



South Florida Progressive bulletin

Activism and Events Calendar

- Art Basel - Miami Beach Dec 1-4
- Veterans Deployment to Standing Rock, North Dakota Dec 4-7
- Coalition for a Progressive Platform Meeting Dec 8 at 6:30; Central Labor Council 4349 NW 36th St; Miami
- Ban on Fracking Organizational Meeting 10 A.M. Dec 14th; Progress for All office Suite 203; 2028 Harrison, Hollywood, FL
- Water Is Life March on Washington, 11 am Dec 18th Standing Rock Women, Washington Mall

FRONT PAGE NEWS

The City of Miami Commissioners approved a \$15 minimum wage ordinance for city employees and for contractors doing business with the city of Miami. New Florida Majority is one organization which promoted this ordinance. *Way to Go!*

What YOU can do next... This is a compilation from many sources:

- 1) We need a website containing up-to-date daily bulletins on what actions people are planning around the country, and where, so others can join in. Techies, get organized.
- 2) Investigative journalism: We need investigative journalists to dig into the backgrounds of all of Trump's appointees, in the White House, the Cabinet, Ambassadors and judges.
- 3) Lawsuits: Our version of "Drill, baby, drill" is "Sue, baby, sue." Throw sand in the gears. Lawyers, get organized.
- 4) Boycott all Trump branded real estate, and any stores which carry Trump brands - such as Nordstrom.
- 5) Prepare to FIGHT against any Supreme Court nominees who support Citizens United, or are against rights for the poor, women or minorities.
- 6) Take over the democratic party from the corporate establishment that caused this outcome. (This may be impossible or require more effort than starting over.)
- 7) Reject the pundits, the media, all who were wrong about this election. Find new sources of information.

FROM THE FRONT LINES - Standing Rock

Gov. Dalrymple issued an executive order calling for mandatory evacuation of all campers located on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) lands, also known as the Oceti Sakowin camp. This state executive order is a menacing action meant to cause fear, and is a blatant attempt by the state and local officials to usurp and circumvent federal authority. The USACE has clearly stated that it does not intend to forcibly remove campers from federal property. The Governor cites harsh weather conditions and the threat to human life. The most dangerous thing we can do is force well-situated campers from their shelters and into the cold. If the true concern is for public safety then the Governor should clear the blockade and the county law enforcement should cease all use of flash grenades, high-pressure water cannons in freezing temperatures, dog kennels for temporary human jails, and any harmful weaponry against human beings. This is a clear stretch of state emergency management authority and a further attempt to abuse and humiliate the water protectors. The State has since clarified that they won't be deploying law enforcement to forcibly remove campers, but we are wary that this executive order will enable further human rights violations."

The first thing I experienced were the water cannons. A police officer sprayed a water cannon for the entire time we were there, non-stop for hours and hours. They sprayed everyone in sight, back and forth methodically. They targeted anyone in their way and only paused when they ran out of water to replace the hose. The feeling at the front line was jovial, water was harmless right? It wasn't until hours later and temperature dropped below freezing that the hypothermia began to settle in. When I think back, the premeditated action of freezing unarmed civilians with water for hours is sickening. They knew what they were doing and they knew they could get away with it later on. When I turned at one point, my sister's hair had turned to icicles and I had to find a blanket to stop her from shivering and take her home. Next came the tear gas canisters, flash bangs and concussion grenades. These were lobbed into the crowd on the bridge nonstop at times, indiscriminately. Their intention was to severely injure us. These were followed by rubber bullets. I watched at times as the police would shoot a tear gas canister, wait for a civilian to pick it up in an attempt to throw it away from others and then spray rubber bullets at that individual. They targeted women and aimed for the head and the legs. I witnessed this. Once a civilian went to the ground, following a direct shot, the police would wait until someone came to their rescue in an attempt to shield them and pull them to the back. The police at that point would aim and shoot all those who helped with more bullets. Many times these people were medics with red crossed clearly visible on their front, backs and arms. I saw the police officers, hiding behind their barrier, actually high-fiving as they took down men, women and elders.

The People's Corner

~Lorenzo Canizares

Today Jill Stein has filed for a recount in Wisconsin, and it will soon take place. The deadline to file for a recount in Wisconsin was today. Stein plans to file also in Michigan and Pennsylvania. What blows my mind is the failure of Hillary Clinton, and the Democrats, to enjoin this effort. What are they planning to do? Fight the Neo-Nazis behind closed doors?

The nation owes a debt of gratitude to the Green Party presidential candidate. A recount should be able to provide a final analysis to this very surreal election. Maybe polls were not so off after all. No more mention of Alt-Right; let's call Stephen Bannon, Richard Spencer, and other ideologues in the Trump camp what they are - Neo-Nazis. And Trump, not only has brought them out in the open, but has sided with them giving them not only a national audience but the power to put their hatred into practice. Have we seen any Trump tweet regarding the Nazi salutes at the National Policy Institute meeting this past weekend? No, we haven't. But, certainly we saw tweets chastising the cast of Hamilton for utilizing their first amendment rights.

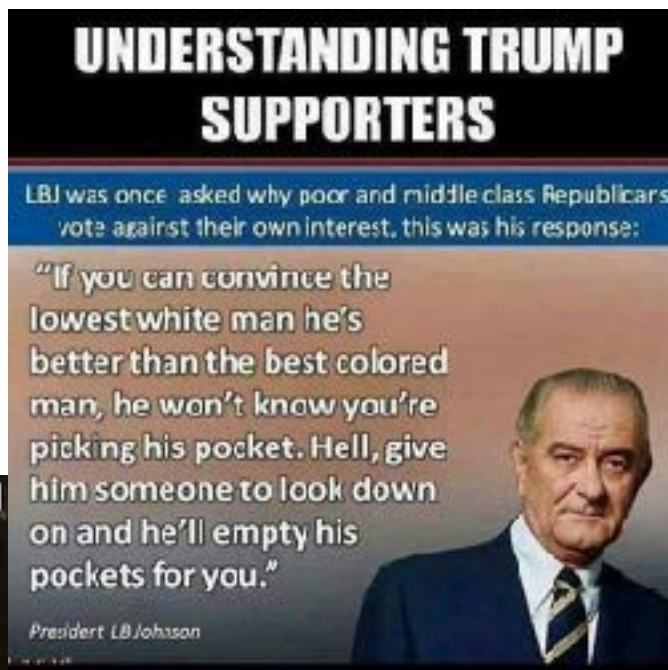
Is anybody surprised? We are dealing here with a Republican Party that throughout the years has made a point of throwing at the face of the American people how crass they are regarding their quest for power. These are the people that have done everything possible to make President Obama fail in his attempt to deal with the national economic problems that we face. These are the people, led by Donald Trump, that Noam Chomsky has categorized as a death knell to our species because of their total disregard for reality (climate change). You don't need to be a MIT professor to realize these Republicans are making us proceed with our lives at our own risk. These Republicans have also lost respect for the American people, and believe they can get away with whatever they want. Trump said he could kill somebody in the streets of Manhattan, and his followers would still love him.

What's the hold? Very simple. Just plain racism. Make America White Again! But, please hear me clearly. I am not saying all Trump supporters are racists, but Trump's most trusted base certainly suffers from that illness. Stephen Bannon wouldn't be the Trump administration Strategy Chief if there were any doubts about his commitment to the principles of Neo-Nazism.

To maintain control of their "troops" the Neo-Nazis of the Alt-Right need to feed garbage to the troops so they can continue to spout illogical ideas. The Fake News Industry has been a vehicle utilized by the Neo-Nazis to make sure to maintain the troops in line and in a frenzy. Remember, the frenzy after FBI Director James Comey mentioned a new e-mail investigation? It seemed as if hundreds of bodies were found in Hillary's closet. Yesterday, the Washington Post had an article by Cathy Burke on how Russia used fake news to influence U.S. elections.

Time is of the essence. We need to prevent Trump and his team of Neo-Nazis from inflicting pain in the American people, and the rest of the world. I am sure that the Russians know exactly what they are doing by helping Trump. I am certain that they are looking forward to the internal destruction of the United States. On 11/25/16 Dan Rather in an article in Readers Supported News "Now is the Time to Remain Standing," says that the nation needs us all to be a participant in the struggle against the Neo-Nazis. This is no exaggeration. Neo-Nazis with their hands on the nuclear button is not a pleasant thought.

For those of you that live in the Miami, Florida area, there will be many opportunities to unite with others to fight the Neo-Nazis. One opportunity is to come to the Coalition For A Progressive Platform meeting in Thursday 12/8 at 6:30 PM at the Central Labor Council, 4349 NW 36 St. Please make an effort to join the effort to fight now so we can avoid asking you later to join the Resistance.



Corporate liberals are 'polite' white supremacists. Their paradigms of "diversity" and "inclusion" accompany and abet the state violence of mass imprisonment, mass deportation, and police terror. - Russell Rickford: A Time of Monsters

The legacy of racism in this country is horrific at worst, and discriminatory at best. It is legislated, it is adjudicated, it is executed, it is spoken, written, whispered and shouted, it is thought and prayed. Black people have no place to hide from racism in the United States.



The framework on which the Iroquois Nation was built played a "key role in the forming of the political institutions of America as well as the world."

A distinct characteristic of the Iroquois or Six Nations was the fact that women played a very special role. The structure of the Confederacy originated in the "hearth" which consisted of a mother and her children.

"Each hearth was part of a wider group called an otiianer. Two or more otiianers constituted a clan. This matrilineal system was headed by a "mother." All the sons and daughters of a particular clan were connected by uterine families that often lived far apart. Thus, a husband went to live with his wife's family, and his children became member of the mother's clan by right of birth. "It is important to know that "all authority sprang from the otiianers and the various clans making up a nation. The women who headed these groups appointed the male delegates and deputies who spoke for the otiianer and clans at tribal councils."

It is quite evident that these women were held in quite high regard in the Iroquois tribe. When these councils met, the women "formulated issues and questions to be delegated and acted upon," while also recommending "to their male spokesmen what view to express and advocate." Women were responsible for the agriculture, but the men helped in the "clearing of the fields and other heavy work," they also gathered such things as "nuts, roots, wild berries and fruits." Men hunted mainly, "although the wives often accompanied their husbands on hunting parties," taking "charge of the camps."

She was in charge of "the household, and the stewardess of the affairs of the earth, such as planting and harvesting." The work of women together produced "unity, not only in a political sense, but also in a spiritual and environmental sense, was the binding force in Iroquois life."

Women had such an influence that they "frequently could either prevent or encourage a war party by their approval or disapproval." One means of saying they were opposed was "if the women refused to give the warriors moccasins and charred corn pounded into a meal sweetened with maple syrup."

In the Iroquois economic system before colonization, "the whole population had a share in the production." "The men and women divided their activities fairly evenly in production and distribution of the products of their labor and agricultural pursuits." When the Europeans arrived, this whole system became disrupted and set "the sharpest of competition "among the tribes and within the tribes for the lucrative fur trade."

It is past time we return to the frameworks on which the Iroquois and our own system were established. "The Iroquois fostered economic and political democracy through spiritual and kinship harmony." - Monica Kozma

When I was in New Zealand, our ship's crew did a group tour organized by a Maori chief and his tribe. The culture and wisdom of the Maori astounded me, and I promised myself then to learn more about America's indigenous peoples. The present activism of the Native Americans at Standing Rock against DAPL has shown the way of resistance to all progressives. We salute, we are grateful, and we will learn more about our earliest Americans whose culture survives and leads us forward on climate protection in spite of white Americans' attempts to marginalize and destroy their gifts to our shared lands and peoples. ~Editor



Interview with Tim Canova, Professor of Law at Nova Southeastern University and recent candidate for Congress (FL 23) on the aftermath of election 2016 and the future of his organization Progress for All

Fritzie: Do we rebuild the democratic party or start a progressive independent party?

Tim Canova: You identify the difficult choice ahead. There are so many obstacles to building a 3rd party movement. I don't think it's impossible, but it will only happen when a critical mass are ready to give up on the Democratic Party. While we may be approaching that point, I'm not convinced we're there yet. It remains to be seen whether the Democrats in Congress will have the ability and the will to prevent the Republicans from rolling over us on major issues like Medicare and Social Security, tax cuts for the wealthy and for corporations, Supreme Court nominations, and much more. And it remains to be seen whether there are many leaders within the Democratic Party who can articulate an alternative agenda that voters will believe. I'm not encouraged by the recent moves to keep Chuck Schumer and Nancy Pelosi in leadership positions. Progressives must keep pushing for new leadership, including in the Democratic National Committee. I remain a registered Democrat committed to fighting to return the party to its progressive roots. At the same time, I would encourage independents and 3rd parties to organize and step up their activism. We must build a progressive tide both within and outside the Democratic Party.

Fritzie: What is the significance of the actions of the Standing Rock Sioux against DAPL?

Tim Canova: Standing Rock is taking on such tremendous significance to the progressive movement. Like the anti-TPP movement, this is a movement of movements, combining indigenous Native American rights and sovereignty with the human rights, civil liberties, environmental, and youth movements. It troubles me that many labor unions continue to support pipeline construction and fracking. It's a short-sighted position. What's needed is a massive conversation from the extractive energy economy to alternative and sustainable fuels, including solar, wind, wave, and tidal energy. Hillary Clinton's campaign slogan was "Stronger Together" but did not practice what it preached. We need to keep growing our movement, and that requires speaking clearly about the world that we want. It is not a world of endless conflict and wars to make the world safe for fracking, whether in North Dakota, the Sabal Trail in Florida, or pipelines in Iraq and Syria. We want a world in which water, the source of all life, is protected, from Flint, Michigan to the Florida aquifers.

Fritzie: Is this what the whole election was about - privatizing everything left? Everything is a profit center, even infrastructure projects.

Tim Canova: Trump's infrastructure plan resembles the "public-private partnerships" that have been championed by Democratic administrations, from Clinton to Obama. Perhaps there's a bit more private than public in the Trump plan, but I did not have much faith that infrastructure projects would have been much different in a Hillary Clinton administration. This is part of the neoliberal Washington consensus, the mantra that the public sector cannot create jobs, that only the private sector can create jobs. What's needed is a history lesson, to remind folks that the public sector led the way in planning, financing, and building this country's infrastructure, from the New Deal and the interstate highway system to the space program.

Fritzie: What do you consider the most significant threat from Trump? What is the best way to prevent it? If we can't prevent it how can we mitigate it?

Tim Canova: It's difficult to assess the biggest threats posed by Trump. His transition already suggests that he lied about wanting to drain the DC swamp of lobbyists. He campaigned on reducing tensions with Russia, which would be a good thing. It remains to be seen whether that means building an alliance and other rivals in the fight against the Islamic State. Domestically, the Trump agenda appears likely to be a re-run of traditional Republican supply side tax cutting. This could pump up the economy in the short-term, fueling a bubble in the financial markets that's already in the making. The short-term result could be to increase Trump's popularity, which could pose even greater dangers in terms of the assault on civil liberties. Democrats should attempt to obstruct any and all regressive parts of the Trump agenda. The problem is the Democrats may now lack the votes in the House and Senate to stop major parts of the Trump agenda.

Fritzie: Do you think the Senate will be able to stop Supreme Court justices from ratification? Why can't the democrats hang tough in unison against republicans like they have done so resolutely? How do the republicans instill that kind of singularity of message that the democrats can't?

Tim Canova: It remains to be seen whether the Democrats can stop Trump's nominations to the Supreme Court. Any hopes that Trump might try to govern from the center now seem misplaced, given the announcements of his top White House advisers. Democrats will have difficulty remaining united in opposition to Supreme Court nominations, because of the presence of socially conservative Democrats in the Senate. And they may be divided on economic issues due to the undue influence corporate donors have on so many incumbent Democrats. To stop or even slow down the Trump agenda will require courage and sacrifice by the American people, constant activism and engagement, and much greater vigilance and independence by the mainstream media.

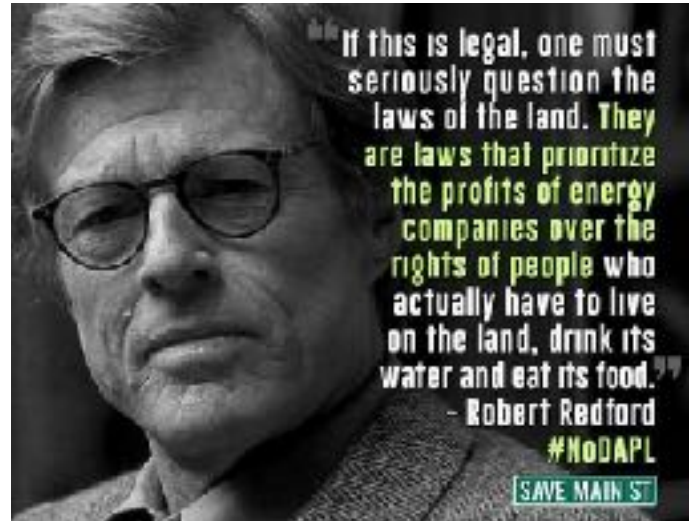
Interview with Tim Canova, continued

Fritzie: What do we do about Debbie Wasserman Schultz?

Tim Canova: I think engaging with Wasserman Schultz's staff is pretty much a waste of time. Even before the recent presidential election, Wasserman Schultz was such a huge failure for the Democratic Party and such a lackey for corporate interests. During her tenure at the DNC, the Democrats lost so many seats that the Republicans gained their largest majorities in Congress since Herbert Hoover. As DNC chair, she should have been recruiting the best candidates to run for President instead of clearing the field for one candidate, the weakest candidate since the advent of modern polling. Her failure has now taken on symbolic significance for the Democratic Party. It is no longer an option to quietly support her and hope that she starts voting better and becomes a more responsive Representative. This is a safe Democratic district and her defeat is necessary to show the American people that the party is serious about reform, serious about purging itself of establishment insiders who have sacrificed the public good for personal political gain.

Fritzie: What is next for Progress for All? (Progress for All is a grassroots political and community action group which Tim started to advance the progressive issues he promoted in his Congressional campaign.)

Tim Canova: Progress For All has an ambitious agenda to support progressive candidates and causes. I will forward you our most recent email detailing some of the candidates and referendums we supported. In addition, we are working to make sure the TPP is really dead. We are pushing an environmental agenda of clean water, a statewide ban on fracking, opposition to the Sabal Trail Pipeline project. We will support a statewide referendum for open primaries, the so-called jungle primary system that we see in California. We support election integrity reforms for paper ballots, counted by hand in public, and reported immediately at the precinct level. We must have fully transparent and verifiable elections. We support campaign finance reform and efforts to overturn Citizens United by constitutional amendment. I would also support legislation recently announced by Representative Alan Grayson to require that voters have an option on their ballots for "None of the above," particularly in presidential elections. If "None of the above" we're to come in first, there should be a do over of the primaries, with the candidates who just lost the general election disqualified.



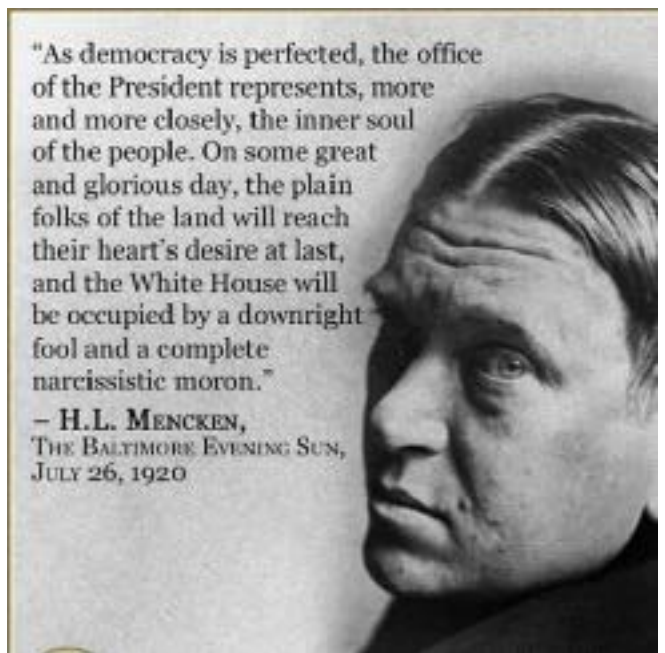
South Florida Progressive Bulletin is an online newsletter released on the 1st and 15th of each month. It chronicles and analyzes events and issues relevant to progressives locally, and at the state and national levels. It began about five years ago as a publication of the Progressive Democrats of America Miami chapter. In 2016 it became the South Florida Progressive Bulletin and a regular schedule was adopted. The editorial board consists of Fritzie (the editor), Lorenzo Canizares, Elizabeth Lee Beck, Victor Nieto, Cathy Gilbert, Sandy Davies, Audrey Bomse, Ed Wujciak, Gayle Martin and Monica Kozma. We welcome contributions from our community and are attempting to be an umbrella forum for all local progressive organizations: environmental, political, the social and economic justice movements, Black Lives Matter, labor organizers, anti-war and others. Our purpose is to inform, unify and grow local progressive Activism, organization and resistance. To submit an idea, photo, and/or article please email fritziethemusic@gmail.com. We limit articles to six hundred words or less generally with longer pieces to be edited at your approval with a link provided to the longer message. To add your email address to our distribution please email fritziethemusic@gmail.com as well. We have a Facebook page to visit for updates (South Florida Progressive Bulletin.)



Progress for All is promoting ballot initiatives to advance the progressive agenda. Open Primaries, Voter Integrity with paper ballots, and a ban on fracking are ballot initiatives Progress for All will promote and believes can pass in Florida. In Miami/Dade they want to reverse the Strong Mayor and promote campaign finance reform. They propose a bond or tax to help pay for costs associated with sea level rise. Progress for All will be in Tallahassee to work on Medicaid expansion, public education, a \$15 minimum wage, and to ban private prisons.



The unprecedented betrayal of the public interest by the democratic party in the primaries and the continued suppression of any exchange of ideas not promoting the ordination of Hillary Clinton during the election season allowed the election of Donald Trump, and it allowed the reelection of Debbie Wasserman Schultz in FL 23. Do the Right Thing PAC is requesting inspection or copies of public records of the 2016 primary elections in Miami Dade and Broward Counties. The attorney for the Broward Board of Elections has responded that she is 'preparing a response to the records request.'



The True Cost Of Privatizing Public Services

PRIVATE CORPORATION	GOVERNMENT OPERATED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure services are limited to maximize profit. - Pay CEO millions of dollars - Pay numerous executives million to half million dollar salaries - Pay marketing & advertising expenses - Pay share holders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure services are adequate to meet public need.



We The People

- ✓ Private corporations NEVER have the public's best interest in mind.
- ✓ Corporation will ensure their business practices maximize profits to ensure their shareholders are happy.

If Wall Street could use corporate liberalism to insulate itself from righteous popular outrage, it will find in neo-fascism a no less effective vehicle for propagating its wealth and power.

