



the yankee radical

(617) 982-3033

www.dsaboston.org

October, 2014

DSA October Forum

MIDEAST IN FLAMES: Israel, Palestine, Iran—and The Bomb

DATE: Thursday, October 9

TIME: 7:30 pm

PLACE: 9 Hamilton Place, Boston (Encuentro 5)—across the street from Park Street T Stop

SPEAKERS: Shelagh Foreman, *Peace Action*; Mitchell Silver, *Workmen's Circle*

The Mid East is a mess. Civil wars currently rage in Libya, Yemen, Syria and Iraq, and the United States and Iran now find themselves on the same side against ISIS—perhaps to their mutual dismay. Except in Tunisia, democratic movements associated with the Arab Spring have been crushed, especially in Egypt, Syria and Bahrain. Gaza is struggling to recover from its recent decimation, while Israel continues its slow motion ethnic cleansing of East Jerusalem, recently announcing yet more settlements there. Meanwhile the 9/24 *NY Times* reports a sharp upsurge of European anti-semitism—not the kind some partisans ascribe to any criticism of Israeli policies, but the genuine article.

So how should our movements for

peace, justice and democracy respond to these developments? And what would a constructive US–Mid East policy look like?

Shelagh Foreman, Program Director of Massachusetts Peace Action, will review the ISIS crisis, Obama's response, and the impact of both on the US-Iran nuclear negotiations. These talks aim to prevent further development of Iran's nuclear program in exchange for a partial lifting of US economic sanctions, and have been opposed from the beginning by hardliners in Washington, Jerusalem, and Tehran. But since the deadline for any agreement is November 24, our Congressional representatives will soon have a chance to weigh in as well.

Mitchell Silver from the Workmen's Circle will speak on the continuing illegal Israeli settlements in the Occupied Territories, and the uphill struggle for a democratic two state resolution of this conflict through mutual self-determination—and those in the United States and elsewhere who oppose it. He has taught philosophy at UMass Boston since 1982, is the author of *A Plausible God* and other works on secular Jewish identity, and a frequent contributor to *Jewish Currents*

Before the forum the DSA Exec Board will meet at 6:30 pm; all members are welcome to attend.

DSA November Forum

Bernie Sanders—2016?

WHEN: Thursday, Nov. 13, 7:30 pm

WHERE: 9 Hamilton Place, Boston

SPEAKERS: J. Michael Gilbreath, *Progressive Democrats of America*; Paul Garver, *Democratic Socialists of America*

Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) has joined the list of candidates considering a Presidential run in 2016, asking his supporters throughout the country whether it should be in the Democratic primaries or

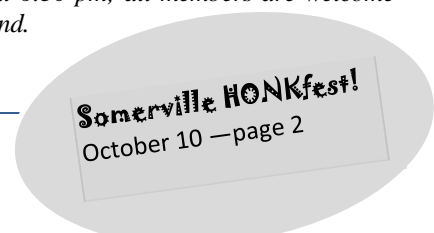
as an independent in November. Both Progressive Democrats of America and DSA are on record urging the former course, but others disagree. In any case the prospect of a Sanders presidential campaign has excited many on the left as an alternative to Hillary Clinton, but also raises many questions—so let's talk about it.

J. Michael Gilbreath is a leader in the MA chapter of Progressive Democrats of America. PDA was founded in 2004 out of

the losing presidential campaigns of Dennis Kucinich and Howard Dean, and works to transform the Democratic Party on issues like voting rights, full employment, national health care and protecting Social Security.

Paul Garver serves on DSA's National Political Committee, and co-edits *Talking Union*, DSA's labor blog.

Preceding the forum at 6:30 pm there will be a meeting of the Boston DSA Exec Board, open to all members.



SHORT TAKES



Naomi Klein Talk

At the Cambridge Forum on Thursday, October 16, 7pm, best selling author Naomi Klein will discuss her new book *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs The Climate*, with environmental scholar Tim Weiskel. It argues carbon is not the ultimate cause of climate change, capitalism is. First Parish Church, 1446 Mass Ave., Cambridge. Tickets are free but must be reserved. (www.cambridgeforum.org).

Stop Staples

The American Postal Workers Union is fighting to stop a shady deal between Staples and the US Postal Service, which they say would jeopardize mail service, local post offices, and thousands of living wage jobs. It seems to be yet another chapter in the ongoing corporate onslaught of outsourcing and privatization, in this case replacing the jobs of USPS

employees with non-union, low paying jobs in a struggling private company. Until Obama's Postmaster General and Staples come to their senses, APWU is urging a consumer boycott of the latter (www.StopStaples.com).

Extra Innings...

This just in: DSA awardee Cecily McMillan (pg 11) has been arrested yet again in NYC, this time for filming a police arrest, which is apparently considered some sort of parole violation there (<http://justiceforcecily.com>)...

Kudos to our Social Democratic comrades in Sweden who now head a coalition center-left government after their recent election victory. They have provoked an angry response from the Israelis for announcing their intention to recognize Palestine as a state, the first European government to do so. Good start, Sweden!

—Mike Pattberg



Letters

7/14/14

Dear Boston DSA Members,

I opened the recent issue of Yankee Radical to find myself staring at myself! Thank you for the endorsement. It is an honor and a privilege. Your support and commitment to me as a candidate working for the people means a lot.

This year has been exhausting and exciting—a big learning curve and great new relationships to cultivate and strengthen. I especially enjoy how my organizing background helps me to see and understand the challenges we face...

Hope you might join us again!

Thank you,
Mary Keefe

Although State Representative Keefe won her September primary, her campaign welcomes help from Worcester area DSAers (or anyone else) for the November final: (774) 314-7555

October 10 Day of Action: HONK! for \$15!

By Harris Gruman

Every year the HONK Festival takes over Davis Sq., Somerville during Columbus Day weekend for a few days of incredible music and dancing in the streets. This year, from October 10-12, the fight for a \$15 minimum wage is being featured as activist street bands from around the world "HONK for \$15." The Honkers are kicking off their festival with a Day of Action in Boston on Friday, October 10.

The Basics:

We'll meet at 3pm at the Downtown Crossing T Stop, Boston. Marching bands accompanied by labor, community and faith groups (along with their supporters) will then fan out across the city before ending up at Park St. Over a hundred musicians will take part.

All across the country, there is a worker uprising. You've seen the news—from winning a \$15 an hour minimum wage in Seattle, to fast-food workers everywhere taking their struggle for unions and higher wages to the streets. And here at home we've seen Raise Up Massachusetts push through passage of an \$11-an-hour minimum wage, the highest in the nation, and earned sick time for a million Massachusetts workers headed to the ballot as the "Yes on Question 4 Campaign."

Low wages afflict many kinds of workers across different industries and different communities, keeping many families trapped in a cycle of poverty. But 2014 marks the 50th anniversary of the War on Poverty, and recently Boston has been a major beachhead in that struggle. Last year,

local fast-food workers joined the national campaign to raise standards at fast-food restaurants. On September 4, they escalated their campaign, participating in organized civil disobedience in downtown Boston to send a clear message to fast-food companies: we demand \$15 and a union.

Their movement has inspired others. This summer, Boston healthcare workers, airport workers, taxi drivers, adjunct professors and restaurant workers all stood together for the first time at a rally in Copley Square to Fight for \$15.

So join us on October 10! For more information visit honkfest.org.

Former Boston DSA Chair Harris Gruman is Executive Director of SEIU MA State Council

November Referenda



There will be 4 state-wide referenda on the November ballot this year. Boston DSA urges a NO vote on Question 1, and YES votes on Questions 2 and 4. We took no position on Question 3, the ban on casinos.

—NO on Q1: It would repeal the 2013

law linking the gas tax to inflation. Supported by anti-taxers, opposed by environmentalists (<http://saferoadsbridges.com>).

—YES on Q2: Expands bottle recycling law. Supported by environmentalists, opposed by beverage & bottling interests. (www.Yeson2ma.org/)

—Q3: Essentially bans casinos, overruling a recent law allowing them.

Supported by some progressives, opposed by labor.

—YES on Q4: Mandates earned paid sick time for MA workers. Already supported by labor (and DSA) last year as a legislative proposal along with the minimum wage; opposed by the employer class. (www.RAISEUPMA.ORG)

State House Endorsements

The candidates for the Massachusetts legislature listed here have been endorsed for the November 4 election by Mass Alliance, a coalition of 26 civil rights, labor, environmental and community groups including Boston DSA. The profiles below were compiled by Mass Alliance staff, but edited for space.

DENISE ANDREWS

2nd Franklin, 21 Beach Lane
Orange, MA10364
deniseandrews.org



Rep. Denise Andrews has been a guest lecturer at the State Department and various universities on leadership, as well as a long time community activist.

CHRISTINE BARBER

34th Middlesex, 87 Thurston St., #1
Somerville, MA 02145
(617)410-6025
christinebarber@gmail.com
christinebarber.org



Christine Barber works as a Senior Policy Analyst at Community Catalyst, and is active with Progressive Democrats of Somerville. Christine helps lead the Somerville Community Corporation, and has worked to extend the Green Line to Route 116, reduce pollution in the Mystic River, and preserve affordable housing.

EVANDRO CARVALHO

5th Suffolk, 17 Cowin Street
Dorchester, MA 02122, (202)550-2290
evandroforrep@gmail.com
evandrocarvalho.com



Rep. Carvalho immigrated to Dorchester at age 15, then earned a scholarship to study at UMass Amherst and Howard Univ. Law School. Evandro wants to ensure local jobs are done by local people, expand training programs, increase the minimum wage and help small businesses.

MATTHEW CASTRIOTTA

5th Worcester, 4 Parsons Rd.
Hubbardston, MA 01452
vote4matt@charter.net
mattcastriotta.com



Matt Castriotta has been a middle school government teacher for almost two decades. He created Crunch-Time, which provides healthy and sustainable snacks for kids while partnering with conservation organizations to educate them on environmental issues. Matt has also been a selectman in the town of Hubbardston for the past fifteen years.

DAN CULLINANE

12th Suffolk
DanCullinane.com

Rep. Dan Cullinane is running for reelection.



He served as Director of Constituent Services for State Representative, now Mayor, Martin J. Walsh, and as a Fair Labor Investigator for Attorney General Martha Coakley. Dan served as State

Representative Linda Dorcea Forry's field director and in her successful campaign for Massachusetts State Senate.

MICHAEL DAY

31st Middlesex, 9 Poplar Street
Stoneham, MA 02180
electmikeday.com



Mike Day is co-chair of the Boston Bar Association's Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Committee, where he reviews proposed legislation and issues ranging from rights to privacy and freedom from government interference to free speech and voting rights. He is finishing his sixth year as a member of the Board of Directors of Parents Helping Parents.



State House Endorsements (cont'd)

MARJORIE DECKER

25th Middlesex
61 Walden Street, Cambridge, MA 02140
(617)290-7104
deckercampaign@gmail.com
decker4rep.com



Representative Marjorie Decker serves on the Health Care Financing and Financial Services committees. She has worked on increasing job creation, making health-care more affordable, and expanding

low-income housing.

A second-generation Cambridge resident, Marjorie worked with the United Nations International Association of Peace Messenger Cities on issues such as workers' rights and refugees. Her experience working locally and abroad informed her commitment to civil rights and issues such as LGBT and women's rights, the environment, and organized labor.

DAN DONAHUE

16th Worcester, 39 Forsberg Street
Worcester, MA 01607
(774)312-6770
info@dandonahue.org
dandonahue.org



Rep. Dan Donahue has worked as a Community Outreach Worker for the Juvenile Public Defenders office in Worcester, where he organized trainings and outreach for at-risk youth.

In 2012, Dan was appointed Director of Policy and Assistant Chief of Staff to the newly elected Mayor of Worcester, Joe Petty.

He will continue to fight to grow the size of the economic pie, so as not to pit businesses against residents, and wants to tackle the foreclosure problem by working with banks to stabilize home ownership and keep people in their homes.

MICHELLE DUBOIS

10th Plymouth
Committee to Elect Michelle DuBois
PO Box 6464, Brockton, MA 02305
(508)588-7663



electmichelledubois.com

Michelle DuBois is running to succeed Rep. Christine Canavan, which would be a progressive pick up. Michelle is a 5 term member of the Brockton City Council,

where she has worked to stop a gas fired power plant that would increase air pollution and health risks, and to stop the expansion of the landfill in East Bridgewater. She has 14 years of professional experience as a non-profit administrator and fundraiser, and has also worked with the New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans, Courageous Sailing Center, YWCA Boston, St. Francis House, and Pine Street Inn.

KEAVIN DUFFY JR.

3rd Bristol
610 Tremont Street, Taunton, MA 02780
(774)406-3512
ImWithDuffy@gmail.com
keavinduffyjr.com



Keavin Duffy Jr. is challenging one of the most conservative State Representative—Shaunna O'Connell—and is running as an unenrolled independent candidate.

O'Connell is a vocal opponent of food programs on which many families rely for survival and a staunch opponent of immigration, contrary to Massachusetts' welcoming tradition.

Keavin wants to tackle issues such as mental health and substance abuse, a fair tax code, jobs and economic growth, and adequate school funding.

KENNETH GORDON

21st Middlesex
P.O. Box 58, Burlington, MA 01803
(781)656-5364

info@reelectkengordon.org



reelectkengordon.org

Rep. Ken Gordon believes in conserving our natural resources, and wants to extend the bottle bill. He is currently a member of the House Committee on Global

Warming and Climate Change as well as a member of the Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development, and Chair of the Cultural Council in Bedford. He believes one way to help businesses thrive is supporting a robust transportation system. Ken is also fighting to increase the minimum wage, and was instrumental in the passage of the unemployment insurance reform bill.

PATRICIA D. JEHLLEN

Second Middlesex
Pat Jehlen for State Senate
67 Dane Street, Somerville, MA 02143
(617)-722-1578
patjehlen.com

Sen. Patricia Jehlen has been a strong progressive voice since she was first elected



in 2005. She helped lead the fight to increase the minimum wage and to target tax cuts to working families by increasing the earned income tax and child care credits, while increasing the senior circuit breaker. She is

Senate Chair of the Committee on Elder Affairs and the Mystic River Caucus, and Co-Chair of the LGBT Aging Commission and MBTA Caucus. Among her legislative achievements were bills to increase literacy for blind people, ensure the rights of people living with mental illness, and provide compensation for the wrongfully convicted.

State House Endorsements (cont'd)

MARY KEEFE

15th Worcester
Committee to Elect Mary Keefe
10 Oxford Street, Worcester, MA 01609
(774)314-7555
electmarykeefe.com



Since getting elected Mary has led the fight on minimum wage and earned sick time. She has also brought money home for environmental improvements. Mary is an original member of Women Together, a group working in support of mothers whose children have been the victims of violence. She is a founding member of Progressive Democrats of Massachusetts and the Worcester-Labor Coalition. Mary is a longtime Worcester homeowner and mother of three children who all attended Worcester Public Schools. As a progressive Democratic candidate for State Representative, Mary Keefe will fight for local small businesses, increased job training and school funding, and reduced taxes on working families while making sure the wealthy pay their fair share.

PATRICK LEAHY

Second Hampden and Hampshire
P.O. Box 10632, Holyoke, MA 01041
(413)-246-5153
patrick@leahyforsenate.com
leahyforsenate.com



Patrick is a decorated Holyoke Police Officer who has been invited by local schools to speak about anti-bullying and other issues facing children and young adults. Patrick serves as a member of the Holyoke Public Library Board of Directors and the Holyoke Children's Museum, and has worked to stop corruption and fraud in the State Treasurer's office in Boston

JASON LEWIS

5th Middlesex
61 Church Street, Winchester, MA 01890
(781)-608-1665
jlewis419@yahoo.com
electjasonlewis.com



Jason Lewis serves as the State Senator for the 5th Middlesex, following five years as a State Representative. He serves as the Senate Chair of the Committee on Public Service, and as Senate Co-Chair for the legislature's Health Care Caucus.

Jason has led efforts to contain healthcare costs and reduce rates of preventable chronic disease by focusing on prevention and wellness. He has championed reforms to the state's education financing system in order to ensure all schools receive adequate and equitable funding. Jason also serves on the Board of Advisors of South Africa Partners.

BARBARA L'ITALIEN

Second Essex and Middlesex
The Comm. to Elect Barbara L'Italien
P.O. Box 1936, Andover, MA 01810
(978)-409-1818
Barbara.Litalien@gmail.com
teambarbara.com



Former State Rep. Barbara L'Italien has spent a career working as a social worker serving the elderly at Elder Services of Merrimack Valley, the MA Elder Abuse Hotline, and West Suburban Elder Services. Barbara represented the Eighteenth Essex district from 2003 to 2011, and has a strong record in meeting the needs of children and families in her community.

Following her experience in the State Legislature, Barbara worked with the MA Treasury on the Small Business Banking Partnership, which places Massachusetts' money into community banks for small business lending.

GENE RAUHALA

1st Middlesex
P.O. Box 606, Townsend, MA 01469
generauhala2014@gmail.com
facebook.com/gene.rauhala



Gene Rauhala is running to challenge Rep. Sheila Harrington. He is an attorney who has been Townsend's moderator for 16 years. Gene wants to fix the infrastructure in areas that used to be regional tourist attractions. He has also served on the Board of Directors and as President of the Townsend Historical Society.

DAN RYAN

19 Essex Street, Charlestown, MA 02129
(781)608-1665
DanRyanForRep@gmail.com
danryanforrep.com



Rep. Dan Ryan has worked as a district representative for Charlestown and Chelsea under Congressman Mike Capuano. He is particularly involved with the Charlestown Boys & Girls Club, having worked as a Teen Center director and program coordinator for their Healthy Charlestown initiative. He also helped found the Charlestown Substance Abuse Coalition through the Center for Community Health Improvement.

MATTHEW TERRY

5th Barnstable
2 Ravens Nest Road, Sandwich, MA 02563
(774)238-2930
info@voteterry.org, voteforterry.org



Matt Terry is running to take on conservative State Rep. Randy Hunt. Matt was born and raised in Sandwich; after studying law at Boston College, he moved his legal practice back to Cape Cod, starting The Terry Law Group. Matt plans to work on issues such as local infrastructure that affect the Cape's tourist industry.



State House Endorsements (cont'd)

STEVE ULTRINO

33rd Middlesex
39 Adams Street, Malden, MA 02148
(781)333-8645

ultrinoforrep.com



Steve Ultrino is in a tight race to succeed Rep. Fallon, which would be a huge progressive pick up. Steve is currently a Malden City Councilor, and was a School Committee member before that. As State Rep., he wants to ensure all MA workers are paid living wages, women get equal pay, funding is secured for Malden's transportation and infrastructure, and Police and Fire Departments are safely staffed.

Steve's opponent, Neil Kinnon, is an anti-abortion choice charter school operator who has been running against taxes, the minimum wage and public education.

DANIEL A. WOLF, Cape & Islands
The Committee to Elect Daniel Wolf
P.O. Box 1111, Centerville, MA 02632
info@danwolfforsenate.com
danwolfforsenate.com

Dan Wolf is a two-term Senator from the Cape and Islands. He was first elected in 2010, and reelected with the highest vote count of any Massachusetts State Senator in 2012. In 1988, Dan and a handful of others founded what would become Cape Air and Nantucket Airlines. In 1995, in

keeping with his principles of combining sound business with social equity, Cape Air became an employee-owned company.



Dan has a strong business, philanthropic, and environmental background, and an equally strong belief that the economy should serve the core beliefs of our citizens rather than define our direction. He plans to make the Cape and Islands energy self sufficient within 15 years by using solar, wind, and hydropower.



Iran Notes . . .

By Mike Pattberg

I spent a few days last June in DC with a MA Peace Action delegation (Shelagh Foreman, Cole Harrison, Jeff Klein, John Ratliff, Alina Michelewicz) lobbying our congressional delegation in support of Obama's proposed US-Iran nuclear deal, whose deadline is now November 24. Since Peace Action and DSA have pretty much the same position on this issue, I'll pass along this report, originally written in early July. As far as I know, the views of our elected officials haven't changed.

We had appointments with the staffs of Senators Markey and Warren, and all of our Representatives except for Neal and Kennedy. They were asked to publically support the negotiations, and of course to oppose efforts by opponents to add additional sanctions or obligations on Iran designed to blow up the talks. That means not signing a "Dear Colleague" letter by Ed Royce (R-CA) & Eliot Engel (D-NY), rehearsing anti-agreement arguments for coming congressional votes. MAPA handed out several concise bullet point position papers, and Jeff Klein also gave out documents on a proposed UN treaty for a WMD-free Mid-East, which the United States officially supports but not really (Israel). Many staffers seemed interested but not that well informed on this topic. So, what's the scorecard?

—Sen. Warren: her staff person seems somewhat receptive, although EW has yet to speak out on Iran-US negotiations. She did not sign on to the previous Kirk-Menendez bill, a good sign, but is otherwise silent. Needs encouragement to get out of her comfort zone.

—Sen. Markey: his foreign policy staffers seem much more skeptical than Warren's about the nuclear talks. For now Markey will give negotiations a chance, but he seems to share many of the assumptions of the opposition, or at least his staff does. The one time they showed interest in our presentation was when Shelagh mentioned the names of some pro-negotiations MIT nuclear physicists they hadn't heard of. Another issue: Markey's excellent bill to slash the US nuclear stock pile is now co-sponsored by Sen. Sanders & Merkley (D-OR). Unfortunately it isn't going anywhere.

—Keating was the only Rep who actually gave us a full hearing, but he also explicitly opposed our line of argument. A lost cause on this issue.

—The Lynch staffer seemed somewhat sympathetic, while pointing out foreign policy is not her boss's focus. Mildly pro-

agreement as of now, as was the Tsongas staffer.

—The Capuano, Tierney and Clark people were more explicitly pro-negotiations, and the latter has joined the Congressional Progressive Caucus. So has Rep. Kennedy, but according to what we heard he votes against many CPC initiatives anyway

—Hands down our most agreeable congressional office visit was with Cindy Buhl, Rep. Jim McGovern's chief legislative aide. She gave us all our talking points before we could, as Jeff noted.

Last point: a briefing from the National Iranian American Council (www.niacouncil.org) noted the Iranians have their own "Tea Party" mobilization against nuclear negotiations, which claims Iran is giving up national security while getting nothing in return from the Great Satan. In Iran no public "grass roots" political group can exist without connections to at least some elements of the state, in this case apparently hard-liners in the security services. Here in the US opposition seems to be confined for now to elite neo-con Washington groups and the Israel lobby with connections to both parties. But if election year politics heats up we'll soon be hearing about Obama's anti-Israel agenda, Muslim sympathies, etc.

Let's Support Single-Payer Health Care!

By Judy Deutsch



In 2011 the Vermont legislature, after prolonged public debate and discussion throughout the state, voted to transition to a single-payer health care system by 2017. Single-payer is a system in which a single public agency organizes health care financing, not

private insurance companies, but health care delivery remains largely private.

Here in Massachusetts a similar campaign is being led by Mass-Care, a coalition of 100 member groups (including DSA). We help draft and lobby for single-payer health care legislation at the State House, organize ballot initiatives, survey the health care positions of political candidates, and endorse and work for those we agree with. In the recent September Democratic primary that was single-payer supporters Don Berwick for Governor and Mike Lake for Lt. Governor, who unfortunately lost. In non-binding referendums, citizens in 24 Massachusetts towns have already voted overwhelmingly for single-payer health care, and Mass-Care is currently urging people in Boston, Springfield and Worcester to join this list in upcoming ballot initiatives.

Gerald Friedman, a U-Mass Amherst Professor of Economics and DSA member, has shown that a single-payer system in Massachusetts would:

- save 15.75% (or \$9.7 billion) of our current health care spending—primarily in administrative waste;
- increase the income of the lowest income earning families by 15

percent, after replacing health premiums, co-pays, and deductibles with fair taxes;

- allow 80 percent of families in our state to experience large savings (amounting to more than 7 percent of their income), while families in the top 20 percent of earnings would see slightly increased costs (amounting to 3.1 percent of their income on average);
- allow workplaces currently spending 10 percent of their payroll on health insurance premiums to pay a stable 10 percent payroll tax, divided between employers and employees as they choose; and
- allow employers currently covering their workers to save 0.3 percent of payroll. Small employers (self-employed or less than 10 employees) would save 2.8 percent of payroll.

Mass Care is currently supporting two single-payer related bills that were filed in January 2013. One is [S.515/H.1035](#), An Act to Provide Medicare for All In Massachusetts, an updated version of the bill that has been filed each session since 1995. The lead sponsors are Senator Jamie Eldridge and Representative Jason Lewis. Other Senate co-sponsors are: Martha M. Walz, William Smitty Pignatelli, Michael Barrett, Patricia D. Jehlen, Stanley C. Rosenberg, Sonia Chang-Diaz, Denise Andrews, Timothy R. Madden, Mary S. Keefe, Daniel A. Wolf, Cynthia S. Creem, Kay Khan, Benjamin Swan, Benjamin B. Downing, John P. Fresolo, Thomas M. McGee, Byron Rushing, Chris Walsh and Sal N. DiDomenico. Additional House co-sponsors are Peter V. Kocot, Denise Provost, Tom Sannicandro, Paul W. Mark, Kay Khan, Ruth B. Balsler, Frank I. Smizik, Paul McMurtry, Martha M. Walz, William

Smitty Pignatelli, Ellen Story, Cleon H. Turner, Denise Andrews, Christine E. Canavan, Mary S. Keefe, James J. O'Day, Patricia D. Jehlen, Timothy J. Toomey, Jr., Jonathan Hecht, Gailanne M. Cariddi, Stephen Kulik, John P. Fresolo, Timothy R. Madden, Byron Rushing, and Chris Walsh.

The other bill, [S.572/H.1053](#), An Act to Insure Effective Health Care Cost Control, made its debut previously as the "Eldridge Amendment" to the Health Care Financing Bill. It would require that cost comparisons be made between what will actually be spent on health care in MA over the next three years and what would have been spent under single payer. If the latter proves more cost effective, the state would then develop a single-payer implementation plan. The lead sponsors of this bill are Senator Dan Wolf and Representative Tom Sannicandro.

Neither bill has made it out of committee, but both will be back next session. To contact Mass-Care or for more information:

email info@masscare.org, or visit www.masscare.org.

It would also be very helpful if YR readers ask their state legislators to sign on as sponsors to the new single-payer bills that will be re-introduced this January (Call 617-722-2000 to reach the State House).

We as individuals, businesses, and the Commonwealth would be much better off with single-payer health care, but this won't happen unless we work for it. So let's do so.

Judy Deutsch is the Legislative Chair of Mass-Care, a former chair of DSA's Religious Socialism Commission, and a former board member of Boston DSA.



The New Boston: A Counter History

Reviewed by Shirley Kressel

Jim Vrabel has done an honorable thing in writing *A People's History of the New Boston*. He has given us a “worm’s eye” view of Boston’s post-WW2 evolution, countering the usual “great man” telling of history, and starring the unsung heroes to whom we owe much more than most people know.

The author has assembled a chronology of activism, fleshing out the political and civic history of the city, including but not limited to: the battles of urban renewal, civil rights, school desegregation, the Vietnam War, affordable housing, economic justice, gentrification, the inner-belt highway, and the threatened theft of the Boston Common’s sunlight. He lays out the organizing strategies of both sides—the people and their government. The book connects the dots in the story of the becoming of today’s Boston; here, at last, are the explanations for many of those inexplicable things about our town you may have—or should have—wondered about.

Activists are viewed with a jaundiced eye by most journalists, who dismiss them as gadflies or NIMBYs who mainly—and selfishly—stop things from happening. Here we have a systematic investigation of Boston activism and activists, and it lets us see what we owe such people, and to gauge what might have happened—and what might yet happen—without them.

Many of the victories are, indeed, stopping things from happening (efforts to make things happen are often called not “activism,” but “advocacy,” and its practitioners may be looked upon much more respectfully and even get grants from non-profits). But think what Boston would be today if that gaggle of 600-foot towers had been allowed to be built near the Boston Common, if the

huge inner belt highway had been allowed to slash through the city, and if so many other disasters had not been averted or at least mitigated, as this book documents. Sometimes simply stopping a disaster is the best thing that could have been done, and all that needed to be done.

As an “accidental activist” for the past twenty years, I had two reactions reading this book. One was, “Wow, I wish I had known all this when I was just getting into it.” But the other was, “Wow, it’s a good thing I didn’t know all this when I was just getting into it”—because it is just astounding to see how hard it is to fight your own government, which is what activism is. After all, we elected these people. Why is it always such a struggle to get them to do the right thing?

Very often, “speaking truth to power” is profoundly frustrating, and the outcome is frequently not exactly what was hoped for. In fact, sometimes it’s not even what it appears to be. And of course, as William Faulkner reminded us, “The past is never dead. It’s not even past.” Many of the big battles, like the one waged against urban renewal, still haunt us as the city continues to creep along its deeply entrenched legal and ideological tracks.

My favorite chapter, following the accounts of battles fought, examines activism (or the lack of it) today, and the future of activism, which seems at best uncertain. Mr. Vrabel provides a very insightful analysis of the many reasons for the lull—demography, politics, the gradual replacement of government by the burgeoning private sector, the general zeitgeist. Activism seems to be alive and kicking on the fringes, as usual, and people can get sufficiently worked up over front-porch issues to

email a complaint to a congressman, but there are fewer heroic mobilizations as of yore. The recent turnout of 300,000 people for a climate change march was heartening; maybe the threshold has just become higher, requiring a world-wide-end-of-humanity-and-everything-else threat to get people off the couch. Maybe it runs in cycles, as posited by renowned Boston journalist Alan Lupo, with whom Mr. Vrabel was able to speak before his death in 2008. Thomas Jefferson advised a revolution every 20 years as “a medicine necessary for the sound health of government.” He meant a peaceful revolution. He meant activism.

So this book is thought-provoking just at the time when we need these thoughts provoked. Fundamentally, it’s a book about values and the courage to fight for them, and as such a book everyone who thinks of themselves as “citizens,” engaged or otherwise, should read.

Shirley Kressel is a landscape architect, urban design professional, and co-founder of the Alliance of Boston Neighborhoods.

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DSA Condemns the Israeli Bombing of Gaza and Attacks on Innocent Civilians

Statement of the National Political Committee

July 13, 2014

Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) condemns the massive and indiscriminate bombing of Gaza civilians by the Israeli armed forces. We support the immediate acceptance and implementation of a comprehensive cease fire that would end all combat and lift Israeli enforced restrictions on the ability of the people of Gaza to engage in the economic commerce and travel necessary for basic human survival.

DSA believes that the Israeli government cynically used the brutal murder of three Israeli youths to justify police and army assaults on Palestinians who had no connection to the attacks themselves. Furthermore, we condemn the Israeli right's use of these tragic deaths to whip up the racist hatred towards Palestinian Arabs that led to the brutal murder of an innocent Palestinian teenager by Israeli youths. Only if Israeli civil society rejects such racist hatred will a just two-state peace settlement with the Palestinian people be possible, as well as full civil rights for Palestinian Arabs living within a non-expansionist Israel.

We also condemn Hamas's rocket attacks upon Israeli civilians and the practice of locating rocket launchers in civilian buildings, as well as all forms of collective punishment and attacks on unarmed civilians. We note, however, that Israel's disproportionate armed responses (whether in the form of massive and indiscriminate aerial bombardment or a ground invasion) violate the international law doctrine of proportionate response. And, as we have seen in the past, indiscriminate Israeli attacks on the people of Gaza cannot achieve a permanent solution to the threat posed by Hamas rockets to Israeli civilians. DSA believes that only a just diplomatic solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can end the bloodshed, and we reiterate our conviction that Israel must unilaterally and immediately withdraw from the Occupied Territories.

DSA Statement in Support of the Hong Kong Democracy Movement

Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) supports the goals of the Hong Kong movement for democracy (the “Umbrella Movement”).

When the British handed Hong Kong over to China in 1997, the Chinese government promised both in the Sino-British Joint Declaration and the mini constitution of Hong Kong (the Basic Law) that a democratic system eventually would be implemented.

However the current resolution passed by the Chinese National People’s Congress for implementing that promise by 2017 would sharply restrict candidates for political office to those preselected by an unrepresentative body representing mainly business interests.

The struggle to create a political system with more democratic self-determination is an essential step towards rectifying the growing economic inequality in Hong Kong.

As democrats and as socialists we support our sisters and brothers in Hong Kong who are fighting for the same goals we have in the USA.

High school students organized in Scholarism and university students organized in the Hong Kong Federation of Students have taken the lead with massive peaceful occupations and assemblies to pursue these legitimate political ends. They have been widely supported by the independent unions of the Hong Kong Confederation of Labor, by numerous civic and neighborhood associations, and by Occupy Central.

After many days of protests marked by an excessive police response, the Hong Kong government agreed to have a representative meet with the students. However this promise for negotiations was obviated by a wave of violent attacks on peaceful protesters by thugs, often with police looking the other way or sometimes abetting the efforts of the vigilantes. The fighters for democracy have courageously resisted with nonviolent tactics.

We support the demands that repressive violence against the protesters cease, whether it comes from official government sources or from thugs acting in concert with the government. The Hong Kong government should immediately negotiate with students and other representatives of the democracy movement to resolve the underlying issues, including the establishment of genuine universal suffrage and initial measures to restrict the growth of extreme economic and social inequality.

We applaud the initiative and courage of those participating in the Hong Kong Movement for Democracy. We will support the struggle by making use of our own democratic rights in appropriate ways to publicize, petition and protest in solidarity with this crucial democratic movement.

Passed by the DSA National Political Committee

October 5, 2014.

2014 Boston DSA Awards Reception

Last June 8 at the Brookline Workmen's Circle, Boston Democratic Socialists of America presented our annual Gene Debs/Norman Thomas/Julius Bernstein award to long time labor activist Jacob Schlitt, and our Michael Harrington/A. Philip Randolph award to imprisoned Occupier Cecily McMillan. Honorary Chairs for the event featured many progressive notables, including former Congressman Barney Frank, State Representative Ruth Balsler, State Senator Patricia Jehlen and AFL-CIO President Warren Tolman; Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders sent greetings.

After introductions by his daughter Carol Schlitt—a consultant to the US Human Rights Fund—and Michael Felsen, past President of the Boston Workmen's Circle, Jake reminisced on a life spent in the labor, civil rights and democratic socialist movements of his time (and Jake's "time" goes back to the 1940s!) with wisdom, warmth and wit. He also acknowledged a number of friends and mentors he collected along the way, including Julius Bernstein, a local leader of the Jewish Labor Committee and Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee (DSA) through the 1970s, for whom his award was named.

Accepting the award for Cecily McMillan was Lucy Parks from Cecily's Defense Committee in NYC, who after passing the hat took home more than \$500. She related again the bizarre circumstances of Cecily's arrest and prosecution (see June YR), and the work of many people in NY and elsewhere to set her free—including Cecily's comrades in Young Democratic Socialists. The subsequent good news is that Cecily is now free, having served her sentence, and is back to writing her thesis on Bayard Rustin and a book about her recent experience with the NY penal system.

Thanks to all who made this year's reception a success, including our Mistress of Ceremonies Julie Johnson from the MTA, who showed again why we always ask her to do this. See you all next year!



SUPPORTERS

Julie Arnow

Susan Davidoff

David Knuttunen

Mike Pattberg

FRIENDS

Marie Ariel
Harlan Baker
Gloria Burking
Vic Bloomberg
Eric Bove
Sheila Decter
Shelly Dien
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Ellen Feingold
Julie Johnson & Rep. Frank Smizik
Sylvia Lanza
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Maxine Phillips
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Honorary Chairs for DSA Awards Reception

FORMER CONGRESSMAN BARNEY FRANK; REP. RUTH BALSER; SEN. PATRICIA JEHLLEN; DICK BAUER; ARTHUR BERNSTEIN; JULES BERNSTEIN; SHEILA DECTER; ELLEN FEINGOLD; MICHAEL FELSEN; SHELAGH FOREMAN; DAVID HARRIS; GEORGIA HOLLISTER ISMAN; JOHN McDONOUGH; RABBI BARBARA PENZER; STEVEN TOLMAN; RAND WILSON

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Jake with Friends...



Lucy Parks from the Cecily McMillan Defense Committee with Carol Schlitt...

and Julie Arnow