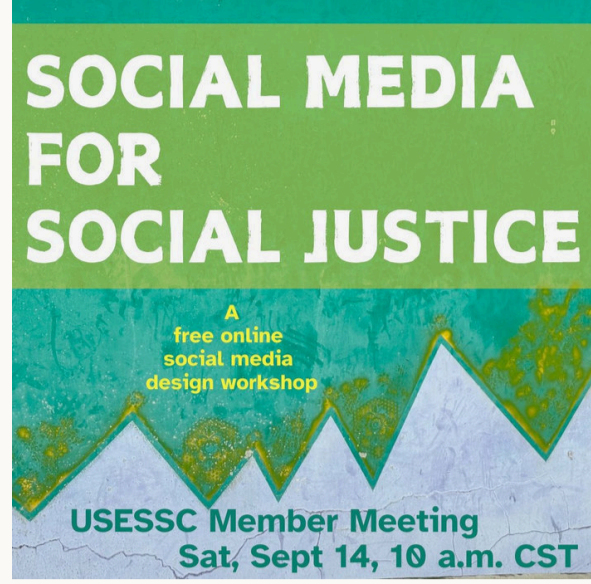


Social Media for Social Justice: Online social media design workshop with our own Carissa Christner

Dear Friends of MASCP,

Carissa Christner and her son, Gabriel, joined us on the 2024 MASCP trip to El Salvador. Zulma, Kelly, and Maren, USESSC staff on the trip, picked up quickly on Carissa's expertise with graphic design and social media and have invited her to present an online workshop for US El Salvador Sister City Network (USESSC) to teach fellow activist how to use "Canva" for social justice. You're invited, too!

In Carissa's 1.5-hour-long workshop, participants will learn the basics of Canva (free version) to develop web contacts for Sister Cities and beyond. By the end of the session, each participant will have at least one finished image ready to post on Instagram or Facebook.



Who: Anyone! If you're already part of the USESSC network or thinking about joining, come learn about how you can tailor social media to your community activism needs.

When: September 14th, 10 am CST (8 am PST, 9 am MT and El Salvador, 11 am ET)

Where: Via zoom. [Click here to register.](#) Spanish/English interpretation available.

MASCP's support for José Ayala

Our friends in Arcatao want all of us to know about another arbitrary detention by the Bukele government. A young man, José Ayala, the son of Domitila Ayala Mejía, whom some of you probably have met in Arcatao, has been arbitrarily detained in prison for over 2 years. He has not been allowed legal support nor a legitimate hearing in all this time because of the "State of Exception" that has been illegally extended month after month for almost 3 years. Just recently, his family finally found out where he was being held and can send him food and other items.



Jose Elias Chavez Ayala

They do not have any contact with him and do not know if he actually receives these things.

MASCP was honored to write a letter in support of his liberation to include with the dossier that lawyers with UNIDEHC (La Unidad de Defensa de Derechos Humanos y Comunitarios de El Salvador) are compiling for his eventual defense. You can [see our letter and the story of his arbitrary arrest and illegal detention](#) on the August 6, 2024 entry of the UNIDEHC Facebook page.

MASCP visits with Congressman Mark Pocan



Maria Brown, Carol Samuel, Joan Laurion, Congressman Pocan, Chucho Alvarado, Carissa Christner, Gabriel Christner.

Members of MASCP and Madison activists who visited Arcatao with MASCP in 2024 met with Congressman Mark Pocan on Thursday, August 29, 2024. Mark is a great friend of MASCP. He went to Arcatao on an early trip with the then Mayor of Madison, Sue Bauman, and has welcomed us warmly whenever we have news and requests from El Salvador to share with him. One of MASCP's missions is to educate people here in Madison and our WI Congress people and Senators about El Salvador and the effects of US policies there.

We shared with Mark these requests which were made by our friends in civil society in El Salvador and directed to the policymakers in Washington: 1- Stop funding the military in El Salvador 2- Take a stand against human rights violations in El Salvador which include the arbitrary detention of thousands of people without hearing or legal representation 3- Push for the end of the "State of Exception"(martial law) that has been in effect for nearly 3 years 4- Denounce the reelection of Nayib Bukele which violates the Salvadoran Constitution.

We also took this opportunity to thank Congressman Pocan and his assistant Luanne Kostelic for helping our newest USESSC staff member, Kelly Calles, receive a visa to visit the US in October for a speaking tour in the Midwest! Kelly and her co-coordinator, Zulma Tobar, along with CRIPDES president, Lorena Araujo, will be in Madison October 14-16. We are so excited that both Zulma and Kelly can come and we are very grateful to Mark and Luanne for their support!

Save the date!

You are warmly invited to an evening of food, community, compelling stories, and news about the current situation in El Salvador. We are fortunate to be welcoming staff members from the U.S. El Salvador Sister City Network and one of their Salvadoran colleagues to Madison on October 14-17, 2024! We're hosting a dinner in their honor on October 15th and we hope you will join us to welcome them and hear about their experiences in the new political landscape of El Salvador.

Besides a scrumptious homemade pupusa dinner and slides from our recent MASCP trip to Arcatao, there will be a presentation about the current reality in El Salvador by Zulma Tobar and Kelly Calles, US El Salvador Sister City (USESSC) staff who live in El Salvador, and Lorena Martinez, President of CRIPDES, Association for the Development of Rural Communities in El Salvador. Save the date!



Lorena Araujo, President of CRIPDES



When:

October 15, 2024

5:30-7:30 PM

Where:

Village Co-Housing community room, 1104 Mound St., Madison WI

What:

A delicious pupusa dinner including homemade pupusas and curtido, refried beans, and plantains

Photos and stories from our 2024 Madison travelers

A presentation about the current reality in El Salvador by Zulma Tobar and Kelly Calles, US El Salvador Sister City staff who live in El Salvador, and Lorena Araujo, President of CRIPDES, Association for the Development of Rural Communities in El Salvador.

There will be a suggested donation to pay for the dinner and the work of MASCP and USESSC.

**Thank you for your continued interest and support
of MASCP over the years and TODAY!!**

DONATE

P.O. Box 132 Madison, WI 53701

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