

City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Craig Lowe
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The Gainesville-Alachua County Cultural Affairs Board Arts Awards recognize those individuals and businesses that have made significant contributions to the advancement of the arts in our community; and

WHEREAS, Ellen West, Gilbert Levy and Tioga Town Center and Lennie Kestl have made a significant impact in our community through important, influential and lasting contributions to the arts and culture, through a body of work, over a number of years; and

WHEREAS, The Gainesville-Alachua County Cultural Affairs Board has awarded the Individual Arts Award to Ellen West. Ms. West, a talented artist in her own right, gives selflessly of her time and energy, serving in such capacities as President of the Arts Association of Alachua County, sitting on the governing Board of the Doris Bardon Community Cultural Center, serving as President of the Center for Modern Art, as an active and valued member of the Art in Public Places Trust and a Charter Member of the Artists' Alliance of Northern Florida. Ellen West's art work has been exhibited in some forty venues in Gainesville and surrounding areas. The list of places where her art has been exhibited reveals her principle of making art available to all of our citizens, especially those in need, and for whom her art is therapeutic; and

WHEREAS, The Gainesville-Alachua County Cultural Affairs Board has awarded Gilbert Levy the Business Arts Award for expanding access and exposure to the arts by providing many and varied arts programs at the Tioga Town Center, most of which are free or with proceeds going to non-profit organizations. Events have included the annual Winter Fine Arts Fair; a year-round monthly free concert series; a year-round free movie series, the annual Tioga Town Fair, Tioga's Jazz Festival, Gainesville Jazz Festival and the Night of Stars Winter Jazz Festival; and

WHEREAS, The Gainesville-Alachua County Cultural Affairs Board has awarded the Lifetime Arts Achievement Award to the late Lennie Kestl who is literally an icon of the arts in our community. Throughout his career as an art professor at the University of Florida and Santa Fe College, and throughout his lifetime, Mr. Kestl inspired and instructed art students of all ages. As an artist, Lennie Kestl's work is represented in innumerable collections within Gainesville and Alachua County, and he is one of the better-known Gainesville artists in Florida and the rest of the country. Kestl's inspiration not only influenced multiple generations of artists but also in a multitude of genres. Mr. Kestl had a love, appreciation, depth of knowledge and talent for jazz. He performed locally and recorded three jazz albums over the years with area musicians. Lennie Kestl was a friend, mentor and partner to other local artists and had a profound and lasting impact on the arts and cultural community in Gainesville.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Craig Lowe, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim March 7, 2013 as

Ellen West, Gilbert Levy and Tioga Town Center and Lennie Kestl Day

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me in recognizing Ellen West, Gilbert Levy and Tioga Town Center and Lennie Kestl, and expressing our appreciation for their overall dedication to the arts in our community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 24th day of January, C.E., 2013.



Craig Lowe
Craig Lowe
Mayor