



Gainesville Area

National Organization for Women

25th Anniversary Banquet



Friday, October 19th, 2007

6:30 p.m.



A Brief History of Gainesville Area NOW

Gainesville Area NOW was founded in 1982 by **Donna Burnell** and **Abby Goldsmith** as a way to organize the hundreds of Alachua County women who signed cards supporting the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).

The chapter sprouted from a rich feminist tradition in Gainesville, home to Gainesville Women's Liberation, the first women's liberation group in the south. The UF chapter of NOW formed ten years before Gainesville Area NOW as the first ever campus NOW chapter.

Gainesville Area NOW grew into a force to be reckoned with, defeating sexist city commission candidates who referred to the chapter as "the NOW machine."

Over twenty-five years, our chapter has

- ◆ Helped elect many feminist candidates to local and state positions.
- ◆ Joined thousands of women from across the state in 1989 to stop then Governor Martinez from restricting abortion in Florida .
- ◆ Fought for equality in the workplace at places like Publix and Wal-Mart.
- ◆ Knocked on doors to get women out to vote in 2004.
- ◆ Demanded the Gainesville Police Department take rape and harassment more seriously.
- ◆ Helped win better access to the Morning-After Pill nationally.

The current board of Gainesville Area NOW honors all the women who dedicated their time, money, intellect, and hearts to making our chapter a strong fighting force, especially **Donna Burnell, Abby Goldsmith, Emily Brown, Linda Bassham, Sandra Carlisi, Pennie Foster, Alex Leader, Candi Churchill, and Lori Tinney.**

Program

Welcome Speech by Stephanie Seguin
Gainesville Area NOW President

Remarks by Jessica McCaffrey
Florida NOW President

Dinner with music by Lars Din

Activism Award Presented to Jenny Brown
Introduction by Natalie Maxwell

Slide Show of Gainesville Area NOW History

Introduction to the Abortion Resolution Campaign
Presented by Anna Guest-Jelley & Whitney Mutch

Silent Auction Winners Announced

The silent auction table will be open from 6:30 until 9:00. Make sure you take a look at all the exciting merchandise available for bidding.

Gainesville Area NOW Current Board Members

Stephanie Seguin - *President*
Natalie Maxwell - *Vice President*
Pam Ellis - *Treasurer*
Lynn Hurtak - *Secretary*
Lisa Labbe - *Communications Chair*
Anna Guest-Jelley - *Historian*

Special Thanks To These Women Who Helped With the Banquet:

Whitney Mutch
Alexandra Peterson
Jaelyn Peiso

Gainesville Area NOW Honors Jenny Brown For Her Years of Visionary Feminist Leadership



Jenny Brown has been a leading member of Gainesville's feminist and progressive movements for the past twenty years. She is a stalwart leader in the fight for women's liberation and for national health insurance for everyone.

As a research associate for Redstockings, a grassroots women's liberation think-tank, Jenny co-authored the Redstockings book *Women's Liberation and National Health Care: Confronting the Myth of America* with Amy Coenen and Kathie Sarachild.

She is a plaintiff in *Tummino, et al. v. von Eschenbach*, a federal lawsuit brought against the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for restricting women's access to the safe and effective birth-control method the morning-after pill. Jenny was one of nine women from Gainesville and New York City to get arrested for a sit-in that blocked access to the entrance of the FDA headquarters in Maryland in January 2004.

Jenny is the founder of the Women's Liberation Taskforce for National Health Care, a coalition of feminist organizations pushing for national health insurance to cover everyone, no matter their age, occupation, marital status or employment status. She also co-founded the Alachua County Labor Party, where she currently serves as co-chair and is working on winning national health insurance for everyone in the U.S.

Jenny has been the co-editor of the *Gainesville Iguana*, Gainesville's longest-running progressive newsmagazine, since October 1986. She lives in Gainesville with her husband Joe Courter and their dog Molly.

Gainesville Area NOW Thanks Our Sponsors

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Candi Churchill & Andrew Reynolds

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Florida NOW

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Gainesville Women's Liberation

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Mark Piotrowski

Diane Peterson

The Reproductive Rights Resolution

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE SUPPORTING WOMEN'S UNRESTRICTED ACCESS TO ABORTION AND BIRTH CONTROL AND COMMITTING TO UPHOLD THOSE RIGHTS IN THE FACE OF STATE AND FEDERAL RESTRICTIONS.

WHEREAS, the City of Gainesville and its citizens strongly support women and their freedom to control their lives and bodies; and

WHEREAS, Florida Gov. Charlie Crist said, while on the campaign trail in 2006, that he would be willing to sign an abortion ban if it came before him; and

WHEREAS, abortion is already greatly restricted in Florida and elsewhere and 70% of counties in Florida do not have an abortion provider; and

WHEREAS, Florida has more "crisis pregnancy centers" than any other state in the country and funds these fake clinics with state money; and

WHEREAS, in August 2006, the FDA approved the Morning-After Pill for behind-the-counter use only, requiring all women to show identification for birth control; and

WHEREAS, in April 2007, the United States Supreme Court upheld an unjust law restricting women's rights to abortion and endangering our lives; and

WHEREAS, women bear the bulk of the responsibility for child-raising responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, these, and many other, restrictions make it impossible for women to have the same control over our lives as men;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Commission of the City of Gainesville set an example by supporting women's complete access to birth control and abortion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Gainesville request our Federal Representatives to urge Congress to overturn these negative restrictions on women's access to birth control and abortion; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Mayor is authorized to forward a copy of this Resolution to our Federal Representatives, the Florida Governor, the Speaker of the Florida Assembly and the President Pro Tempore of the Florida Senate.

Gainesville Area NOW Appreciates Those That Gave Silent Auction Donations

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Upcoming Meetings

Thursday, October 25th at 6:30 pm

We will be discussing the Abortion Resolution Campaign and holding a consciousness raising on abortion and birth control.

The CR question will be:

How does birth control and/or abortion affect my life?

What restrictions do I face? What role do men play?

The meeting will be held at the new
Pride Community Center
located in The Liberty Center
3131 NW 13th Street

Food and childcare will be provided.

*For more information, call Stephanie at
or email pres@gainesvillenow.org*



To learn more about our chapter, visit our
website: www.gainesvillenow.org