



Chaos at Local School Board

ANALYSIS BY CAROL LERNER

On August 29th, the local chapter of Sarasota Moms for Liberty met to go over last-minute details for their plan to challenge the universal mask mandate on the first day of its enforcement in Sarasota schools. About 65 people attended the virtual meeting, which was recorded and later shared on facebook. Early in the meeting, the leaders of the local Sarasota chapter of Moms for Liberty, Alexis Spiegelman and Melissa Bakondy, stated that their protests weren't really about masks. "This is not about masks, this is not about whether we agree about Dr. Fauci, this is about our freedom," said Spiegelman. Throughout the meeting, the two leaders put their planned actions in the context of "liberty, freedom, choice and parental rights."

The plan was to have students enter school wearing masks, but then take off their masks at 10am and film the subsequent results. Children would be given instructions to say "I have a right to an education, you are taking my right to an education away. I have a right to breathe fresh air...you are discriminating against me because I refuse to wear a mask. Why are you segregating me? My parents have told me not to wear a mask."

Participants were told to document everything and file incident reports. Apparently, there was only sporadic non-compliance with the mask policy and only a couple of incidents were reported on the Sarasota Moms for Liberty Facebook page.

During the meeting, Bakondy posed the question of "why" the Moms group was leading this anti-masking campaign. "We want to



Members of Moms for Liberty protest outside the Sarasota County School Board

overwhelm the system," was her answer. At an earlier point, she said the campaign will "create chaos" in the schools.

The Sarasota Moms for Liberty group and their allies have definitely been doing that - creating mayhem at recent school board meetings. They refuse to accept the Board's rules on public participation which excludes personal attacks. If the microphone is cut off, they refuse to leave the podium with their crowd of supporters cheering them on. Some lead the group in prayer from the podium. Why create chaos and confusion at school board meetings? Who is benefitting from it? What forces are behind it?

Moms for Liberty was incorporated in Florida last December by two former and one current school board member. Two of the three founding members, Tina Descovitch from Brevard County and Bridget Ziegler from Sarasota County, were founding members and former presidents of the Coalition of School Board Members, an organization established in 2014 to push for school privatization and to counter a lawsuit against Florida's largest voucher program. In February, Ziegler resigned as a director saying she was "spreading herself too thin" and was replaced by Marie Rogerson, a Republican campaign consultant. The Northeast Florida chapter chair

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County Redistricting on the Horizon

BY OMAR GUERRERO,
WSLR INTERN

As Sarasota County Commissioners prepare to redraw district lines, the public should remain vigilant about the mapping process. The 2020 Census data is set to be released on September 30th and despite the controversial 2019 redistricting process, commissioners are looking to draw district lines once again. Commissioners will have to



Citizens rallied in 2019 to oppose early redistricting

finalize a map before the upcoming 2022 election cycle, when the cCommissioners for District 2 and 4 will be elected.

Spearheading this push to redistrict is Commissioner Mike Moran, who greatly benefited from the previous redistricting map drawn by Robert Waechter. Lacking accurate Census data,

the commission allowed maps to be submitted by members of the public. In 2019, Waechter submitted his redistricting map anonymously to County Commissioners and the map based on his template was later approved by the commission despite significant push-back from residents. There were serious doubts about the map's integrity given past

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NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHT | THE MULTICULTURAL HEALTH INSTITUTE

The Multicultural Health Institute (MHI) was founded in 1995 by Dr. Lisa Merritt to address racial and ethnic health inequities and to recruit and mentor future health leaders. MHI seeks to level the healthcare playing field by promoting, educating, and ensuring equal healthcare access and treatment for individuals and communities who are traditionally uninsured and receive a poor quality of care. They support programs that educate, identify, and test for diseases such as Cancer, Diabetes, Obesity, Stroke, Cardiovascular Disease, Infant Mortality, HIV/AIDS, and other health issues affecting underrepresented communities across the United States.



Dr. Lisa Merritt (center) with Barbara Powell Harris and volunteers at the Orange Blossom Community Garden.

MHI has coordinated a community-wide response to COVID bringing together community organizations, healthcare professionals and volunteers to address the pandemic through the Multicultural Action Team (MAT) which focuses on prevention, education and research. As the recipient of the Manatee Cares Act funding, MHI serves as the backbone organization in partnership with Tidewell Hospice, Unidos Now, Gulf Coast Latin Chamber, Healthy Teens and New College of Florida to further the ongoing work of combatting COVID and implementing community programs. MHI/MAT Safekeepers continue outreach efforts giving out masks, food, health information, resources in the communities,

linkage to care and monthly Healing Circles. MHI Covid interns track the weekly COVID-19 case data provided and report to the community every week. You can view the meeting live on the MHI Facebook page at 7:30pm every Tuesday.

“It has been our honor and privilege to care for and educate the community on health equity issues while also developing future healthcare leadership,” Dr. Merritt said in a statement. “We are excited at the opportunity to solidify longstanding collaborations into the MAT, which will continue to improve awareness of health and wellness issues while preventing spread and complications from COVID-19 amongst vulnerable populations.”

On October 17th, the Multicultural Health Institute will celebrate 25 years of Building Health Equity & Wellness in Manatee & Sarasota counties. The event will be hosted at the Westcoast

Black Theatre Troupe, and attendees are invited to wear their best cultural attire and enjoy cuisines from all over the world. Tickets for the event can be purchased [here](#).

If you would like to learn more about the Multicultural Health Institute, visit their webpage www.the-mhi.org.

by Jasmine Buie, WSLR Intern



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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.

ADDRESS:

525 Kumquat Ct, Sarasota, FL 34236

CONTACT US:

(941) 894-6469

criticaltimesrq@gmail.com

www.CriticalTimes.org

Publisher: Arlene Sweeting

Layout: Mark Zampella, Rob Demperio

Contributing Writers: Jasmine Buie, Carol Rescigno, Yasi Bahmanabadi, Omar Guerrero, Becca Hadwen, Gene Jones, Coty Keller, Joyce Norris, Pat Rounds, Olga Sanachina, Bill Zoller, Carol Lerner, Annie Murphy

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Manatee County Voters to Reconsider Tax Increase for Schools

BY BECCA HADWEN

In 2018, Manatee County residents approved an additional mill of property taxes to increase funding for schools. The approval was slim though--only 51% of people voted yes. The tax expires on June 30, 2022.

On November 2nd, residents return to the polls to decide whether or not to renew the referendum. In anticipation of the election, the League of Women Voters of Manatee County hosted a debate to discuss the pros and cons of the referendum. Alice Newlon, president of the League's local chapter, posed some central questions. "What was the need

for these additional funds and how has the school district used them? What are the current needs? How are the funds accounted for and monitored? How did this extra funding improve student outcomes? And are there other funds to satisfy these needs?"

For the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the District collected over 42.5 million dollars through the referendum. The district allocated 51% of those funds to pay instructional staff. They allocated an additional 19% to paying other employees, and divided the remaining dollars between charter schools, STEM education, and career and technical education.

Amanda Ballard, one of the panelists, took issue with using the referendum's dollars for teacher pay. "There's absolutely no reason except for politics to make teacher pay contingent on an unstable funding source like this tax. Teachers are being used as political pawns." Ballard, a local lawyer and child advocate, also pointed out that the district had not made a contingency plan for how they would pay teachers if the referendum were not to pass.

For her part, Manatee Schools Superintendent Cynthia Saunders maintained that the additional mill made it possible for the district to offer instructors competitive salaries, which in turn makes it possible to recruit and retain higher

quality staff.

Saunders also argued the mill improved the district's functioning, saying "In 2016, our ranking, out of 67 counties, was 41st. After the first year of implementation of the millage, we're now ranked 28th. It is making a difference."

The Citizens' Financial Oversight Committee has yet to find data supporting the relationship between the mill and improved student and teacher outcomes. The Committee was created to review the School District's use of revenue from the additional mill of property taxes. At this time, they have collected two years of data.

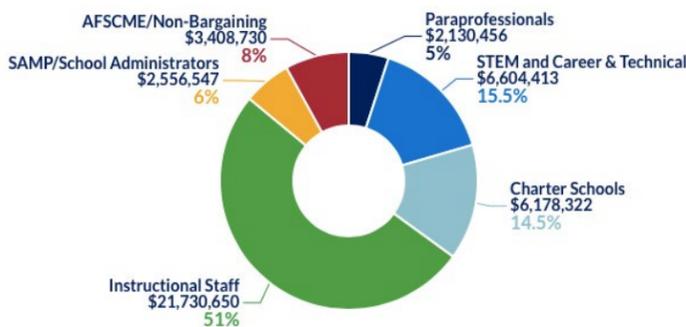
Dr. Denise Davis-Cotton spoke in the debate as well. She is the director of PAInT at the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee Campus and the co-chair of Forward Manatee. She affirmed the referendum's potential. "This referendum will

help students become prepared to participate in STEM education, in career and workforce development fields, that are not even seen today. We have to prepare them now. And now is the right time to add the arts to the referendum, to support and to build programming and opportunities so that our kids, so that our students, so that our teachers can achieve and succeed in a well-rounded district."

Ballard, however, said lack of funding was not the problem. "The problems that we're dealing with can be helped by cutting waste and by using the money that we already have, which is a huge amount, using that wisely for the kids that are being served and for the teachers that are working hard in the classroom everyday."

Panelist Christopher Carman agreed with this statement and used the special election as an example. "They decided to put this during a special election on the November ballot, which you know therefore costs the district an extra 400,000 dollars. If they are trying to be a steward of our money, then

2021-2021 Original Adopted Budget Total: \$42, 609, 118



The election is **Nov. 2, 2021**. Early voting is Oct. 23-30, 8:30 am to 6 pm, only at the Supervisor of Elections office, 601 301 Blvd. West, Bradenton. If you are not registered to vote, the deadline to register is Oct. 4. Deadline to request a mail-in ballot is Oct. 23. Deadline to return the mail-in ballot is 7 pm on Nov. 2.

Ballot Language:

SCHOOL BOARD OF MANATEE COUNTY FLORIDA AD VALOREM MILLAGE ELECTION

Shall the School Board of Manatee County continue the current one (1) mill ad valorem millage from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025, as overseen by the Citizens' Financial Oversight Committee, to increase student achievement through more instructional time and support; recruit and retain teachers and staff with competitive salaries; expand Career and Technical Education, STEM and Visual/Performing Arts programs; and to distribute proportional funds to Charter Schools pursuant to Florida Statute 1011.71?

- YES, for continuation
- NO, against continuation

why are they putting it as an extra election for 400 thousand dollars."

The next time the referendum comes before voters will be during the 2024 presidential election. The District can include the question on that ballot at no additional cost. All of the District's budgets are available on their website, as well as reports from the Citizens' Financial Oversight Committee.

Manatee County residents can find more information on voting and the special election by visiting www.votemanatee.com or by calling 941-741-3823.

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GIVE TODAY



Volunteers Glean Produce for Local Food Banks

BY JOYCE NORRIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TRANSITION SARASOTA

Transition Sarasota and volunteers with the Suncoast Gleaning Project harvest unwanted produce for distribution to those in need. Volunteers rescue unwanted produce from local farms to donate to the Food Bank of Manatee and All Faith's Food Bank. Our volunteers have been very eager to get out in the field in 2021 due to pandemic challenges. So far this year Transition Sarasota volunteers have harvested and donated over 37,000 pounds of produce. That is 37,000 pounds of produce that was eaten and not left to rot in the field or added to landfill. We look forward to harvesting more produce later this year when the fall growing season is in full swing. As the importance of taking care of our environment becomes more and more critical, community projects such as Transition Sarasota's Suncoast Gleaning Project will continue to make a difference for resiliency and sustainability.



Thanks to a recent \$5,000 donation from Myakka City-based Enza Zaden, Transition Sarasota is ready to strengthen the Gleaning Project. This commitment supports Zaden's collaboration with Transition Sarasota to get fresh fruits and vegetables into the hands, and onto the plates, of those in need. The funds will be used to help build program capacity and increase local impact within Manatee and Sarasota County. With many in our

community still struggling with food insecurity, reaching as many people as we can is important.

Visit <https://www.transitionsrq.org/> to learn about ways that you can donate your time and resources to help Transition Sarasota feed our community and reduce food waste.

If you are looking for an outdoor activity, in which you can easily physically distance, consider gleaning at a local farm with us.

Building Sustainability Locally and Beyond The Rising Tide

Under the "Roots of Sustainability" theme, the 16th Annual [Sustainable Communities Workshop](#) is set for **November 10**. The online event, which runs 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., will focus on the latest strategies, resources, and best practices building on the roots of sustainability. Speakers, along with sponsors and exhibitors, will also showcase local ways to get involved in the efforts toward creating and maintaining healthy, resilient, thriving communities.

"Building on the success of last year's workshop, this year's event will highlight the urgency we face with water and climate issues, and the many ways that anyone can get involved and make a difference toward a more sustainable future," said Sara Kane, sustainability program supervisor with Sarasota County UF/IFAS Extension and Sustainability.

Like many areas of the world, Florida is experiencing impacts related to natural resources, climate change, and rapid population growth. This workshop offers expert insight on approaches to create lasting, healthy communities that address these issues, among many others.

The \$10 workshop cost (students pay just \$5) provides online access to the day-long event featuring expert speakers, breakout sessions, and networking opportunities. Learn more and register at <https://www.scgov.net/SustainableCommunities>. Sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities are also [available](#).

Featured speakers for this event include:



Meg Lowman, called the "real-life Lorax" by National Geographic and the "Einstein of the treetops" by Wall Street Journal, is an author, explorer, scientist, arbornaut (translation: treetop explorer!), mom, and change-agent for conservation. She has devoted more than four decades to exploration and research on treetop secrets, as a global pioneer of canopy science and public science communication. Meg also directs the TREE Foundation, which built the Myakka River State Park canopy walkway, and her recent projects include creating a UNESCO world heritage forest site in Malaysia and partnering with

Ethiopia's Coptic priests to save the remaining church forests. Learn more at www.canopymeg.com.



Rob Greenfield is an activist and humanitarian dedicated to leading the way to a more sustainable and just world. Dubbed the "Robin Hood of modern times" by France 2 TV, he embarks on extreme projects to bring attention to important global issues and inspire positive change. Hewing closely to Gandhi's philosophy of "Be the change you wish to see in the world," Rob believes that our actions really do matter and that individuals and communities have the power to improve the world around us. Learn more: www.robgreenfield.org.



Tai Simpson, known as "The Storyteller" in the Indigenous language of the Nez Perce Tribe, serves as an organizer for the Indigenous Idaho Alliance and works as a Social Change Advocate with the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence. As an antiracism activist and community leader, she uses contemporary and traditional Indigenous storytelling to depict the lens of "old ways" and how they protect the sacred, build strength in the community, and keep nature in balance. These principles support her work to champion radical inclusion, equity, and liberation. She has a TEDxBoise talk exploring Indigenous beliefs as the basis for empowering community. Learn more at www.taisimpson.com.

For more information about and to register for this engaging event, visit <https://www.scgov.net/SustainableCommunities> or call the Sarasota County Contact Center at 941-861-5000.

SIERRA CLUB PRESIDENT TO SPEAK



Addressing the increasing demand for climate action, the Sarasota World Affairs Council will host Ramon Cruz, the first Latino President of the National Sierra Club, at Selby Gardens on **Thursday, October 14th** at 6pm. The Sierra Club is the nation's oldest and largest environmental organization with 3.8 million members and supporters in 64 chapters throughout the United State (including one in Sarasota-Manatee). Cruz has more than 20 years of experience in advocacy at the intersection of sustainability, environmental and energy policy, urban planning and climate change. With degrees from American University and Princeton University, he was Deputy Director of the state environmental regulatory agency in Puerto Rico. In the US, he held senior advisory positions at the Environmental Defense Fund, the Partnership for New York City, and the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy.

Tickets are \$50 and include entry to the gardens, one drink ticket, and an appetizer buffet from Michael's on East. For more information, visit www.sarasotawac.org.

Playback Theater: Are You Game?

BY OLGA SANACHINA

Do you miss connection with people now?

Do you miss dialogue without confrontation?

Do you want someone to really hear what you have to say?

Do you want to know your life story deeply?

Playback theatre was born in the US in 1975 and became a huge art movement in the world spreading to Australia to all over Europe, Asia, Latin and North America. Playback Theatre is a unique form of improvisational theatre in which audience members volunteer stories from their lives and performers and musicians act them back on stage.

Born in Russia, I came here to turn a new page in my life's story. Playback Theater has been a big part of my life and I recently led a workshop at Florida Studio Theatre. You know what kind of feedback I've got?

"Oh, I have so missed this kind of contact!"

"Wow! It's such an experience to share my stories and feel that others can really hear me".

Even before the pandemic each of us needed to share stories and be heard. By listening to personal stories we feel and weave the deeper web of our story as a community of people and thus tap into the collective and universal experience. Social change and transformation begins here, as we make space



This photo was taken at the Playback Theater's first open-performance in Sarasota in May 2021. It was a collaboration between Olga Sanachina and Anastasia Vorobyeva from Russia, Svetlana Tolstova (US/Russia) and Maria-Teresa Laura (US/Brazil).

for the stories of the community, through individual voices, and are affected by them.

When I worked in Nigeria we performed in ten schools. After the educational program it was difficult to stop the audience from sharing their stories. One story pulls others. In Israel I heard and played stories from different traditional

communities and learned about the difficulties they experience. In Palestine I worked with youth who left the Hamas army to develop their land through peaceful means. In Spain...in the Netherlands... in Hungary...in Canada...in the US... we built relationships and shared stories of social conflicts, family life, and personal adventure.

In Moscow, Russia we played a lot different communities - for parents of special needs children, sometime on one of the best modern theatrical stages, for birthday parties and marriage ceremonies, for business companies working with their tasks and team building.

It doesn't matter where and which kind of audience we had. Believe me, everywhere there are stories - of losses and gifts, of challenges and achievements, of hate and love, of falls and wisdom. There is always a combination of laughter, joy and an exploration of opposite feelings. It makes us feel life as a whole.

We need this type of contact - especially now in during Covid. I have a dream to create a Playback Theatre Troupe here in Sarasota. I'm searching for performers who are interested in this kind of social theatre, musicians who like to improvise and are interested in this kind of theatre, too, and others who would like to study and be a part of this wonderful playback theatre community. Contact me osanna29@gmail.com or find me on Facebook.

Brady Sarasota Plans Upcoming Events

BY CAROL RESCIGNO

Brady Sarasota, United Against Gun Violence, has plans for the rest of the year, but like so many area organizations can't finalize the details until we have a better idea of how the pandemic will proceed. The events may be in person, they may be virtual or possibly a combination of the two. With the rise in gun purchases these past two years and the number of gun deaths in the United States averaging 54 per day in 2021, this is a topic we *won't drop*.



Carol Rescigno speaks at Brady's last in-person vigil in 2019.

So, we will participate in the Police Department's National Night Out on **Oct. 12 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm** outside the department, handing out free gun locks and literature on our End Family Fire safe storage program, among other offerings. National Night Out is a community/police awareness-raising event held throughout the country.

Brady Sarasota's annual Welcome Back gathering will be held **Oct. 21 at 4 pm** at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 1031 S. Euclid Ave., Sarasota, possibly in the church courtyard. We'll update attendees about what we've been doing since we last met in May and talk about upcoming activities. We'll also introduce our local council members and allow for plenty of time for everyone to catch up with old friends. For health reasons, guests

will be asked to "brown bag" their own appetizers. We'll supply bottled water.

We hope to hold our first Bayfront Rally of the season the following **Thursday – Oct. 28** – on the south end of the parking lot in front of Bayfront Park. This will depend on construction along U.S. 41.

Brady Sarasota's fourth annual Vigil for Victims of Gun Violence will be held on **Dec. 10 at 6 pm**, again at the very welcoming 1st Cong UCC on S. Euclid. We hope it can be in person with Zoom available for some of the speakers and anyone who is more comfortable with virtual events. The keynote speaker will be Christian Heyne, a gun violence survivor and national Brady's vice president for policy. This and other vigils are held around the nation each December. Sarasota's vigil has become a means for all members of the community to reflect on gun deaths, including suicides and unintentional shootings.

Everyone is invited to attend any or all of these events. With the country experiencing such divisions today, it's important to step up and work to keep guns out of the hands of those who should not have them. Please email us at Sarasota@BradyUnited.org if you'd like to receive reminders about these events and any last-minute changes.

American Veterans Fought For Your Right To Vote!

"The Right of Voting for representatives is the Primary Right by which other rights are protected."

To take away this right is to reduce a man to slavery, for slavery consists in being subject to the will of another"

Don't Lose It!

- Thomas Paine, Dissertation on First Principles of Government (1795)



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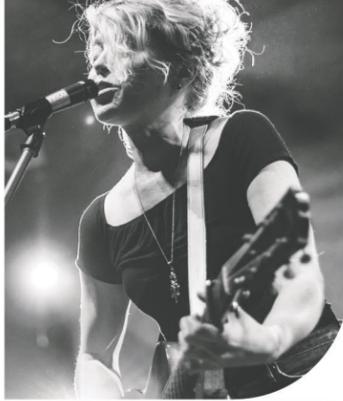
ALL SHOWS: Student tickets available at 1/2 price (show ID at door); Kids 12 and under are free.

8pm Saturday, October 23

\$15 members/\$18 non

Jess Klein

Not at all what you'd expect a folk artist to be- her originals are seeped in rock & roll, an attitude you can hear it in the first note-



8pm Thursday October 28

\$15 members
/\$18 non

TIME SAWYER

NC folk rockers with an alt-country dusting their songs they are influenced by Poco, Uncle Tupelo and beyond.



8pm Saturday November 13

\$15 members/\$18 non

Joni Mitchell Tribute



Joni Adno formerly of SRQ big-band *Big Night Out*, sings the songs of *Joni Mitchell*, *The Joni Project* is comprised of Bob Miner on saxophone, Joe Bruno on bass, Paul Cartwright percussion, Joni on keyboards, guitar and vocals, bringing to life the best of Joni M's tunes, from her *Song to a Seagull* album to *Hejira*, in her most prolific period from 1960's to 78. Come out and enjoy some of your favorite Joni tunes.

8pm Friday, November 19

\$25 members/\$30 non

Mary Gauthier

Grammy-nominated folk singer-songwriter and author, whose songs have been covered by performers including Tim McGraw, Blake Shelton, Kathy Mattea and Jimmy Buffett. Her songs often deal with marginalization, informed by her experience of addiction/recovery, and growing up gay, and demonstrate an "ability to transform her own trauma into a purposeful and communal narrative." *This concert is being presented in conjunction with the Listening Room of Sarasota*



8pm Saturday, October 16

7pm Sunday October 17

\$18 members/\$20 non

SHAMARR ALLEN & THE UNDERDAWGS



Hailing from the Lower 9th Ward of New Orleans, Allen, lead vocalist and trumpeter has influences in jazz, hip-hop, rock, funk rhythms, blues and country. The Second-Line comes right to Fogartyville...

4-9pm Sunday November 7

\$12 members/\$15 non

Our longest running signature-event is back!



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WE CELEBRATE THE LIFE & MUSIC OF OUR GUITAR HERO
JERRY GARCIA

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FREE RANGE STRANGE



8pm Friday & Saturday
December 3, 4

\$20 members/non
join us for two nights with

DOUYDAS

aka David Smash;
a talented guitarist and performer he is constantly reinventing himself.



7pm Sunday December 5

\$15 members/\$20 non

a Renaissance man in performing arts, he blends songwriting, travel, and storytelling w/acting (theatre, film + television) We welcome back

Tim Grimm

His most recent recording- *GONE*, released 03/21 debuted at #1 Folk album for the month. It's title song was released as a single in 10/20 and ended up the #1 most played song on Folk radio for the year.

8pm Saturday December 11

\$15 members/\$18 non

Amerikindgrass music with PASSERINE

Inventive vocal harmonies & songwriting, crisp rhythms of an acoustic guitar, haunting voices of fiddle & dobro (resonator slide guitar), the resonant lows of an doghouse bass, a fresh take on trad folk + bluegrass, with a repertoire of original songs that range from sweet ballads to the edgier side of contemporary Americana.



8pm Friday December 17

\$15 members/\$18 non

@MINGUS HOLIDAY WITH MICHAEL ROSS QUARTET

Mostly Mingus w/a few originals + a couple of hipper holiday tunes.

The band will consist of:

Daniel Jordan - Tenor Sax + Flutes
David Pate - Tenor/Soprano Sax + Bass Clarinet
Liston Gregory III - Piano
Michael Ross - Bass
Josh Platt - Drums

W.S.L.R.

Welcomed **6 NEW PROGRAMMERS** over the summer! **KEITH WINKLE** brings us an eclectic blend of music with **Bull Winkle's Corner** on Tuesdays, 9-11pm, and **Alex** keeps that eclectic groove going on Wednesdays, 9-11pm with **Random Precision**.

JR's Synthetic Age on alternate Tuesdays, 4-6pm, celebrates the decade of decadence with new wave, synth-pop, and other alternative music of the 80s. Metal music from a new perspective can be heard on alternate Fridays, 9-11pm during **Laura's Songs for Knitting and Mayhem**, and the positive vibe of house music pulses through the airwaves with **DJ DEREK B & SHANE** during **Strictly House**, Saturdays, 4-6pm.



Laura working on the chainmail that is: SONGS FOR KNITTING AND MAYHEM

This Fall we're adding **Manasota Arts Connection**, hosted by **Travis Ray**, on alternate Saturday mornings at 9am, and **The Ruthless Truth** will move from that time slot to alternate Wednesdays at 6pm. And we're excited to revive our **New Radio project** with New College of Florida, welcoming **Ach**, **Emma**, **Ramona** and **Lizzie** to our weekend evening line-up.

The Peace & Justice Report has introduced a new segment on the third Wednesday of the month. At 9:30am, Legal Aid of Manasota joins them for **Justice Matters**, hosted by **Linda Harradine** and **Larry Eger**, answering your questions about local legal issues. Check Legal Aid of Manasota's facebook page for each month's topic.

There is **ALWAYS** room for more local programming. You can find information about becoming a volunteer and a programmer and link to the online applications through our website - wslr.org (Look for 'Volunteer at WSLR + Fogartyville' under the 'Support' Tab) Find out what's playing **On Air** on the website. You can also find a playlist for the day, all playlists, and you can leave a "tip" for your favorite show!

wslr lp 96.5 fm

WEEKLY PROGRAM GUIDE

listen on the air

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- WPV-LP 100.1 FM Sarasota

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- WSLR.org (desktop)
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listen on demand

- archive.wslr.org Music shows are archived for two weeks. News and public affairs are available for download, and expire later.

Americana · Folk · Cajun · Acoustic · Bluegrass
Blues · Roots · Jazz · R&B · Soul
Electronica · Dubstep · Club · Hip-hop
Freeform · Eclectic
Rock · Punk · Jam · Indie · Pop
News · Public Affairs
World · Spiritual

Find out what's playing On Air on the website. You can also find a playlist for the day, all playlists, AND NOW you can leave a "tip" for your favorite show! Instant Karma!

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
12 mid.		Down The Road Syndicated	Lumpytunes! The Head Lump, Rob Demperio	Music Automated playlist	All Mixed Up Syndicated	And You Don't Stop Syndicated	In My Room Syndicated
1 a.m.	Deep Threes Syndicated					Synthelectico Syndicated	
2 a.m.	Music Automated playlist	Midnight Special Syndicated	Music Automated playlist	Upfront Soul Syndicated	Music Automated playlist		
3 a.m.							
4 a.m.	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Music Automated playlist	Music Automated playlist
5 a.m.							
6 a.m.	Background Briefing Ian Masters (Syndicated)	Background Briefing Ian Masters (Syndicated)	Background Briefing Ian Masters (Syndicated)	Background Briefing Ian Masters (Syndicated)	Background Briefing Ian Masters (Syndicated)		
7 a.m.							
8 a.m.	Blues to Bluegrass John D.	Gotta Get Up David Young	Generation X Alecia Harper	Eclectic Blender Dave Pedersen	Latin Explosion Juan Montenegro	Saturday Morning Gospel Jonah	A Way With Words Syndicated
9 a.m.	Shortwave Report	TUC Radio	Peace & Justice Report Tom Walker & Bob Connors	The Detail Cathy Antunes	Surreal News Lew Lorini & Steve Norris	TownTalk TampaBay	Wings of the Heart Carol or Salima
10 a.m.	Critical Times Week in Review	Sea Change Radio				Manasota Arts	The Detail Cathy Antunes (Rebroadcast)
11 a.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)	Radio Reset Sharon Preston-Folta	Law and Disorder Syndicated
NOON	Music of the World Marco Ciceron	Nuestra Musica Mariano	Bop & Beyond Bill Ewell	Metropics Carlos Pagan	Complex Waveforms Mark Zampella	Upfront Soul Syndicated	Folk Alley Elena See Syndicated
1 p.m.							
2 p.m.	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Hard Knock Radio Syndicated	Dadee-O's Collector's Corner Dadee-O
3 p.m.	Positive Friction John Haupt	Second Wind Seany G	Rhythm Revival Rev. Billy C Wirtz	Basement Boxes Purple Mike	High Tide Susan Runyan	AfroSonic Taxi Syndicated	
4 p.m.						Global Village Syndicated	Velvet Hammer Blues Beth Hammer
5 p.m.	Music Museum Ed Foster	Synthetic Age JR	Jazz And More Brian Jones	Ted's Head Ted	Friday Happy Hour Bartender Tommy D.	Strictly House DJ Derek B & Shane	Karen Rakos' Music of the World Syndicated
6 p.m.	Economic Update Richard Wolff	Ralph Nader Radio Syndicated	Ruthless Truth/Critical Times Laura Flanders (Syndicated)	Alternative Radio Syndicated	Critical Times Week in Review	Juke In The Back Syndicated	Donne Del Mondo Syndicated
7 p.m.	Capitol Update State News				Counterspin/Cannabis Connection		
8 p.m.	Yesterday's Dead Today Mark Binder	The Root Cellar Roger & Peter	Acoustic Waves James Hawkins	Retro Cocktail Hour Syndicated	Ripper's Rarities Russ Yodice	Velvet Radio Elissa Bello	Blue Groove Mark Gruder
9 p.m.							
10 p.m.	Indigenous Sounds White Horse and Friends	Bullwinkle's Corner Keith Winkle	Random Precision Alex	Music Is The Best Mark Markus	Songs for Knitting & Mayhem Laura	New Radio	Soul Kitchen Paul Junior
11 p.m.							Lounging After Dark Syndicated
12 mid.	Down The Road Syndicated	Lumpytunes! The Head Lump, Rob Demperio	Music Automated playlist	All Mixed Up Syndicated	And You Don't Stop Syndicated	In My Room Syndicated	Cafe Chill Syndicated

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City Charter Review Board Seeks Public Input



The City of Sarasota Charter Review Board September 27th meeting. Photo credit: Yasi Bahmanabadi

BY YASI BAHMANABADI, WSLR INTERN

The [city charter](#) outlines the basic organization, functions, powers and procedures of the city government. Once every 10 years, a Charter Review Committee is appointed to review the charter and recommend changes that are in the best interests of the citizens of Sarasota. The 10-member committee was appointed in July by the city commission and held its initial meeting in August. The commission has requested a full report and recommendations from the committee will be due in March 2022. Any proposed changes to the charter would be placed on a future voter referendum.

ELECTED MAYOR

The elected mayor remains a pivotal issue with proponents on both sides of the issue. Currently, Sarasota is governed by a commission-manager form of government, consisting of five City commissioners who select the mayor - a largely ceremonial position. Those in favor of a strong mayor form of government have placed referendums on the ballot in 1996, 2002, and 2009 – but they have all gone down to defeat. Other efforts were made to advance the idea in 2012 and 2014 but neither gathered the support necessary to make it to the ballot. “I could see how clarifying that role and having somebody that has been elected, could be beneficial, but we should recognize the concerns of people who don’t want to see a strong mayor,” said Cathy Antunes, Charter Review Board member. “Generally, people are very concerned about placing too much power on one person.” This issue is sure to receive more of the Committee’s attention. A special meeting has been scheduled on October 20th where a representative from the Florida League of Cities will share information about different forms of governments in Florida.

COMMISSIONER WORKPLACE ACCOUNTABILITY

Following Mayor Hagen Brody’s confrontation with City Manager Marlon Brown at City Hall in March 2021, several staff members filed complaints with HR citing a ‘toxic work environment’. The handling of this issue has caused the matter of elected officials’ behavior accountability to be a topic of conversation for those reviewing the City Charter, along with clarifying the mayor’s role. “Currently we have a mayor who is overstepping his authority by blocking a colleague from putting things on agenda. I think that’s inappropriate,” Antunes said. “I don’t think any mayor should be able to block a duly elected commissioner from having something they care about on agenda. It’s pretty outrageous.”

COMMISSIONER SALARIES

For a long time, serving as a City Commissioner has been considered a part-time job, though it takes a full-time job commitment. Considering the cost of living in a city like Sarasota, the commissioner’s salary is considerably low (\$28,150) to the point that many of the commissioners hold on to their previous job to make a living. CRB members have started to discuss raising Commissioners’ salaries, though any number they arrive at will be subjected to further financial analysis. “I think we need some kind of metric or formula but aiming to double it makes sense,” Antunes said. “It’s not necessarily a job that should make you rich, but it sure shouldn’t make you poor.”

Other issues raised by citizens during the first several meetings include ranked-choice voting (implementing this form of voting supported by citizens in 2007), inserting a provision regarding the rights of nature, and making all five commission seats elected by single-member districts. Currently, two of the City Commission seats are elected at-large.

Charter Review Board Members

Appointed by Jen Ahearn-Koch

Eileen Normile, former city commissioner
Cathy Antunes, host of The Detail on WSLR

Appointed by Liz Alpert

Peter Fanning, Downtown Sarasota Condominium Association president emeritus
Wayne Ruben, Downtown Improvement District board member

Appointed by Erik Arroyo

Kim Githler, MoneyShow chair and CEO
Jeff Jackson, PGT Innovations president and CEO

Appointed by Kyle Battie

Carolyn Mason, former city and county commissioner
Philip DiMaria, Kimley-Horn planning project manager

Appointed by Hagen Brody

Dan Clermont, Planning Board member
Crystal Bailey, Sarasota County Sheriff general counsel

Meetings are held in the City Commission chambers at City Hall, 1565 First St. They are also streamed live on the City’s website, SarasotaFL.gov (click on the “Meetings/Agenda/Video” button). Those who prefer to participate remotely may do so via Zoom. For instructions on how to join the meeting virtually, email clerk@sarasotaFL.gov no later than 5 p.m. Friday the week before the meeting.

Upcoming CRB Meeting Dates

Wednesday, October 20, 6pm
October 25, 6pm
November 8, 6pm
November 22, 6pm
December 13, 6pm
December 27, 6pm
January 10, 6pm
January 24, 6pm
February 14, 6pm

County Redistricting on the Horizon

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accusations against Waechter’s political trickery and his unsubtle bias towards the GOP.

This time, Commissioners hope to redraw district lines based on more accurate census data. However, there is little guarantee that the redistricting process will be much different from 2019. New College Associate Professor of Political Science Frank Alcock shared his expectations of this upcoming redistricting process.

For starters, Alcock opined that development interests are likely to influence the redistricting process to favor Moran: “I don’t think Moran has ever voted against what 4 or 5 developers have wanted in his history, so politically Moran is the most important commissioner for development interests.”

Alcock also stated that the previous redistricting process put Christian Ziegler, from District 2, in a difficult position. Before the 2019 redistricting, Newtown, which features a high concentration of Democrats, was set to vote in the 2020 elections for District 1, which is Moran’s seat.

The map approved in 2019 moved Newtown to District 2, which holds elections in 2022. “It

wouldn’t be the craziest thing to have the developers just watch Ziegler fall,” noted Alcock. For local GOP partisans, protecting Ziegler’s seat would mean moving Newtown out of Ziegler’s jurisdiction once again, which for Alcock is not out of the question: “They are right now trying to figure out how to win back District 2 where they stuck all the democrats in 2019.”

It is well known that Commissioners’ interest in redistricting came after single member districts were approved by voters in 2018. Because of this policy, Commissioners have to campaign within their own districts instead of the County at large. Since then, the Sarasota County Commission has flirted with the idea of repealing the amendment. Repealing single member districts will significantly change the rules of the game, but Alcock is unsure that such a big change will be introduced before the 2022 cycle.

In terms of the degree of public input we should expect in this coming process, Alcock characterized how public meetings on repealing single member districts were handled in the past: “If you were to look at the public comments in some of the meetings

[...] it was a damning warning to the commission not to go there, and they ultimately went there anyway. I think you can expect more of the same with respect to political motivations to control the seats.”

Alcock’s main worry is the fate of Newtown voters: “I don’t see how the Republicans and developers hold on to District 2 without moving those Democrats out somewhere, and if you push them out so they can’t vote for a commissioner twice in a row...that raises some concerns about disenfranchisement.”

Visit <https://www.floridaredistricting.gov> for information on Statewide Redistricting. This site provides free, public access to the same redistricting data and map-drawing application used by the Legislature, as well as information about opportunities for public engagement.

Venice City Elections in November

The 2021 election for Venice City Council Seat 3 and 4 will take place on November 2. The seats are currently held by Council Member Helen Moore and Vice Mayor Richard Cautero, respectively. Five candidates are vying for the two seats. Growth, development and environmental protection are the key issues in the Venice election. The Venice City Election is a nonpartisan race and candidate party affiliations will not appear on the ballot. However, both major parties are involved in the campaign. The Republican Party has endorsed **Jim Boldt** for Seat 4. The Democratic Party is actively supporting **Sandy Sibley** for Seat 3 and **Jen Lewis** for Seat 4.

created when Vice Mayor Rich Cautero decided not to seek a third term in office. It is difficult to distinguish between the three candidates based on their stated positions on the major issues. All three have expressed an interest in promoting responsible growth and protecting the environment, so looking at their past experience and actions is important.

In the District 4 seat, a candidate can win with 34% of the vote as there are no provisions for a runoff in the city charter. Venice council members can serve up to three consecutive three-year terms but can run again if they choose, after sitting out one election cycle. The six City Council members earn \$10,200 annually and the mayor, who technically occupies Seat 7, earns \$12,000.



Jim Boldt is a retired corporate executive with 35 years spent working in the Chemical Industry. Boldt and his wife Donna have had a home in Venice since 2010. He has been visiting the area since the mid-1990s. In an interview with the Herald-Tribune, Boldt stressed that he's not an advocate of stopping growth, but of managing it, and "trying to stay two steps ahead of the process by thinking through what are the other effects of this growth that we have to stay in front of, not have to come back later on and catch up on."

Seat 3



In the District 3 seat, incumbent **Helen Kirchner Moore** will face off against **Sandy Sibley**. **Moore** is a Realtor with Michael Saunders and served on the Planning

Commission for five years prior to her time on City Council. She has served one term on the City Council and feels that the city has been on the right track for most of the past decade, particularly financially. Moore is a Republican who typically votes along party lines with Joe Neunder and Nick Pachota.

One important exception, after initially voting against a local mask mandate in July 2020, Moore was in the majority that supported mask mandates in the City of Venice in August 2020. She has been critical of Mayor Ron Feinsod introducing issues that she feels are outside the purview of the City Council (e.g. a resolution in support of Medicaid expansion).



Realtor **Jen Lewis** describes herself as an avid paddleboarder, motivated to run for office due to her concern about environmental degradation and red tide. In a YouTube video promoting her candidacy she also expressed concern about the 'McMansions being put up on postage stamp size lots' and mental health. She has been coming to Venice since 1992 and moved to the area full time in 2018 to take care of her mother. Formerly an advertising sales representative, she is open about the fact that she is a recovering alcoholic and has a strong interest in human services programs. Lewis is a registered Independent. She comes from a Republican family but has been a registered Democrat in the past.



Sibley was born in New Hampshire and moved to Florida with her family at the age of eight. After moving to Venice in 2001, she secured her real estate license and became a full time Realtor. **Sibley** is a lifelong Democrat and her husband is a retired state trooper. She previously served on the Board of the Pinebrook South Homeowners Association. Priority issues mentioned on her website include managing growth responsibly, preserving the Venice Quality of life, supporting local businesses and protecting water quality.



Chris Simmons, a resident of Toscana Isles, served as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division and rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel. He later trained as a counterintelligence officer in the Defense Intelligence Agency. After experiencing unsustainable growth in Northern Virginia, he says he wants to make sure the same doesn't happen in Venice. Chris Simmons is registered as an NPA (No Party Affiliation) and has been supportive of Donald Trump on social media.

Seat 4

Three candidates - **Jim Boldt**, **Jen Lewis** and **Chris Simmons** - are running to fill the open seat

Sample ballots for the November 2, 2021, City of Venice General Election are now available online at SarasotaVotes.gov.

Request a vote-by-mail ballot in one of the following ways:

- Online at SarasotaVotes.gov/VotebyMail
- By phone at 941.861.8618
- In person at any of three elections offices in Sarasota, North Port or Venice

Requests for ballots to be mailed to a voter must be received by the elections office no later than 5 p.m. Saturday, October 23 to allow ample time for mailing and return of ballot. To be counted, voted ballots must be received in the supervisor of elections office no later than 7 p.m. on election day.

SUNSHINE FROM DARKNESS

INSPIRING HOPE DINNER

Striking out the stigma of mental illness

FRIDAY, NOV. 12, 2021 | 6:30-10:30 P.M.

THE RITZ-CARLTON SARASOTA, 1111 RITZ-CARLTON DRIVE, SARASOTA

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Darryl Strawberry, *MLB Star* and Steve Ford, *Son of Former President Gerald & Betty Ford*

Proceeds will benefit the mental health services of First Step of Sarasota, and the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation

LEARN MORE AT SUNSHINEFROMDARKNESS.ORG

Journey to Wellness Symposium

SATURDAY, NOV. 13, 2021 | 8:45 A.M.-12:15 P.M.
HYATT REGENCY, 1000 BOULEVARD OF THE ARTS, SARASOTA

FREE AND OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY

National and local mental health practitioners and scientists will discuss new treatments, discoveries, and insights on mental health issues. Topics will include better treatments for childhood disorders, creating a trauma-informed community, the impact of COVID-19 on young people, childhood and adolescent anxiety, and the nature of depression; a Q&A will follow the program. The goals of the symposium are to raise awareness of mental health and addiction disorders and to help erase the stigma surrounding them.

Three Continuing Education (CEU) credits will be available at no charge for LCSWs, marriage and family therapists, and mental health counselors.

Controversy Around County Annual Survey

STAFF REPORT

At the end of September, Sarasota County released the results of their Annual Citizen Survey. This is the 30th Opinion Survey conducted by the University of South Florida on behalf of Sarasota County. The survey, which was conducted through random calls to both landlines and cell phones, is designed to measure trust in government, satisfaction with county services and economic growth priorities, among other topics. This year's survey also included specialty questions including COVID-19 assistance programs, surtax and septic tanks. Results from the survey shows that 95 percent of respondents would recommend Sarasota County as a place to live and raise a family; 96 percent would recommend it as a place to retire; and 90 percent trust county government.

According to County Administrator Jonathan Lewis, the survey is an important tool to gauge the needs of the community and their expectations from the organization. "The Citizen's Opinion Survey results are a wealth of information that gives us insights into how we can better serve citizens," Lewis added. "We appreciate the time of those who have taken the survey to share their thoughts."

View the survey's **results** and the **executive summary** by visiting these links.

There was controversy surrounding the survey this year, as representatives from the citizen's group Citizens for District Power (CDP) questioned the validity of the survey. In a press release, they claimed that the survey "appears designed to seek positive feedback and to lay the groundwork for reversing Single Member Districts (SMD)".

CDP members Pat Rounds and Bill Zoller had this to say: "The survey is less of an information gathering tool to 'give citizens a voice in county policy' than a series of questions asking residents how they 'feel' or what they 'believe', without



Citizens, some wearing 'Rigged' T-shirts, attended the May 2021 Charter Review Meeting to support Single Member Districts.

providing facts for respondents to consider in offering opinions. For example, randomly contacted residents have been asked about the County's 'rainy day' fund. However, no information is provided as to the fund's purpose, or how much is in the fund this year relative to prior years."

In particular, CDP expressed concern about Question #36 on the survey which reads as follows:

"Sarasota County now operates with single-member districts. This means that the county is divided into separate geographic areas, creating districts, and each district is represented by only one commissioner. In the next election, Sarasota County residents will now only be able to vote for the one county commissioner that will represent the district they live in. Please tell me how much you approve or disapprove of your ability to vote for one county commissioner for your district.

- Strongly disapprove
- Disapprove
- Approve
- Strongly approve
- Unsure/DK/NA/Refused

Citizens for District Power cited the following reasons this question was problematic:

- Three of five Districts elected Commissioners by SMD last November. SMD is not new "in the next election", and it is inappropriate to question residents about a voting method that is essentially untested. Districts 2 and 4 (approx. 165K county residents) won't elect Commissioners by SMD until November 2022.
- The phrase "will now only be able to vote for one commissioner" suggests insufficiency.
- The placement of response options begins with a negative option which is unusual in survey construction and not in accordance with other questions in the survey.

Another CDP member Adrien Lucas pulls no punches when stating, "The county survey is rubbish and that is why I am inviting you to participate in an alternative survey: **Citizens for Single Member Districts survey.**" (Available at <https://www.cdpsarasota.org>).

NOTE: Single Member Districts will be on the agenda again at the **October 20th meeting** of the County Charter Review Board. This meeting will take place at 6pm at the Robert L. Anderson Building, 4000 S. Tamiami Trail, Venice.

Opinion: Join the Ranks of Florida's Climate Voters

BY COTY KELLER

The latest report on solar energy in Florida ([SACE's Solar Energy in the Southeast](#)) foretells disaster. We rank second to last, ahead of only Alabama, measured by solar generation per customer. We need to elect officials who will remedy this situation. Join Florida's climate voters to make this happen.

Why does this matter? What's at stake? Simple economics for one. Solar electric power, including battery back-up, is the most competitive source of power for utilities and home/business owners. Simply, it's more efficient to power our homes and businesses with the sun's free energy. Further, using the sun will help mitigate the Climate crisis. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ([NOAA reports](#)) we are already facing two dozen weather and climate disasters each year, costing a billion dollars each. The UN panel on climate tells us that unless we reduce human caused emission **by 70-100% before 2030**, we will be facing **severe economic and humanitarian crises**. And it will get MUCH worse after that. Naturalist David Attenborough puts the consequences on a timeline (see graphic).

Unless something changes, we all are going to live our years facing economic and humanitarian crises. Worse is the thought of our children and grandchildren not being able to count on the oceans for food and living in a world where food production has crashed, and the weather is unpredictable –

imagine our heirs experiencing killer events with NO warning. The sun's free energy, which emits no heat trapping gases, can and must play a big role if we are to avoid this fate.

Experts (including the [Union of Concerned Scientist](#), [Project Drawdown](#), and Bill Gates in his new book, [How to Avoid a Climate Disaster](#)) tell us the way to stop the emission of heat trapping gasses is to electrify almost everything and then generate all our electricity from non-emitting energy sources such as solar.

You get the picture. Solar is a key to preserving life as we know it. But two things are standing in the way.

Vested interests would rather (to use the words of Naomi Klein in [This Changes Everything-Capitalism vs. The Climate](#)) kill off life as we know it rather than leave profits in the ground. Fossil fuel interests are powerful and hold too many politicians under their influence.

Florida lacks an important policy, the low carbon electric portfolio standard. [The Union of Concerned Scientist](#), [Bill Gates](#) and others tell us that this is the highest priority state level policy, and a necessary ingredient to eliminate emissions. If we had a state law that mandated 100% of electricity be generated by non-emitting energy by 2030, Florida would be able to do its share to create a stable climate. Plus, we would have cheap electricity and create plenty of jobs. What's not to like about that? This is the question our state politicians must answer.

Florida politicians have been unable to enact



any electric portfolio standard, much less one that eliminates harmful emissions from the generation of electricity. It's time they were replaced. Here's where the Climate Voter comes in.

Electing politicians who will enact an electric portfolio standard will take a lot of work but given the stakes, it is worth it. Spread the word on the problem and its causes. Find and support candidates who will promise to enact a low carbon electric portfolio standard- one that will require Florida utilities to generate 100% of electricity by non-emitting energy by 2030. These climate candidates will be, in most cases, different people than who are in office now. These are the people who, no matter their political party, we need to elect and send to Tallahassee.

William "Coty" Keller is an ecologist, working to conserve and restore the natural relationships among living things and the environment. He lives and works in Port Charlotte. <https://www.ecopapak.org/>

Opinion: Put Democracy First

BY GENE JONES, FLORIDA
VETERANS FOR COMMON SENSE

Today most Americans feel unease about the future of our democracy. Many Americans have lost confidence that our government can help solve the significant problems bearing down on us, such as the proliferation of home-grown extremists, the Covid-19 pandemic, and climate change. Many feel the promise of America has passed us by and that the future is dim.

How did we end up in this quandary? After all, aren't Americans an optimistic and forward-thinking people?

Florida Veterans for Common Sense (FLVCS) believes that the disarray can be attributed to the Republican Party. A strong case can be made that the Republican Party prioritizes staying in power above all else, including the health and welfare of our nation. It uses a deliberate strategy that delegitimizes American government and encourages distrust in our democracy. The result has weakened our nation, and unless checked, bodes even worse for the future.

The Republican-fueled insurrection on January 6, 2021 is conclusive evidence. The Republican insurrectionists set forth their goals in no uncertain terms, "Stop the Steal." By this, they meant to prevent the Congressional certification of the electoral votes to confirm candidate Biden as the winner of the presidential election.

In short, the insurrectionists were striving to take the law and American institutions into their own hands, and they were deadly serious. In the melee, five people were killed and hundreds injured. The

rioters defaced and damaged our beautiful Capitol and forced lawmakers to run for their lives. Some insurrectionists tried to capture and hang Vice President Pence, who had defied Donald Trump's call to subvert the election result. In short, seditionists attacked our Capitol to bring our democracy to a halt and install their own leader.

The January 6th insurrectionists carried the Republican ideology that our government is the problem to its logical conclusion and attempted to destroy it.

As citizens, we must acknowledge that the January 6 insurrection was not a spontaneous uprising. It had deep roots in Republican ideology. Many in the Republican Party have asserted for years that our government is not worthy of trust and confidence. Ronald Reagan mocked our government with the words, "...government is not the solution to our problems; government is the problem." At the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warned us about the dangers of Covid-19 while the Republican President called it a hoax.

Former president Trump epitomizes disrespect for our government and he has captured the Republican Party's soul. He builds his political support on distrust and disrespect for our government with a steady drumbeat that the election was rigged, that he was robbed, and that he should replace President Biden as president. Sadly, many in Republican Party's leadership supports former president Trump's insidious strategy.

The Republican assault on government and science has generated mistrust that will have long-term detrimental impacts into the future as we



struggle with serious threats to our national security, such as climate change and the Covid pandemic.

Sadly, today's Republican Party, which follows leaders like former president Trump, is a know-nothing, nihilistic party without respect for the Constitution, democratic values, science, or commitment to the common good.

FLVCS believes Republicans can still turn their party around by rejecting leaders who put party above democracy. Resolute Republicans who have the courage to do so can again build a Republican Party that values the Constitution, the rule of law, science, and supports the common good.

We encourage patriotic Republicans to disavow the nihilists and build back the true Republican Party. The way forward is to reject the extremists who refuse to accept the result of the presidential election. Patriotic Republicans, who still put democracy first, should reject extremist leaders and replace them with true conservatives.

America needs two strong parties that may disagree on policy, but that put our democracy first.

Chaos at Local School Board

continued from 1

Quisha King, a frequent spokesperson for the Moms group, is a Republican strategist who served as a regional organizer for Black Voices for Trump.

In less than 8 months, Moms for Liberty has expanded into 28 states with 120 local chapters nationwide, including 18 chapters in Florida. Some believe these culture wars are playing out in school board meetings across the nation are geared to bringing back white, suburban women into the GOP fold while revving up the Trump base to win elections in 2022 and 2024. Former Trump adviser Steve Bannon in May explained this on his podcast. "The path to save the nation is very simple—it's going to go through the school boards," he said and then laid out a strategy of using opposition to CRT and the 1619 project to do just that. Gov. DeSantis and Florida Republican Party Chair and Co-Chair Joe Gruters and Christian Ziegler are particularly focused on reconfiguring any school boards in red or red-leaning counties not under Republican control. Part of this is DeSantis' revenge for districts like Sarasota that bucked him on his mask mandate ban. To rectify this situation, Lee County Florida House Representative Spencer Roach and Sarasota County's Senator Gruters

have filed bills in the Florida legislature to bring back partisan school board races. This action will require changing the Florida constitution due to an amendment passed in 1998 that made school

full-fledged school privatization. How do we know this? They state it explicitly. Corcoran, who sets Florida education policy, said it the loudest and clearest in a speech at a Lakewood Ranch Republican Club luncheon in March 2018, "You voucherize the entire system and put the power in the hands of parents, you change education." DeSantis is helping this process along by offering Hope scholarships (vouchers) to any parent whose child has been bullied or discriminated against for not wearing a mask.

In Sarasota County, a growing number of parents with children in Sarasota public schools are also organizing under a new organization, Stop the Spread SRQ. Started by a "group of frustrated parents" upset with the misinformation, denial and disrespect shown at Sarasota School Board meetings, this new organization has been featured in videos and news articles on CNN and BBC to name a few. "We see masking as an act of kindness," said

Stop the Spread leader Jules Scholles. The leaders also understand the even larger picture facing public education. "Hey, the name of our organization is versatile, it can stop the spread of Covid, hatred, school privatization, you name it," she said. "We are in this for as long as it takes."



Members of StoptheSpreadSRQ have been canvassing the Farmers Market to raise awareness of their campaign.

board elections nonpartisan.

But there are other reasons at play for waging the educational culture wars at school board meetings. DeSantis, Education Commissioner Corcoran, Gruters, the Zieglers and groups like Moms for Liberty are united around ushering in

WSLR Presents A PROGRAM OF SOUTH ARTS

SOUTHERN CIRCUIT

TOUR OF INDEPENDENT FILMMAKERS

The South Arts Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers connects US-based documentary filmmakers with communities throughout the South to share

their work, discuss the art and process of filmmaking, and engage with audiences about issues impacting their communities. WSLR is pleased to be one of 24 organizations throughout the Southeast presenting the tour this year.

IN-PERSON FILM SCHEDULE:

- Oct. 12** *Not Going Quietly* - NonProfit Partner: Multicultural Health Institute
- Oct. 26** *And So I Stayed* - NonProfit Partner: Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center (SPARRC)
- Nov. 16** *Duty Free* - NonProfit Partner: Senior Friendship Center
- Feb. 9** *Proper Pronouns* - NonProfit Partner: ALSO Youth
- TBD** *My Name is Pauli Murray* - NonProfit Partner: Manasota ASALH
- TBD** *Los Hermanos [The Brothers]* - NonProfit Partner: CreArte Latino
- Mar 23** *The Neutral Ground* - NonProfit Partner: Sarasota African American Cultural Coalition
- Apr 26** *Lily Topples the World* - NonProfit Partner: Sarasota Chinese Academy

All films will be screened online for audiences, with each screening followed by a pre-recorded 30-minute conversation with the filmmakers discussing their film's subject matter and the filmmaking process. Each film will be available for attendees to view on-demand during a four-day window allowing viewers to stop and resume at their leisure. WSLR will also host in-person screenings with local panel discussions for all the films with covid protocols in place. For the in-person screenings, WSLR will be partnering with a nonprofit organization in the community that addresses issues discussed in the film. Those who wish to attend an online or in-person screening can visit <https://wslr.org/film/> for more information.



October 12, 7pm **Oct. 10-13**

Not Going Quietly

Length: 1 hr 37 min

An intimate, inspiring look at activist and loving father Ady Barkan, diagnosed with ALS at age 32 and who, in spite of declining physical abilities, embarks on a nationwide campaign for healthcare reform.

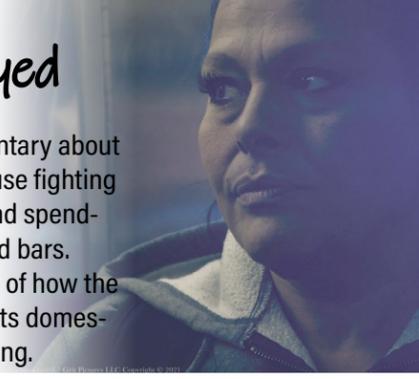


October 26, 7pm **Oct. 24-27**

And So I Stayed

Length: 1 h 28 min

a new documentary about survivors of abuse fighting for their lives and spending years behind bars. This is the story of how the legal system gets domestic violence wrong.



November 16, 7pm **Nov. 7-10**

DUTY FREE

Length: 1 hr, 11 min

After a 75 year-old mother gets fired from her job, her son (director Sian-Pierre Regis) takes her on a bucket-list adventure to reclaim her life. As she struggles to find work, he documents a journey that uncovers the betrayals plaguing her past and the



February 8 2022, 7pm **Feb. 6-9**

PROPER PRONOUNS

Length: 42 min

There are 30 transgender, ordained ministers in the US; six are in North Carolina. Battling narrow-mindedness within the religious community, their families, and NC natives. They are bravely preaching from a pulpit despite the danger they face not only as a transgender person living in the South but also as trans ministers navigating their way through local, state, and national governing bodies who decide what it means to be a human being.



TBD **February 20-23**

MY NAME IS PAULI MURRAY

Length: 1 hr, 31 min

A unique & extraordinary journey, told largely in his own words, 15yrs before Rosa Parks refused to surrender her bus seat, 10+yrs before the U.S. Supreme Court overturned separate-but-equal legislation, Pauli was already knee-deep fighting for social justice shaping landmark litigation— and consciousness—around race and gender equity.



TBD, 7pm **March 13-16**

LOS HERMANOS THE BROTHERS

Length: 1 hr, 2

Afro-Cuban-born brothers - violinist Ilmar and pianist Aldo live on opposite sides of a geopolitical chasm, half-century wide. Follow their parallel lives in US/ Cuba, their reunion and momentous performances, it is a nuanced view of estranged nations through the lens of music & family.



March 23, 7pm **April 3-6**

Length: 1 hr, 21 min

The fight over monuments and America's troubled romance with a lost cause. Director CJ Hunt filmed



the New Orleans City Council's vote to remove four confederate monuments. When those removals were halted- by death threats; CJ seeks to understand why a losing army from 1865 still holds so much power.

Proceeds from the in-person screenings will support our NonProfit Partners

Silver Sponsor



www.SarasotaPEACenter.org

Bronze Sponsor

BoxserDiversityInitiative.org



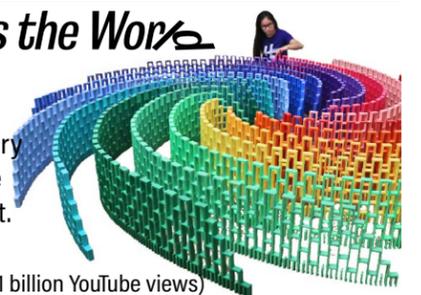
April 26, 7pm **April 24-27**

Lily Topples the World

Length: 1 hr, 30 min

A 21st century coming-of-age story cloaked within the portrait of an artist. Internet sensation

Lily Hevesh (over 1 billion YouTube views) the world's **Most Acclaimed Domino Toppler** and the only girl/woman in her field- as she rises as an artist and role model for young woman. Filmed over 3yrs, in countless cities with some famous guest appearances.



Now is a good time to

FALL FOR WSLR 96.5 LPFM + FOGARTYVILLE!

Why FALL for WSLR+Fogartyville?

- LOCAL DJs curate great music shows for your enjoyment!
- Where else can you get LOCAL news on the radio?
- You like being exposed to perspectives you don't get on other media.
- You appreciate having a space where LOCAL VOICES can be heard.
- You love live music events at Fogartyville!
- You share our values – community, openness, creativity and a commitment to justice.

We'd love to hear the reasons you've fallen for WSLR+Fogartyville...

Share via email at info@wslr.org or call & leave us a message that we can play on the air at 941-212-5980.

It's the time and the season for you to show your love for

WSLR Community Radio and Fogartyville!

FALL Membership Drive
Wednesday, October 20 – Tuesday, October 26.

I want to become a Member of the WSLR 96.5^{lpfm} + Forgartyville Community

Name _____

Address _____

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Level _____

Sarasota's Own Community Radio



Student	\$15	Friend	\$60	Supporter	\$120	Advocate	\$500	Music Lover	\$2,500
Listener	\$40	Radio Activist	\$96.50	Fan Club	\$240	Partner	\$1,000	Steward	\$5,000

Please return this completed card with a check to WSLR, P.O.Box 2540, Sarasota, FL 34230

You can also become a member at our website:

www.WSLR.org