

EQUALITY

MADSA Metro Atlanta Democratic Socialists of America

MADSA Takes a Stand in 2018 Georgia Governor's Race

By the MADSA Executive Committee

Brian Kemp must not be governor. The Metro Atlanta Democratic Socialists of America stand in solidarity with our fellow Georgians against the government that we have been promised under four more years of Republican leadership. We stand with the workers who work harder than any of the wealthy elite in our state. We stand with those who continue to suffer under white supremacy in the state. We stand with those who braved unspeakable odds to immigrate here for a better life. We stand in solidarity with every-day Georgians who just want a decent home near the people they care about, a living-wage job with dignity and meaning, and the ability to create a better future for their children.

We stand with all of these working families who want Stacey Abrams to be the next governor of this state. For many reasons, we cannot endorse Abrams ourselves, but neither can we stand aside while our friends and allies fight for something they know will make their lives better. We voted to encourage our members, if they feel so moved, to stand up and fight in this election cycle. Whether it be for a campaign, registering

voters, or work against voter suppression, we will support our members in their efforts.

After this election, we will be working tirelessly to hold whoever wins accountable to the people of Georgia. They are there to serve us, not multinational corporations or their friends in business. We will also be developing and running our own candidates for office—candidates who will run with or without the blessing of the Democratic Party and will stand in opposition to the elite neoliberal capitalist establishment. We will also build working-class power through independent organizations that will always put the people over parties.



(L-R) Lord Megan Harrison and Stacey Abrams at an AFL-CIO reception for Abrams, which other MADSA members also attended.

First go vote, then come fight!



METRO ATLANTA DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA

DSA-Endorsed Candidates Win Primaries Across the Country

(Adapted from an Aug. 8 press release from national DSA)

Several DSA-endorsed candidates won their primaries in August, continuing the surge of electoral victories in the lead-up to the 2018 midterm elections.

Rashida Tlaib won Michigan's District 13 primary for the U.S. Congress and has no Republican opposition, setting her up to become the first Muslim and Palestinian-American woman ever elected to Congress in the United States. Tlaib, a DSA member endorsed by Metro Detroit DSA, would replace John Conyers, who resigned in 2017.

Locally endorsed winners also included Katie Scott, who defeated a 14-year incumbent for the Washtenaw County MI, District 9 Board of Commissioners, and James Thompson, who advanced to the general election for U.S. Congress in Kansas's District 4. And – not least – DSA members supported the work of labor unions and community groups across Missouri to stop anti-union “Right to Work” Proposition A, which was defeated by an overwhelming margin.



Rashida Tlaib on the campaign trail.

“Our electoral victories. . . reflect the demands for true progressive changes across the country, not just in deep blue, coastal states. Voters in the Midwest are increasingly rejecting the status quo in favor of candidates that unapologetically stand with the working class,” said Catherine Hoffman, a member of DSA's National Political Committee and Detroit DSA. “We look forward to continuing our movement at the ballot box in 2018 and building our momentum to bring true, material change to working people.”

These victories build upon a historic wave of DSA candidates defeating establishment opponents for elected office. In June, DSA member Ocasio-Cortez defeated Joseph Crowley, the fourth-ranking Democrat in the U.S. Congress. In May, June and July, state legislative candidates endorsed by DSA won primaries in Maryland, Colorado, Montana and Pennsylvania. In 2017, 32 candidates either endorsed by DSA or DSA members themselves ran for public office across the country, with 21 winning their elections. ★

Report from the 2018 YDSA Conference

By Matthew Wolfson

Metro Atlanta was represented at the YDSA national convention in Minneapolis Aug. 4-5 by Ga. Tech YDSA chair Nate Knauf, vice-chair Amanda Olenczuk, U. GA interim co-chair Harrison Finch, and me, Matthew Wolfson. The convention passed five resolutions, and six individuals (including me) were elected to YDSA's National Coordinating Committee, which is equivalent to DSA's National Political Committee.



Newly elected YDSA national officers (L-R): Matthew Wolfson, Ga. Tech; Elliot Geary, U. Tn.-Chattanooga; Ajmal Alami, Va. Tech-Blacksburg; Amelia Blair-Smith, Carleton College, Northfield MN; Sebastián Uchida Chávez, City College of NY; and national staffer Anna Bonomo.

Four of the resolutions addressed implementing strategies to advance democratic socialist causes: Medicare for All, College for All, labor union assistance/empowerment and preparing for (not endorsing) a Bernie Sanders 2020 presidential campaign. Another resolution, authored by Nate Knauf, on alternate electoral systems and countering gerrymandering didn't pass [for lack of a proposed organizing strategy] but it was clear that that the conference delegates universally agreed that this was an issue to consider organizing around.

The fifth proposal passed establishes five regional committees. All chapters in each region will have the right to elect a member to serve on those committees, and two more members from each region will be elected by the other members of the region to serve as their co-chairs. . . I hope to establish relationships with several members across all regions to ensure representation in national decisions.

To the members of Metro Atlanta DSA: I have not forgotten my responsibilities as your harassment grievance officer. . . By the end of August, I will send the leadership of MADSA a memo which outlines compliance issues with the current investigatory process, including suggested policy and constitutional amendments to rectify the issues. . . I look forward to returning to Atlanta soon and continuing to work with Metro Atlanta as well as my new national responsibilities.

(For a longer version of this article, see News>Metro Atlanta at madsa.ga – Editor) ★

Getting Our Act Together

By Barbara Joye



Left: Sharing lessons learned at the SE regional training. (L-R) Speck Kevin Pratt, Nate Knauf, Evan Seeds, Lisa Ashway, Katie Elliott. Photo: Anoa Chang. Above: Ilani Lorber, MADSA officer at-large.

At our June general meeting Chair Adam Cardo announced that we had passed revised bylaws, updated to reflect our increased membership since they were adopted at our founding in 2006. Since then, other bylaw revisions have been proposed and voted on at our August general meeting or tabled. They will require another vote at the September meeting to be adopted. See [about>docs](#) at [madsa.ga](#) for current bylaws and proposed changes.

Cardo also introduced our new officer Ilani Lorber. The other officers appointed Lorber to the at-large position vacated by Anat Fintzi, who is on maternity leave, after Ilani won the online membership poll. Thanks to all three candidates for volunteering to serve.

Two new working groups were introduced in July: Immigrant Justice and Accessibility, joining others that make action plans, strengthen our operations, or bring together groups of members with common interests: Afrosocialist, Digital Systems, Education, Electoral,

Healthcare (Medicare for All), Membership, Mutual Aid, and Rainbow Roses.

Helped by phone banking and by energy from the recent regional training, attendance at both our July and August meetings was about half again as high as in each of the previous two meetings. It also didn't hurt that 121 new members had signed up since May, for a total of about 400 chapter members, according to Membership Secretary Michael Lavender! We have enjoyed meeting many new and potential members at our popular social event on the third Friday of each month at the member-owned Georgia Beer Garden (see Coming Events).

At our last two meetings we heard invitations to get involved in local actions, from organizers for a new union for state university system faculty and staff; the leading disability rights organization Adapt; Atlanta Jobs With Justice, a coalition of labor and community groups; Ga. Tech YDSA; and Science for the People ★

DSA Southeast Regional Training Inspired Us

National DSA field organizers Ryan Mosgrove and Hannah Allison and National Director Maria Svart came to Atlanta



DSA and YDSA members from several Southeastern states enjoyed a weekend of training offered by national DSA staff and veteran organizers from the region.

together with NPC member Allie Cohn (Knoxville) and other volunteer activists from the Southeast to conduct a very inspiring leadership training held at Ga. Tech in July.

Ryan posted that "comrades from 10 chapters in seven states came together for our first southern regional gathering since the Canton rally in 2017. Huge shout-out to the MADSA comrades for hosting and all the comrades who came out and made this amazing event happen." About half of the c. 40 participants were from MADSA and Georgia Tech YDSA. They learned about ways to strengthen chapter organization and member engagement and development; campaign planning; our three national priorities (Medicare for All, labor rights, and electoral work); and anti-fascist organizing. A highlight was a very informative and moving panel of organizers from Atlanta's Housing Justice League. Everyone who attended came away determined to apply what they had learned to strengthen our movement in the Southeast. Y'allidity! ★

Taking Action

Solidarity in action is our answer to the assaults on human rights and democracy we face today. During the past few months, MADSA members have turned out for many actions called by organizations we support – too many to describe here in detail. Stories about several can be found at News>Metro Atlanta at madsa.ga. Here is a partial list:



Marching for our lives. (L-R) Paul Segal, Jeff Ratto, Ray Miklethun, Josh Tuccio, Daniel Hanley, Barbara Landay, Stephen Friedrich, Barbara Joye, Adam Cardo. Photo: Reid Freeman Jenkins

- Families Belong Together Day of Action for Children at the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) headquarters.
- Protest vs. the Supreme Court’s Muslim ban.
- Walk for Justice with Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights and other immigrant rights groups at the federal building downtown, demanding abolition of ICE and an end to deportations.
- Families Belong Together march, with the Georgia Alliance for Social Justice and many other organizations.
- Noise protest at the Atlanta City Detention Center (ACDC), followed by a tent city sidewalk occupation (soon cleared by police). Demands included shutting down ACDC, ending the GILEE program and that Cobb, Gwinnett, Hall and Whitfield Counties and the Ga. Dept. of Corrections end 287(g) agreements with ICE that make deportations easier.



Daniel Hanley leads the “No Tech for ICE” surprise flash picket protest at Lenox Mall.



Not one more deportation! End family separation! Photo: Steve Eberhardt

• “No Tech for ICE” surprise flash picket in front of the Lenox Square Microsoft store, led by Science for the People, MADSA and militant tech workers, with attendees from DSA’s Southeastern regional training weekend, to protest Microsoft’s \$19 million contract with ICE.



Rallying in solidarity with the national prisoners’ strike. Ga. Tech YDSA members and (front) Erin Parks.



Protesting zero tolerance crackdown on immigrants. (L-R) Wendell Bohannon, Jeff Corkill, Erin Parks. Photo: Steve Eberhardt.

Action con't

- MADSA members who are also members of Atlanta Grandmothers for Peace joined that group's day trip to a rally in Montgomery AL supporting the Grandmothers Respond caravan on their way to protest family separation at a shelter in McAllen TX.
- Demonstration at the State Capitol demanding that Ga. Secretary of State Brian Kemp resign his position in charge of the November election while running for governor, led by the Georgia Alliance for Social Justice.
- Public comment at the Atlanta City Council meeting demanding that the city not renew its contract with ICE.
- Rally in solidarity with the national prison strike (endorsed by national DSA), with the Atlanta Prison Labor Strike Solidarity Committee and others, demanding humane treatment and an end to slavery for incarcerated people.
- The New Georgia Project's petition drive and Black Voters Matter tour that helped prevent Randolph County from closing seven of the nine polling stations in this majority African American county. ★

Serving the Community: Brake Light Clinics

MADSA held a fourth brake light clinic in August at Plaza Fiesta on Buford Highway. Following a model pioneered by New Orleans DSA, our volunteers replace the lights so the drivers will not need to endure police stops and fines. At Plaza Fiesta, we set up alongside the Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights' table and yard sale – many thanks to GLAHR for inviting us! Another clinic was held Labor day at the Ingles parking lot in Stone Mountain, and more are being planned. ★

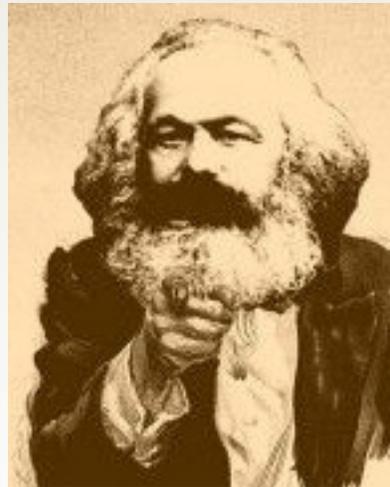


Alexander Hernandez fixes a brake light. Photo: Reid Freeman Jenkins



(L-R) David Ferris, Daniel Hanley, GLAHR Director Adelina Nicholls, driver we helped (at rear), Barbara Joye, Julia Reidy, Jeff Ratto, Alexander Hernandez (working on car), Taylor Mills, Patrick Day. Many others helped earlier. Photo: Reid Freeman Jenkins

MADSA Needs You



It's not too late to run for election to one of our officer positions: Chair, Membership Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and three at-large officers. Send a statement of 200 words or less about why you wish to serve, to nominations@madsa.ga before the September general meeting, or be prepared to make a statement at the meeting. See our bylaws

at madsa.ga for descriptions of the positions. (You must be a dues-paying DSA member to run or vote.) ★

We Have an Office

By Speck Kevin Pratt

We have signed a lease for a space in the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), SE Regional office! We moved in Sept. 4. See Coming Events for our housewarming celebration Sept. 16. The office, at 75 Marietta St., suite 500 (5th floor), is a five-minute walk from the Five Points MARTA station. It has an accessible entrance and an elevator. Other amenities: a kitchen and fridge, and access to action supplies and a printer.

The meeting space can fit around 70 people in a pinch, so we could try having our general meeting there on a Sunday. Very few groups use the community room right now, so we'd likely be able to get it for whenever we want as long as we stay in communication. The Housing Justice League will be our neighbors. The space would be for two years, as AFSC wants to buy a building on the west side and AFSC's Tim Franzen said we'd be welcome there as well. ★



Socialist cubicle. Photo: Speck Kevin Pratt

Remembering the Moore's Ford Lynching

By Bob Caine

Several MADSA members recently participated as actors in this year's Moore's Ford Bridge Lynching Reenactment in and around Monroe, GA. Walter Reeves, Jennie Caine and I have been participating in this annual event for over a decade and other members have also participated over the years, calling attention to the events of July 25, 1946. Moore's Ford was the last mass lynching in the U.S. and, while the FBI and GBI recently officially closed the unsolved case, activists still call for justice. I played a member of the Ku Klux Klan, Jennie was a townswoman, and Walter portrayed segregationist Gov. Eugene Talmadge.



Walter Reeves as Ga. Governor Eugene Talmadge harangues a crowd including Jennie and Bob Caine, enacting the lead-up to the tragic 1946 lynching of four people near Monroe, GA. (2015).

In 1946, a local black sharecropper named Roger Malcolm stabbed a white man in an argument about Malcolm's pregnant wife. He was placed in the local jail for 11 days before being bailed out by a local landowner. While being driven home by the landowner, Malcolm; his wife, Mae Murray; Mae's brother George Dorsey; and George's wife Dorothy Dorsey were ambushed by Klansmen. When one of the men was recognized, all four of the black people were taken into the field by the bridge and shot multiple times.

Despite a lengthy FBI investigation at the time none of the perpetrators were ever charged. Fifty years ago, Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. was alerted to the unsolved case by the local black undertaker, Dan Young. He delegated SCLC staff members, including former State Representative and MADSA Douglass-Debs Award recipient Tyrone Brooks, to meet him in Monroe to begin a campaign for justice as soon as he returned from the garbage workers' strike in Memphis. King never made it to Monroe, but Brooks continues the call for justice, serving as a main organizer of the reenactment, which is attended by many members of Monroe's black community.

This year, parts of the reenactment were performed on Friday, July 27, for four busloads of school children from South Carolina and Savannah. The next day, media from around the world covered the event. NPR podcaster Radiolab was on hand, as was the BBC, which plans a documentary on the event. ★

News Flashes

• MADSA is delighted to announce that our **youngest member, Sybil**, was born July 26 to Anat Fintzi and Scott Douglas. Congratulations Anat and Scott!



L: Sybil Fintzi-Douglas, R: Athens YDSA co-chairs (L to R) Harrison Finch and Riley Findley. Photo: Miranda Daniel

• We welcome the **new Athens Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDSA)**, students and other community members committed to fighting for higher wages for professional full-time workers at U.Ga., building and educating a membership base, reaching out to local high schools and building coalitions. They join Ga. Tech YDSA and two or three budding YDSA chapters at other area campuses.

• We have incorporated the **Metro Atlanta DSA Foundation** as a 501(C)3 (the executive committee will serve as its board). Funds given to this entity must go to educational and mutual-

aid activities and the like that aren't directly related to political influence. These donations are tax-deductible. So if you'd like to make a donation and you itemize your taxes, let me know and we'll get you sorted! -MADSA Treasurer Speck Kevin Pratt

• **Maxwell Ruppensburg** recently became executive director of Reform Georgia, a nonprofit advocacy coalition working to build a better justice system and end mass incarceration in Georgia. "Our plan is to establish a comprehensive criminal justice reform platform in union with a broad coalition of Georgia communities, organizations, and leaders," says Ruppensburg. "Our first goal is comprehensive reform of cannabis law to strengthen Georgia communities, support economic growth, and cultivate a rural renaissance across the state." See www.reformgeorgia.org.

• If you ever wanted a **t-shirt** announcing your membership in Metro Atlanta DSA to the world, know that we've set up a pre-order store. Choices include our unique "Y'allidarity", "Socialist Feminist" and "Rainbow Roses" designs, at <https://madsa.ga/store/> All items union made and union printed (or labor donated). ★



Support our coalition partner Atlanta Jobs With Justice every 15th of the month to fight for a \$15 minimum wage in Georgia. In August the action also supported IAM Delta Workers Unite 2018 in their campaign to unionize for better wages, benefits, and working conditions. Phone banking help also needed to get out the vote among workers making less than \$15, every TWTh 3-7pm at the AtlJWJ office. Contact Charon at 404-992-1067. See <https://www.facebook.com/events/2110517712521574/>



Coming Events

Sept. 16, 3-6 p.m. MADSA Office Warming Potluck

75 W Marietta St #501, Atlanta 30303

We've moved into a new office with a grand new community room and we'd like to welcome you all to check it out! Bring yourself and a dish and come hang out with us. We'll have tea and water, plates, utensils, and napkins available, but bring anything else you'd like to share with us. If you don't have time or funds to bring something, come anyway, we'll enjoy your company.

The venue is wheelchair-accessible from the Fairlie St. alleyway entrance and for this reason we'll use this entrance for all after-hours events. Street parking in Atlanta is free on Sundays. There are three spots directly in front of the building for those who need something close by.

We'll have to have someone at the door to let you in, so if you arrive more than 15 minutes late send us a message when you're getting close on Slack or text us at the number we'll send out the day of the event. <https://www.facebook.com/events/578538469228788/>

Sept. 21, 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.)

Sept. 22, 4-6 p.m. MADSA General Meeting.

CWA Local 3204, 279 Logan St. SE, Atlanta. Near King Memorial MARTA Station. Important: Vote for 2018-2019 officers and bylaw amendments (must be paid member), hear updates about what's going on, and break out into working groups to plan our next actions.

Everyone welcome! If you need a ride from the station email info@madsa.ga. The venue is a single level with an accessible entrance. We encourage you to bring your children; let us know if you need childcare. If you're new to MADSA, please review our Code of Conduct: <https://madsa.ga/code-of-conduct>.

The proceedings are amplified and will be live streamed as a zoom video call at <https://zoom.us/j/910735999> or telephone (no video): US: +1 (669) 900-6833, meeting ID: 910 735 999.

Oct. 5, 6-9 p.m. Socialist Dialogue: "Revolution in the Air"

with Max Elbaum, author of the book by the same name on the "New Communist" movement of the 1960s and '70s, recently reissued with an introduction by Alicia Garza, Black Lives Matter co-founder. \$10, plus \$10 for refreshments, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Phillip Rush Center, 1530 DeKalb Ave. NE, Atlanta 30307

Oct. 15, 6p.m. Film: "American Socialist: The Life and Times of Eugene Victor Debs"

Georgia Tech, Skiles Classroom Bldg., 686 Cherry St. NW, Atlanta 30313. This militant labor leader and five-time Socialist Party presidential candidate received 913,693 votes in 1920 - while imprisoned in the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary for opposing U.S. entry into WWI. \$5 but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Co-sponsored by Ga. Tech Young Democratic Socialists of America.

Oct. 14, Atlanta Pride parade.

Join MADSA's marching contingent. Details TBA.

Oct. 19, 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.)

Oct. 27, 4-6 p.m. MADSA General Meeting.

CWA Local 3204, 279 Logan St. SE, Atlanta. Near King Memorial MARTA Station. See Sept. 22 for logistics info. Agenda TBA.

Mad props to @AllOutAtlanta, @MetroATLDSA, @afainatl, @PSLAtlanta, and several other community members for holding down the occupation earlier in the year. That action had a big role in driving the conversation to ending ICE in Atlanta. Now to push on to ending the jail itself!
-Matthew Wolfsen



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:**
madsa.ga
info@madsa.ga

For information about the
Democratic Socialists of America: dsausa.org
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