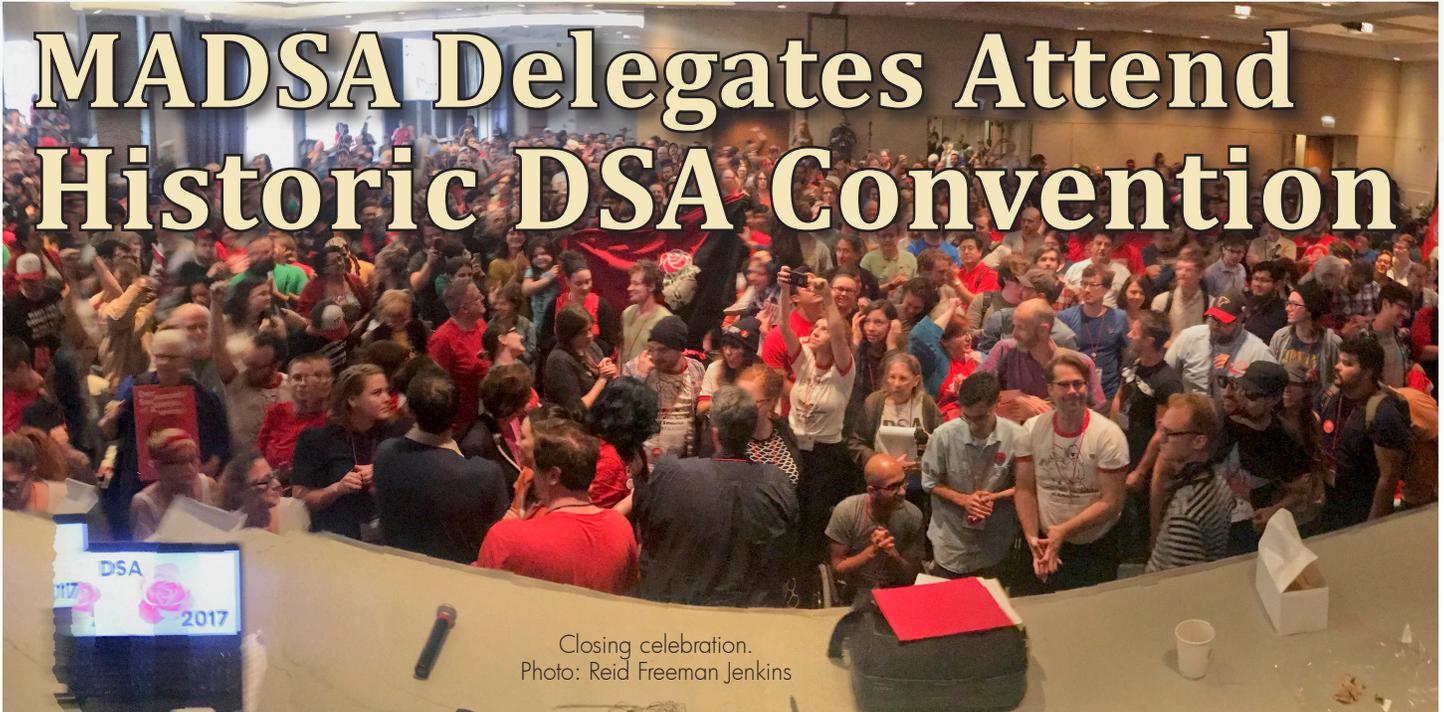


EQUALITY

MADSA Metro Atlanta Democratic Socialists of America



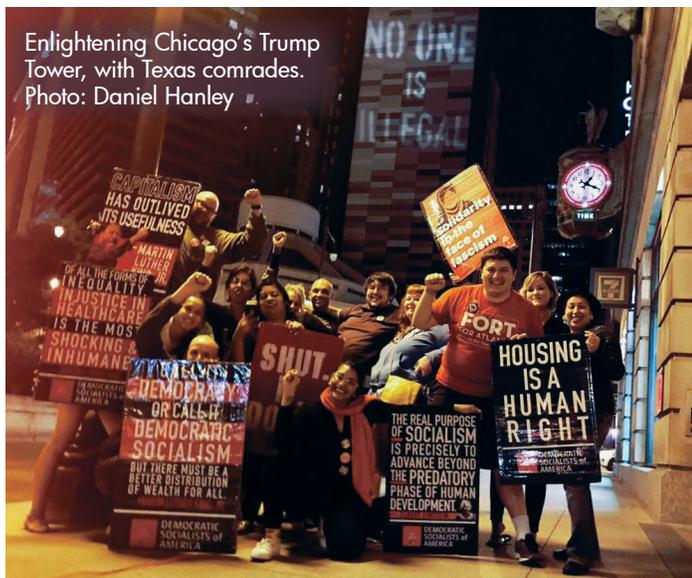
MADSA Delegates Attend Historic DSA Convention

At our membership meeting Aug. 12, MADSA's delegates to the national DSA conference (Chicago, Aug. 3-6) reported on this historic event, "with lots of important and hopeful info...especially how the national AND local org have grown in past year," said Lorraine Fontana.

The convention, which was attended by some 1,000 delegates, observers, staff and media, reflected DSA's growth;

previous conventions had drawn just 150-200. The national blog lists some of the extensive media coverage and reports from our members, including a moving report by MADSA's Jeb Boone (8/15 at dsausa.org, center column, click on title for past posts).

The convention passed a priorities resolution to guide DSA's staff in deploying national resources until the next convention is held in 2019. The priorities are: campaigning for Medicare for All (single payer health insurance); electing democratic socialists to office; and helping to build the labor movement. Chapters are urged to take action on the national priorities, but may pursue other issues as local conditions warrant. The Sept. 16 membership meeting will include an opportunity for all present to discuss the resolution (see "Coming Events, p. 7). ★



Enlightening Chicago's Trump Tower, with Texas comrades. Photo: Daniel Hanley



L to R: Adam Cardo, Anat Fintzi, Scott Douglas (standing), Barbara Joye, Jeb Boone, Brad Lathem, Daniel Hanley, Matt Wolfson. Photos: Reid Freeman Jenkins

2000 Plus Turn Out to Protest White Supremacy

By W.B. Reeves

Thousands turned out in downtown Atlanta Aug. 20 to oppose white supremacy and to honor the memory of Heather Heyer, the young woman murdered by a Nazi/white supremacist in Charlottesville, VA a week earlier. [See <http://www.dsasusa.org/charlottesville> for a statement by DSA's national leadership.]



park was the site of the 1996 Olympics bombing by right wing terrorist Eric Rudolph, which killed one and injured 111.

Former state legislator and mayoral candidate Vincent Fort called for a moment of silence to honor Heather Heyer before stirring the crowd with a call-and-response chant of "Fired up, ready to go!"



Left: Raymond Ursen at rally against white supremacy; above: Adam Cardo (third from right) marching Aug. 13. Photos: Steve Eberhardt

The crowd moved out down Marietta Street with chants of "The people, united, will never be defeated!", "Whose streets? Our streets!" and "Tell me what democracy looks like! This is what democracy looks like!" On the way it passed the sculpture of Henry Grady where white racist mobs had thrown the bodies of murdered black men at the foot of the statue during the 1906 race riot. They continued through the central business district, their voices echoing and re-echoing off the high rise buildings that surrounded them. Along the way they were applauded and cheered on by pedestrians. The march concluded at the M.L. King Jr. Center for Non-violent Social Change, where Dr. King and his wife Coretta Scott King rest side by side in a common crypt. Local news outlets gave the rally and march extensive coverage. ★

W.B. Reeves is a member of Metro Atlanta DSA.

This article originally appeared in Daily Kos.

Erin Parks spoke at a rally in Woodruff Park Aug. 19, and Stephen Friedrich and Scott Douglas made the front page of the Atlanta Constitution, in a photo of them honoring Heather Heyer. Other media coverage of MADSA participation in the weekend's protests included GSU Signal, AJC, Al Jazeera. - Editor

MADSA Hosts "Street Fight Live Radio"

By Barbara Joye

MADSA proudly presented the popular "anarcho-comedy" radio show Street Fight Live, currently on its Flat Earth Tour, at the Mammal Gallery Aug. 25. Hosts Brett and Brian traded stories about travelling in rural Georgia and the many shitty jobs they held as teenagers, joined by listeners with similar stories. About a dozen members of the youthful audience signed up to learn more about MADSA. Thanks to Brad Latham for arranging this well-attended and very enjoyable event. ★



L to R: Jeb Boone, Brad Latham, Christopher, Brian, Brett, Barbara Joye. Photo: Reid Freeman Jenkins

“Tear it Down”

Gainesville Demo, Decatur Petition vs. Confederate Monuments

Photos: Reid Freeman Jenkins

“Intense white supremacist beliefs and fragile white backlash were on display today in response to the protest to tear down a racist Confederate statue in Gainesville,” reported Daniel Hanley, who joined DSA members from Atlanta and Athens to support our Northeast Georgia branch, holding signs at the base of the monument.

Known as “Old Joe” by townspeople, the statue represents a Confederate soldier, even though it was actually modeled after the portrait of a soldier from the Spanish-American war. The crowd of 150-200 people included many who seemed to be curious onlookers and some who supported our demonstration. A dialogue took place without incident, until police marched in military-style and made a show of separating the two sides. We

walked past the police lines and made a brief statement before leaving.

“Erin Parks was extremely courageous and chill as she confronted dozens of [angry counter-protesters],” said Hanley. “Thanks to Brad Lathem from NEGADSA as well, for taking initiative on this. ‘Cops and the Klan, hand in hand,’ I remarked. One old white guy was eager to get my attention, to respond: ‘No, that’s not true! They pushed me first.’”

MADSA members have also been closely monitoring and supporting Hate Free Decatur’s campaign to challenge a memorial in the Decatur courthouse square that honors soldiers who died for the “Lost Cause.” At the recent DSA national convention, the Southern Caucus called for a regional “Tear ‘Em Down” campaign to challenge all such monuments. #hatefreedecatur ★



NE GA, Athens Members Branch Out, Take Action; GA Tech YDSA On the Way

Metro Atlanta DSA is delighted to welcome our new branch: Northeast Georgia DSA (NEGADSA), with special thanks to organizer Brad Lathem! NEGADSA has already taken two actions addressing local issues – first, by protesting the Campus Carry bill that went in to effect July 1, at the U. of North Georgia campus, along with Indivisible Lumpkin, Students for a Progressive Society @ UNG, and Young Democrats of Hall County. Their next move was to call for removing a monument to Confederate soldiers from the Gainesville town square (see above). For more info, see “Coming Events” (page 7) and contact NEGADSA at NortheastGADSA@gmail.com or on Twitter and Facebook: @NortheastGADSA .

And. . . In late August this FB message announced the start of a new chapter of DSA’s youth section, the Young Democratic Socialists of America:

“Interested in bringing the Political Revolution to Tech? We’ve just formed an Organizing Committee and are hoping to launch with a first meeting soon! Please sign up at <https://goo.gl/forms/QyWWKvPOWV1845Ev1> to stay in touch!” YDSA organizes “to fight for the immediate needs of workers



L to R: Brad Lathem, Michael Lavender, Kit Carson, Emma Lathem. Photo: Jeff Casper

and students while building capacity to fight for more radical and structural changes.” For more info: ydsusa.org ★

Other Summer Actions

Senator Isakson (R-GA) FINALLY held a town hall meeting to address his outraged constituents, on Mon. Aug. 14. However, he refused entry to many, despite ample space; he failed to answer many questions on matters of life and death; the event ended one hour early; and he ejected MADSA member Brad Lathem for being disruptive, including his calls for single-payer healthcare. So, immediately after the town hall, we decided to bring our demands directly to Johnny Isakson's office building.



Photo: Daniel Hanley

On Fri. July 28, several members including Jeb Boone, Dani Washburn, and Adam Cardo stood with community allies in front of the Israeli consulate in solidarity with Palestine and the Al Aqsa mosque.

Sat. July 29 was a time for defending the rights of trans people to serve in the military, and the human rights of LGBTQ people in general, against recent actions against those



Photo: Steve Eberhardt

communities by Trump and his administration. (L to R in photo below): Barbara Joye, Dani Washburn and Reid Jenkins, with (not shown) Travis Reid, Gifford Bery and Dave Hayward joined the spirited crowd that assembled in Midtown before marching to Tech Square for a second rally. ★



Photo: Steve Eberhardt

Help Houston DSA Support Harvey Relief

By Maria Svart, DSA National Director

Members of Houston DSA are working hard to provide financial assistance and direct aid to those impacted by Tropical Storm Harvey. And you can help! To donate: <https://www.youcaring.com/peopleimpactedbyhurricaneharvey-914409>

Houston DSA members are working with other organizations in their communities and with DSA chapters across the country. They will make sure that all donations go to those directly affected.

In addition to the outpouring of money going to the fundraiser, we have received a tremendous amount of people in DSA chapters around the country offering to come down to Texas to volunteer. In the weeks to come, many large, national charities will leave once the immediate danger has passed, but we will still be here. We want to harness that

volunteer support by organizing “muck and gut” teams to help clean-up efforts and potentially repair efforts (with guidance of contractors). We plan on purchasing a tool kit with equipment for each of these teams.

Tropical Storm Harvey is a natural disaster. But the human suffering involved isn't natural at all. Years of short-term profit-based development decisions have made Houston more flood-prone just as climate change makes incoming storms larger and more dangerous. The same capitalists who push this unsustainable development are the ones saying that climate change isn't real. But Houston DSA members — and DSA members from across Texas and even surrounding states— are showing that we can do better. We can come together as socialists, support each other, and build a better future. Y'allidarity forever! Sí, se puede! ★

Socialist Dialogue Explores an Age of Unrest, Past and Present

Our new format for the July Socialist Dialogue, “An Age of Unrest,” was a big hit. Participants said they enjoyed meeting in small groups where they took turns reading from short stories about world and U.S. events of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, then reflecting on what they heard in light of our current concerns.

The events highlighted ranged from movements in the U.S. for women’s suffrage, labor unions and racial justice to the global fight against colonialism and imperialism. We shared insights and additional information from our various perspectives, enriching everyone’s understanding. The handouts were provided by Dialogue coordinator and people’s historian Ian Fletcher.

After the discussion, Cecily McMillan encouraged everyone to go to a row of tables where they could connect with activists from a variety of local groups – such as the Housing Justice League, Women’s Action for New Directions, Our Revolution Georgia, Atlanta Jobs With Justice, A World Without Police, and our own education, electoral and social media working



Photo: Reid Freeman Jenkins.

groups. Finally, we were invited to gather over drinks and food at the Euclid Avenue Yacht Club a few blocks away, “putting the social in socialist.” Many thanks to Ian, Cecily, Education Working Group Chair Ray Miklethun and the other working group members for organizing this inspiring event. ★

We Help Celebrate the Opening of Sen. Fort’s Campaign HQ

MADSA members helped celebrate the launching of State Sen. Vincent Fort’s mayoral campaign headquarters on Sat. July 22, at 2797 Campbellton Road. MADSA officer Eric Robertson of Teamster Local 728 was one of the speakers from the labor movement and other sectors who expressed their support. Twenty-four local unions have endorsed Fort, as has MADSA. After the speeches, some of us helped canvass homes in the neighborhood. The following week, a DSA member came all the way from Chattanooga to join us. Y’allidarity forever! Volunteer canvassers deploy every Saturday from the headquarters, while others phone bank there or from home.



Eric Robertson. Photo: Reid Freeman Jenkins

“If we want to elect the People’s Mayor, then the people need to organize our communities to overcome the influence of money in politics,” says Daniel Hanley. “That means it falls on us to vote with our feet, early and often, well in advance of the election, in order to secure Fort’s lead among the other frontrunners.” All DSA members and friends are encouraged to get involved: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=fort%20for%20mayor> The national blog lists some of the extensive media coverage and reports from our members, including a moving report by MADSA’s Jeb Boone (8/15 at dsausa.org, center column, click on title for past posts). ★

Remembering Leah Terry

by Adam Cardo

Leah Christine Terry, born on March, 7, 1993 in San Jose, California. sadly passed on May 29 in Atlanta, Georgia. A passionate socialist activist, Leah’s dedication to social justice was borne out of her own struggle with disability and her family’s struggle against corporate America.



Leah Terry and Adam Cardo

Leah was born with Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, a condition characterized by obsessive thoughts, habits or rituals. Leah’s father, Alton Terry, a poultry farmer, sued Tyson Farms for canceling his contract after he helped to organize his fellow farmers. Her experiences with both of these struggles propelled Leah on a path of organizing, with a focus on the intersection between capitalism and ableism. While attending Sewanee: The University of the South, she was an active member of Sewanee Young Democratic Socialists. During this time, she also served on the 2014-2015 YDS Coordinating Committee. After leaving Sewanee, she moved to Atlanta, where she was involved with MADSA.

She will be missed greatly, and her generous and caring

MADSA Now Tweets En Español
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Peachtree-Pine Homeless Shelter Closes After 20 Years and Much Struggle

By Barbara Joye

The Task Force for the Homeless's shelter at Peachtree and Pine that has offered temporary housing, advocacy and many creative programs to Atlanta's homeless since 1997 will soon close. Some 200 remaining residents are being prepared for relocation. The final public event at the shelter, on Aug.



18, was a well-attended art exhibit showcasing paintings by residents and portraits of residents by volunteers.

I agree with Lorraine Fontana's comment on Facebook: "So sad for all who have supported the Task Force's legal action over the years, but especially for the men (and some women) served by Peachtree-Pine who will likely wander the streets, get arrested and jailed, or be made to exit Atlanta and try to find another option to get off the streets in harsh weather, etc. The City has mostly been for putting money into developing the Beltline (with its fancy and upscale related developments and displacement of nearby older neighborhood residents because real estate prices are going up), new stadiums and housing for the well-to-do, rather than services for the homeless, disabled, mentally ill and poor folks needing training and wellness services. Such is the state of our union....but we can't give up the fight."

Former shelter director Anita Beaty was honored at MADSA's 2010 Douglass-Debs awards dinner and has been a MADSA member.

The shelter's closing follows the loss earlier this year of our beloved Open Door Community (ODC), a residential service center for Atlanta's street people, modeled on the Catholic Workers' houses, with an additional mission of ministry to people on death row and fighting to end the death penalty. ODC's founder was also a MADSA member who hosted our meetings for several years in their building on Ponce DeLeon Ave. ★

GSU Police Trash Tent City

By Reagan Cooper

Minutes after daybreak on Friday, June 2, the Tent City ATL camp at Turner Field, [resisting the planned destruction of surrounding neighborhoods by developers and Georgia State University], was raided and destroyed by a task force led by GSU police. Camp protesters awoke to officers wearing rubber gloves and wielding knives as they began to slash tents from their pallets. Five protesters, including both GSU students and community allies who had camped overnight, were present as the raid began.

During the raid, one officer was overheard saying: "They should have been warned last night." Turner Field Coalition leadership affirmed that the raid and destruction of the camp came without warning, despite GSU Police Chief Joseph Spillane reportedly having contact information for the resident leadership. This wasn't the first encounter with GSU police during the 63-day occupation. During the raid, campus police also tried to intimidate camp members by threatening them with charges of criminal trespass; however, no arrests were made.



Residents, along with students and allies, had been holding space in front of Turner Field since April 1 in an effort to raise awareness about the lack of community involvement with the planning of upcoming developments around the Turner Field neighborhoods, including Summerhill and Peoplestown. For over three years, the Turner Field Benefits Coalition has been meeting and studying successful models for a legally binding community benefits agreement and created a draft proposal. In fact, over the last few weeks before the raid, Georgia State University and Carter Developments had been in ongoing negotiations with the Coalition.

This raid and destruction of the camp clearly indicates a lack of good faith on the part of the university and illustrates their continued disrespect for the very communities of which they want to be a part. GSU student activists and allies are now calling for the removal of GSU President Mark Becker. While next steps for the Coalition are still being determined, the fight against gentrification and displacement of these neighborhoods is far from over. For more information on how to get involved, follow the Housing Justice League on Facebook. ★

COMING EVENTS

Noon-4 pm, Sept. 4 – AFL-CIO Labor Day Cookout; MADSA will be tabling, at UAW Local 882 Recreation Center, 3915 Gilbert Rd., Hapeville GA 30354.

7 pm, Sept. 8 – Meet MADSA officers and candidates for office, 334 Brooks Ave., Atlanta, 30307

11 am, Sept. 9 –Northeast GA DSA, first general meeting, at Bombs Away Anarchist Collective, Athens GA (contact NortheastGADSA@gmail.com)

7 pm, Sept. 15 – Eat, Drink and Be Marxist, our very popular social event every 3rd Friday (Marxism not required), at member-owned Georgia Beer Garden, 420 Edgewood Ave.

11 am, Sept. 16 – MADSA membership meeting: Elect officers and discuss new national priority resolution (see dsausa.org), at Toco Hills Avis G. Williams Library, 1282 McConnell Dr., Decatur

Noon, Oct. 14 – LGBTQ Pride march: Join MADSA as we march behind our banner with the Vincent Fort for Mayor contingent and float. Assembly site TBA.

7 pm, Nov. 18 – Douglass-Debs Awards Dinner: Keynote speaker Sarah Jaffe, author of *Necessary Trouble*. Funds from this very popular networking

event support our activities and community partners year-round. \$50 includes food, entertainment, fellowship. For tickets: travis.reid@yahoo.com. At Lofts at Castleberry Hill, 170 Northside Dr.



Metro Atlanta DSA encourages our members to contribute to this newsletter. Let us know what's going on in your community—your struggles, inspirations, successes. Appeal for support, share pictures, ask questions, or editorialize.

Send submissions to:

Barbara Joye

barbara@freejoye.com

For information about **Metro Atlanta DSA:**

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770-313-4628.

For information about the

Democratic Socialists of America: dsausa.org

Equality is edited by Barbara Joye. Production Barbara Segal.

Labor donated

11th annual Frederick Douglass–Eugene V. Debs Dinner Saturday, November 18, 2017

The Lofts on Castleberry Hill, 170 Northside Drive, Atlanta, GA , 30313
(one block from Paschal's restaurant on Nelson Street)

Reception at 6:00 p.m. • Buffet dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Please RSVP by October 31, 2017 • 770-313-4628 • travis.reid@yahoo.com

\$50.00 per person

