

# EQUALITY

MADSA Metro Atlanta Democratic Socialists of America

Summer, 2018

## Confronting Nazis in Newnan

As our member Eric Robertson said, “Big ups to the people of Newnan, Coweta County and allies from metro Atlanta for standing together against hate and fascism. . . Encouraged by the energy and unity of locals who mobilized.”

An estimated 25 – 35 members of the National Socialist Movement and the white supremacist group League of the South demonstrated in Newnan, GA on Saturday, April 21, partly in commemoration of Hitler’s birthday the previous day. Hundreds of people from across the region assembled to protest, including many Newnan residents, surrounded by hundreds of police who herded them through checkpoints and confiscated a long list of banned items – among which firearms were conspicuously absent, in compliance with Georgia law.

According to Gloria Tatum of Atlanta Progressive News, “ten counter-demonstrators were arrested on various charges: three on misdemeanor charges of wearing masks, one charge of pedestrian on highway, three charges of misdemeanor disorderly conduct, one misdemeanor obstruction of officers, and two charges for felony obstruction of officers.” Two additional people were reportedly held for several hours, then released with no charges against them.

MADSA activist Daniel Hanley was arrested after being targeted for using a bullhorn. He was dragged from the sidewalk, thrown down onto the street – which was blocked from traffic – and charged with obstructing traffic, then released the following day. Hanley grew up near Newnan and his parents lived in Newnan for years.



Police arresting Hector (L) and Daniel (R).  
Photo: Atlanta Journal-Constitution.



Some of the anti-Nazi protesters.

A Latino veteran, Hector, received some of the harshest treatment and faces the most serious charge. After he expressed concern about how the police were brutalizing his friend Hanley, he turned away, but a policeman then punched him. Police roughed him up some more and charged him with felony obstruction. His lawyers have advised him to withhold his statement for the present.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported that NO Nazis were arrested. Matthew Wolfsen tweeted during the action: “The police have decided to watch the counter protesters. None of the cops are watching the Nazis. . . .” And later: “I must say: the entire time I was there, I was more afraid of the police than the Nazis.” Police pointed assault-type weapons at the crowd, as numerous photos and videos on Facebook and elsewhere show.

Documents released in response to a Freedom of Information request have shown that the Newnan police apparently accepted as credible an online scare story about planned Antifa rampages by an author associated with the “3%” rightwing militia movement and another story that is clearly a satire, to justify its highly militarized response to the protest.

After the rally, the Nazis held a “lighting” in West Georgia, featuring flaming swastikas (see photo, page 2).

Continued on page 2



Anyone with video footage or photos of the arrests is urged to contact Daniel Hanley, as a legal team is collecting evidence to force Coweta County to drop the charges against protesters, hold the police accountable, and ensure Newnan is not a place where Nazis or militarized police can inflict terror on the community.

To help pay the protesters' bond and other legal expenses, donate here: <https://actionnetwork.org/fundraising/support-anti-nazi-protesters-in-newnan-ga>. Thanks to all who have contributed.



This signal (and others) mysteriously appeared Friday night. Photo: Daniel Hanley

## Black Lives vs. White Supremacy: Taking a Stand

### New Coalition Marches at the Dogwood Festival

Photo: Steve Eberhardt

Multiple DSA members joined the Alliance for Black Lives on Saturday, April 14, as this newly-formed coalition marched through Midtown and through the Piedmont Park Dogwood Festival. An opening rally at Midtown MARTA station referenced the ongoing campaigns for Anthony Hill, a young black veteran murdered by police in 2015 and other targets of racist violence, as well as economic inequality, demands for fair housing in Atlanta, and the connections between capitalism and racist police brutality. The organizers proposed a diversity

of tactics including nonviolent disruption and voting out incumbents.

A large and unexpected contingent in the march consisted of young student activists from the March For Our Lives. At the grassroots level, student organizers, equipped with an impressive anti-oppression analysis, have worked to connect their campaign against gun violence with the ongoing campaign against gun violence committed by racist police, a shift in direction much more threatening to the ruling class and institutionalized white supremacy. With the students' help, a relatively small group of only 50-75 activists shut down multiple lanes of 10th Street for roughly an hour without any real threat from cops or motorists. The march eventually entered the Dogwood Festival at Piedmont and briefly crashed a concert.



photo © 2016 Steve Eberhardt

The marchers saw fists raised and applause from drivers and festival attendees, even those who were inconvenienced, but of course they also saw some expressions of contempt and rage from affluent white Atlantans unwilling to spare a moment of their leisure time to respect the struggle for black liberation. An onstage band gave an awkward, bewildered response, offering small talk about the weather in response to the calls for justice. Instead, maybe they should have offered their platform to Black Lives Matter organizers Dawn O'Neal and Dre Normando Love?

- Daniel Hanley

# Still Fighting to Remove Decatur's Confederate Memorial

MADSA joined others in yet another rally against the infamous "Lost Cause" monument in Decatur Square, on May 5. Member Daniel Hanley (below) described the scene: "Liberation Lawyer Mawuli Davis, Beacon Hill Branch – NAACP, and Hate Free Decatur give ample credit to the young people and students leading the movement against symbols of white supremacy as well as institutional racism. Meanwhile, neo-confederate slavery enthusiasts heckled the youth calling for justice."



Photo: Steve Eberhardt

A press release from Hate Free Decatur explained that "the DeKalb County Commission, which owns the monument, voted to remove this symbol of white supremacy on January 23 but has not yet identified a new location for the monument. According to Mawuli Davis, president of the Beacon Hill NAACP Organizing Committee, "The refusal of other locations to take on this monument shows how successful educational outreach has been in spreading the true story of this white supremacist monument."

A state law enacted as a compromise when the confederate battle flag was removed from Georgia's flag forbids the destruction of Confederate memorials but allows for their removal. The Commission, which has passed a resolution calling for the monument's removal, is considering a proposal to move the monument to another part of the square, which would solve nothing.

Hate Free Decatur's campaign against the monument began last August after the murder of Heather Heyer by white supremacists protesting the removal of a confederate monument in Charlottesville, VA. MADSA is a partner of Hate Free Decatur. At DSA's 2017 national convention, the Southern Caucus endorsed a "Tear Them Down!" campaign for removal of Confederate monuments, while recognizing that this is just one aspect of the larger fight against white supremacy.

# Supporting Students Walking Out, Marching For Our Lives

Several MADSA members turned out on a chilly morning March 14 to support the Grady H.S. students who walked out as part of the nation-wide protest demanding effective gun control legislation in the wake of the Parkland, FL massacre. It seemed that the whole school, including teachers and the principal, participated in the demonstration, which they held in the Grady sports stadium. After a moment of silence, a few students gave brief, eloquent speeches and then the whole group marched around the track a few times before returning to classes, well beyond the announced 17 minutes. Barbara Joye, Reid Jenkins, Evan Seed, Lisa Ashway, Lorraine Fontana, Cecelia Cantrell and Ann Mauney were there from MADSA; Cecelia, Lorraine, Ann and Barbara are also members of Atlanta Grandmothers for Peace, which had brought many of the supporters.



Marching For Our Lives (l to r): Barbara Landay, Ray Ursen, Barbara Segal, Barbara Joye. Photo: Reid Freeman Jenkins

A group of students told one of us as we left that they were refusing to return to class, protesting the takeover of their event by the liberal Grady administration (which had persuaded most of the students not to go off-campus) and saying the purpose of the walkout was to disrupt and that's what they wanted to do! Does anyone know what happened after that?

Ten days later, MADSA members joined some 30-40,000 highly motivated students, parents, teachers and other supporters on the Atlanta March for Our Lives. We gave out all our buttons, flew the red DSA flag (thanks Josh) and proudly walked behind our banner while Daniel, on his bullhorn, led chants of "NRA and arms dealers, y'all make money off of massacres! Y'all ignore the students' voice, so we're taking to the streets to bring the noise - bring the noise, we have no choice!" as well as "Black lives matter" and "NRA, go away! Disarm the KKK! Take the cops' guns away! No more racist USA!". The students, including leaders from Chamblee H.S., Paideia and other Georgia schools as well as visitors from Marjorie Douglas Parkland, were eloquent and inspiring, as was Rep. John Lewis.

– Barbara Joye,

# Building Our Organization and Acting for Economic Justice

Our recent membership meetings have focused on ways more members can participate in planning and actions through the working groups; updating our bylaws; and improving our internal culture so all members can feel comfortable and valued.

The March meeting kicked off a very positive discussion of the best strategies for MADSA. Led by officers Eric Robertson, Anat Fintzi and Adam Cardo, with help from scribe Scott Douglas, we divided into small groups for a lively and very productive SWOT exercise: brainstorming about our organization's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. This led to a set of initial priorities, including improving internal communications, better ways to welcome and engage new members, and developing distinctive MADSA campaigns around local issues such as housing and public transit. Several members also volunteered to start new working groups.

In April, we heard from Shannan Reaze, director of Atlanta Jobs with Justice (MADSA is a member of that coalition). Reaze distributed AJWJ's annual Justice Catalogue for the May



Scott Douglas during the strategy exercise at our March meeting. Photo: Reid Freeman Jenkins

22 primary election and announced several upcoming events, including the DeKalb Bus Drivers' Campaign and the BCTGM bakery union's efforts to save Atlanta's Nilla Wafer factory from closure.

We proposed amendments to our bylaws, for debate and voting at the May 26 meeting, which were posted on our website. We also discussed a new reading group run by the Atlanta Institute for Social Research; reports from the recent anti-fascist action at Newnan, GA (see story on p. 1); and the establishment of our chapter's document archive at Emory University, before breaking up into working groups.

At the May meeting we discussed the bylaws changes in detail and voted to pass them 36 to 1, but as we did not have

a quorum the remaining votes needed for this important decision will be solicited online. We also voted unanimously to approve a new Code of Conduct (see [madsa.ga/code-of-conduct](https://madsa.ga/code-of-conduct)), after a number of amendments to both of these documents are welcome and can be submitted to the officers at [info@madsa.ga](mailto:info@madsa.ga); by joining the Bylaws channel on Slack; or by email or other message to any one of the officers, for discussion and voting at a future meeting. In addition, a statement by the officers making recommendations to combat toxicity on the Slack internal chat was read (see <https://madsa.ga/evs1>) and will be voted on at the next meeting. Finally, a committee of three grievance officers was nominated (for one-year terms): Jeff Corkill, Laura Hernandez, and Alexander Hernandez. They will be voted on at the next meeting.



MADSA Chair Adam Cardo joined Atlanta Jobs with Justice's May Day effort to highlight workers's economic issues during early voting for the Georgia primaries.

– Barbara Joye and Scott Douglas

## Marching in Decatur for Black Lives

The Alliance for Black Lives and the Georgia Alliance for Social Justice joined forces on April 21 to organize a Black Lives Matter rally and march in Decatur, dedicated to Anthony Hill. . . The day before, we found out the start of the trial of Hill's killer [former police officer Robert Olsen] had been postponed to Monday, May 21.

The rally was always intended to remember many more black lives that have been lost at the hands of racist, fearful

and trigger-happy police – both in Georgia and nationwide. The group gathered in downtown Decatur across from Dekalb County's governmental offices, held a rally there, marched around downtown Decatur and ended at the Dekalb County Courthouse for another rally.

– Lorraine Fontana.

MADSA members (l to r) Lisa Ashway, Evan Seeds, and Erin Parks joined the action on April 21. Photo: Daniel Hanley



# Atlanta Hosts National DSA Leadership

In April we were honored to host a quarterly meeting of DSA's National Political Committee (NPC), the folks we elected last August to guide the organization's work between conventions, plus our awesome National Director Maria Svart. This gave MADSA a chance to get to know them better and show off our chapter, which was praised highly by our guests.

We provided solidarity housing and transportation (coordinated by Jeb Boone); held a very enjoyable meet-and-greet at the Georgia Beer Garden, thanks again to owners member Johnny Martinez and Brandon Ley; and joined our guests for dinner at Noni's restaurant (meals organized by Jeff Ratto). Jeb live-streamed and Scott Douglas, Speck Pratt, Jeff Ratto, and Matthew Wolfsen provided closed captioning, so that



Rear l to r, standing: Atlanta JwJ Director Shannan Reaze; Jeb Boone; seated: Scott Douglas. Top center: Maria Svart. Clockwise from Maria: Catherine Hoffman (Detroit), Theresa Alt (Ithaca NY), Chris Maisano (NYC), Ajmal Alami (YDSA co-chair), Christian Bowe (Central NJ), Zac Echola (Red River Valley, ND), Michelle Fisher (YDSA co-chair), R.L. Stephens (Houston), Delé Balogun (Chicago), Ravi Ahmad (NYC), Allie Cohen (Knoxville), Ella Mahoney (NYC), Frances Rozi (parliamentarian). Not shown: Christine Riddiough (DC) Photo: Reid Freeman Jenkins

DSA members everywhere with an appetite for long meetings could observe the proceedings. Michael Lavender, Adam Cardo, Reid Jenkins and others helped with rides. It was all made possible by the hospitality of our coalition partner Atlanta Jobs With Justice, who offered us their meeting room at short notice.

The meeting covered lots of business items such as finances, but included discussions of gun control, labor and electoral issues from a wide range of viewpoints. Minutes will be posted on the new national DSA announcement page at dsausa.org.

Member Matthew Wolfsen commented: "I had the opportunity to grab dinner with the visiting DSA's NPC who oversee the entire organization's direction. My thoughts were pretty simple. They are just good-hearted people. And that's so refreshing and rare to see in a politically and nationally recognized organization."

## EQUALITY

MADSA Metro Atlanta Democratic Socialists of America

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@freejoe.com](mailto:barbara@freejoe.com)

For information about Metro Atlanta DSA:

[madsa.ga](http://madsa.ga) • [info@madsa.ga](mailto:info@madsa.ga)

For information about the **Democratic Socialists of America**: [dsausa.org](http://dsausa.org)

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

# Rallying Against Endless War

A rally in Little Five Points, sponsored by the Georgia Coalition for Peace and Justice (MADSA is a member) and several other peace and justice groups took place April 13 in cooperation with the Coalition Against Foreign Military Bases, as part of a national day of regional actions. Those who came were united in our opposition to all U.S. wars,



Lorraine Fontana holds up the Grandmothers For Peace banner, with Jim Skillman ("U.S. Tax Dollars") and Adrian Bernal (white shirt) close behind.



and the use of our tax dollars to support the U.S. military machine. We want funding for human needs (here and abroad), not endless war. Sixteen MADSA members participated, possibly the largest contingent.

— Barbara Joye  
with thanks to  
Lorraine Fontana

Adrian Bernal (for School of the America Watch, at mic) and Reid Jenkins (for Veterans for Peace, green shirt) were among the rally speakers.  
Photo: Lorraine Fontana

# Work With Us: MASDA Working Groups

## Electoral

This group will guide MADSA's engagement in the electoral space, including developing a system of evaluating candidate endorsement requests and parameters for endorsements, as well as how MADSA will work with other organizations that may have overlapping memberships but not necessarily the same values and goals. We are excited to begin a parallel organizing track for long term electoral strategy, including training and developing our own candidates, as we have seen in other races nationwide that DSA member candidates do well when they are engaging the people. At the first meeting we set out some basic parameters for discussion. We are meeting in early June to have a more in-depth conversation post-primary. If folks are interested in joining they should connect with us on Slack or send me an email at [electoral@madsa.ga](mailto:electoral@madsa.ga) – *Anoa Chang*

## Education

The Education Working Group aims to raise class consciousness by offering a space for socialist concepts and literature to all people of the working class. We currently do this through the use of continual film screenings/dialogues and reading groups, and we are working together on new ideas for events such as webinars and salons. For more information and to get involved with us please contact Josh at [education@madsa.ga](mailto:education@madsa.ga), or if you are already in MADSA's Slack, simply join our channel! Also, check out our upcoming events, including the continuation of a series of Monday and Saturday reading groups on Friedrich Engels' "The Housing Question" and a reading group on Marx's *The Grundrisse*; a presentation on workers' cooperatives; and a Socialist Dialogue on immigration (see Coming Events, p 7. for details). – *Josh Tuccio*

## Queer Socialists/Rainbow Roses

Queer Socialists gives queer and/or trans people a safe space to discuss socialism with those in the same community. Heteropatriarchy exists because capitalism fuels it. The elimination of capitalism is liberation for all, but especially those who have been oppressed for their sexuality and/or gender. Come for the queer socialism, stay for the camaradery. See our monthly Rainbow Roses meetups on Coming Events, p. 7. For more info: [queer@madsa.ga](mailto:queer@madsa.ga) – *Laura Hernandez*

## Mutual Aid

MADSA's newly formed Mutual Aid working group is standing with workers around the metro Atlanta area. We've participated in call-in campaigns and flyering to support DeKalb County bus drivers who were fired for organizing a sick-out. They are fighting for a fair wage, fair benefits, fair retirement and fair treatment, and we stand with them in that struggle. The MAWG is also building comprehensive lists of resources to provide alternatives to calling the cops. Too often otherwise well-meaning folks call the police on people who may be confused, in need of help or mentally ill. We are reminded that the results of calling the cops on the mentally ill can have deadly results – the trial of the killer cop that murdered Anthony Hill began in May. We've got plans for the future – including getting involved with more homeless outreach, helping people file DACA status through free legal clinics, and providing services to seniors and others who may have code violations on their homes and need help with repairs. To join us, contact [mutual.aid@madsa.ga](mailto:mutual.aid@madsa.ga) – *Jeb Boone*

## Medicare for All

The Medicare for All working group aims to expand Medicare and Medicaid, and specifically to make Medicare available to people of all ages (one of the top priorities selected by DSA's 2017 national convention). We're still organizing our efforts and are open to everything from electoral engagement to canvassing, information labeling, and other community-targeted efforts. We hope to make Medicare a topic of discussion both during the coming electoral season and in the communities most impacted by these decisions. Contact [healthcare@madsa.ga](mailto:healthcare@madsa.ga) – *Cole Reardon*

*Other groups in development: AfroSocialists – contact Erin Parks, [afrosocialists@madsa.ga](mailto:afrosocialists@madsa.ga); Labor; Accessibility. We also have some organizational development groups, including Digital and Membership. If you are interested in helping, contact [info@madsa.ga](mailto:info@madsa.ga)*

## Helping Say Goodbye to Anti-Immigrant Bill

A group of our members joined the Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights, Southerners on New Ground, Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAJ) and Project South at the Capitol in March to help oppose SB452, a "show-us-your-papers bill on steroids" that would further terrorize immigrant communities and worsen community-police relations by mandating that police collaborate with immigration authorities (ICE). HB452 would have also rolled back the hard-won efforts to abolish cash bond in Atlanta.



Above: Photo by Gloria Tatum



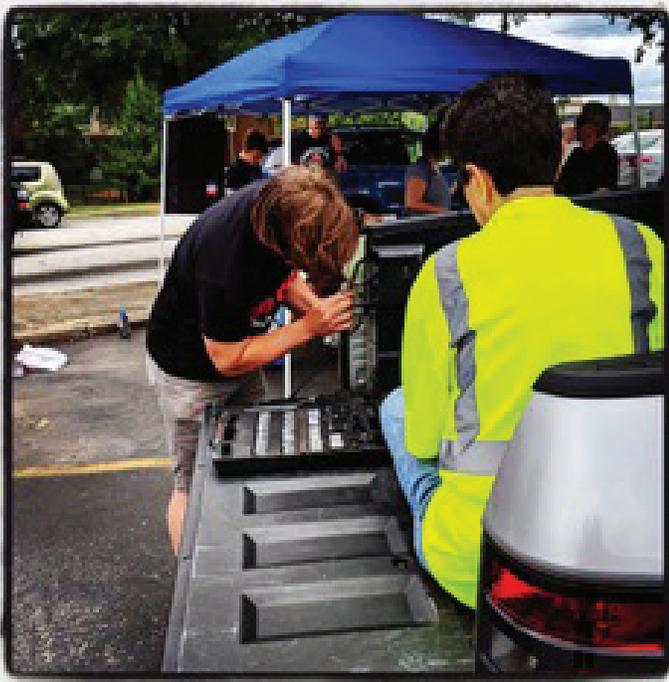
Happily, the General Assembly allowed the bill to die (for this year at least) by not passing it before midnight on Thursday, March 29 – "sine die," the final day of the legislative session.

– *Barbara Joye and Daniel Hanley*

Left: MADSA members (L to R) Matthew Wolfsen, Jordan French, Khalid Kamau, Erin Parks, Daniel Hanley and Amy Mei Willis (also with AAJ) celebrate the victory.

## News Flashes

- We have a new, improved website: [madsa.ga](http://madsa.ga) (old address will work too). Much thanks to Speck Kevin Pratt, Catie Leary, Nate Knauf, and Anat Fintzi for their hard work making the transition.
- Read the history of MADSA by our founder, Milt Tambor, on [madsa.ga](http://madsa.ga) (especially recommended for anyone who joined in the past few years). An archive based on Tambor's extensive collection of MADSA minutes, fliers, and other documents has been established at the Emory University library. Additions are welcome; contact [mltambor@yahoo.com](mailto:mltambor@yahoo.com).
- Much thanks to impresario Rara Imler, Relapse Theater and the many talented comedians who donated their time to make our fundraiser "Fistful of Laughs" a success. We raised over \$400 to support our Brake Light Clinics.



Evian Seeds fixes a brake light in Tucker. Photo: Jeff Corkill

- MADSA held two more successful brake light clinics in late May: one in Riverdale, co-sponsored by Our Revolution Henry County, and one in Tucker. We fixed a total of 58 lights without charge, so the owners could avoid police stops and fines.
- Congratulations to members Lord Megan Harrison, who graduated from Georgia State University's College of Law in May, and Scott Douglas, who will receive his PhD. in physics from Emory University in July.

**Don't forget to renew your DSA dues at [dsausa.org](http://dsausa.org), and consider signing up for a monthly donation. Our dues help maintain our national online presence and our national staff, who provide technical and organizing support so that we can continue to lead the fight for democratic socialism.**

## Coming Events

### **June 16, July 17, 3 – 5 p.m. Housing Question Reading Group (Saturday)**

Northwest Library at Scott's Crossing, 2489 Perry Blvd. NW, Atlanta 30318. Continuing to discuss Friedrich Engels, "The Housing Question"

### **June 18, July 9, 7 – 9 p.m. Housing Question Reading Group (Monday)**

Library of Commons, 825 Warner St. SW, Atlanta 30310  
Continuing to discuss Friedrich Engels, "The Housing Question"

### **June 7, 21 and 28, July 12, 6 – 8 p.m. Reading Group: Karl Marx, *The Grundrisse***

Hosted by Stephen Mollidrem, Atlanta Institute for Social Research. RSVP required: [mollidrem@umich.edu](mailto:mollidrem@umich.edu)

### **June 8, 8 p.m., "Fistful of Laughs 2"**

Relapse Theater, 380 14th St. NW, Atlanta 30318. So successful we're doing it again! Raises funds for our brake light clinics and other community projects. Hosted by Rara Imler. \$10 at door, \$7 in advance at <https://www.freshtix.com/events/fistful-of-laughs-2018-05-12>

### **June 9, 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. MADSA Virtual Town Hall**

Updates on our organization and open discussion.

#### **Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:**

<https://zoom.us/j/790815157> or **iPhone one-tap:** US +6699006833,,790815157# or +14087403766,,790815157#  
**or telephone:** US +1 669-900-6833 or +1 408-740-3766 or +1 646-876-9923. **Meeting ID 790-815-157**

### **June 10, 1 p.m. Socialist Dialogue on**

**Immigration**, Phillip Rush Center, 1530 Dekalb Avenue NE, Atlanta 30307

### **June 15, 7 p.m. Eat, Drink & 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.)

### **June 23, 4 p.m. General Membership Meeting**

(all are welcome) CWA Local 3204, 279 Logan St. SE, Atlanta – Agenda TBA

### **July 13 – 15, Organizer Training for the SE region,**

conducted by national DSA staff. Schedule and location TBA. HOUSING URGENTLY NEEDED. Contact Adam Cardo.

### **July 20, 7 p.m. Eat, Drink & 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.)

### **July 24, 4 p.m. General Membership Meeting**

(all are welcome) CWA Local 3204, 279 Logan St. SE, Atlanta – Agenda TBA