

Transforming Public Education in Florida

BY CAROL LERNER

CHAIR, PROTECT OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS, MANASOTA

Can public education get any worse in Florida? Already the most privatized state school system in the nation and one of the lowest funded, all the signs and signals are that school privatization will get a lot worse when Governor-elect Ron DeSantis gets sworn in on January 8. So what are some of these signs and signals of the worsening situation?

First, former Florida House Speaker Richard Corcoran is almost certain to become Florida’s next education commissioner. Last March, Corcoran told a Lakewood Ranch GOP audience that if Florida were to “voucherize” the entire school system it would transform education for the better. With zero experience in public education, Corcoran’s only connection has been his orchestration of brutal anti-teacher and anti-public education legislation in the Florida House and his marriage to Anne Corcoran, who established a Betsy DeVos-style classical charter school in Land O’Lakes. Former Florida Senate Present Don Gaetz told the Tampa Bay Times that Corcoran could become the “most disruptive education reformer in our state’s history.”

Second, DeSantis’ 41-person education transition team reads like a “who’s who” in school privatization. Leading the list is Tampa-based venture capitalist billionaire, John Kirtley, a close associate of US Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos and founder and chair of Step Up for Students, the State supported nonprofit that collects corporate income tax (through tax credits) that should have gone to the Florida State treasury and doles it out as tax credit scholarship vouchers for students to attend unregulated private schools. Also included are the leaders of the two largest and wealthiest for-profit charter management companies in Florida, Fernando Zulueta of Academica Corporation and



Shawn Naugle, Amy Ellis, Kyla Carswell, and Carol Lerner at the Community Partnership Schools at Fogartyville

Jonathan Hage of Charter Schools USA. Additionally, leaders of the two charter school lobbyist associations, the Florida Consortium of Public Charter Schools and the Florida Charter School Alliance made the list. Rounding out the team is the prominent school privatizer, Erika Donalds, former Collier County Board Member and the architect of Amendment 8, the Constitution Revision Commission’s bundled amendment that would have weakened local school board’s authority over charter schools but which was removed from the ballot by the Florida Supreme Court for its ambiguous language.

One can only imagine what schemes this education transition team and

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NCF Black History Month 2019

BY MARY ROBERTSON

Coming off the excitement of Marvel’s *Black Panther*, students on New College of Florida’s Black History Month (BHM) Committee discussed the idea of having more extended discussion surrounding the African diaspora.

“We were talking about how there are parts of being a black person in the U.S. that connect us all and we have a certain mutual understanding of each other...but then there are parts of us that are very distinct and very much our own and hard to relate to one another about,” thesis student Iyanu Corniel said. “That kind of inspired us to center this year’s BHM activities around diasporic connections.”

Corniel is part of the planning committee for a month long series of events in February. A show of hands at an early meeting held by the NCF

Black History Month Planning Committee in September revealed that a significant number of the black students at the meeting, and throughout the campus, identified as Caribbean. A few members of the Manasota ASALH chapter, also in attendance, chimed in to share their origins and their travels to different parts of the United States, and abroad. Soon after, the theme, “Dimensions of Blackness: Exploring the African Diaspora” was born.

“I want people to recognize that, yes, we’re all black in America, but we all come from different places and have different stories and different culture and black is not a monolith,” Corniel said.

Approaching its fifth year of programming, the NCF Black History Month calendar of events will continue to build on conversations and intergenerational dialogue from previous years. This year’s symposium will center mental health



NCF Students participate in the Sur La Bay Concert. Photo credit: Giulia Heyward

and wellness within the diaspora, inspired by a smaller-scale panel discussion that took place during last year’s programming led by Dr. Judith Samuel, Dr. Lisa Merritt, and Dr. Kyaieen Conner, who will attend the symposium this February as a keynote speaker.

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2019 Florida Legislative Session

The 2019 Legislative Session begins Tuesday, March 5, 2019. The annual 60-day session is scheduled to end on May 3.

State lawmakers headed back to Tallahassee in early December for preliminary meetings for the 2019 Legislative Session. Legislative committees will meet the weeks of Jan. 7 and 22, and Feb. 4, 11 and 18.

See pages 4 and 5 to learn more about what to expect from this year’s legislature.



Helping Kids SOAR

SOAR Learning Center is a community-based education program where at-risk K-3 students can achieve grade-level reading and math skills while nurturing a true love of learning — in partnership with parents, schools and the community itself. More than just a tutoring or homework-assist program, SOAR is a highly-specialized process through which student deficiencies are uncovered, analyzed, and then remedied through customized learning plans.

The SOAR program is unique in targeting at-risk children early in their educational journey with a program model that is designed to assess the core reading and math needs of each child. The program was created in partnership with the Sarasota School District with an educational curriculum that supports their success to—and through—high school. Central to the SOAR model is the use of experienced educators that are specifically trained in the program and dedicated to improved educational outcomes for each child. SOAR's long-term vision is to replicate this transformational program, making the SOAR teaching model, curriculum, and lesson plans available across Sarasota communities and beyond.

In December the SOAR Learning Center received a \$100,000 grant from the Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation and a \$25,000 matching gift from the Community Foundation of Sarasota to further their operations. Located on Links Avenue in North Sarasota, the Learning



Architectural rendering of new Learning Center; photo provided by SOAR Learning Center

Center's current facility will be expanding from a 930 sq. ft. building to a 3000 sq. ft. facility and campus. Named after the Center's Founder and Director, the new Jacquelyn P. Paulk Campus

will contain four classrooms, a library, kitchen, multi-purpose homework/media room, an enclosed courtyard with an outdoor classroom and open activity areas. The target date for opening the center's doors is Spring 2019.



SOAR students; photo provided by SOAR Learning Center

Louis Robison, Chair of SOAR's Board of Directors states "Under the guidance and vision of Founder Jacquelyn Paulk, the SOAR center has been serving the youth of the Newtown Community for over 20 years, providing her students with the highest level of excellence of education — quietly, diligently, and with a laser focus. Mrs. Paulk's unique approach to identifying the learning gaps of each individual student ensures they receive the help they need to be successful in the classroom the next day. Our vision for the new SOAR learning center is to build on these strengths, and continue to support the community."

You can learn more at www.soarlearningcenterinc.org.



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MISSION:

WSLR + Fogartyville feature locally produced programming and events that present cultural, artistic and political perspectives currently underrepresented in the media. Our goal is to inform and empower listeners to play an active role in WSLR and in their community. WSLR promotes equality, peace, sustainability, democracy, health, and social and economic justice.

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SILL's 48th Season

The Sarasota Institute of Lifetime Learning (SILL) offers an expert lecture series to provide information on and discussion of the arts and contemporary global issues. This year SILL's Global Issues Series will address issues such as the challenges of dealing with China, Korea, Russia, India, Europe, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the Middle East. They will examine the health of modern democracies globally, the

psychology of key leaders, and the evolving institution of the U.S. Presidency. They have also included discussions of research on memory and the aging brain, changing U.S. demographics, global gender politics and the role of diplomacy in national security. SILL's popular Music Mondays series will offer the most varied group of performers ever. To learn more visit their website at www.sillsarasota.org.



Phoenix Rises

Launched in July 2018, The Florida Phoenix is an online state news website. The site is free of advertising and free to readers thanks to the support of the Washington, D.C.-based New Venture Fund, a public charity that supports innovative and effective public interest projects. The Phoenix covers state government and politics with a staff of four journalists located at the Florida Press Center in downtown Tallahassee. Their efforts are an attempt to fill the voice caused by corporate news operations cutting their state capitol bureaus.



Editor-in-Chief Julie Hauserman says, "We want to be the news site for everyone who believes we should have clean water and air, quality public education, affordable health care, human rights, equality, and a fair system of political representation." You can find them on the web at <https://www.floridaphoenix.com>.

NCF Explores the African Diaspora

Continued from pg. 1

In addition to the health and wellness symposium, there are plans for an African Diaspora Film Festival, two open mic nights, a series of Conversations on Race & Ethnicity, and a read-in featuring literature by black authors, and more. The month of events will open with the Concert Sur La Bay, which will build off of the momentum from last year's theme of

“Black Joy”, with performers from a range of mediums set to perform, from spoken word and hip-hop artists, to a Bomba music and dance performance group. Events are free and open to the public, and people from the greater Sarasota-Bradenton community are welcome to attend.

NCF Black History Month Events

Feb 1 - **Bomba Workshop w/ Taller de Bomba Balancé**

Feb 2, 5pm - **Concert: Sur La Bay** - College Hall

Feb 5, 6:30pm - **James Stewart, ASALH President, “Speaking Truth to Power: The Role of Hip Hop in the Post-Obama Era”**, Sudakoff Center

Feb 7, 6pm - **African Diaspora Film Festival - *The Feminist on Cell Block Y***, ACE 115

Feb 8, 7pm - **Open Mic Night** - 4 Winds Cafe

Feb 9, 12-9pm - **Mental Health and Wellness Symposium** - College Hall

Feb 12, 6pm - **African Diaspora Film Festival - *Black Power Mixtape***, ACE 115

Feb 15-17 - **Staged Reading of *The (M)others* by Nikki Yeboah**

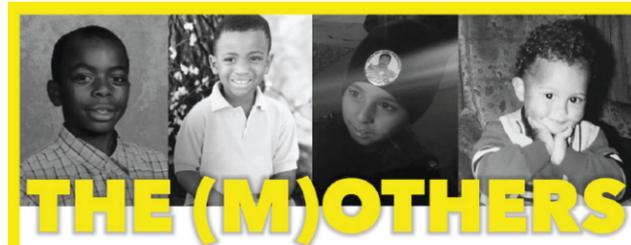
Feb 21, 6:30pm - **“*The Language of Racism and Intolerance*”**, Sainer Auditorium

Feb 22, 4-6pm - **Equal Justice Initiative** - Topic: Overcoming our History of Hate, Sudakoff Center

Feb 26, 6pm - **African Diaspora Film Festival - *Tongues Untied*** by Marlon Riggs - Location: ACE 115

Feb 28, 11:30am-2pm - **Black Literature Read-in**, Jane Bancroft Cook Library

Visit www.ncf.edu or the WSLR Activist Calendar for more information.



Written by Nikki Yeboah, *The (M)others* explores the stories of four women brought together by the unimaginable experience of losing a loved one at the hands of police.



Author of the book *Paint The White House Black: Barack Obama and the Meaning of Race in America*, Dr. Michael Jeffries will participate in a panel discussion on the *“Language of Racism and Intolerance”*

Celebrate the Full Legacy of Dr. King

BY ARLENE SWEETING

DIRECTOR, PEACE EDUCATION AND ACTION CENTER

If he were still alive, this January 15 would be Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 90th birthday. King's birthday has been observed as a national holiday on the third Monday in January every year since 1983 in honor of his legacy as a civil rights leader. Many writers, activists, organizers, and educators have been outspoken over the decades about the ways in which the legacy of Martin Luther King has been whitewashed, arguing that King's legacy has been used as a political tool for people in power who aren't necessarily committed to King's dream of racial and economic equality.

At the time of King's murder, he was working on organizing poor and working class people of all races for a campaign called the Poor People's Campaign. King connected the dots between economic inequality and racism, and advocated against racism as well as capitalism.

When he gave his 'Beyond Vietnam' speech at the Riverside Church on April 4, 1967, one year before his death, he said, "I come to this" place "tonight because my conscience leaves me no



Nina Turner

other choice" and he shared his feeling that 'silence is betrayal'. He called America 'the greatest purveyor of violence in the world

today" and basically became persona non grata overnight.

The last sermon he was due to deliver was titled "Why America May Go to Hell". His thesis was that if more people don't get serious about the triple threats of racism, materialism and militarism facing our country, we're going to lose our democracy. They didn't call him a prophet for nothing.

This year's keynote speaker for the MLK Community Breakfast has taken Dr. King's message to heart and is using her voice to speak out on some of the most crucial issues of the day. Nina Turner, the President of Our Revolution, is working to continue the political revolution inspired by Bernie Sanders by supporting a new generation of progressive leaders, empowering millions to fight for progressive change and elevating the political consciousness.

For more information or tickets to attend the MLK Community Breakfast on January 21, call Jetson Grimes at 941-780-4060.

2019 Florida Legislative Session

Continued from pg. 1

INCOMING FRESHMEN

In November 66 newcomers were sworn into the Florida legislature – 46 in the House and 20 in the Senate. Among the 46 freshmen House members, 24 are Republicans and 22 are Democrats. Among the Senate’s 20 freshmen, the most new senators in state history, 11 are Democrats and nine are Republicans.

Republicans will hold a 73-47 majority in the House, down from their 76-41 advantage in 2018, while the GOP will have a 23-17 majority in Senate, little changed from their 23-16 advantage in 2018. Two historic firsts: Jennifer Webb –D-Gulfport will be the first married lesbian to serve in the Legislature after her HD-69 victory; and Anna Eskamani, D-Orlando, will be the first Iranian-American to serve in Tallahassee after her victory in HD-47.

Party		As of December 2018
	Democratic Party	47
	Republican Party	73
	Vacancies	0
Total		120

REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP

INCOMING SENATE PRESIDENT BILL GALVANO



Bradenton Attorney Bill Galvano has served in the Florida Senate since 2012. He was re-elected to his second term in 2014 without opposition, and was named the Senate Majority Leader for the 2014-2016

Senate term. Galvano was also re-elected to his Senate District 21 seat in 2018 without opposition. Before his election to the Florida Senate, he served in the Florida House of Representatives from 2002 to 2010. The Bradenton Republican will lead the Senate over the 2019 and 2020 legislative sessions - determining legislative priorities and setting the tone for conversations with the House and newly elected Governor Ron DeSantis. He replaces outgoing Senate President Joe Negron, a Stuart Republican. Galvano was named #3 on Tampa Bay’s Most Powerful Politicians list by Florida Politics. Chris Sprowls, currently the representative in House District 65 - Pasco and Pinellas County) and favored for the 2021-2022 House speakership, came in at #1 followed by Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn in the #2 spot.

Galvano steered the House through negotiations with the Seminole Tribe, led the Senate in redistricting negotiations with the House and served as outgoing Senate President Joe Negron’s point man on higher education.

Galvano told the Miami Herald that his priorities will include making sure the regulatory system “doesn’t choke business” and focusing on security — at ports, buildings, schools, neighborhoods and in cyberspace.

JOSE OLIVA – SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE



Oliva, a Republican who grew up in Hialeah and made a career building the family brand, Oliva Cigars, has been elected to serve as Speaker of the House for the next two years. The 44-year-old Oliva first came to office in a special, off-year election in 2011 replacing Rep. Steve Bovo, R-Hialeah. Oliva grew up the youngest of five children. His father Gilberto Oliva Sr., a tobacco grower, left Cuba in 1964 with his wife and family. They moved to Spain and then Nicaragua, where Gilberto became a tobacco broker.

Oliva was former Speaker Richard Corcoran’s right-hand man and has made it clear he will continue the small-government, no-tax, anti-corporate welfare policies that Corcoran pursued. His goals for the House include continuing to open school choice for parents, protecting natural resources such as water and wildlife and reducing state and local regulations which, he maintains, will raise wages and lower housing costs. He opposes the expansion of Medicaid and has suggested that he may advocate for state laws that preempt local governments from being able to impose environmental, wage and other restrictions on local businesses.

JOE GRUTERS – STATE SENATOR



Newly elected Senator Joe Gruters, a Sarasota Republican, has been appointed to lead the Commerce and Tourism Committee. Gruters served as chairman of the Republican Party of Sarasota for 10 years and served as vice president of the state party in 2016. He is currently the favorite to take over the chairmanship of the Florida Republican party having won the support of Gov DeSantis. Recently elected Sarasota County Commissioner Christian Ziegler, who serves as State Committeeman for the Sarasota Republican Party, is vying to be the next Vice Chair of the Party.

DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP

AUDREY GIBSON – SENATE MINORITY LEADER



State Senator Audrey Gibson on Monday was unanimously elected Leader of the Florida Senate Democratic Caucus for the 2018-2020 legislative term. Since 2016, Gibson has represented Florida’s 6th district, which covers parts of the urban core and west sides of Jacksonville. She is the third woman to serve in the position and the second African American woman to do so. A native of Jacksonville, Gibson graduated from Florida State University with a degree in Criminology, and works as a paralegal and community liaison with the Terrell Hogan law firm. Senator Gibson was first elected to the Senate in 2011, and served from 2002 – 2010 in

the Florida House of Representatives.

Gibson said some of her priorities include raising teacher salaries, transportation and economic development, along with expanding access to healthcare.

KIONNE MCGHEE – HOUSE MINORITY LEADER



State Representative Kionne L. McGhee represents the 117th District, which includes central Miami-Dade County, stretching from Richmond Heights to Florida City. He was first elected in 2012. McGhee is a Miami native, national

motivational speaker, college professor, and author. He attended Howard University, where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science in 2000. Shortly after, he enrolled and earned his Juris Doctorate degree from Thurgood Marshall School of Law. After graduating, McGhee wrote his memoir “A Mer (e) I Can is American,” and began working for the Miami Dade County State Attorney’s Office under State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle as an Assistant State Attorney. In 2010 he was awarded the Florida Self-Sufficiency Award and was recognized by AT&T and Miami Herald as one of Miami’s Rising Voices. He was also selected by the Miami New Times as one of Miami’s most interesting people of 2017.

McGhee says he will continue to push issues espoused by progressive Democrat Andrew Gillum during the gubernatorial campaign, including expanding Medicaid for about 800,000 people; giving teachers an annual salary that should be “at least be \$50,000 per year;” and adopting workforce protections for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

The House Democratic caucus includes 23 women, 21 African-Americans, and three openly gay members. Kionne McGhee has named four fellow legislators to assist him in directing party efforts through the next two legislative sessions. McGhee, a Cutler Bay Democrat, selected state Reps. Margaret Good, Shevrin Jones, Richard Stark and Barbara Watson as Deputy Leaders.

KEY ISSUES

VOTING RIGHTS/ELECTION REFORM

Amendment 4 implementation looks like it will face hurdles with the incoming administration. Republican Secretary of State Ken Detzner is refusing to give clear instructions to County Supervisor of Elections, saying he wants the legislature to weigh in first. Some counties say they will allow former felons to begin registering on January 8, but others may not.

In terms of election reform, there has been talk of easing the deadlines for counting early votes and concluding recounts, providing more state money for counties to upgrade voting equipment and making uniform county elections procedures. The state’s association of election supervisors is recommending a few changes, including mailing absentee ballots earlier, allowing officials to begin counting mail-in ballots earlier, and giving voters an extra day to correct signature mismatches on ballots mailed in.

ENVIRONMENT

With the devastating outbreaks of red tide last year, lawmakers will undoubtedly be looking at policy proposals to protect water quality. Republican state Rep. Will Robinson filed HB 85 in December calling for septic tank inspections every five years.

EDUCATION

As outlined in Carol Lerner’s article in this edition of Critical Times, school privatization and adequate funding of public schools will surely be the topic of much debate in this year’s legislative session.

GUNS

Public schools and state universities generally are gun-free zones and the Florida Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence wants to keep it that way. But the more than 100 groups that make up the coalition face new challenges with an overhaul of a key Senate committee and a new governor who seems to favor

looser gun regulations.

The school public safety commission formed after shootings at Parkland High School must submit its list of recommendations to the governor and Legislature by Jan. 1.

Sen. Lauren Book, a Plantation Democrat, has introduced a bill to move oversight of the state’s concealed- weapons licensing program from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (SB 108).

HEALTH CARE

Florida currently ranks 45th of the 50 states when it comes to the number of residents living without health insurance. Sen. Perry Thurston, D-Fort Lauderdale, has filed a bill that would expand Medicaid eligibility (SB126). The Affordable Care Act allows states to expand eligibility to adults whose incomes are up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level. But the Republican-dominated

Florida House has refused to go along with past proposals to expand coverage. For a single person, 138% of the federal poverty level equates to an income of \$16,753 this year.

You can keep up with the Florida Legislature by tuning in to Capitol Update on WSLR 96.5 on Mondays at 6pm.

Sarasota County Legislative Delegation Meeting

January 28, 2019, 9am- 12pm

Sarasota County Commission Chambers, 1600 Ringling Blvd.

Contact GeeDee Kerr in Senator Gruter’s office at kerr.geedee@flsenate.gov by 5pm on 1/18/19 to get time on the agenda.

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 and 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; Joint Committee on Public Counsel Oversight	(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; State Affairs	(941) 955-8077	Margaret.Good@myfloridahouse.gov
Tommy Gregory	State Rep	District 73	R	Civil Justice; Energy & Utilities; Higher Education Appropriations; Judiciary Committee; Pre K-12 Innovation	(850) 717-5073	Tommy.Gregory@myfloridahouse.gov
James Buchanan	State Rep	District 74	R	Commerce; Higher Education and Career Readiness; Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs; Pre K-12 Innovation; Workforce Development an Tourism	(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, Chair; Finance and Tax, Vice Chair; Appropriations subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice; Banking and Insurance; Joint Committee on Public Counsel Oversight	(941) 378-6309	Gruters.Joe@flsenate.gov

Thoughts From a Millennial on the Gillum Campaign

BY SNOUSHA GLAUDE

“Andrew Gillum’s campaign was not just a race for governor. Andrew Gillum embodied what it means to be a well overqualified black man living in today’s America. He beamed intelligence, dripped sauce, and embodied grace. His campaign united people together in unexpected ways. He made concerted efforts to mainly entertain thoughts that fed our collective consciousness for the better. He supported artists, working class people, people unable to work, people who were previously opposed to voting.”

These were my thoughts after Andrew Gillum’s first concession from the governor’s race. His concession sliced me deeply. I felt fueled by his campaign’s optimism. In hindsight I laugh. Had the United States revealed itself to be what it has always been ..again? But this time history was not in an old textbook. Instead it was rattled by news stations everywhere. Florida’s race for governor had captured international attention.

It’s heartbreaking (and embarrassing) living in a state that prioritizes collective misery over minority good, even when the supposed “minorities” comprise the majority in our state. Florida is benefited (I would even argue defined) by our multi-tiered diversity. Yet in 2018 racist imagery was evoked in an effort to



Andrew Gillum takes a selfie with Sarasota supporters. Photo credit: Snousha Glaude

diminish a black progressive candidate’s campaign.

I was not surprised when the POTUS ridiculed Gillum throughout his campaign for governor. What disturbs me are the consequences of these thoughts as they trickle into the psyches of future employers, law enforcement, teachers, and neighbors. The

narratives that held Malcolm and Martin and Shakur and hooks as divisive trouble-makers hellbent on disturbing the comforts of modern America.

But rather than make sense of pathology, a better investment of energy is in exploring how organizers can improve movements internally.

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Fogartyville

community media & arts center

Food and beverages are available
West Entrance at
525 Kumquat Court, Sarasota
For Tickets Call
1-800-838-3006

7PM January 10, 2019 \$20adv/\$25door

Diego Figueiredo with Chiara Izzi

Fusing jazz, bossa nova and classical, world-class Brazilian guitarist returns to SRQ with award winning Italian singer/songwriter Chiara Izzi.



8pm January 25, 2019 \$15adv/\$18door

Freighttrain Blues



American songwriter/recording artist Robert "Freighttrain" Parker is a multiple award-winning Hall of Fame inductee,

whose *Indigenous Heritage* (Seneca) infuses sensibility + intense passion in delivery, and masterful musical landscapes.

8pm January 12, 2019 \$15adv/\$18door



This high-energy Americana/Alt-Country act owes their sound as much to Gram Parsons and Earl Scruggs as to Jerry Garcia and Exile On Main Street-era Rolling Stones. They pack the house.

7pm January 27, 2019 \$15adv/\$20door

MILE TWELVE

With their clever songwriting and arrangements, they've earned some time at the top of the bluegrass charts-winners of IBMAs 2017



Momentum award, and are now nominated for '18 Emerging Artist + Instrumentalists of the year.

7pm January 17, 2019 \$15adv/\$18door

Danny Barnes, (Bad Livers) the roots music legend and recent winner of *Steve Martin's Prize for Excellence in Banjo*, is teaming up with two young creative voices of the acoustic world: mandolinist Joe K. Walsh and furious flat-pickin' guitarist Grant Gordy. A healthy mix of trads & originals



★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
DANNY BARNES
GRANT GORDY
JOE K. WALSH

8pm January 18, 2019 \$25adv/\$30door



DAVID WILCOX

Lyrical insight matched by a smooth baritone voice, virtuosic guitar chops, and creative open tunings, giving Wilcox a range & tenderness that is rare, in today's folk music.



7pm January 31, 2019 \$20adv/\$25door

Badi Assad

ACCLAIMED JAZZ MUSICIANS
MICHAEL ROSS
&
FRED JOHNSON
OPEN

Transcending traditional styles of native Brazilian music with a mixture of pop, jazz and ethnic sounds from around the world, audiences and critics worldwide are in awe of her unique combination of technical mastery and innovation.

8pm January 19, 2019 \$15adv/\$18door

Doug MacLeod

Known for superb songwriting, guitar wizardry, soulful vocals, and wit; Doug always delivers an unforgettable performance.



8pm February 02, 2019 \$15adv/\$18door

JESS KLEIN

Jess Klein is known for staking out brave lyrical and musical territory and was named a 2015 Finalist in the highly regarded Kerrville New Folk Competition.



7pm January 24, 2019 \$15adv/\$20door



John Fullbright

This Grammy nominated singer/songwriter from OK, possesses a keen ear for memorable melody and a unique approach to harmony.

8pm February 16, 2019 \$12adv/\$15door



DIRTY CELLO

Vivacious cellist, Rebecca Roudman, plays a wailing-blues cello to stomp'n' bluegrass guitar, they'll get your heart thumping and your toes tapping!



Check-out our YouTube.com channel for highlights of our previous great shows. Look for "WSLR Fogartyville"

7pm February 17, 2019 \$25_{adv}/\$30_{door}

8pm February 22, 2019 \$15_{adv}/\$18_{door}

FRED EAGLESMITH SHOW

FEATURING

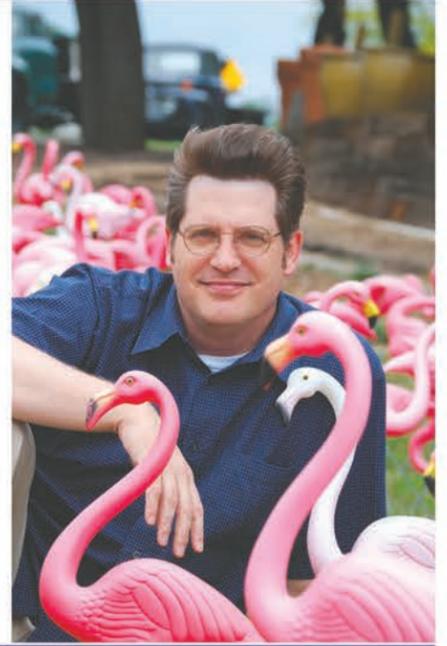
TIF GINN

Fred Eaglesmith is a veteran of the music industry, never operating within anyone's boundaries. But, Tif is the real star of this show- with her impressive, sultry vocals, glorious harmonies and hard-hitting lyrics. We are super excited to host this show.



ANTSY MCCLAIN

A unique blend of music and humor with heart, Antsy combines his original songs and art in a hilarious slide show, including life observations, social commentary and imaginary sponsors from his home town trailer park of Pine View Heights.



wslr96.5lpfm

WEEKLY PROGRAM GUIDE

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

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

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
12 mid.		Beats, Rhymes & Life Radio DJ Cellus	Lumpytunes! The Head Lump, Rob Demperio	Music Automated playlist	New Radio	Open A.I.R. Matt Dakan	
1 a.m.	Music Automated playlist	Midnight Special Syndicated	Strange Currency Syndicated	Upfront Soul Syndicated	Music Automated playlist		New Radio
2 a.m.							
3 a.m.		Letters to Washington Syndicated	Truthdig Radio Syndicated	A Way With Words Syndicated	Economic Update Richard Wolff		
4 a.m.					Latin Waves	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		Music Automated playlist
6 a.m.							
7 a.m.							
8 a.m.	Blues to Bluegrass John D.	Soul School Troy Nichols	Generation X Alecia Harper	Eclectic Blender Dave Pedersen	Latin Explosion Juan Montenegro	Celtic Dew Dave Wertman	Wings of the Heart Salima Rael & Carol Rosenbaum
9 a.m.	Rootstock Radio	Background Briefing Ian Masters (Syndicated)	Peace & Justice Report Tom Walker & Bob Connors	The Detail Cathy Antunes	Surreal News Lew Lorini & Steve Norris	Juke In the Back Syndicated	Alternative Radio Syndicated
10 a.m.	Critical Times Week in Review						
11 a.m.	Music of the World Marco Ciceron	Musica Mariano	Vibrational Journeys Perette Cannady	Metropics Carlos Pagan	Complex Waveforms Mark Zampella	Ralph Nader Radio Syndicated	Law and Disorder Syndicated
NOON						The Detail (Rebroadcast) Cathy Antunes	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)	BreakBeat Max	New Radio Laila
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 Corner Dadee-O
3 p.m.	Positive Friction John Haupt	Big Willy's Juke Joint Big Willy	Progressive Palace Phil G	Global Village Syndicated	Basement Boxes Purple Mike	Music Show in Transition	Second Wind Seany G
4 p.m.			Live from the Fur Peace Ranch Jorma Kaukonen (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.	
6 p.m.	TownTalk TampaBay Sharon Folta	Micro-Macro-Enviro-Radio	Talk Nation	Current Tides Betty & Friends	Critical Times Week in Review		
7 p.m.	Capitol Update State News	Sea Change Radio	TUC Radio	Economic Update Richard Wolff	Counterspin/Cannabis Connection		
8 p.m.	Yesterday's Dead Today Mark Binder	The Root Cellar Roger & Peter	Acoustic Waves James Hawkins	Folk Show Syndicated	Spirit of Punk Jill Hoffman-Kowal	Velvet Radio Elissa Bello	Ripper's Rarities Russ Yodice
9 p.m.							Indie-licious Shelia Jane, Vin
10 p.m.	Indigenous Sounds White Horse	Moptops and the King Syndicated	Radio RESET Sharon Folta	Indie Files Joel Jaffe	Music Show Stuart	Another Late Night Katy	Dirty Ice Cream Truck Luke Rosebaro
11 p.m.		Music Lagniappe Syndicated					
12 mid.	Beats, Rhymes & Life DJ Cellus	Lumpytunes! The Head Lump, Rob Demperio	Music Automated playlist	New Radio	Open A.I.R. Matt Dakan & Jamiel Livingston	New Radio	Music Automated playlist

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Addressing Trauma, Building Resilient Communities

BY ANDY BLANCH, KIM KUTCH,
AND NATHAN SCOTT

You may be hearing a lot about trauma and resilience these days. In August, about a dozen people from Sarasota and Manatee counties attended a statewide think tank on helping Florida to become “trauma-informed.” They came back with a new appreciation for how violence and adversity – especially in childhood – affect our lives and our communities. They also returned with new ideas and energy for using the science of trauma and resilience to create stronger, healthier communities.

Several activities are already underway. On October 26, the Florida Department of Children and Families, the Florida Department of Health, and Manatee and Sarasota County Governments partnered with the *Ounce of Prevention Fund* to show the film *Resilience: The Biology of Stress & the Science of Hope*. The film was shown to a group of almost 50 providers from Manatee, Sarasota and Desoto counties, and later to 70 funders from the three counties. Discussion focused on the impact of adverse childhood experiences and steps that can be taken to prevent and address childhood trauma. To date, six additional film screenings have occurred throughout Circuit 12. A group of interested providers has continued to exchange ideas about how to use the science

of trauma and resilience to improve outcomes. For example, the child welfare system is working to reduce the number of children removed from families due to trauma-related substance abuse, domestic violence, and child maltreatment, which has increased over the past 18 months.



Deborah Louise Ortiz performing 'Changing Violet'. Photo: Ani Katz

In a related effort, on December 2 the *Center for Religious Tolerance* and the *Peace Education and Action Center* co-sponsored a play at *Fogartyville Community Media and Arts Center* that portrayed one woman's experience

with abuse, addiction, and recovery. *Changing Violet* was written and performed by Deborah Louise Ortiz, based on her own life. A crowd of over 60 people were spellbound as she enacted scenes from her childhood; her struggles with alcohol, drugs, and abusive partners; her suicide attempts; and her journey to recovery. A lively discussion followed, as people from the audience shared their own experiences with trauma and resilience, identified community resources, and made suggestions about how to move forward. Key themes included the need to create safe spaces where people can share their stories and celebrate their resilience; recognizing that trauma comes in many different shapes and forms; and addressing the traumatic impact of racism, ableism, and other forms of systemic discrimination. People were enthusiastic about developing a community agenda for addressing

trauma, and over 20 people signed up to help organize a follow-up event to learn from other trauma-informed communities. If you are interested in getting involved, email Andy Blanch at akblanch@aol.com.

Beyond Crime and Punishment: A Movement to Stop Florida's Endless Prison Cycle and Heal Communities

BY CD DAVIDSON-HIERS, THE
FLORIDA PHOENIX

Florida has an incarceration problem that is unsustainable, according to criminal justice reform advocates. The Sunshine State locks up people who commit a crime at a rate above the national average, and Florida is one of the top seven states that together hold nearly half of the nation's entire incarcerated population, according to the research nonprofit Florida Policy Institute and 2014 data gathered by the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Ending the spiraling cycle of crime and incarceration is a key goal for criminal justice reformers. Enter restorative justice, a growing movement that brings communities together after a crime has been committed with the goals of addressing the root issues that led to the crime and figuring out how to resolve them.

Advocates like Dan Kahn, who is Executive Director of the Florida Restorative Justice Association, believe a statewide move towards more restorative justice could revolutionize the state's criminal justice system by getting at the source of community problems and working to heal – and not just punish – people who commit crimes.

Here's how it works: If everyone agrees to be part of the process, trained facilitators bring together the person who committed the crime with the victim. Sometimes community members who were affected are present, as well as families of both the victim and the perpetrator. Everyone is given the opportunity to speak frankly about how the crime impacted them and what can be done to avoid it happening again.

Why would someone who committed a crime agree to be part of a restorative justice circle? Why would the people affected by the crime agree? Sometimes guilt is a motivator and the wish for

forgiveness and closure for an event that's changed lives.

But, to be clear: Forgiveness is not required in a restorative justice practice. It's not even a direct goal.

Conor McBride

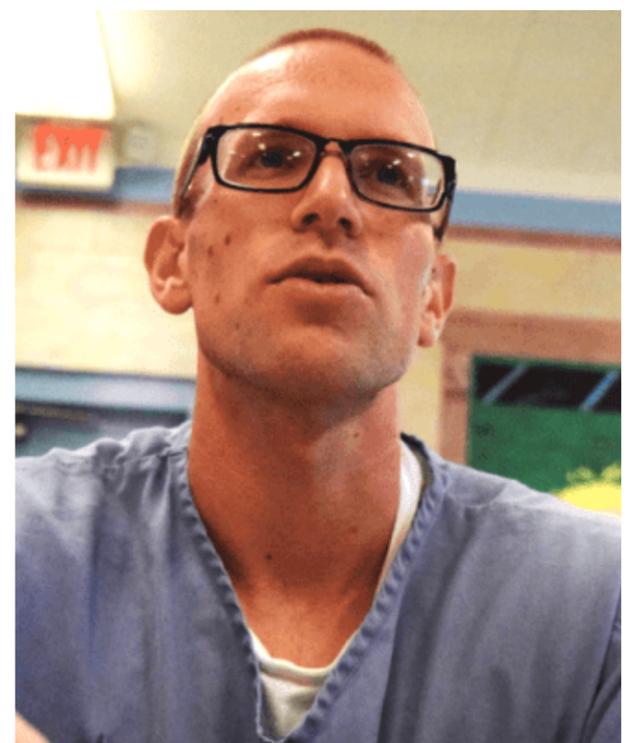
On a March afternoon in 2010, 19-year-old Tallahassee native Conor McBride walked into the Tallahassee Police Department to turn himself in for murder. McBride had shot his fiancée Ann Grosmaire, 19, in the head during an argument. McBride was arrested and charged with first-degree murder. He faced life in prison.

Today, McBride is now halfway through serving a 20-year sentence at Wakulla Correctional Institution with an additional 10 years of probation. His case is significant because of the way it brought all the parties together after their normal lives were shattered.

It wasn't easy to accomplish logistically, but the Grosmaires and McBrides would eventually come together in a restorative justice circle in a small room in the Leon County Jail nearly 10 years ago. Ann's parents, Andy and Kate Grosmaire, needed McBride to explain to them what happened that day he killed their daughter.

State Attorney Campbell began the process by reading McBride's charges. "If you've ever read charging information, it's really stark and bleak and kind of legalese," McBride says. "It doesn't really pull any punches." McBride says he felt the charging information could have set the tone for what might have become "two parties kind of set against each other, even though the Grosmaires had been visiting me in jail and there was that relationship there that normally wouldn't be."

But then the Grosmaires began to speak. In the circle, they "talked about meals made, changing diapers, sleepless nights with a newborn, sleepless nights with a teenager," McBride says. "It was such



Conor McBride. Photo by CD Davidson-Hiers

a waste for them because Ann was just about to go off to college, just about to go out into the world. And she had all this potential, and I ruined that ... The grief and the heartache they were going through was there. It was present in the small room."

Sujatha Baliga, the facilitator who came to Florida for the case, is a large figure in the world of restorative justice. Baliga is a former public defender and is now the director of the Restorative Justice Project at the justice reform organization Impact Justice. When she was first contacted about McBride's case, Baliga says she was skeptical. Her experience with restorative justice revolved around theft and other smaller crimes – never homicide.

But when she heard that the Grosmaires and

Continued on pg. 11

Calendar of Events

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 6:30 PM – Dale Anderson: How Fascism Works. Fogartyville, 525 Kumquat Court, Sarasota

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2:00 PM – Herald Tribune Journalist Carrie Seidman conversation with Elsie Souza. Carrie and Elsie will be discussing a trauma informed community along with other topics. Bookstore 1, 12 S Palm Ave, Sarasota.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 7PM. Native Plants and Animals. **Manatee-Sarasota General Meeting.** Sean Patton will discuss how to use native plants and animals to attain a Florida friendly landscape. Sarasota Garden Club, 1131 Blvd. Of the Arts, Sarasota

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 2:00 PM – The Power of Speaking Up: Sparking Conversations About Gender Violence and #MeToo 2019. Bookstore 1, 12 S Palm Ave, Sarasota, Florida

MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 12:00 PM - League of Women Voters Hot Topics: Phosphate Mining, For details, visit: www.lwvmanatee.org. Bradenton Woman's Club, 1705 Manatee Ave W, Bradenton.

MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 7:00 PM - CONA Meeting, Election Results Analyzed, Speaker: Supervisor of Elections Ron Turner. Sarasota Garden Club, 1131 Blvd of the Arts, Sarasota

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 6:30PM - Discussing Sensitive and Controversial Issues, Join Sylvia Gillotte, J.D., for an interactive program designed to help you better navigate the increasingly polarized waters of today's social and political discourse.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 7PM. "The Political Revolution Continues..." A Post-Election Look at the Progressive Movement with Senator Nina Turner. Tickets: \$10 adv/\$15 door. Tickets available at www.ProgressiveSarasota.org.

MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 7:30AM - MLK Jr Memorial Breakfast and Community Awards, Keynote Speaker: Senator Nina Turner. Robert Taylor Community Center, 1845 34th St, Sarasota. Tickets: \$20

MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 11AM - MLK Unity Walk. Begin at Robert L Taylor Community Complex end at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Park

MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 12PM-5PM - 2019 MLK Community Celebration - MLK Tributes, entertainment, cultural marketplace & food court youth book distribution, human services information booths, children's circle. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Park. Free

MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 7PM – American Racism: Yours, Mine, and Ours. Martin Luther King Day Celebration, Dr. John Walker, Pastor, Bethel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church and the Booker H.S. Outreach Choir. Sponsored by the Venice Interfaith Community Association. Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 790 S Tamiami Trail, Venice, FL

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 7-9 PM – We the People vs. Corporate Rule: It's Up to Us!, Join Move to Amend's Grassroots Volunteer Coordinator Keyan Bliss for an inspiring call-to-action and discussion on the nationwide movement to pass a **28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution to end corporate personhood.** Fogartyville, 525 Kumquat Court, Sarasota

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 10:30 AM and 7PM – Author David Grann, Author of Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI, David Grann, will speak and sign books. Sarasota Municipal Auditorium. His book has been chosen as the One Book, One Community Sarasota 2019 selection. Venice Theatre, 140 Tampa Avenue W, Venice, FL

MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 7:00 PM – American Racism: Yours, Mine, and Ours. "The past is never dead. It's not even past". Jeff LaHurd, Sarasota County History Specialist and Judge Charles Williams, Chief Judge, 12th Judicial Circuit. Sponsored by the Venice Interfaith Community Association. Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 790 S Tamiami Trail, Venice, FL

TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 6:30-9 PM – Amendment 4 Update, Amendment 4 Implementation – Representatives from the ACLU, the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition and Prep for Elections will join us to review progress in registering ex-offenders to vote. Fogartyville, 525 Kumquat Court, Sarasota

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2PM – China Expert Dr. Charles Steilen in Conversation with Elsie Souza. China expert Dr. Charles Steilen will join Elsie Souza for a Bookstore 1 Community Conversation Their conversation will have a focus on U.S. Trade with China. Bookstore 1, 12 S Palm Ave, Sarasota, Florida

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2-4PM, Sarasota Chapter of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence General Meeting, Selby Library, 1331 1st St, Sarasota

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 7-10 PM – Tom Paine Award Dinner. History Professor, Ret. Col. Andrew Bacevich will be the keynote speaker. Hosted by the Florida Veterans for Common Sense

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 7PM – American Racism: Yours, Mine, and Ours. "Black Like Me" Kristofer Geddie, Venice Theatre, Director of Diversity and Sandra Terry, Laurel Community Center. Sponsored by the Venice Interfaith Community Association. Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 790 S Tamiami Trail, Venice, FL

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 6:30PM - Medicare for All - Learn more about National Nurses United's efforts to expand Medicare to cover virtually the entire country. Organize for the National Day of Action. Fogartyville, 525 Kumquat Ct.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 10AM-12PM. The Nation Group Monthly Meeting, Selby Library, 1331 1st St, Sarasota

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 10:30-11:30 AM - Innocence Project of Florida. Harriet Hendels, Innocence Project of Florida Board Member. Harriet will discuss how innocent people can be wrongly accused of a crime. She will share some of the details of recent cases she has worked on. Concordia Lutheran Church – Willer Hall, 2185 Wood St, Sarasota

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 7PM – American Racism: Yours, Mine, and Ours. "Building the Beloved Community" with Rev. Dr. Marvin McMickle, President, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. Sponsored by the Venice Interfaith Community Association. Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 790 S Tamiami Trail, Venice, FL

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 7PM. Environmental Justice. **Manatee-Sarasota General Meeting.** The speaker will discuss fugitive dust and environmental justice.. Sarasota Garden Club, 1131 Blvd. Of the Arts, Sarasota

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2:00 PM – Sarasota City Planner Steven Cover In Conversation with Tony Souza, Steven and Tony will be discussing Sarasota development. Questions will follow. Bookstore 1, 12 S Palm Ave, Sarasota, Florida

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 7PM – American Racism: Yours, Mine, and Ours. "Racial Healing: An Inner and Outer Journey" with Dr. Catherine Meeks, Professor Emeritus, Wesleyan College & Director, Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing. Sponsored by the Venice Interfaith Community Association. Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 790 S Tamiami Trail, Venice, FL

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 6:30PM - Guns and Schools: One Year After Parkland. Fogartyville, 525 Kumquat Ct.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 7PM. Florida Veterans for Common Sense General Meeting. Waldemere Fire Station. 2070 Waldemere St, Sarasota.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 7PM - American Racism: Yours, Mine and Ours. "What We Believe Matters: A Bonhoeffer Moment" with Dr. Lori Brandt Hale, Associate Professor, Augsburg College

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 6:30PM - Community Conversation with Sarasota Chief of Police Bernadette DiPino. Fogartyville, 525 Kumquat Court.

TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 6:30 PM – The Economics of Inequality, Mark Paul, Assistant Professor of Economics at New College, will help us understand the causes and consequences of inequality and discuss how we design remedies to address it. Fogartyville, 525 Kumquat Court, Sarasota

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 6:30-9:30 PM – Planned Parenthood Fundraiser- Fighting for Truth and Care for All, 6:30 PM cocktails, 7:30 PM dinner and program. Ticket Price: \$225 To Register: Visit MyPlannedParenthood.org/events or call Kelsey Hunt-Dolan at 941.209.7949. Hyatt Regency Sarasota, 1000 Boulevard of the Arts, Sarasota, FL 34236

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 6:30PM – Political Trivia and Potluck with Move to Amend, Come test your knowledge of the constitution and our political system. It will be fun and educational! Hosted by Move to Amend. Fogartyville, 525 Kumquat Court, Sarasota

TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 6:30 PM – Community Conversation with City Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch, Submit questions in advance by emailing info@wslr.org or bring your questions to the event. Fogartyville, 525 Kumquat Court, Sarasota

TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 6:30 PM – Ready for 100 Update, Please join the Sarasota Climate Justice Coalition for an update on the Ready for 100 initiative in the City of Sarasota. Fogartyville, 525 Kumquat Court, Sarasota

For a complete listing of events or to submit an event, visit www.CriticalTimes.org.

Editorial: Save Lido Pavillion

BY CATHY ANTUNES

Beach access in Sarasota has taken a hit over the years. Compared to other coastal counties in Florida, Sarasota ranks near the bottom of the list, with only 20% of our coastline publicly accessible, while the state average is 40%. Lido Beach Pavilion (formerly Lido Casino) has a long history of offering free & affordable, family friendly beach amenities (including an ocean front swimming pool). The nature of Lido Pavilion could change dramatically. The City Commission is being asked to approve major conditional use and site plan changes which would bring increased noise well into the night and reduced parking for beach-goers due to a proposed destination bar and restaurant. The proposed changes are a de facto privatization and are incompatible with the family-friendly, laid back public beach amenity. The City Commission hearing on the proposal is slated for January 14th. The public must show up and urge the Commissioner to deny the proposal.

Today the snack bar at Lido Pavilion seats 96 patrons, and the facility offers picnic table seats for up to 30 people for those who bring their own meal. The modest concession stand has a 500 square foot kitchen, which is enough to serve the needs of the beach-going public. The public restrooms are in sore need of an update. The public pool offers seating but food is prohibited there. The facility closes at sunset, which gives nesting turtles and Lido residents peace and quiet. It's a place where you can hear the birds and the waves, where wildlife are at home.

The proposal would change our recreational facility with a simple concession into a destination bar and restaurant open until 10:30 pm. The proposed site plan includes a 33-seat tiki bar with enough standing room on the deck to accommodate 100 bar patrons, and a 200 seat restaurant. The pool and new splash pad deck includes 10 private cabanas (for up to 60 people) renting for \$100 a day, and well as plenty of room for at least 140 more people. The kitchen size will increase from 500 to 2,000 square feet. Bottom line: the food and beverage service is changing from a concession which seats 96 people to a destination bar, restaurant and pool deck service which will serve well over 400 people. With a planned \$250,000 annual marketing budget, it is clear these applicants are looking to serve many more than the current beachgoers who frequent the Pavilion. The budget for live entertainment is about \$80,000 a year, and the plan includes cable television.



Do turtles enjoy listening to football games?

The employees for the bar and restaurant will need parking, as well as the additional customers responding to the lush advertising budget. Parking demands would surge even more if special events, like weddings, take place on the proposed lawn. The Florida Department of Transportation says Lido Key's current public parking deficit is 540 spaces. The public parking lot currently holds 308 cars. The applicants plan to reconfigure the lot to add 54 parking spots, for a total of 362 spots. But with a renovation that will create a bar and restaurant quadrupling the customer capacity, a measly 17% increase in parking won't make a dent in the increased demand. What will happen to parking for those who just want to access the beach? Common sense says beachgoers will be squeezed out. Monopolizing Lido's already squeezed public parking, turning a public recreational facility into a beach bar and restaurant, is a terrible idea. The changes are untenable due to parking issues alone.

Regarding safety, the proposed 33 seat bar is larger than any bar on Main Street or St. Armand's Circle (Smokin' Joes has 29 seats), and this watering hole's 700 sq ft deck would provide standing room for another 67 or more. Situated between the pool and restaurant, and 50 yards from the beach, walking by the bar would be necessary for many beachgoers looking to use Lido's only public beach restrooms. Would you want your teenaged daughter, in her swimsuit, to have to navigate her way through the bar area to use the bathroom? What's to stop a 21 year-old from buying a beer, taking it to the beach

and giving it to a minor? Is this really a good idea?

Finally, Sarasota voters set aside 1.25 million dollars to renovate Lido Pavilion back in 2007, and those dollars cannot be used for another purpose. It's enough money to update the facility and improve the bathrooms. We don't need a private partner to update Lido Pavilion.

Over-developing Lido Pavilion will detract from the laid back, accessible beach experience that Sarasota visitors and residents appreciate and expect at Lido. Private cabana fees and monopolized parking will prevent Sarasota families from enjoying a facility that belongs to them.

Appropriating Lido Pavilion for the benefit of a private business by pricing out the public and consuming the public's parking is back door privatization and damages the public. "Gentrifying the beach" (the applicant's description) is unnecessary and an affront to hard-working Sarasota families struggling to make ends meet. We deserve a facility that works for the public. Lido Pavilion must remain truly public.

Attend the hearing on the proposed changes to Lido Pavilion on January 14th at 1:30 pm at City Hall Commission Chambers. The Commission will take a dinner break at 4:30pm and the hearing will reconvene at 6 pm. Wear RED to indicate your opposition to the proposed Major Conditional Use and Site Plan changes. Email the commissioners at commissioner@sarasotafl.gov to express your opinion about the proposed changes.

A Millennial Reflects on the Gillum Campaign

Continued from pg. 5

It begins with allies reestablishing support in our worn and tired respective communities. Authentic support extends beyond fundraising and conjecture. Authentic support means seeking to understand and actively respecting boundaries. Authentic support requires engaging with our peers, students, loved ones, and strangers surrounding identity (that intimidating detail that differentiates you from me) in ways that do not limit them to said distinctions.

Recognize that activism looks different for

everyone. The realities we are carving are more substantive than the absence of bigotry. We dream of eliminating violence, yes—but beyond that we need to rebuild communities. Let's continuously support spaces that center healing - like Fogartyville, the Multi-Cultural Health Institute, and even public parks (to name a few). We need healed people to fuel our movement!

But how do you hold someone accountable for perceived inaction? A big question I faced while

organizing over the summer. Ask them in which ways they can contribute to progressive movements. Be flexible. Be understanding. Not everyone is able to house the psychological debt of combating every transgression performed against them.

We must make space for existential exploration in the conversations to come. It's how we earn trust and create solidarity. If these truly are the last days, our communities deserve our best selves--grounded, forward thinking, and solution oriented.

Transforming Public Education in Florida

Continued from pg. 1

Richard Corcoran together will concoct but with Republicans still firmly in control of both the Florida House and the Senate, it is clear that they will entail further school privatization ventures and intensified attacks on teachers and their unions. Yet while the future of education in Florida may look bleak, there are some signs brewing that this abysmal situation might be challenged and then begin to turn itself around.

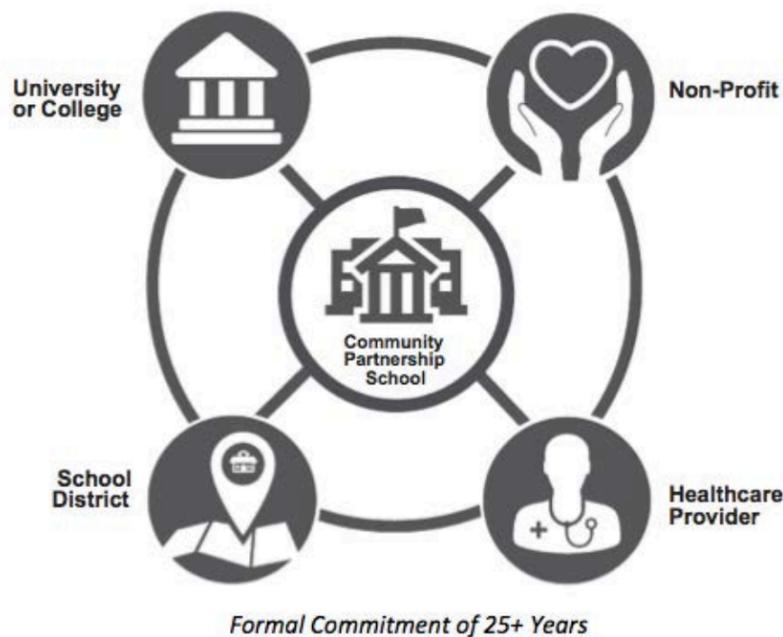
Communities in the US and in Florida are starting to say no to school closures—the primary way that school privatizers have been addressing struggling schools since the advent of No Child Left Behind under the George W. Bush Administration. As the Schott Foundation, an organization developing and strengthening a broad-based movement to achieve full resourced, quality PreK-12 public education, wrote recently: “When schools struggle, it is often because they lack the resources to meet the needs of their students. Yet rather than invest in these schools, policymakers have increasingly turned to mass closures as a solution leaving primarily students of color and students from low-income families without the educational opportunities they deserve.” The Schott Foundations and other national advocacy organizations like the Journey for Justice and the Alliance for Educational Justice see the development of well-funded Community Schools as the answer to this inequity.

“A Community School is both a place and a set of partnerships between the school and other community resources,” according to the Coalition for Community Schools, an alliance of national, state and local organizations supporting the community school concept. “A Community School’s integrated focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development and community engagement leads to improved student learning, stronger families and healthier communities.”

At a December 11th forum at Fogartyville sponsored by Protect Our Public Schools (POPS), Manasota and the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), Amy Ellis, Director for Community Schools at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, told a packed audience that there are now 15 Community Partnership Schools in Florida. Ellis reported that these partnership schools, all in various stages of development, have shown a significant gain in reading and math levels and have decreased disciplinary incidents. Ellis was part of a team that in 2010 developed Florida’s first Community Partnership School in Orlando, Evans High School. Evans, which is now recognized nationally as one of the leading success stories in

Community Schools, had been a “D” rated school with a declining student population. After three years as a Community Partnership School, Evans High School is now a “B” rated school and has dramatically increased its enrollment from 1,975 to 2,495 while simultaneously halving its disciplinary incidents, more than doubling the number of earned industry certifications, tripling its International Baccalaureate diplomas and raising its graduation rate by 15%.

4 Core Partners



Ellis, joined by Shawn Naugle, Regional Executive Director of Children’s Home Society of Florida and Kyla Carswell, Community Partnership School director at Mort Elementary School in Tampa, explained that there are four core partners in a Community Partnership School and each partner commits to a long-term partnership in order to launch, advance and sustain the particular school. Core partners include: 1) a school district; 2) a health care and other wraparound services provider; 3) a university or college; and 4) a community-based not-for-profit. Every Partnership School is developed after a careful needs assessment is completed of the school and the community. Parents and community members are engaged in the entire process and are critical to its success. Funding comes from a variety of sources including from the State of Florida, the federal government through ESSA, nonprofit agencies and community foundations.

In the discussion that followed, a member of the audience described the plight of two elementary schools in Manatee County, Daughtrey and Rogers Garden-Bullock. Both are at risk of being closed down or face a charter takeover if they earn another “D” or “F” grade in the 2019 high stake testing.

The forum attendee wondered if these schools could become Community Partnership Schools. All of the panelists agreed that these schools would be appropriate but only if the Manatee County School District agreed to be a willing partner. The panelists also said that Community Partnership Schools are also appropriate for schools that are not in this “struggling category” but nonetheless have an achievement gap within the schools.

While Community Schools are a critical part of transforming education in Florida, a full transformation cannot be accomplished without substantial increases in per pupil funding. Since the Great Recession of 2008, Florida’s per pupil funding formula has been flat funded. In fact, when inflation is taken into account over this past decade, there has been a decrease in real dollars of about 18%. Florida’s teachers and teacher assistants are horribly underpaid with Florida ranking 46th in the nation in the recent National Education Association’s survey. To get Florida up to even the national average in per pupil funding, funding would need to increase by 50%.

Many activists have wondered why Florida has not joined the “Red for Ed” movement (the name coming from the red t-shirts that teacher and community protesters wore) that swept many of the states like West Virginia, Oklahoma and Arizona this past year as they struck and marched for more educational funding and higher salaries. Some pundits theorized that it might be due to the fact that Florida teachers no longer have any job protection as tenure laws have been stripped and long-term contracts have been replaced by year-to-year contracts. There may be some truth to this. While there has been a weakening of these hard won rights in many states, Florida is the only state in the nation that has completely abolished these rights. But this may be changing. This past October, the Florida Education Association ousted its existing leadership replacing it with a slate of officers pledged to rebuilding “our power and start winning again.” The challengers were tapping into the anger of the membership upset with a Legislature that boosts private schools at their expense and starves country school systems on needed funding.

If Florida teachers become activated, there is little doubt that many parents, high school students and community members will join them, including advocacy organizations like POPS and LULAC. There are nearly 180,000 teachers in Florida. Think of the army in Tallahassee if even one-quarter of the teachers get involved, let alone all the other people who will join them.

Beyond Crime and Punishment

Continued from pg. 8

McBrides were talking to each other and that Kate Grosmaire was already visiting Conor McBride in jail, she says she knew something would be different about the case. During the circle, Baliga guided the conversations by asking open-ended questions, and she worked a little in advance with everyone involved to prepare them for what the circle would entail.

“The No. 1 thing I wanted was for people to walk into that circle with clarity about their expectations and a way to take care of themselves if those expectations didn’t get met,” Baliga says. “I can’t guarantee what any outcomes are going to be, but what I can do is help folks think through: Why are we doing this; and what do you need to get out of it; and what do you want to offer to it; and what are your hopes for what’s going to happen; and what happens if that doesn’t happen?”

“You create the container for other people to work out their own stuff,” she says. “I believe that families and communities have everything they need in order to heal their own harm if we had safe containers within which they could do that.”

Florida law has a provision that gives local state attorneys the option of setting up official neighborhood restorative justice centers to provide services for first-time juvenile offenders whose crimes aren’t violent. Working with young people – and offering more than just punishment – is especially critical to try to stop repeat offenses and the cycle of violence.

A testament to the movement’s growing power in communities around the state, the Florida Restorative Justice Association hosted its first-ever conference this fall in Sarasota. More than 100 people attended from around the state. They plan to hold another.

Conor McBride is halfway through serving a 20-year prison sentence at Wakulla County Correctional Institution with 10 years probation. Restorative justice advocates continue to refer to his case when talking about how Florida could try to reform its criminal justice system.

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Did Money Win in 2018 Midterms?

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Just how transparent is the campaign donation process? I was curious to see if I could pinpoint some specific donations. A good chunk of campaign donations flow in as dark money, which is hard to trace. On the other hand, many of us donate small amounts to the campaigns we care about. I headed over to followthemoney.org to locate my partner's contributions. Amazingly, I found every single one of them since the 2010 election. Not only that, two of the chosen recipients had won their respective races.

Next I turned my gaze toward corporate political spending in Florida. To test the waters, I zeroed in on Mosaic Fertilizer, the phosphate mining company actively destroying sizeable tracts of land near me. I suspected that their greenwashing philanthropy and ads would be hard to trace. Perhaps. But their direct largesse to candidates and lobbyists could be easily viewed and analyzed. Unfortunately, there were dozens of corporate entities - Mosaic Company, Mosaic Fertilizer, Mosaic Fertilizer LLC, Mosaic Global Sales, Mosaic Global Sales LLC DBA Mosaic Fertilizer LLC, and on and on. I picked Mosaic Fertilizer, which had contributed a whopping \$1,242,863. Over the last 14 years, they have donated \$1,233,663 to 104 candidates in Florida races. On top of that, over the last 12 years, they have hired 97 different lobbyists. The website, followthemoney.org breaks all this out by industry, by candidate, by ballot measure, by party, by year, and by occupation. One can further delve into relationships, which include employees who have donated, and similar contributors, such as the Florida Phosphate Council Inc. and Saving Florida's Heartland.

Having already let my curiosity suck up half the day, I realized that I needed to keep my search focused. What was to be gleaned concerning campaign contributions in the most recent November 2018 election?

There were almost 20 ballot measures on my November ballot, 12 of which were statewide constitutional amendments. Most of them had their downsides, but most of them passed anyway. How much money had been thrown at these propositions? First off, there were 14 Political Action Committees (PACs), each of which had been created just to advocate for/against one statewide amendment. The award for the best named PAC goes to the Floridians Against

Misleading Amendments. Not only did it have a fabulous name, but they opposed Amendment 2 on the grounds that the tax cap amounted to corporate welfare for some of the largest property owners in the state.

Over the last couple of decades, my sense is that ballot measures usually pass, regardless of election spending. The 2018 election was no exception, with all but one passing. But there are other ways to slice and splice the data. One glaring fact is that 9 of the 14 PACs had only a dozen or so direct donations. Drilling down into the data showed that it was primarily a few wealthy donors who took advantage of the ballot initiative process. For example, there were just 3 donors accounting for the \$37 million donation to Marsy's Law For Florida, in support of Amendment 6.

On the other hand, it was heartening to see that the PAC working in support of Amendment 4, to restore ex-felon voting rights, had 8,768 donations. Although the ACLU was a leading contributor, the vast majority of funding came



candidates raised about the same amount (\$18 million) and both candidates earned about the same number of votes. In fact, the vote was so close that it triggered a recount. In general, this correlation did not hold true for many of the races further down the ballot.

One final hypothesis I wished to check was whether or not those candidates who spent the most tended to win. I immediately spotted a

counter-example. An incumbent, Michael Holderness, ran for Cedar Hammock Fire District Seat 4 in Manatee County, spending a whopping \$35,000. He lost to Richard Findlay, who only spent \$4,632. This was not a race that I followed, so I cynically suspected that perhaps Holderness had been charged with a crime during the campaign. But, it turns out, the Suncoast Professional

Firefighters and Paramedics endorsed Findlay. This certainly demonstrates that there are factors, other than campaign contributions, that can influence the outcome of an election. Over the last few elections, observers might have noticed gerrymandering, spoilers, incumbency, and demographics influencing election results. I would have thought that assaulting a journalist just before an election would extract a mighty toll. But evidently not. Greg Gianforte won his U.S. House seat the day after body-slaming a reporter in 2017. Regardless of the medley of factors, money is a heavyweight when it comes to influencing elections. In Sarasota and Manatee Counties, the up-ballot candidates who spent the most money did in fact win:

Sadly, this analysis is incomplete. I only looked into contributions that must be disclosed to the public. Dark Money donations are made out of sight. As Dark Money groups proliferate, they create gaps in our understanding of exactly how each funding dollar is being raised/spent during an election.

Office	Winner	Spent	Opponent	Spent
U.S. Senate FL	Rick Scott	\$25,019,244	Bill Nelson	\$20,945,852
U.S. House District 16	Vern Buchanan	\$2,618,334	David Shapiro	\$2,329,539
Florida House #70 (primary)	Wengay Newton	\$82,730	Sheeley/Bell	\$48,305/\$31,019
Florida House #71	Will Robinson	\$373,447	Tracy Pratt	\$120,407
Florida House #72	Margaret Good	\$408,944	Ray Pilon	\$104,225
Florida House #73	Tommy Gregory	\$242,290	Liv Coleman	\$106,229
Florida House #74	James Buchanan	\$270,240	Tony Mowry	\$131,736
Florida Senate #23	Joe Gruters	\$258,327	Olivia Babis	\$26,518
Manatee County Comm #2	Reginald Bellamy	\$15,852	Dimitrie Denis	\$8,683
Manatee County Comm #4	Misty Servia	\$85,799	Melton Little	\$66,894
Manatee County Comm #6	Carol Whitmore	\$91,985	Candace Luther	\$3,810
Sarasota County Comm #2	Christian Zielger	\$63,243	Ruta Jouniari	\$39,225
Sarasota County Comm #4	Al Maio	\$123,520	Wesley Beggs	\$24,599

from a broad coalition of groups and individuals.

We had some major upsets in the Florida primaries this year. The two less-funded gubernatorial candidates won their respective Republican and Democratic races. In the general election, those same candidates, DeSantis and Gillum, both attracted the support of billionaires from outside Florida. George Soros and Tom Steyer donated millions in support of Gillum. Richard Uihlein and Kenneth Griffin donated millions in support of DeSantis. The pundits tell us that the Governor's race was more of a referendum on the President, thus attracting funds from across the nation. It is somewhat ironic that the vast majority of voters were already committed to one of the gubernatorial candidates two months prior to the election. And yet millions of dollars poured into this Florida race, in hopes of swaying the outcome.

Before concluding that money did not have much of an effect on the 2018 election in Florida, I decided to slice and splice with different questions in mind. Did the relative fundraising abilities of the given candidates correlate with the percentage of votes they earned? In the Governor's race, both

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