



# Democratic Socialists of America - Madison



## Fall 2014 Newsletter

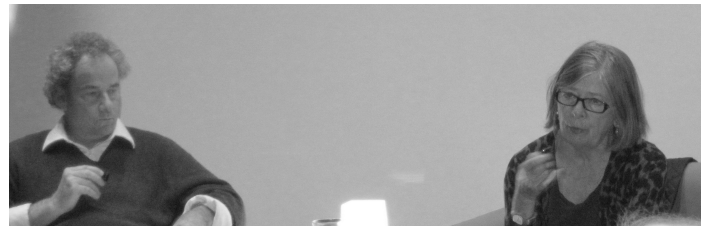
### Madison DSA news:

The Madison Area DSA was well represented at the Fighting Bob Fest held at the Baraboo County Fairgrounds on Saturday, Sept. 13. Named after “Fighting Bob” La Follette, the Fest is an annual Chautauqua featuring progressive speakers, networking opportunities, and lots of entertainment. This year’s speakers included Maine Senator Bernie Sanders, veteran labor leader Ed Garvey, journalist John Nichols, Congressman Mark Pocan, Senator Tammy Baldwin, and gubernatorial candidate Mary Burke. We DSAers were busy at our literature table, distributing copies of the national quarterly *Democratic Left*, (re)assuring people from around the state that democratic socialism is alive and well in Wisconsin, and adding almost two dozen names to our sign-up list. Equally important, we featured a petition to encourage Bernie Sanders – the independent Maine Senator and DSA member – to run for president, collecting over 75 signatures. It was a great opportunity to inform progressives from the Upper Midwest (including Iowa, northern Illinois, and Minnesota) about the national DSA.

Two local DSA members had themselves certified as Voter Registration Deputies in Dane County and participated in the voter registration drive. On Saturday morning, Oct. 11, we were out on the UW campus before the football game to register voters and remind them of the Nov. 4 election. On the day before, the US Supreme Court halted voter photo id for the election, a decision that became part of our educational outreach during the registration effort. We learned from the County Clerk that the number of registration deputies almost doubled in this electoral season and that the number of registrations was up as well in Dane County. While DSA is not an electoral party, the entire local group can’t wait to get a new governor in place!

On Thursday evening, Oct. 23, DSA honorary co-chair Barbara Ehrenreich received in Madison the Havens Center Award for Lifetime Contributions to Critical Scholarship. The Havens Center is an interdisciplinary research and outreach unit housed in

the University of Wisconsin’s Department of Sociology, committed to the study of social justice and promoting critical intellectual reflection ([www.havenscenter.org](http://www.havenscenter.org)). Barbara Ehrenreich is a prolific author and journalist, best known for her best sellers *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America* (2001) and *Bright-Sided: How Positive Thinking is Undermining America* (2010). The award ceremony included a public interview of Ehrenreich by Matt Rothschild, senior editor of *The Progressive* magazine.



### A Wisconsin Public Bank?

by Red Wagner

Recently two candidates for Wisconsin Treasurer have included the creation of a public bank as major parts of their platforms. David Leeper (a public bank proponent) lost to David Sartori in the Democratic primary for treasurer. His loss was narrow, having gained 48% of the vote. However, voters can still show their support for a public bank in the general election by voting for Ron Hardy, the Green Party candidate and public bank backer.

What is a state bank? There is one state in the US that current has a state bank, North Dakota. Nearly 100 years ago, the state created the bank because its citizens felt they were getting a bad deal from the large commercial banks where they used to store their tax revenues. Since then, the public bank has done many positive things for North Dakota.

What are the benefits? When commercial banks store tax revenues for states, they use that money to make loans and the bank keeps the profits from those loans. With a public bank, the state can receive a modest but