

METRO ATLANTA DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA PRESENT

MAYDAY SUMMIT 2010: TOWARD AN ECONOMIC BILL OF RIGHTS

Saturday, May 1, 2010

Georgia Hill Neighborhood Facility • 250 Georgia Ave. SE, Atlanta 30312



PROGRAM

9:30 a.m. - 10 am • **Registration**, light refreshments

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 am • **Plenary** • **Opening remarks: Room 316**

Joe Schwartz, national DSA vice-chair
Carl Davidson, co-chair, Committees of
Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism
Georgia State Senator Vincent Fort
Charlie Flemming, Atlanta-North GA Labor Council
Sandra Robertson, Ga. Citizens Coalition on Hunger

11:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. • **BREAK**

11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. • **Workshops:**

1) Housing: Foreclosures/Homelessness - Room 209
(Facilitator - Barbara Joye)

John Bartholomew, Atlanta Legal Aid Society,
Home Defense Program
Anita Beaty, executive director,
Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless
Tamara Caldas, Volunteer Lawyers Foundation
Janice Mathis, national vice-president and executive director,
Rainbow Push

Affordable housing is in crisis, as Atlanta and communities across the nation are riddled with foreclosed houses and rental units, due to predatory lending practices over the past several years or to unemployment and other blows to family income during the resulting economic meltdown. In addition, thousands of homeless people continue to struggle for survival every day, while the city's largest shelter is under attack. This workshop will explore what is happening in Atlanta to homeowners, tenants, and homeless people, and some of the ways people are fighting back.

2) Labor/working families - Room 316
(Facilitator - Milt Tambor)

Bernetha Brown, Workers United
Cindia Cameron, 9 to 5 Atlanta Working Women
Ayketa Iverson, Organizing Department, AFL-CIO
Nancy Lenk, Service Employees International Union
Latusha Nedd, Georgia Citizens' Coalition on Hunger
Andrea Nichols, Students and Workers in Solidarity
Benita West, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 732

This workshop will deal with issues important to organized labor and working families, including the challenge facing unions: organizing Sodexo and Atlanta-Hartsfield Airport workers and linking the struggle of all Georgia workers for basic labor rights to improving economic conditions in the larger community; the campaign to raise the state minimum wage and tipped worker wages; Parent Protection legislation providing for unpaid leave for school visits and medical appointments for elderly patients; and the resources are available under Temporary

Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), as well as the current campaign to secure adequate funding for MARTA and preserve union jobs.

12:45 - 2 pm **LUNCH** • with songs by Paula Larke

2:00 - 3:15 p.m. • **Workshops:**

3) Defense budget impact on GA/Students and the military - WAND office - Room 202

(Facilitator - Marcia Borowski)

Caitlin Barrow, American Friends Service Committee, Student Career Alternatives Program, and GA State U.

Progressive Student Alliance

Krista Brewer, president, Women's Action for New Directions

This workshop will explore the defense budget's impact on our quest/dreams for an economically just America, especially its impact on youth and the urban and rural poor. Krista Brewer will discuss the budget, and Caitlin Barrow will describe her work providing non-military career options to Georgia high school students after graduation.

4) Health Care/Grady Hospital Room 209

(Facilitator - Bob Caine)

Henry Kahn, Physicians for a National Health Program, Grady Health System

Minnie Ruffin, Health Care Now!

Bert Skellie, Grady Coalition

This workshop deals with issues involving healthcare as one of the basic human needs in our Economic Bill of Rights. The panel will bring together three experts who are active and informed on progressive issues that cover the field from local issues (Grady Hospital) to national health care policy.

5) Students and Teachers Confront the Crisis of Public Education Room 316

(Co-facilitators - Ian and Yael Fletcher)

Tahereh, Georgia Students for Public Higher Education (GSPHE)

Velma McCray, concerned Ft. Valley State Univ. alumna

Gina Perez, Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights (GLAHR)

Jen Sauer, Metro Atlantans for Pubic Schools (MAPS)

The right to education is an integral part of people's economic and social rights. Thus, progressives and socialists support free, equal, quality public education for all. We oppose the neo-liberals who seek to privatize and otherwise reduce public education and the racists and xenophobes who attempt to restrict or deny access to people of color and immigrants. The economic recession and budget crises in local and state government in Georgia have produced new opportunities to undermine public education. This interactive workshop explores the work of activists defending public education and the wider public sector. We will learn about organizing efforts in metro Atlanta school districts and public colleges and universities across the state as well as around educational access for immigrant students and equal funding for Georgia's historically black public colleges and universities.

3:15 - 3:30 pm • **BREAK**

3:30 - 5:30 pm • **Rap-up - Room 316**

Reporting from workshops

Closing remarks by Davidson, Schwartz

Discussion

AFTER WE ADJOURN:

**You are invited to
A MAY DAY PARTY**

Little Five Points Community Center

1083 Austin Avenue, Atlanta 30307

Hosted by the Atlanta May Day Coalition

Food, live music, fellowship until 10:00 p.m.

Directions to the Little Five Points Community Center:

Driving from 250 Georgia Ave.: Left on Hill St. (north); right on DeKalb; left on Waddell St.; bear right on Lake Ave., which becomes Austin Ave., to corner of Austin and Euclid; Community Center is on left; enter on Euclid (park in back).

By MARTA from 250 Georgia Ave.: Take bus #97 at Georgia Ave. and Grant Terrace to the Five Points train station, then take the train east to the Inman Park station. Get out on the Inman Park side, go one block east to Euclid Ave.; right two blocks to corner of Euclid and Austin; Community Center is on right; enter on Euclid.