizenship, and Activism in the Black Mediterranean”** Location: ACE Lounge - Time: 5:30-7:30 PM

Thursday, February 13th - [PERFORMANCE@NEW COLLEGE] presents **Dr. Travis Wray “Black/ Latinx Theatre: Where Can it Take Us? And Will You Embrace It?”** Location: ACE Lounge - Time: 6:00-7:30 PM

Tuesday, February 18th - **African Diaspora Film Festival - Bravado Magenta and post film dialogue with director Bocafoja.** Location: TBD - Time: 6:30-9:30 PM

Thursday, February 20th - [Campus Conversations] **Presents Dr. Amy Reid “Lost and Found: The Puzzles of Translating African Fiction”** Location: Cook Hall Living Room - Time: 5:30-7:00 PM

Tuesday, February 25th - **Black Literature Read-in Tyree Worthy Campus Visit Black Literature Read-in** - Location: TBD - Time: 10:30 AM - 1:00 PM.

Thursday, February 27th - **Living While Black Project and the Black Suffragist Project Present: Dr. Gloria Brown-Marshall Class Lecture: “Race and the Constitution”** - Location: Jane Bancroft Cook Library, CEO Lounge Time: 12:30-2:00 PM

Public Lecture: **“From Suffragettes to Voters: Black Women Creating a Powerful Path”** Location: Sainer Auditorium, Time: 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Friday, February 28th - **Film Screening: “Afro-Deutschland”** - Public Lecture: Sainer Auditorium 6 PM

Saturday, February 29th - **Dances of the African Diaspora with Dr, Queen Meccasia Zabriskie** Location: Sarasota Contemporary Dance - Time: 11:45 AM - 12:45 PM

AMERICAN RACISM

Yours, Mine and Ours Part II

The Venice Interfaith Community Association presents their 2020 Winter Series, American Racism: Yours, Mine and Ours Part II, which delves deeper into institutional racism and what can be done about it. The series kick offs on January 20 with a celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. and continues on subsequent Mondays through February 24, 2020. All events will start at 7pm at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 790 S. Tamiami Trail in Venice. This series is free of charge, with free-will donations accepted during each session. More information available online at www.veniceinterfaith.org.

January 20, 2020, Martin Luther King Day Celebration

Dr. John Walker, Pastor, Bethel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

Come celebrate MLK Jr with the spirit-filled, justice-seeking words of Dr. John Walker and stirring gospel music from Jet Stream, the outreach choir of Sarasota's Booker High School.

January 27, 2020, "Racism 101: America's Most Challenging Issue"

Dennis Davis, Diversity Consultant

What is racism? Americans disagree on what it is and where it exists, yet exclusion based on race has been built into our society since colonial times. Where do we begin to build a new foundation for equality among all peoples, one that is based on love, compassion, understanding, and truth?

February 3, 2020, "Providing an Equitable and Entitled Education for All Children"

Dr. Vera Blake, Educational Consultant

What is the mindset that has permitted discrimination of any type – gender, disability, religion, race – to affect the education of our youth? How does the system work? How has society

changed? How must educational practices change to ensure a strong education that is equitable and accessible to all children, our future?

February 10, 2020, "Decarceration Through a Community-Oriented Criminal Justice System"

Carlton T. Mayers, II, Mayers Strategic Solutions, LLC, and Southern Poverty Law Center Criminal and Juvenile Justice Reform Program

Racism may well be the biggest crime in the criminal legal system. If present trends continue, one of every four African American males born this decade can expect to go to prison in his lifetime. Hear about systemic racism in the criminal justice system and community-based solutions to end it.

February 17, 2020, "Discrimination in Environmental Law: All Are Not Equally Protected"

Jeanne Zokovitch Paben, Attorney at Law, Sarasota, FL

The Manatee County community of Tallevast was exposed to solvents and dust from operations at American Beryllium. Local residents have sought accountability for the public health impact on themselves, their homes and property.

February 24, 2020, "Personal Responsibility for Communal Transformation"

Rev. Darlene Garner, co-founder, National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote that "the time is always right to do what is right." The series concludes with a vision of what a Blessed Community can be when we each think constructively and act responsibly to transform systemic racism into racial justice and healing.



Booker High School's Jet Stream Choir will perform at the MLK Celebration.

There's a Seat at The Longest Table for YOU!



Registering a million voters could alter the landscape of Florida politics, but it's only part of the path forward. Engaging those voters and hearing their voices is critical. Inspired by Andrew Gillum's campaign for governor, Bring It Home Florida is organizing a series of group discussions called The Longest Table. This initiative is about engaging your peers, neighbors and new friends to strengthen relationships and have meaningful conversation.

Locally, Progressive Sarasota, Operation JumpStart, the Peace Education and Action Center, the Suncoast Women of Action, the League of United Latin American Citizens, WSLR, and the Manasota Anti-Racism Working Group will be co-hosting The Longest Table Sarasota and we invite you to pull up a chair. The event will take place on **Saturday, January 11** from 3-7pm at the Fogartyville Community Media and Arts Center.

Bring It Home FL invites you to join a conversation about the values that bring our communities together, and how we can work together to transform Florida into the state we want future generations to inherit. Food and refreshments will be provided. You are invited to bring your appetite — for food and for conversations with new friends, neighbors, and Sarasotans from all walks of life. RSVPs are required for this event. RSVP at www.wslr.org/community.

Group to Host Undoing Racism Workshop

The Manasota Anti-Racist Working Group will be hosting a 3-day 'Undoing Racism' workshop on **March 14, 15, 16, 2020**. The spring workshop will target individuals that are leaders in different faith traditions – not necessarily designated spiritual leaders, but chairs of social justice committees, religious educators, or members of the Board that have power over choices that are made. In an era of increasing awareness and conversation about the many facets and forms of racial discrimination, the role of religion as a motivation for racism and the

manifestation of racism as religious discrimination are often under-examined. Through this workshop, participants will dialogue about and learn how we might create equity and inclusion in, and through, our faith and spiritual communities.

The Anti-Racism Working Group is also the force behind the Manasota Anti-Racism Coalition. The Coalition is open to local organizations that are actively engaged in anti-racist work. The mission of the Coalition is to foster communication and build a support structure for local organizations to

combat institutional racism and white supremacy. The coalition will meet quarterly in January, April, July and October. The first meeting was held at Fogartyville in May 2018. The next meeting will be on Saturday, January 4 from 3-5pm. Attendance is by invitation only.

If your organization is interested in joining the coalition or you would like more information about the Undoing Racism workshop, please email peacenter@gmail.com.

SURE to Tackle Criminal Justice Reform

SURE (Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity) is a faith-based organization that seeks justice for the poor, working class and mixed income individuals/families living in Sarasota County. Members of SURE congregations work hard to build relationships in their congregations and their communities, discuss their concerns for the city and county, research solutions to serious problems they select, present them to the proper officials and work with them to make “sure” our community is a just one.



At their Community Problems Assembly in November 2019 SURE member congregations heard stories about the affordable housing crisis, teachers using restorative practices in their classrooms, and folks struggling within the mental



2019 Nehemiah Assembly

healthcare system. They listened to injustices in the criminal justice system and the way our community handles elder care. A volunteer from Resurrection House also shared his experience working with the homeless population.

At the end of this event, SURE voted to add the issue of criminal justice reform to the issues it will be tackling this year in addition to their ongoing work on affordable housing and reducing out of school suspensions in schools.

After holding listening sessions and doing research on the issue of criminal justice, SURE

will hold a Nehemiah Action to present their findings and ask those with the power to make the needed changes to do so. This year's Nehemiah Action will take place on **Monday, March 23 at 6:30pm**. Following this annual event, SURE members continue to engage with their priority issues to make sure that officials do what they say they will do and to collect data so they can monitor the implementation and impact of the actions taken.

For more information, visit www.suresarasota.org.

Sarasota Celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

BY CYNTHIA HOWARD

Sarasota's MLK Community Celebration was established in 1981, two years before Congressional enactment of the federal holiday, making it one of the oldest MLK celebrations in the country. This year marks the 39th annual celebration. This year's theme is "MLK 2020: Renewing a Spirit of Empowerment".

On **Saturday, January 18th**, the Robert "Bud" Thomas Golf Tournament will be held at Bobby Jones Golf Complex located at 1000 Azinger Way in Sarasota at 7:30 a.m. To register, contact Jim Cleaves at 941-321-1581 or Lyn Williams at 678-576-6459. That evening, the Alpha Phi Alpha Foundation of Manasota, Inc. will host their 19th Annual MLK Benefit Dinner Dance at Lakewood Ranch Golf & Country Club. Tickets are \$80.00; please contact Lucius Bonner at 941-779-7023 for additional information.

Sunday's activities on **January 19th** include A Tribute to Dr. King presented by the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee at Temple Emanu-El of Sarasota with special guests Pastor Kelvin Lumpkin and Greatness Beyond Measure. Tickets are \$10.00 and you can call 941-371-4546 for additional information. The Westcoast Black



Senator Nina Turner gave attendees at the 2019 MLK Breakfast a lot to think about.

Theatre Troupe will present Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. – celebrating his legacy in spoken word and song, on Sunday and again on Monday at 7:30 p.m., at the Booker High School VPA Theatre. Tickets are \$5.00 for students, \$15.00 for adults and \$35.00 for premium seating. Tickets may be purchased at www.westcoastblacktheatre.org.

On **Monday, January 20th**, the annual Memorial Breakfast and Community Awards will be held at the Robert L. Taylor Community Complex at 7:30 a.m. Keynote speaker will be

Dr. Rachel Shelley, principal of Booker High School. Tickets are \$25.00 each or a table of 8 is \$200.00. Contact Izetta Fields at 941-356-3200 or fieldsi1@verizon.net. Tickets can be purchased through [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) under the event title Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast and Community Awards.

A unity walk from Robert L. Taylor to Dr. MLK Park will follow the breakfast. Park activities will include a gospel fest and other entertainment, marketplace, children's events and food courts. Admission is free.



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community media & arts center

Food and beverages are available
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525 Kumquat Court, Sarasota
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1-800-838-3006

7pm January 9 \$15/\$20

The Blue Eyed Bettys

Thespians by trade, this folksy-bluegrass trio has powerful harmonies that grab your attention.



8pm January 10 \$12/\$15

Kevin So

One of the most exciting & powerful singer/songwriters to emerge from the Boston acoustic music scene. Soulful Nalani & Josh open.



8pm February 1 \$12/\$15

Beth McKee is a singer/songwriter who's roots music rides the idyllic backroads of soul, gospel, blues, folk, pop, and rock.



Rebekah Pulley is a singer-songwriter/performer whose sultry, seasoned voice has been described as jaw dropping, with a tendency to break your heart & shake your soul.

7pm February 6 \$15/\$18

David Jacobs-Strain & Bob Beach

Guitar Player Magazine says: slide-driven country blues with passion and authority that few artists of any age can muster. But besides firing off compelling covers of trad-Blues... his original songs have served to update and evolve the idiom, winning widespread respect from the contemporary blues community." Bob Beach a harmonica virtuoso.



7pm January 12 \$15/\$20

SYNIA CARROLL JAZZ!

A unique ability to use her deep, silky-smooth voice to engage audiences and establish a connection few singers are able to achieve.



8pm January 17 \$15/\$20

EMISUNSHINE and the Rain

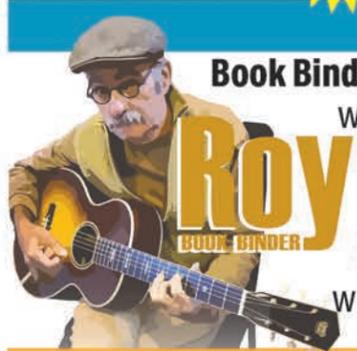
Rolling Stone named her among "10 new country artists you need to know." She has appeared on *NBC's "Little Big Shots"*, the *Today Show* and the *Grand Ole Opry*.



CATCH A RISING STAR!

8pm January 18 \$20/\$25

Book Binder has entertained audiences around the world; well-known as a singer/songwriter/storyteller + fingerpickin' blues **LEGEND**.



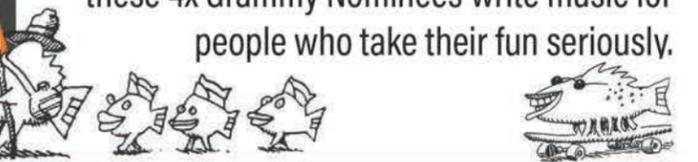
PLUS!
Suitcase Full of Blues
with Jimmie Fadden & Al Fuller



7pm February 13 \$18/\$20

TROUT FISHING IN AMERICA

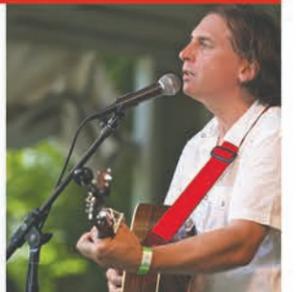
Celebrating 40 years of performing together, these 4x Grammy Nominees write music for people who take their fun seriously.



8pm February 14 \$15/\$18

JOE CROOKSTON

Songwriter, guitarist, fiddler, his songs are haunting, some are touching, all of them reach out and grab you with some insight or wisdom.



7pm January 23 \$18/\$22

APPALACHIAN ROAD SHOW

Bona fide bluegrass harmony; featuring the talents of banjoist/singer Barry Abernathy, tenor singer/mandolinist-great Darrell Webb, Grammy-winning fiddler, Jim VanCleve, Bassist Todd Phillips. And introduc'in' flat pickin' phenom Zeb Snyder, he's a young'un!



7pm February 16 \$18/\$20

TRACY GRAMMER + JIM HENRY



One of contemporary folk's most beloved artists. As a sideman, on a variety of guitars, or on mandolin or dobro, Henry can render emotional sensitivity in one moment then tear into a rock or country solo with such fire its hard to catch your breath.

8pm January 24 \$12/\$15

FWUIT!

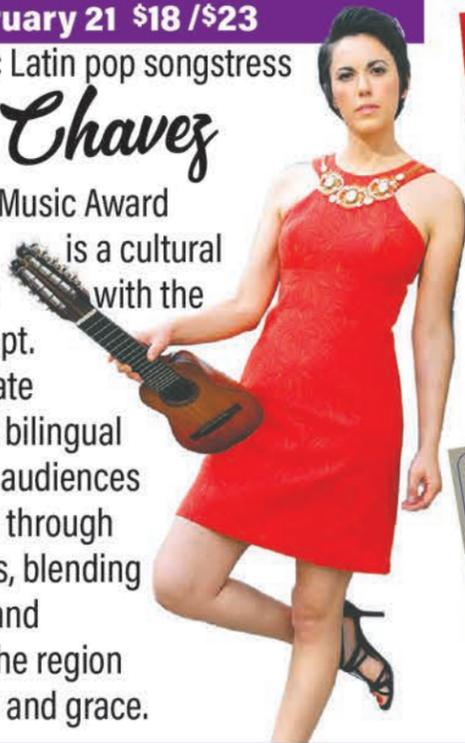
Energetic, retro-soul from Asheville NC. The band consists of members of the bands Holy Ghost Tent Revival and Big Sound Harbor.



8pm February 21 \$18 /\$23
multi-ethnic Latin pop songstress

Gina Chavez

a 10x Austin Music Award winner; she is a cultural ambassador with the U.S. State Dept. Her passionate collection of bilingual songs takes audiences on a journey through the Americas, blending the sounds and rhythms of the region with tension and grace.



8pm February 22 \$22 /\$27

With 20+ releases, his raspy voice and harmonica-strapped neck, *The Village Voice*, called him "the new Dylan." His '79 breakout hit, *Romeo's Tune*, is now covered by *Keith Urban*. His *American in me* album is packed with great songs. This is Little Stevie Orbit's second time at Fogartyville.



wslr96.5lpfm

WEEKLY PROGRAM GUIDE

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World · Spiritual

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
12 mid.	Deep Threes Syndicated	Down The Road Syndicated	Lumpytunes! The Head Lump, Rob Demperio	New Radio	New Radio	Open A.I.R. Matt Dakan	New Radio
1 a.m.	Music Automated playlist	Midnight Special Syndicated	Strange Currency Syndicated	Upfront Soul Syndicated	Music Automated playlist		
2 a.m.		Letters to Washington Syndicated	Background Briefing Ian Masters (Syndicated)	A Way With Words Syndicated	Economic Update Richard Wolff		
3 a.m.					Latin Waves		
4 a.m.						Music Automated playlist	Music Automated playlist
5 a.m.	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated		
6 a.m.							
7 a.m.							
8 a.m.	Blues to Bluegrass John D.	Phat Coffee Joint Syndicated	Generation X Alecia Harper	Eclectic Blender Dave Pedersen	Latin Explosion Juan Montenegro	Saturday Morning Gospel Jonah	Alternative Radio Syndicated
9 a.m.			ALTERNATE WEEKS				Wings of the Heart Salima Rael & Carol Rosenbaum
10 a.m.	Shortwave Report	The Waterkeepers	Peace & Justice Report Tom Walker & Bob Connors	The Detail Cathy Antunes	Surreal News Lew Lorini & Steve Norris	TownTalk / I Am That I Am	The Detail Cathy Antunes (Rebroadcast)
11 a.m.	Critical Times Week in Review	Sea Change Radio				Radio Reset Sharon Preston-Folta	Law and Disorder Syndicated
NOON	Music of the World Marco Ciceron	Nuestra Musica Mariano	Vibrational Journeys Perette Cannady	Metropics Carlos Pagan	Complex Waveforms Mark Zampella		Folk Alley Elena See Syndicated
1 p.m.	Democracy Now! Amy Goodman (Syndicated)	Democracy Now! Amy Goodman (Syndicated)	Democracy Now! Amy Goodman (Syndicated)	Democracy Now! Amy Goodman (Syndicated)	Democracy Now! Amy Goodman (Syndicated)	Upfront Soul Syndicated	
2 p.m.	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	De Mush Doctor's Caribbean Rhythms De Mush Doctor	Dadee-O's Collector's Corner Dadee-O
3 p.m.	Positive Friction John Haupt	Second Wind Seany G	Dave's Day Off Dave Beaton	Basement Boxes Purple Mike	Eclectricity Susan Runyan	Friday Afternoon Jazz Break Donna B	Everything But the Kitchen Sink Art S
4 p.m.			ALTERNATE WEEKS		ALTERNATE WEEKS		Global Village Syndicated
5 p.m.	Music Museum Ed Foster	Tuesday Drive Home David Young	Hawaii Bob & Company Hawaii Bob	Hot Rod Rock Sven	Ted's Head Ted	Friday Happy Hour Bartender Tommy D.	Velvet Hammer Blues Beth Hammer
6 p.m.			ALTERNATE WEEKS				
7 p.m.	Economic Update Richard Wolff	Ralph Nader Radio Syndicated	Talk Nation	Background Briefing Syndicated	Critical Times Week in Review	All Mixed Up Syndicated	Sundazed Rachel
8 p.m.	Capitol Update State News		Capitol Update State News		Counterspin/Cannabis Connection		
9 p.m.	Yesterday's Dead Today Mark Binder	The Root Cellar Roger & Peter	Acoustic Waves James Hawkins (ALTERNATE WEEKS)	Fur Peace Ranch Syndicated	Retro Cocktail Hour Syndicated	Velvet Radio Elissa Bello	Ripper's Rarities Russ Yodice
10 p.m.	Indigenous Sounds White Horse	In Transition The B01	Jazz And More Brian Jones	Progressive Palace Phil G	Music Is The Best Mark Markus	Mind.Your. Business. Ryan & Dana	Dirty Ice Cream Truck LoFi Luke Rosebaro
11 p.m.				ALTERNATE WEEKS		ALTERNATE WEEKS	
12 mid.	Down The Road Syndicated	Lumpytunes! The Head Lump, Rob Demperio	New Radio	New Radio	Open A.I.R. Matt Dakan & Jamiel Livingston	New Radio	Deep Threes Syndicated

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Glysohate Use Continues to be Legal in Sarasota

BY MARY ANNE BOWIE, FAICP

They killed our dogs. That's what happened. We can't prove who "they" are, but deep in our hearts, we know that it is true. Who? Well, you could say it was Monsanto, now Bayer, who sells Roundup and Rodeo containing Glysohate and other chemicals. Or you could say it was the Sarasota County Landscaping contractor who sprayed herbicides around every tree, sign, fence and sidewalk so they could use giant mowers to reduce costs. Or you could say it was Sarasota County staff who wrote the landscape contract which included the County's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policy that allows Glysohate and other chemicals to be used as a herbicide. Or you could say it was the County Health Department which is ½ funded by the State and ½ funded by the County that controls the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policy that governs both staff and contractor chemical spraying activity. Or you could say it was Institute of Food and Agricultural Services (IFAS) that controls the recommendations that govern the County's use of Glysohate in the IPM. Or you could say it was the corporate interests that fund the research at IFAS that control the information that is promulgated. Or you could say it was Sarasota County for not implementing its September 2010 Precautionary Principle (regarding pesticide use by its citizens) in government parks, schools, stormwater ponds and canals and on road rights of way. Or you could say it was our own fault for walking our dogs in County maintained parks.

Our dogs are dead. But, more importantly, on a national scale, 600,000 people die every year from Cancer. Obviously, this is much more important than my American Bulldog, Sedona and Sharon Juraszek's Labrador, Miss Charlee Brown. To put the 600,000 number in context – according

to the National World War II Museum there were 407,316 U.S. military casualties in World War II. After WW II, there was a lot of poison available that had been generated for warfare that was turned into garden and landscaping fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides. There was a famous marketing campaign, post WWII, "DDT is good for me" that made using these potent chemicals acceptable. Not until September 1962 when "Silent Spring" by Rachel Carson was published, and after her testimony to Congress in 1963, did DDT get a bad name. Ultimately this resulted in creating the Environmental Protection Agency. According to Wikipedia, "Rachel Carson accused the chemical industry of spreading disinformation and public



officials of accepting the industry's marketing claims unquestioningly." Rachel Carson died in 1964 after a long battle against breast cancer, a fact she kept secret in her public testimony to Congress. She didn't want to appear weak or only concerned about her own health, as she made her important scientific points about the links between chemicals and cancer.

Nothing has really changed. Fast forward to today. Most people don't understand that as citizens we continue allow our government agencies to spread dangerous cancer-causing chemicals in the United States, including on a regular basis, chemicals sprayed on the 6000 ponds and 600 canals in Sarasota County. "Living Downstream" (book and documentary) by author

Sandra Steingraber, a hybrid scientist-writer, is the modern day "Silent Spring." and was written 10 years ago. Steingraber's current "Unfractured" (book and documentary) about the dangers of chemicals polluting our water sources through fracking, continues to tell the frightening story nationwide.

Locally, it is just as bad. What can you do?

1. Stop using chemicals on your property. Consider going all natural. Plant edible plants, not lawns.
2. Sign the petition begun by Sharon Juraszek at <https://www.change.org/p/non-toxic-sarasota-stop-allowing-harmful-pesticides-and-herbicides-in-sarasota-parks-and-schools>
3. Write a letter to Mr. Charles H. Henry, Director, Health and Human Services, Florida Department of Health in Sarasota County, 2200 Ringling Blvd. Sarasota, FL 34237, or email: Charles.Henry@flhealth.gov and request that the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policy be changed to allow only use of pesticides and herbicides that are totally benign, like vinegar and products approved for organic applications by Organic Materials Research Institute (OMRI) <https://www.omri.org/>
4. Show up at City and County Commission meetings and ask them to 1) study their own government and contractor usage of chemicals; 2) understand the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policy; and 3) Adopt Precautionary Principles regarding use of chemicals in schools, parks, stormwater ponds and canals, rights of way and other government properties.
5. Attend Planet Healing Films between May and October to stay up with important environmental issues. <https://www.thejerichoprojectfl.org/planet-healing-films.html>

Is it Red Tide or a Garden Bonanza?

BY DIANE DESEMBERG

Have you heard of mortality composting? Until a few weeks ago, I hadn't, but it turns out I've been doing it for years. With the increasing severity and duration of red tide blooms off the Sarasota coast, a few of us spent some time considering alternative ways to look at the dead fish. Our local governments view the dead fish that land on the beach and float in canals as debris that we must pay to dispose of. But that seems so recklessly wasteful. Fish parts have traditionally been used to improve plant strength and vigor. In fact, a little digging yielded this tidbit - people actually pay for fish scraps. Couldn't we take advantage of the fish washing up on our shores to fertilize our gardens?

My big concern before embarking on this composting adventure related to health. Are there any health risks to using fish that have died due to red tide? The general consensus seems to be that nature will simply decompose the fish along with whatever algae they have accumulated, but we don't know for sure. My second concern was whether I would be adding salt from the ocean to my soil? Evidently, saltwater fish have evolved ways to remove excess salt while keeping the water they need. Great news!



As for the messy details of disseminating or broadcasting the fish in our garden, I considered throwing the fish in a blender with some water to create a foliar spray, digging holes and burying one fish at a time, and digging a deep trench around large fruit trees and burying the fish there. I finally settled on the spread-and-bury technique. Spread a thick layer of fish and then bury it under several inches of wood chips.

This has worked well for me. I'm looking for a few good minds to research whether this concept can be applied on a larger scale. We will undoubtedly continue to have red tide blooms that kill fish in the Gulf of Mexico. Wouldn't it be awesome if gardeners and/or farmers in the City and/or County were ready to use the fish as a nutritional supplement to grow stronger plants?

If you are interested in pursuing this in a small group, please send me an email at Diane@GroundBreakingRoots.com. It will involve no protesting. I don't believe there are any anti-composting laws on the books, but you never know. We would need to get some research going to establish the best methods to safely use red tide fish kill. We would need to identify farmers and gardeners who want the resulting fertilizer. And we would need to determine the best way to distribute it. Are you game?

If you want to help make mortality composting happen in Sarasota, send me an email, Diane@GroundBreakingRoots.com.

Calendar of Events

TUESDAYS AT FOGARTYVILLE

Visit <https://wslr.org/community/> for more information. Fogartyville is located at 525 Kumquat Ct., Sarasota. These events are FREE and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 6:30PM. The Divine Feminine as Muse: Her Role in Shaping Culture.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 6:30PM. Iyengar Film. Considered to be one of the most important masters in the world, B.K.S. Iyengar is credited with bringing the ancient art of yoga to the modern masses. Tickets: \$20 adv/\$25 door. Sponsored by: Iyengar Yoga Sarasota, Rosemary Court Yoga, Healthy Cafe, and India Artisans.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 6:30PM. 10th Anniversary of Citizens United. Speakers will include Karen Lieberman who has been a leader in St. Pete's efforts to rein in big money in elections.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 6:30PM. Community Conversation on Urban Planning with the host of The Detail Cathy Antunes.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 6:30PM. A Contemporary Spiritual Look at the Divine Feminine: What does DF and DM balance look like?

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 6:30PM. Come learn more about the work of **Streets of Paradise**, an outreach and awareness initiative dedicated to providing comfort to homeless and at-risk communities through no-cost access to basic necessities of life, facilitating access to rapid rehousing and other social services.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 6:30PM. Reproductive Health and the Florida Legislature with Planned Parenthood organizer.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 6:30PM. Community Conversation on Energy and Sustainability with the host of The Detail Cathy Antunes.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 6:30PM. Divine Feminine principles in relation to the environment, politics, education, health and financial well-being.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 6:30PM. Suffragist Project. Under the direction of Kate Alexander, FST is celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote. Come learn more about it.

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 6:30PM. Presidential Preference Primary Watch Party.

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 6:30PM. Community Conversation on Upcoming City Elections with the host of The Detail Cathy Antunes.

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 6:30PM. A Progressive Vision for Sarasota. A local platform that reflects our progressive values has been developed and we'd like to get your input. Hosted by Progressive Sarasota.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 8:45-10AM. Sarasota League of Women Voters PROJECT 180 - Food for Thought: Reintegrating former offenders.

Email your reservation request rsvp@lwvsrq.org. Community Foundation of Sarasota County, 2635 Fruitville Road, Sarasota.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 2:30PM. A film screening of **Suppressed: The Fight to Vote.** Hosted by the Democratic Club of Sarasota. Selby Library, 1331 1st street, Sarasota.

MONDAY, JANUARY 16-18. Florida Rights Restoration Coalition (FRRC) Annual Convening. Email 2020@floridarrc.org or visit <https://floridarrc.com> for more information. DoubleTree at SeaWorld Orlando, 10100 International Dr.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18. Palmer Point Park Volunteer Workday. Join the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program, the Sarasota Bay chapter of the American Littoral Society, Around the Bend Nature Tours, and Sarasota County Parks and Natural Resources Department for a workday in the park. Palmer Point Park, 8875 Blind Pass Rd, Sarasota.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19. A Look at the Educated Person in 2035. Hosted by The Sarasota Institute. Taking place at the The Neel Performing Arts Center, 11 East 60th Ave W Bradenton.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 9-12PM. Robinson Park Volunteer Planting. Join the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program and Manatee County Parks and Natural Resources Department for a volunteer planting workday in the Robinson Preserve Winston Tract! Robinson Preserve, 1704 99th St. W. Bradenton.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2PM. Community Conversation on Gender Equality with UN Women Gulf Coast Chapter. Visit www.unwomenusa.org/gcc for more information. Bookstore1, 12 S Palm Ave, Sarasota.

MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 11:30-1PM. Hot Topic: Open Primaries with LWV FL Director Michele Levy. Email your reservation request to rsvp@lwvsrq.org. Marina Jack, 2 Marina Plaza, Sarasota.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 5:30-7PM. Keeping Us Safe: A Forum on Gun Violence. Visit <https://lwvsrq.org/events> for more information. Selby Library, 1331 First St, Sarasota.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 9AM. Community Walk with UN Women GCC. Visit www.unwomenusa.org/gcc for more information. Payne Park, 2050 Adams Ln, Sarasota.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 9-12PM. South Lido Park Volunteer Workday. Join the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program and Sarasota County Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources for a workday in South Lido Beach Park, 2150 Benjamin Franklin Dr, Sarasota.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 7PM. Providing an Equitable and Entitled Education for All Children. Part of the Venice Interfaith Community Association's 2020 Winter Series: American Racism: Yours, Mine and Ours (Part II). Visit <https://veniceinterfaith.org> for more information. Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 790 S Tamiami Trail, Venice.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 5:30-8PM. FLVCS annual Thomas Paine Birthday Dinner, speaker series, & silent auction. Visit <https://floridaveteransforcommonsense.org> for tickets or more information. IMG Academy Golf Club 4350 El Conquistador Parkway, Bradenton.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 8:45-11AM. Sarasota League of Women Voters - Food for Thought: Sarasota Women's Resource Center. Email your reservation request rsvp@lwvsrq.org. Community Foundation of Sarasota County, 2635 Fruitville Road, Sarasota.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 11-2PM. LWV Manatee County 100th birthday celebration. Reservations for the luncheon must be received

by Feb. 8. Visit www.lwvsrq.org/events or email LWVmanatee@yahoo.com for more information. IMG Country Club, 4350 El Conquistador Pkwy, Bradenton.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 11:30-1PM. LWV Hot Topic: TBD. Email your reservation request rsvp@lwvsrq.org. Marina Jack, 2 Marina Plaza, Sarasota.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 9AM. HeForShe Community Event with the UN Women Gulf Coast Chapter and Second Chance Last Opportunity. Visit www.unwomenusa.org/gcc for more details. Location TBD.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6-8, 9AM. Through Women's Eyes International Film Festival - International Women's Day Celebration. Visit www.unwomenusa.org/gcc for more details. Bookstore1, 12 S Palm Ave, Sarasota.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 8:45-11AM. LWV Food for Thought: TBD. Email your reservation request rsvp@lwvsrq.org. Community Foundation of Sarasota County, 2635 Fruitville Road, Sarasota.

MONDAY, MARCH 23, 11:30-1PM. LWV Hot Topic: TBD. Email your reservation request rsvp@lwvsrq.org. Marina Jack, 2 Marina Plaza, Sarasota.

Recurring Events

Coalition of City Neighborhood Associations (CONA) Monthly Meetings - CONA meets regularly on second Mondays of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Sarasota Garden Club, 1131 Boulevard of the Arts. A social at 6:30 p.m. precedes the meeting. More information about CONA is available at www.conasarasota.org/meetings.

FLVCS - Florida Veterans for Common Sense holds monthly meetings at the Waldemere Firehouse Community Room. Meetings focus on various topics and aim to help shape local and national policies. (Every month on the second monday; 7-9pm)

The Nation Group meets the first Thursday of the month from 10am-12pm at the second floor conference room at the Selby Public Library.

POPS - Protect Our Public Schools (POPS), Manasota Leadership Team meets on the 3rd Tuesday of every month; North Sarasota Library Rm #2, 2801 Newtown Blvd, Sarasota. <https://www.facebook.com/POPSManasota/>

Manatee-Sarasota Sierra Club - Meets every month on the 2nd Thursday from 7-9pm; Sarasota Garden Club, 1131 Blvd of the Arts, Sarasota. <https://www.sierraclub.org/florida/manatee-sarasota>

2020 ELECTION DATES

Tuesday, February 18 - Last day to register to be eligible to vote in the March 17 Presidential Preference Primary

Tuesday, March 17 - Election Day - Presidential Preference Primary - Polls open 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

2020 Florida Legislative Session – An Overview



The 2020 Florida Legislative Session convenes Tuesday, January 14, 2020 and is scheduled to end on March 13.

THE FLORIDA HOUSE

The House of Representatives, the lower house of the State Legislature, consists of 120 members who are elected from single-member election districts. Each Representative serves a 2 year term, so all members of the Florida House will be up for election in 2020. As of 2019 Republicans hold the majority in the State House of Representatives with 73 seats and Democrats hold 47 seats.

THE FLORIDA SENATE

The Florida Senate has 40 members, each elected from a single-member district and each representing approximately 470,000 Florida citizens. Each Senator is elected for a four-year term. He or she may be elected for more than one term, but may not seek reelection if, at the end of the current term, the Senator would have served in that office for eight consecutive years (see Article VI, Section 4, State Constitution). The Constitution of the State of Florida specifies that Senators must be at least 21 years of age, must be registered voters, must be residents of the district from which they are elected, and must have resided in Florida for two years prior to their election.

The Senate membership includes 28 men and 12 women. There are 23 Republicans and 17 Democrats. The average Senator is about 55 years old, is married, and has children. Thirty-two Senators have college degrees. Twenty-nine Senators served in the House of Representatives prior to their election to the Senate.

ISSUES TO WATCH

Four major issues to follow this year will be **gun violence**, which includes school safety and mental health, **hurricane recovery**, **water quality** and the environment and the **budget shortfall**. Other issues on the Senate's radar include a review of what's happening at the Department of Corrections, the future of hemp in Florida and whether the state should abolish the Constitution Revision Commission. The House, meanwhile, appears hyper-focused on health issues, a key issue for House Speaker Jose Oliva last session. Oliva continues to oppose the expansion of Medicaid in Florida and tends to support state laws that preempt local governments from being able to

impose environmental, wage and other restrictions on local businesses. Both chambers will also look at affordable and workplace housing and water policies.

GUN VIOLENCE AND MENTAL HEALTH

Gun control will likely cause some of the most heated controversy in Tallahassee, as lawmakers are filing bills that could fundamentally change gun ownership in Florida. Preventing mass shootings are a priority of Senate President Bill Galvano, R-Bradenton, who created a special committee headed by Sen. Tom Lee to focus on the epidemic and its causes, including white nationalism. Former Sen. President Tom Lee, R-Brandon, has been tapped to lead the investigation as chair of the Infrastructure and Security committee.

Here's a look at some bills that have already been filed. Under SB 134, filed by Miami Democrat Sen. Annette Taddeo, local governments would be allowed to enact their own gun control ordinances — authority that was stripped from them by the legislature in 2011. The law was partially gutted in July when a judge threw out a key provision — the \$5,000 penalty against local officials.

Under SB 94, filed by Broward County Democratic Sen. Lauren Book, gun owners who want to sell or transfer a firearm, including transactions on the internet, would have to do so through a licensed dealer.

SB 114, sponsored by Sen. Lori Berman of Boynton Beach would expand a provision of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act that allows law enforcement officers and agencies to seek a court order to remove ammunition and guns from people who pose a risk to themselves or others to allow family members, including step-parents and grandparents, to seek such a court order.

Rep. Carlos G. Smith is **trying** again with his post-Pulse massacre efforts to seek to ban the civilian purchase of military-style assault weapons and large-capacity magazines in Florida.



Photos from the Sarasota Brady Campaign Vigil for Victims of Gun Violence held in December 2019 at St. Andrew's UCC.

On the other side of the aisle Panhandle Republican state Rep. Mike Hill has filed an omnibus firearms bill - HB6003 - that would repeal the entire risk protection law which Berman is seeking to expand. Hill's bill would also repeal a ban on bump stocks — devices that let rifles fire like machine guns — and a law that prohibited the sale and transfer of firearms to persons under 21.

HURRICANE RECOVERY

Last session, the Legislature earmarked \$221 million to aid the Panhandle counties hit hardest by Michael. Congress followed up with a \$19.1 billion disaster relief supplemental package for several disasters, including for Michael. But the money promised by the federal government has been slow to arrive and those impacted by the storm are asking the Legislature to do more.

WATER QUALITY

Environmental issues were advanced last year with the support of Gov. Ron DeSantis, who recently announced his goals to further protect the environment and improve water quality. Last year, the governor approved a spending plan that included close to \$700 million for the environment, including \$400 million for Everglades restoration, \$100 million for springs restoration, water quality improvements and money to set up task forces to study and combat both blue-green algae and red tide.

DeSantis has asked for \$625 million a year for the next three years to achieve his \$2.5 billion goal for Everglades restoration and protection of state water resources.

The House Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee will take up both springs restoration projects, new laws related to water quality and an update on biosolids rule development.

NO NEW SPENDING

The state's top economists are predicting that Florida will face a revenue shortfall, with an estimated revenue loss of about \$867 million more over the next two years than previously predicted. Why the shortfall?

At least three factors led the Office of Economic & Demographic Research to change its prediction on how much money Florida will collect over the next two years.

Changes in the state's corporate income tax to accommodate the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will result in over \$1 billion in revenue losses over the next couple of years. In addition, the failure to reach an agreement with the Seminole tribe on gambling is keeping \$350 million in Seminole money on the table and out of the state's pockets. Lawmakers will have an extra \$289 million to spend this year, but it doesn't begin to replenish the state reserves used to cover Hurricane Michael expenses. Nor is it enough to launch new programs or to accommodate the state's population growth.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Name	Position	District	Party	Committee Assignments	Phone	Email
Wengay 'Newt' Newton	State Rep	District 70	R	Business & Professions; Children, Families & Seniors; Higher Education Appropriations; State Affairs	(941) 727-2042	Newt.Newton@myfloridahouse.gov
Will Robinson	State Rep	District 71	R	Agriculture & Natural Resources; Commerce; Criminal Justice; Gaming Control; Higher Education Appropriations; Local Administration	(850) 717-5071	Will.Robinson@myfloridahouse.gov
Margaret Good	State Rep	District 72	D	Health Market Reform; Joint Committee on Public Counsel Oversight; Oversight, Transparency & Public Management; Public Integrity & Ethics	(941) 955-8077	Margaret.Good@myfloridahouse.gov
Tommy Gregory	State Rep	District 73	R	Children, Families & Seniors; Energy & Utilities; Joint Administrative Procedures; Judiciary; Justice Appropriations; Public Integrity & Ethics	(850) 717-5073	Tommy.Gregory@myfloridahouse.gov
James Buchanan	State Rep	District 74	R	Commerce; Higher Education & Career Readiness; Higher Education Appropriations; Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs; Transportation & Infrastructure	(850) 717-5074	James.Buchanan@myfloridahouse.gov
Bill Galvano	Senator	District 21	R	Senate President	(941) 741-3401	Galvano.Bill@flsenate.gov
Joe Gruters	Senator	District 23	R	Commerce and Tourism; Finance and Tax; Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice; Banking and Insurance; Joint Committee on Public Counsel Oversight	(941) 378-6309	Gruters.Joe@flsenate.gov

The Future of Community Partnership Schools in Sarasota

BY CAROL M. LERNER, CHAIR,
PROTECT OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Sarasota district administrators and board members began exploring the idea of a Community Partnership School after Emma E. Booker Elementary School received a “D” grade last July. Although they missed the July 2019 deadline for applying, the Center for Community Schools at the University of Central Florida announced a second round of applications with a late October deadline. Then Superintendent Todd Bowden, decided to apply, and made Gocio Elementary the application’s target school while also indicating that he would like to establish similar programs at Emma E. Booker and Tuttle Elementary Schools. On Nov 5th, the Sarasota School Board approved the application in an uncharacteristic 5-0 unanimous vote.

Members of Protect Our Public Schools (POPS) and League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) worked closely with the Sarasota district in putting the application together. In addition to the district and Children’s Home Society of Florida (which serves as the fiscal agent for the grant), the University of South Florida - Manatee/Sarasota and CenterPlace Health were selected to serve as the other two core partners that would provide services to the targeted school. Ten other agencies and organizations wrote letters of support for the project, including all of the major community foundations in Sarasota. Community leaders and most local elected officials were all supportive and excited about the project.

But then on November 22, the day after grassroots leaders learned that the grant application had received tentative approval, leaders and partners in the grant received a terse, 17-line email from Laura Kingsley, Assistant Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer, announcing that the district was pulling the CPS application. The question is why did the district so abruptly pulled the plug on this grant that would have brought in about \$75,000 this year for planning programs and services at Gocio Elementary—a school serving largely poor, racially diverse children-- and much more in subsequent years for implementation. This is in addition to considerable contributions from core partners and likely contributions from local foundations and philanthropists.

The district’s claim of bad timing due to the turmoil around the ousted superintendent doesn’t make sense. Given the bad press surrounding Bowden’s ouster and a multitude of other issues, one would have thought that the district would have been eager for a positive program and positive press. A CPS would have brought the Gocio community

together and would have provided expanded learning opportunities and health (including medical, behavioral health, dentist and vision services) and social services to largely economically disadvantaged and mostly Latino and African American students, their families and surrounding communities.

It seems that part of the problem was that Dr. Bowden didn’t do the educational groundwork with school administrators to get them to understand the CPS model. The grant allows the district and the Children’s Home Society, which provides extensive technical assistance and support to the project, to hire staff to do the leg work and implement the planning decisions. Rather than a time drain for the principal of Gocio Elementary as it is believed administrators feared, it would have actually made the principal’s job easier because there would be specialized staff to both administer the services and provide direct services to students and families. Plus, when students’ physical and emotional needs are addressed, it makes learning easier for children, bringing up student test scores and allowing teachers to concentrate on teaching. This then frees up the precious time of administrators to be true education leaders.

Another concern raised seemed to be that of funding the partnership and the provision that requires a 25-year commitment of partners. The funding of the project is supervised by Shawn Naugle, Regional Director of the Children’s Home Society of Florida. Naugle could have explained to district leaders the “braided funding” model supported by public and private funding. For example, CenterPlace Health, due to its status as a federally qualified health center, receives Medicaid reimbursement at a much higher rate than typical for services thus ensuring sustainability. The idea of a 25-year commitment is a sound principle as it ensures that programs and services are continuous--not like what happened to Emma E Booker Elementary years ago when grant funding for wraparound services dried up after a couple of years.

Speakers at the December 10th school board meeting implored Sarasota administrators to reapply for the grant before the next July deadline. POPS and LULAC leaders offered to help arrange a seminar on CPS for administrators. School board member, Jane Goodwin, who first raised the idea of establishing a CPS here in Sarasota to administrators, plans on visiting other leading CPS schools in the state and invited POPS and LULAC leaders to join her. So perhaps, in the near future, Sarasota will get a CPS school after all. Let’s all make sure that happens for the sake of the children of Sarasota.

United States Census 2020

CENSUS NOW HIRING

The U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting temporary workers in Sarasota and elsewhere around the country. The jobs are mainly for clerical and census-taker positions, but also include a few supervisory and recruitment outreach positions. According to an interactive map from the Census Bureau, Census jobs in Sarasota will pay \$15.50 an hour.

The Census helps determine policy and the allocation of funds at every level of government. It is used to determine the number and boundaries of congressional districts, state legislative districts, county board and city council seats in Florida, but also how big a share local governments get of the \$675 billion in federal program funds for communities, schools, roads, hospitals and other services.

More information about positions in our area is available by calling the Census Bureau at 855-562-2020. You can also visit 2020census.gov/jobs to learn more.

Florida Veterans for Common Sense Fund
Presents An Annual Birthday Celebration!

Thomas Paine's 283rd Birthday Party!

Special Guest
Speaker



JIM HIGHTOWER



Dinner & Cash Bar Silent Auction
 Live Music! 50/50 Raffle

Saturday, Feb. 8, 2020, 5:30 to 10PM
At IMG Academy Golf Club
4350 El Conquistador Parkway
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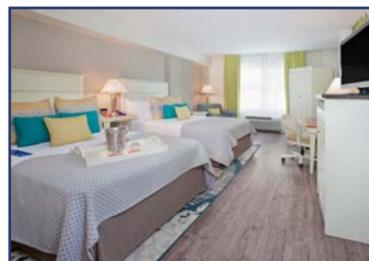
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NCF & WSLR Celebrate 50 Years of Radio

BY TIM SNYDER

As part of the college's reunion activities taking place on **February 20 – 23, 2020**, New College of Florida and the community radio station in Sarasota, WSLR 96.5 FM will be celebrating fifty years of student involvement in radio broadcasting. Several events are planned during reunion weekend as part of the Radio Daze recognition.

On **Friday, February 21, 2020** from 10 am to noon, the college, the alumni association and the radio station will be hosting an open house at the WSLR studios and Fogartyville located at 525 Kumquat Ct in downtown Sarasota. The event is free and open to the whole community including students, faculty, staff and alums. There will be staff-led tours of the studios on the half hour and light refreshments will be served.

There will be a panel discussion on campus on **Saturday, February 22, 2020** from 4-5 pm with four alums as panelists discussing their experiences with radio broadcasting while on campus and how those experiences have affected their lives after

graduation. The location of the panel discussion has not been finalized but will be announced before the beginning of reunion weekend. This event is primarily for current students and alums.

Thursday (February 20) and Saturday (February 22). In addition to listening to WSLR on the radio at 96.5 FM, anyone can listen to the programs streaming on the internet at <https://WSLR.org>

In February 1970, students at what was then New College launched an on-campus-only radio station WNCR, 850-AM. It was non-commercial and funded by the student government. The schedule included over 47 shows hosted by 41 students, included a wide range of musical styles from jazz to classical to rock as well as some commentary and news programs, and filled a schedule of twelve hours a day every day of the week. Interest in the radio station ebbed and flowed over the years and the college evolved from being independent to being part of the state university system.

In 2003, the college joined with some local community groups to obtain an FCC license for a low power FM radio station and has been a partner in the launching and support of WSLR as a community radio station ever since. Students from the college continue to host regular programs on the station's weekly schedule while school is in session.



The student newspaper announces the start of WNCR in 1970.

During the week of the reunion, the students whose shows take place as part of the New College New Radio schedule will include alums as guests DJs. These programs take place at 11 pm on

The Time is Now for Gender Equality

Continued from pg. 1

than just entertaining films," Osborne said. "Digital imagery is powerful in that it shapes culture, politics, and policy. Through Women's Eyes ensures women's voices are heard and provides perspectives on such critical issues as – this year alone - immigration, segregation, sports and the housing crisis."

One of the featured short films, "They Say I'm Your Teacher," is a documentary from The Literacy Project sharing the story of Bernice Robinson, a

beautician from South Carolina. In the Citizenship Education Schools, she was the first teacher of literacy helping people pass voter registration requirements in the South during the mid-1950s and 1960s, helping to set the stage for the Civil Rights Movement.

This year, Through Women's Eyes is proud to announce the addition of an Emerging Filmmakers Showcase, curated student films will be shown on Saturday, March 7, followed by a discussion panel.

Through Women's Eyes concludes Sunday, March 8, with International Women's Day and a Fabulous Filmmakers Reception, celebrating social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women in more than 100 countries. A panel discussion with filmmakers that night is always a highlight as these artists share about their challenges and successes.

Building Citizen Power

Continued from pg. 1



Florence Shelton-Clark, Ellen Heath, Lou Grossman and Sharron Howard participated in the Redistricting Protest

together countywide to support single member districts, to learn the most important issues of the people in each district, to find good candidates of all political parties who will represent the people's interests, and to show how single member districts can prove a fair and democratic way to have good candidates participate and get elected.

A new era for We the People has begun. Join with others in the newly formed organization Citizens for District Power to have your voice heard. Email citizens4districtpower@gmail.com to learn about this growing movement of people helping people to create district power. Together let's elect Commissioners who work district by district for the

economic health of the county, good jobs, sustainable growth, fiscal responsibility, and protection of the quality of life and environment we love.

Editor's Note: Newtown residents Fredd Atkins, Mary Mack and Michael White have filed a lawsuit in federal court to challenge the redistricting. Based on violations of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the suit claims the map was "designed to deprive, and has deprived, thousands of African American voters living in the Newtown community of the right to vote in the 2020 election for members of the Board of County Commissioners." The map selected also moved Fredd Atkins, who had already filed to run for the District 1 seat, out of the district.

INFORMATION FROM SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS OFFICE

Due to recent redistricting, county commission candidates for seats 1, 3 and 5 will be permitted to obtain signatures from any registered voter in Sarasota County, regardless of party affiliation or district boundaries. For the 2020 election cycle only, the county commission candidate petition requirements will be calculated by taking the number of registered voters in the entire county as of the 2018 general election (318,384) and dividing that number by the number of commission districts (five). The number of signatures required to qualify as a candidate for county commission in 2020 will be 637 valid petition signatures.

The deadline for county commission candidates to submit petitions to the supervisor of elections for verification is prior to noon on Monday, May 11, 2020. For county commission candidates who choose to pay the qualifying fee, instead of qualifying by the petition method, the requirements have not changed. The qualifying dates for county candidates for the 2020 election cycle shall be from noon on Monday, June 8 to noon on Friday, June 12.

Qualifying fees will not change, because they are based on annual salary (6% for partisan candidates; 4% for NPA candidates) of the office.

Currently, the SoE does not plan to redraw precincts until after the census. Like other precincts that are presently split between congressional or state representative districts, ballot styles will be created based on need within precincts. On Election Day, poll workers will identify correct ballot styles when voters check in at a polling place to vote.