



THE DELAWARE ROSE GARDEN

Delaware Democratic Socialists of America Newsletter

Solidarity Brings Gaza Ceasefire Demand to Biden's doorstep.

By Phillip Bannowsky

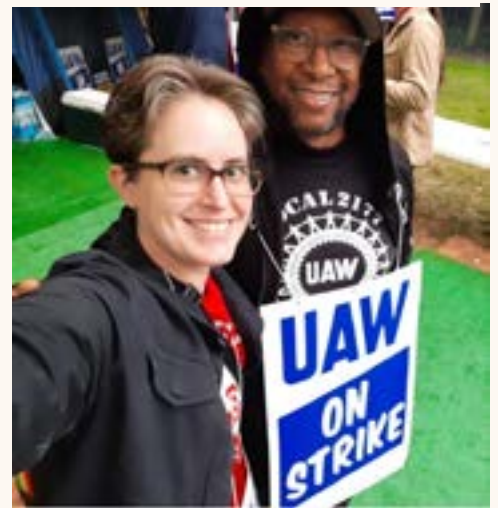
THE DELAWARE CHAPTER OF DSA, JOINING WITH A DOZEN other progressive, human rights, and faith organizations, rallied close to two thousand marchers (*source: News Journal, 14 November*) to President Biden's gate on November 11 to demand a permanent cease-fire in Gaza.



Demonstrators gather on green near President Biden's home in Greenville, Delaware to protest his complicity in Israel's genocidal campaign in Gaza. *All photos by Phillip Bannowsky*
National and international news outlets covered the event and shared its message. Fired up by the spirit of solidarity, every group
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Picket Lines Are The Front Lines of Working Class Struggle

By Kelly



Comrade Kelly on the UAW picket line at Langhorn Parts & Distribution, PA. *photo by Kelly*

I DONT COME FROM A UNION family. Before UAW's Stand Up Strike, I had never been to a picket line. I had read and taught about them for Socialist Night School, and at DSA's National Convention this past summer, I voted with other delegates to prioritize labor organizing for the next two years. I was excited to join the other Solidarity

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Read DSA Backs UAW's Stand-up Strike Delaware DSA Helps Make History, p. 7

Results of Mayoral Race: See Calendar updates: p. 3

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Upcoming Delaware DSA Zoom Meeting: 01/28/24

[To join the Democratic Socialists of America](#)

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For questions regarding membership meetings or to join DEDSA please email: [delaware.socialists\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:delaware.socialists[at]gmail.com)

Solidarity Brings Gaza Ceasefire to Pres., *continued from p.1* in the ad hoc alliance pitched in to facilitate funding, transportation, location, stage, PA equipment, publicity, banners, signs, snacks, water, marshals, medics, and lawyers.

Assembling on the grassy acre at Centre Road and Barley Mill, the stellar list of speakers included famous author and comic Amer Zahr as MC and Women's March leader Linda Sarsour. Zahr (son of local scientist/activist Georg Zahr) called out the Zionist smear of our slogan "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free" as comparable to the smear that "Black Lives Matter" means only Black lives. The slogans respond to current realities that neither Black lives matter nor are Palestinians free. Christian Palestinian Mitri Habash passionately defended the Palestinian struggle and exploded the myth that some clash of civilizations between Muslims and the Christian West was behind the troubles. Delaware DSA Co-Chair and If Not Now member Jonathan Tate emphasized the dread he had felt, especially being Jewish, over the impending retaliation after the Hamas attack and suggested correctly that Delaware

DSA was a great place for pro-Palestine activists to operate. Former leader of the University of Delaware Hillel Hope Moser traced her trajectory from naïve Zionist to partisan of Palestinian liberation. This writer performed Zeina Azzam's poem "Write My Name." It concludes,



Write my name on my leg, Mama
When the bomb hits our house
When the walls crush our skulls and bones
our legs will tell our story, how
there was nowhere for us to run.

Weeping and Inspiration, continued on p. 5

Picken Lines, *continued from p. 2*

Captains for a learning opportunity. The National Labor Committee's strategy meetings and picket line etiquette training helped me feel more confident putting theory into practice.

Phillip, our chapter's co-chair, invited me and another comrade Merlin along for our first trip out to the GM Parts & Distribution Plant in Langhorne, PA. During the hour-long drive, Phillip regaled us with stories about factory working conditions when he was younger, and lamented the decline in compensation for the workers that came after him.

When we arrived, we saw a big tent with signs hanging outside, a fire pit with camping chairs around it, and several workers congregating by the back entrance. Merlin and I were a little shy at first, but Phillip started shaking hands and making introductions, and we soon followed his lead. A few folks from other unions were also there mingling. Remembering our training, we focused on listening to the workers instead of stealing their spotlight to spread our democratic socialist message. We asked about their work, and what they hoped to gain by striking.

Most workers we met were eager to vent about poor pay, grueling conditions, and disrespectful treatment by their managers. Many felt frustrated that their strike two years ago didn't win them meaningful changes, and some were skeptical about President Shawn Fain's Stand Up strategy. They wanted all the workers to walk out together, but they were willing to give the new strategy a try.

About halfway through our shift, we met up with some comrades from Philly DSA, who were primarily organizing DSA's support of this picket line. Some of us headed over to the plant's main entrance, where a larger crowd of younger workers held the line near an intersection. Drivers honked and waved as they passed us; a few shouted or gave us the finger, but most were supportive. We engaged in similar conversations as we had at the other entrance, hearing from the workers about their experiences and goals before heading home tired but inspired.

About two weeks later, I made a second trip out alone. I arrived with a trunk full of bottled water and nonperishable groceries I collected from comrades in our chapter as well as neighbors, to donate to striking workers who were trying to feed

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Calendar updates

9/17 - DSA Tables at Newark Community Day, connecting with students, community, and newly forming YDSA members.

10/3 - DSA members join Local 2177 on the Picket Line at Langhorne, PA.



11/4 Cease Fire Demo in DC. Photo by Phillip Bannowsky

10/8 - DSA member joins Local 2177's Rally at the Langhorne PA Picket line. Collected donations including groceries from members make their way up to Union member's and families.

Mid-October - a YDSA is created at UDel, welcoming young socialists into a larger community!



12/12 Delaware Rep. Madinah Wilson Anton's ceasefire sign viewed by Vice President Harris. Screenshot from video.

10/21 - DSA Tables as Wilmington's Open Streets. Great turnout, discussions to be had.

10/26 - Delaware DSA joins U. Del SJP and YDSA on campus for a cease-fire demonstration.

10/26 - DSA members deliver more groceries to UAW's Langhorne PA picket line.

11/4 - Delaware DSA members join mass demonstration in Washington DC for for cease-fire in Gaza

11/11 - March to Bidens. 2,000 march on the president's DE residence.

11/16 - Shane Darby's Ceasefire Now Resolution is passed, Wilm is 8th City in US

12/12 - DSA member and Delaware State Representative intervenes in Vice President Kamala Harris's holiday party and calls out, "Madam Vice-President, I'm a state rep from Delaware – did you know that in Bethlehem, they're not celebrating Christmas ... that Baby Jesus is under rubble? Why won't you call for a ceasefire?"

12/30/2023 - Mutual aid with Humbly Assisting Humanity and Samaritan Place to deliver clothes, hygiene supplies, and non-perishable food to housing-vulnerable folks.



1/9/2024 - DSA-endorsed candidate Demitri Theodoropoulos ran for City of Newark mayor in a Special Election on January 9th. Although Demitri did not win, he received 14% of the vote with his platform of funding the AETNA firehouse, bringing more jobs to Newark and fighting corporate housing buyouts. Demitri owns Wonderland Records in downtown Newark which has quite a bit of name recognition, however, two of his opponents were a former Newark mayor and a UD professor. Demitri put forth a strong effort against these challengers and DEDSA is proud to have endorsed him.

their families with only \$500 a week from the UAW strike fund. Philly DSA had organized a potluck, so I also brought fruit salad. My goal during this second trip was to be as effective as I could as just one person.

When I heard that one lone worker was holding the line at the other entrance while everyone else enjoyed the potluck, of course I volunteered to join her and keep her spirits up. Alicia was grateful



for the company. She said she wanted the younger workers on her shift to go to the potluck, but she had been doing this for long enough she didn't need to go. We spoke at length about how billionaires shouldn't exist, and how record profits are just unpaid wages. Alicia shared her hopes for her children's future, and lamented that she felt she lived at work and only visited home in order to provide for them. Community members stopped by every few minutes to drop off coffee, donuts, hoagies, and more. She let me know which supplies (bottled water and firewood) were most in demand. I held the line with her until her team returned from the potluck.

I made a third and final trip to Langhorne for their rally. Plenty of Philly DSA comrades were also in attendance, as well as members of other unions and progressive organizations. Several local politicians gave speeches, which caused some controversy when their questionable voting history on other labor issues was called out. For the most part, though, the rally was spirited and uplifting. It ended with everyone in attendance singing "Solidarity Forever."

Not long after these trips to the picket line,



UAW members ratified new contracts, locking in record gains at the Big Three automakers. Workers won cost-of-living adjustments, annual bonuses for retirees, the elimination of wage tiers, faster progression to top pay, commitments to bring thousands of electric vehicle and battery jobs under the union's national agreements, and raises from at least 33% to over 160%. Worker solidarity gets results. I am so grateful to have held the line, on the front lines of the working class struggle. Victory like this builds momentum for our movement towards a more just and equitable society.

Kissinger Croaks



Henry Kissinger died Nov. 29 at the age of 100. As Nixon's Metternich, he helped open China for business, expanded the Vietnam War into Cambodia & Laos & helped plan the coup that wiped out a generation of democratic socialists in Chile. Absolute disregard for human rights was the foundation of his realpolitik. While reviled as an epic war criminal, he was a mere accessory to U.S. imperialism. All presidents since Nixon availed themselves of Kissinger's venal genius, which earned him accolades, fame, riches, and bed-partners—in other words, the American Dream. May he boil for eternity in the blood of his three million victims from SE Asia, Africa, and S. America. It must be said in his defense that he was not, in fact, the Anti-Christ.

Solidarity Brings Gaza Ceasefire Demand to President Biden's Doorstep,

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Weeping and Inspiration

There was visible weeping in the crowd, many of whom had relatives under siege in Gaza. Dr. Afnan Albahri, clad in scrubs and scarf, decried the murder of children in Gaza so passionately that we had no sound system afterwards, until MC Amer Sahr picked up a big megaphone, and Linda Sarsour spoke.

Don't worry what they say about you now. Think about what people will say about you in thirty years [when] your grandchildren and great-great grandchildren ask you what did you do, where did you stand while they were slaughtering Palestinian children on the dime of the taxpayers of the United States of America.

"I stand before you," she said, "unapologetically Palestinian-American, . . . unapologetically Muslim American, and unapologetically from Brooklyn, New York."

"Don't worry," she urged, "about what they say about you now. Think about what people will say about

you in thirty years [when] your grandchildren and great-great grandchildren ask you what did you do, where did you stand while they were slaughtering Palestinian children on the dime of the taxpayers of the United States of America."

"I stood up; I was not silent. I used every platform that I had for justice and to put on the record that I do not stand by idly when there is a genocide happening."

Precisely the same sentiments were expressed by our DSA comrade and Wilmington City Councilmember Shané Darby when she successfully sponsored a cease-fire resolution: "When I look back, and I'm sitting in my rocking chair, [at] 70 [or] 80 years old with my grandkids around me . . . I will know I did the right thing in this moment."

The march certainly demonstrated to Joe Biden and the world that Americans are horrified by Israel's brutal campaign in Gaza and are in support of Palestinian liberation and human rights. It also demonstrated the strength of Delaware's progressive community, particularly Delaware DSA and Delawareans for Palestinian Rights (DelPHR). Other participants contributing equally were the Delaware Working Families Party, Network Delaware, Black Women in Power, CAIR Philadelphia, American Muslims for Palestine, JVP Philadelphia, IT NOT NOW, UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDSA), and University of Delaware Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP).



Del. Rep. Madinah Wilson Anton (L)
and Linda Sarsour (R)

How Delaware's Human Rights Community Came Together

Discussions about Hamas's brutal October 7 attack on Israeli citizens and Israel's likely response began at once among Delaware's human rights and progressive community, especially as many of us had gathered at the fundraiser dinner for the Palestinian Children's Relief Fund (PCRF). Normally, the dinner is an opportunity to mingle with Palestinians in their gorgeous incardadine embroidery, taste Palestinian food, see videos about

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Solidarity Brings Gaza Ceasefire Demand to President Biden's Doorstep,

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the work of PCRF-funded doctors in Gaza, and contribute to the apolitical non-profit. But this time, a tremendous grief hung its gray pall over the gathering. As much as we grieved for the 1200 Israeli dead and feared for the 240 kidnapped, there was a tremendous dread that Israel would act far more violently against Gaza and would use the attack to further its settler colonialist project under the cover of self-defense.

A meeting of DelPHR took place a week later, and participants agreed that living in the President's home state, they had a special obligation to make a powerful statement. All agreed that diverse organizations in the area needed to begin talking to each other.

In the next few weeks, DSA and DelPHR began discussions with various allied groups when our dear comrade and State Representative Madinah Wilson-Anton threw her weight into plans for a demonstration at the grassy strip near Biden's home and a march to his doorstep. All efforts immediately coalesced to support those actions. Trust was established as tasks were democratically debated, divvied up, and carried out.

What to do about the police and permitting was debated, but eventually, the weight of our organizational strength, plus a few influential activists like Madinah and Coby Owens—also a DSA member—on our side persuaded the cops to be cooperative.

My spouse and comrade Joan were the first to show up at eight a.m. on that clear and temperate Saturday morning. There were some seventeen police vehicles lined up on Old Centre Road, parallel to Centre Road on either side of that grassy acre. The cops in charge gave us no grief while we waited for the sound technician, the stage, and a huge medical tent suitable for our big banner behind the stage. Most cops split after a short briefing. The other organizers soon showed up.

We knew we had done our work, but we did not know how it would pay off. Eventually, more folks began arriving, first in trickles and later in waves of children, scarved mothers, busloads from schools, and contingents from as far away as Vermont and California.

The success of our approach as democratic socialists was evident. In our organization, we use *democracy* to elect progressive officials, *democracy* governs our debate over internal policies, and we practice *democracy* in our collaborations with allies. We don't poach members, try to enforce our "line," or engage in alienating maximal rhetoric. By applying the democratic spirit in all areas, we grow.

Going Forward

As of this writing, 22,835 Palestinians have perished, including 9,600 children, in Israel's genocidal onslaught, despite one temporary pause while hostages were exchanged. The risks we take in opposing this atrocity generally pale in comparison to what Gazans endure.



Kinnan Abdalhamid

(obtained from Abdalhamid family by NBC News) y that will probably impair his mobility.

On November 27, our heroic comrade Rep. Madinah Wilson-Anton began a five-day hunger strike in front of the White House. Along with Wilson-Anton, the group included

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actor and DSA comrade Cynthia Nixon, New York state Rep. and DSA Comrade Zohran Mamdani, DSA National Chair Ashik Siddique, organizer and former Congressional candidate in NY-12 Rana Abdelhamid, Sumaya Awad from the Adalah Justice Project and NYCDSA, and Iman Abid from the U.S. Campaign for Palestinian Rights, as well as activists from Dream Defenders and others from DSA.

Comrade Madinah is an inspiration to us and is a model DSA legislator. Likewise, Mike Abel, co-founder of DelPHR, has created a big tent in the region for Palestinian advocacy, one that has broken wide open the once narrow discourse on Israel/Palestine. Their website is an excellent portal for education and news, and their listserv is a powerful vehicle for immediate action: delphr.org. We urge all, socialists and non-socialists alike, to get on board with DelPHR.

Of course, Delaware DSA is proud of what we have managed to contribute to Palestinian human rights as well as to the advancement of working-class power. The two projects enrich each other, as evidenced by the recent endorsement of a lasting cease-fire in Gaza by the DSA-influenced UAW International Executive Board. (see [DSA-Backed UAW Wins Stand-up Strike](#), this page).

Workers of the World, Unite!

Equal and inalienable Human Rights for all in Israel-Palestine—from the River to the Sea!

DSA-Backed UAW Wins Stand-up Strike **Delaware DSA Helps Make History**



UAW International President Shawn Fain
Leah Millis/Reuters

THANKS TO AN AGGRESSIVE NEW UAW leadership, a six-week “stand-up” strike, and outside picket-line support that included DSA, the Big Three automakers agreed to a contract worth more than the last four contracts combined. (see [Picket Lines Are The Front Lines of Working Class Struggle](#), p.1)

The Stand Up strike was a new strategy,

whereby the strike fund was protected by striking all companies at only a few plants originally, striking more at companies where there was the least progress, generally keeping them guessing, and even rewarding the Big Three by calling fewer additional plants out when things looked promising.

Led by recently elected President Shawn Fain, UAW workers rid themselves of the hated solidarity-killing wage tiers and restored automatic cost of living raises (COLA) on top of an immediate 11 percent raise. With COLA, top wages are predicted to rise from \$32 to \$42 by 2028. With the elimination of tiers, bottom-tier workers will see an immediate 88% increase to raise them to the level of UAW siblings working beside them on the factory floor. An alleged discrepancy in raises was megaphoned by online trolls hoping to divide the older rank and file, who got far less percentage-wise despite everyone expecting annual wages of \$87,000 in four and a half years.

Also dampening spirits was the failure to eliminate tiers in pensions and retiree healthcare, though a 10% match of employee contributions will be added to 401(k)s, and those who will receive pensions will see a raise, too. Explains UAW President Shawn Fain, “[T]hese issues are extremely difficult and expensive to fix, primarily because the Big 3, being so driven by Wall Street, refused to have the liability on their books.” In the end, workers ratified the agreements by significant, but not

See [DSA Helps UAW Win](#), Continued on p. 8

overwhelming, margins.

Fain also pointed out how pensions were originally won after a 100-day strike when all autoworkers were in the union. Already engaged in an aggressive organizing campaign at Tesla, Toyota, Volkswagen, Mercedes, BMW, Honda, Nissan, and others, Fain argues that “[w]inning back pensions . . . will require “getting back to our full strength.”

On the other hand, there are numerous other new features to make autoworkers happy. The progression to 100% wages was reduced from ten years to three (although it was three months back in Delaware DSA Co-Chair Phillip Bannowsky’s day). The company will now add \$110 to the weekly \$500 the union now provides to striking workers. Stellantis (formerly Chrysler) agreed to re-open the Belvedere Assembly Plant. Many e-vehicle battery plants will come under the union agreement, while others will be added to union rolls through a simplified 50% check-off. Retirees got a win, too. UAW retirees, including Comrade Bannowsky, will get five \$500 bonuses spread over four and a half years, despite labor law that exempts bosses from bargaining over retirees.

DSA in the UAW

The back story to this new militancy in the UAW involves DSA, as well. In the wake of a corruption scandal that resulted in the imprisonment of some dozen UAW officials (and a few company operators), the UAW was put under the control of a federal monitor. The Monitor asked the member-



UAW Director Region 9A Brandon Mancilla. Photo X profile.

ship, including retirees, to decide if they wanted to continue electing the UAW leadership through convention delegates or switch to a one-person-one-vote referendum. A rank-and-file group called Unite All Workers for Democracy (UAWD), which included many DSA members, materialized and pushed for a one-member-one-vote system and won. Following this win for union democracy, UAWD sponsored a winning slate of candidates sufficient to win control of the UAW International Executive Board (IEB) and begin charting a militant new course.

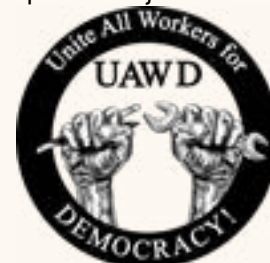


UAW Region 6 Director Mike Miller. Photo UAW

Among the UAW members elected last year to lead the Executive Board are DSA members Brandon Mancilla as Director as Region 9 and Mike Miller as Director of Region 6. Chris Brooks, a DSA member and former Labor Notes staff writer, was tapped by President Fain to head his transition team. Jonah Furman, another leading Labor Notes staff writer and DSA member, was announced in April as the UAW’s new communications director. At a recent retiree reunion of Newark’s UAW 1183, Co-Chair Bannowsky was told his frequent posts about UAWD persuaded at least a few of the members to vote for the new leadership.

As a demonstration of the UAW’s new militancy regarding fraught political issues, the UAW IEB has called for a cease-fire in Gaza and will be forming a Divestment and Just Transition working group to study the history of Israel and Palestine and how the Union can contribute to a just transition for US workers from war to peace.

If you want to see unions bigger, more militant, and more socially progressive, the Democratic Socialists of America, including the Delaware chapter, is your place to join the fight.



REFAAT ALAREER WAS KILLED by the Israeli military December 6, along with his brother, his brother's son, his sister and her three children. According to Jihad Abusalim, writing in *The Nation*, for those of us lucky enough to study under him, being in his classroom transcended the traditional educational experience; he made learning English cool and enjoyable. . . Refaat did not just impart knowledge; he offered a glimpse of hope, a respite from the relentless pressures of Gaza. Refaat taught his students Shakespeare and John Donne, but that was not all. He also introduced his students to Malcolm X, feminist literature, and even the poetry of Yehuda Amichai. This brief exposure allowed us to experience a world far beyond Gaza's borders, igniting a desire to claim our place in it.

This is his last poem.

IF I MUST DIE”

BY REFAAT ALAREER

If I must die,
 you must live
 to tell my story
 to sell my things
 to buy a piece of cloth
 and some strings,
 (make it white with a long tail)
 so that a child, somewhere in Gaza
 while looking heaven in the eye
 awaiting his dad who left in a blaze—
 and bid no one farewell
 not even to his flesh
 not even to himself—
 sees the kite, my kite you made, flying up above
 and thinks for a moment an angel is there
 bringing back love
 If I must die
 let it bring hope
 let it be a tale



من يد ان يعين الله
 رعب العرعر
 بدا من ان يد ان الموت
 فان يد ان يعين الله
 بروي حديني
 نبيع اسديني
 ونسري تصحـ صمن
 وحيوص
 (سند بيضاء وبدن صوين)
 في يبصر صص في منن ما من اسره
 ومويح بق في السماء
 منصر اابه الذي رحن جهه
 نون ان يودح احدا
 وان حتى لحمه
 او دانه
 يبصر الصاره الوردية
 صرني الوردية التي صنعها الله
 لخلق في اليطي
 ويصن نحصه ان صحت صمن
 يعيد الحب
 بدا من ان يد ان الموت
 كنياب موني نايمي
 فيصبح حديني
 برجمه صمن الصون

Translation by Sinan Antoon



for 150 years AN AMERICAN TRADITION



Our DSA chapter has existed since January 2021, and we now have over a hundred members. We have more elected DSA members in the Delaware House of Representatives than any other state legislative chamber in the USA. We raise money and beat the bushes to help them win. Even better, they have proven their worth when they and our non-member endorsees have championed a Green New Deal and spoken out for Palestinian human rights.

We have been at the barricades for the Movement for Black Lives, reproductive rights, and Palestinian Justice, marching at UD, in Wilmington, in DC, and at President Biden's doorstep. We have assisted in major labor struggles in the Teamsters, Starbucks, and the UAW, where a DSA-supported reform movement has ascended to leadership and won a major victory after decades of corruption and give-backs.

We also assist our state's most vulnerable population through Mutual Aid drives, donating food, clothing, and other essentials.

Our coalition politics with other progressive forces make all our voices louder.

If you are already involved in progressive struggles, Delaware DSA is a place to enjoy the support of like-minded rebels, get training and experience in organizing, and bolster your impact struggling for multiracial working-class power.

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A BETTER WORLD IS POSSIBLE!

