

EQUALITY

MADSA Metro Atlanta Democratic Socialists of America

Learning, Planning, and Acting

During the past few months, MADSA members and friends came together to exchange a wide range of information about current issues and activism, and fire up several working groups.

New, old and soon-to-be MADSA members met at the Communication Workers of America Local 3204 hall on Jan. 28 to launch our year of activism. Following a new, faster-moving format, in the first hour we were updated on several campaigns we support, including Hate Free Decatur (see p. 5) and End the New Jim Crow's campaign to end cash bail (thanks to Bert Skellie). MADSA member Marshall Rancifer of the Justice for All Coalition described his efforts to help homeless people survive the winter despite the cruel negligence of the City of Atlanta and Central Atlanta Progress. For more info or to help Marshall, go to <https://www.facebook.com/mranciferor> or 678-396-5768. Nate Knauf reported on Ga. Tech's thriving new Young Democratic Socialists of America, and MADSA officer Erin Parks announced the plans for our new Brake Light Clinic community service/solidarity project and the new Afro-Socialist group (see pages 2, 3, and 4).

On Feb. 18 the latest in our series of Democratic Socialist Dialogues featured (center in photo below) MADSA officer Eric Robertson, former political director of Teamster Local 728 and (left) Cullen "Georgia Slim" Brown of the Industrial Workers of the World, who filled us in on



Reid Freeman Jenkins

Reid Freeman Jenkins



khalid kamau and Erin Parks

labor, followed by dialogue among the panelists and attendees. (At their right: moderator Speck.)

At our most recent general membership meeting, Feb. 24, we enjoyed a high-energy two hours that included small groups meeting to plan future actions.

Nate Knauf reported on the Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDSA) conference (see story, p. 4) and his Ga. Tech YDSA chapter's activities (see Coming Events, p. 7). Good news: Cat, arrested during a protest against the

Tech police who murdered her fellow campus activist Scout Shultz in September, is back on campus, with some charges dropped but still up for "disturbing the peace."

Officer Erin Parks reported on the two events that launched MADSA's new Afro-Socialist group, the Black Power Bowl (see p. 3) and a happy hour at a POC/LGBTQ-owned restaurant on Auburn Ave. Expect more news from this group! She also announced that our first Brake Light Clinic community service project was a big success (see p. 2).

Milt Tambor introduced Tamara Johnson-Shealey, candidate for State Senate in District 40, who spoke to us about her hope to represent people in the southern parts of the district who have been ignored, as well as the northern section. She has addressed us before—as have other candidates for state and local office.

After the presentations, some break-out groups followed up on proposals for improving our chapter's functioning: upgrading our internal electronic communications; updating our bylaws; and a national "Mobilizer" model to help us better connect with our new members. Other groups worked on plans for future activism, including our potential for involvement in local electoral activity this year; MADSA's participation in DSA's national Medicare for All campaign; future political education events; and



Above, L-R, Tamara Johnson-Shealey and Nate Krauf

relaunching our LBGTQI working group, which in previous years has led our participation in Atlanta's Pride festival.

To connect with the leaders of any of these groups: info@dsatl.org or contact any of our officers. Or, attend the next general membership meeting—even if you're not a member. See "Coming Events" p. 7, and check our FB page and website calendar for updates.



Barbara Joye (R) welcomes a new member.

Brake Light Clinic Big Hit with Community and Volunteers

Despite showers, on Saturday, Feb. 17 this crew of dedicated MADSA volunteers offered to replace burned-out brake lights for free so community members could avoid police stops, tickets and court appearances. By the end of the day we had replaced 41 lights!



The organizers followed a model pioneered by New Orleans DSA and taken up by chapters around the country to show solidarity with people for whom a police stop could be expensive and even dangerous and demonstrate the power of people helping each other. Thanks to the many members and supporters who contributed all the labor, supplies and expenses. Thanks also to the Stone Mountain Ingles Market manager Mr. Watson, who welcomed us warmly to the store's parking lot and even offered us water. We are planning more clinics at other locations.



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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:
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 barbara@freejoye.com

For information about **Metro Atlanta DSA:**
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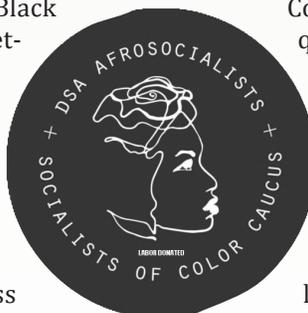
For information about the **Democratic Socialists of America:** dsausa.org

Equality is edited by Barbara Joye ♦ Production Barbara Segal
Labor donated

MADSA Afro-Socialists: Powerful Start



The MADSA Afro-Socialists' first event, the Black Power Bowl, drew this great crowd to a get-together at the Phillip Rush Center, Feb. 4. Attendees included South Fulton Councilman khalid kamau; MADSA officer Erin Parks; BLM and Rise Up activist Dawn O'Neal; attorney and Atlanta NAACP Vice-President Gerald Griggs; attorney and political commentator Anoa Changa; and representatives of several other organizations; educators; and small business owners. The group came together for a moment of fellowship and trivia fun.



Councilman khalid explained on FB: “#SuperBowl quarterback with a multimillion-dollar #NFL contract, took a knee—not just for a game, but an entire season—and brought a national conversation about police brutality and the #BlackLivesMatter movement into the homes of Americans desperate to avoid it. And when the NFL, in retaliation, stripped him of his career, it sparked an #NFLBoycott that cost the league 2 MILLION viewers. Around the country, #NFLBlackOut parties & protests are creating networks of new activists.” *–With help from Anoa Changa*

A Lot Happening in Northeast Georgia

MADSA's Northeast Georgia branch—drawing members from Gainesville to Athens—continues to grow. Last year members demonstrated against Georgia's Campus Carry law and for removing a Confederate monument from the Gainesville town square. This year, national spokesperson for Medicare for All Tim Faust spoke (Jan. 19); bylaws were written and passed; and two social events took place, including a sport shooting session. DSA members in the area can join a chatroom on Discord. Email NortheastGADSA@gmail.com for an invite.



Emma Lathem

Anyone wanting to participate in any of NEGADSA's events (see p. 6) can email NortheastGADSA@gmail.com
–Brad Lathem and Barbara Joye

Power to the Polls



Naife Knouf

Our table was mobbed at the Georgia Alliance for Social Justice's event Power to the Polls.

Georgia Young Democratic Socialists Connect With Comrades From Across U.S.

Mathew Wolfsen joined other Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDSA) members from Georgia at the YDSA winter conference, held Feb. 16-18 in Washington D.C. Some 350 members from more than 80 schools attended. Matthew and six others came from Ga Tech, with two recent Tech graduates, a recent Emory U. graduate and one student each from U. Ga. and U. of West Ga. During the long ride home, he sent this report. –Editor

The conference was what student activists needed. There was very clearly a stronger focus on praxis over theory: How to organize. How to branch. How to cultivate leaders. It didn't shove theory forward. It enabled students to carry out their own politics. I loved that. It brought real and controversial issues forward in a space that was safe for

to be more effective with their actions. In a panel about students unionizing against the administration and student government, the panelists asked two of the Ga Tech students about the backlash they faced in organizing for a cause, and were completely shocked when they heard what they had to deal with. Other students from Pittsburgh, Savannah, Chattanooga, and San Antonio pledged their support and some even promised to travel to Atlanta to help if needed.

Overall, the conference struck a nice balance in programming with a clearly organized goal of empowering students. I enjoyed my time in DC, and I won't forget it anytime soon. –Matthew Wolfsen



Young Democratic Socialists of America delegates at their winter conference

critical but fruitful and friendly discussion. With the exception of one situation that was almost entirely laughed off, no one was overtly confrontational, but rather collaborative. And, it allowed time for networking. For example, I met individuals from Colorado, West Virginia, and Indiana who I plan to keep up with.

Several Ga Tech students who were involved with the activism related to Scout Schultz's death [at the hands of campus police] came to the conference to learn how

According to the Washington Post, after NRA CEO Wayne LePierre warned attendees at the Conservative PAC's conference about YDSA's 100 campus chapters, our national YDSA co-chair Michelle Fisher responded: "The real red scare is the tide of blood the NRA and their lap dogs in Congress have brought to our schools. [We're] growing because people across the country have had enough of corrupt politicians sacrificing the lives of children for the NRA's freedom to profit. They buy their power, we build ours." –Editor

We Welcome 45

[On the evening of 1/8], activists with the Metro Atlanta Chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America sent a message directly to Donald Trump and his proto-fascist administration—they are not welcome in the City of Atlanta.

"Fuck Trump", "Dismantle White Supremacy", "No One is Illegal" and "Medicare for All" were projected onto the side of Mercedes-Benz Stadium just moments before Trump took the field at the NCAA National Championship game.

The projections are a statement of our anger and disgust with the racist Trump administration, but they are also a vision of a more prosperous future for our community—a future where our bodies aren't used for profit in an unjust healthcare system and a future where no one has to live in fear of deportation or racist violence.

We believe that future is attainable through mass working class mobilization against the evils of capitalism, white supremacy, patriarchy and imperialism.

–Officers, Metro Atlanta Democratic Socialists of America



Hate Free Decatur: Close to Victory VS. Symbol of White Supremacy

Decatur, GA: On Tuesday, January 23, the DeKalb County Commission voted 6 to 1 in favor of relocating the Confederate monument from Decatur Square. The sole dissenting vote was Commissioner Nancy Jester. This is a historic moment in Georgia history, as the commissioners affirm their commitment to stand to represent all people in DeKalb County regardless of race. The commissioners showed that they understand the monument was erected in 1908 to celebrate the continued subjugation of black residents in DeKalb County, and that they reject the continued celebration of the men who took up arms against the United States to defend slavery and the Confederacy.

With this resolution, the county will solicit proposals for relocation of the monument to another publicly accessible space to stay within the confines of current state law OCGA 50-3-1(b), which protects Confederate symbols and monuments. This law was put into place in 2001 as a compromise measure to remove the Confederate battle flag from the state flag of Georgia but has yet to be challenged in court. This law contains specific provisions allowing for the relocation of such monuments for the purposes of preservation, protection, and interpretation. The resolution also includes plans to lobby for the repeal of the law as part of the DeKalb legislative agenda for 2018.

We commend the commissioners who voted in favor of relocating this historic symbol of white supremacy on taking a courageous stance against the continued hatred and bigotry that this monument represents.



Eric Voss

People's Attorney Mawuli Davis addresses the DeKalb County Commission meeting while supporters stand in solidarity.

Hate Free Decatur and our supporting organizations including Beacon Hill, Atlanta, and DeKalb County chapters of the NAACP, along with our numerous community partners, look forward to continuing the work to address the remaining systems of racial injustice within DeKalb County. We will update you as the process for relocation progresses.

With love and solidarity, Hate Free Decatur.

(MADSA is a partner of Hate Free Decatur. DSA's Southern Caucus endorsed a "Tear Them Down!" campaign for removal of Confederate monuments, at DSA's 2017 national convention, while recognizing that this is just one aspect of the larger fight against white supremacy. -Editor)

Putting the "Social" in Socialism

MADSA members and friends had a great time at our "holiday" celebration Jan. 12 (rescheduled due to a December snowstorm). We socialized and enjoyed songs by Veronika Jackson, Frank Hamilton and Payton Scott. It was a collective effort, with many members contributing refreshments, a slide show of our activities, and setup/cleanup labor. Chair Adam Cardo introduced speakers Bob Caine, who enlightened us about the venue's roots in an African American community that had built the First Existentialist Congregation building but had been expelled from the area in the 1950's, and our beloved founder Milt Tambor, who announced the start of a project to archive historic MADSA documents at Emory U. (contact him at mltambor@yahoo.com).

Our popular "Eat, Drink and Be Marxist" informal gatherings every third Friday evening at the member-owned Georgia Beer Garden (420 Edgewood Ave. SE, Atlanta) continue to draw a congenial crowd, including many new friends—Marxist and not-enjoying local beer and good food. On Jan. 23, Noni's, another friendly restaurant on the trendy Edgewood Ave. strip, hosted our watch party for Bernie Sanders' town hall on Medicare for All.



Some of the partygoers: (L to R) Marshall Rancier, Shelly Berlin, Milt Tambor, Daniel Hanley, Anat Fintzi. (Photographer unknown.)

Marching on MLK Day

Veteran members welcomed many who had joined DSA during the past year and were participating for the first time, including several members of the new Young Democratic Socialists of America group from Ga. Tech.

Our sister coalition, Atlanta Jobs with Justice, belted out spirited chants and songs by our side, while the Teamsters and several other unions led the way. Josh Tuccio waved the DSA flag.

Reid Freeman Jenkins



Reid Freeman Jenkins



Steve Eberhardt



Coming Events

March 16, Apr. 6, and Apr. 20, 5 p.m. GA TECH YDSA: DISCUSSION GROUP

Skiles 246 at Tech. We'll be discussing articles, films, and current events.

March 16, 7 p.m. EAT, DRINK AND BE MARXIST

Georgia Beer Garden, 420 Edgewood Ave. SE, Atlanta 30312. Enjoy comradeship and a brew with MADSA members and friends in the garden of this friendly member-owned bar featuring lots of local beers; good food too. (Marxism not required.)

March 23, 5 p.m. FREEDOM FRIDAYS, AFROSOCIALIST HAPPY HOUR

Soulbar at Pals Lounge, 254 Auburn Ave. NE, Atlanta 30303. This month we are celebrating MADSA officer and AfroSocialist organizer Erin Parks' 42nd birthday!

March 30. NEGADSA MEET-N-GREET

Buford Highway, Atlanta; exact location and time TBA. Social event co-sponsored by the Party for Socialism and Liberation.

March 31, 3 p.m. SPECIAL STRATEGY DISCUSSION (MEMBERS ONLY)

Phillip Rush Center, 1530 DeKalb Ave. NE, Atlanta, 30307. Special strategy discussion, based on priorities submitted by members. Also, discussion of updated MADSA bylaws.

April 3, NEGADSA: PROTEST V. TURNING POINT DIRECTOR

Brooks Hall, U. GA. Protest a speech by Charlie Kirk, executive director of the right-wing group Turning Point USA. We will have signs and start demonstrating prior to his 6:30 speech.

April 15, 3-6 p.m., RAINBOW ROSE (Queer Socialists)

My Sister's Room, 66 12th St NE, Atlanta 30309. Come join us in this queer-centered space where we can get to know each other and plot the demise of capitalist oppression.

April 21, 10:30-12:30 a.m., FISTFUL OF LAUGHS

Relapse Theater, 380 14th St., Atlanta 30318, a comedy fundraiser for MADSA's Brake Light Clinics and other community actions.



We welcome our new MADSA treasurer: Speck Kevin Pratt.



MADSA