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Civic Media Center's 24th Anniversary & Fundraiser: Recognition of local activists, Candi Churchill and Carol Thomas

On Friday, October 20th, at the Matheson Museum, 516 E. University Ave, the Civic Media Center (CMC) will celebrate its 24th Anniversary year and fundraise to continue in its mission to serve progressive grassroots activism.

The Fundraiser includes a dinner, raffle and silent auction. Tickets are \$25-50 per person; tickets can be purchased in advance on. Doors will open at 6:15pm, and dinner will begin at 6:30pm.

The Civic Media Center will be honoring one of our community's great Movement elders, Carol Thomas, who as a result of arrests and intimidation for integration organizing was branded "the most dangerous woman in Gainesville" in the 1960s. Carol was at the forefront of early desegregation efforts in Gainesville. Carol developed an activist, progressive attitude from participating in anti-McCarthy demonstrations at Wayne State University as a youth in the 1950s. Later in the '50s, she moved to Nashville and was involved in protests against the White Citizen Council's marches against desegregation. When Carol moved to Gainesville in the '60s, the community segregation, substandard housing, and the abuse of black people at the jail moved her to become a community activist. She joined the NAACP, Gainesville Women for Equal Rights, was a member of the community Bi-racial Committee, and also worked at voter registration and education efforts.

Carol's address to us will be a wake-up call to understand our history and the changed context of the events of today.

The evening will also include presenting the John A. Penrod Award for Peace and Justice to Candi Churchill.

This award was established to honor local social justice activists in memory of John A. (Jack) Penrod, and is coordinated jointly by the Alachua County Labor Coalition, Veterans for Peace, and the United Faculty of Florida. Prior to his career as a Professor at the University of Florida, Jack volunteered and fought with the Abraham Lincoln Brigade against fascism in the late 1930s Spanish Civil War. Jack was active in all three

sponsoring organizations (as well as the CMC) and was a co-founder of the United Faculty of Florida (UFF) union.

Since first embracing activism and organizing in the mid-1990s as a UF student, Candi Churchill has been a committed organizer with National Organization for Women, National Women's Liberation, as well as Graduate Students United, and now United Faculty of Florida.

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