

THE MILITANT

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Australia's rulers blocked entry to Jews before, during, after WWII
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 88/NO. 19

MAY 13, 2024

Fight against Jew-hatred is crucial for the working class

BY SETH GALINSKY

Hamas' international propaganda machine — promoted by middle-class leftists worldwide — keeps churning out lies that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza, that people there are on the verge of starvation, that no women were raped by Hamas Oct. 7 and even that there was no massacre of civilians that day.

They are aided by the liberal bourgeois media's war coverage. The *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*, for example, rarely mention that Israel is at war in Gaza to dismantle Hamas — financed, trained and backed by the reactionary bourgeois regime in Iran — so that it cannot make good on its threats to keep murdering Jews and to destroy Israel. They don't report that Hamas forces there seize food for themselves and continue using civilians as human shields.

For its part the administration of President Joseph Biden is trying to

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Democrats' attack on constitutional rights is threat to working people

BY TERRY EVANS

The Democrats' frantic drive to get compliant judges to throw Donald Trump in jail before November's election is bumping into some constitutional challenges. And millions of working people can see a presidential candidate is being charged for things that are not crimes and that when he moves to defend himself, he is hit with a gag order.

In the only case to go to trial so far, Trump is charged by Democratic Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg with a misdemeanor — falsifying business records. But the DA is trying to transform this into a felony. He claims it was done to abet another crime, an unspecified conspiracy to carry out "election fraud" in 2016.

Under New York law, a prosecutor isn't required to identify the second crime, or to prove it beyond a reasonable doubt. This is a clear violation of the Constitution's Sixth Amendment, which says anyone accused of a crime

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SWP presidential candidate Rachele Fruit: 'Workers need to break with the bosses' parties, build a labor party'



Militant/Kathie Fitzgerald

Rachele Fruit, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, speaks at campaign event in Pittsburgh April 23. She reported on visit, day before, with fighters in East Palestine, Ohio.

Campaigners take SWP program to working class

BY JANET POST

Socialist Workers Party candidates and their supporters are finding wide interest in a working-class road forward as they campaign for Rachele Fruit, the

'Militant,' books, fund drive extended one week to May 14

party's candidate for U.S. president. They are taking the party's campaign and program to workers on their doorsteps, on union picket lines and to other union and political events, asking those

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Rachele Fruit speaks in Pittsburgh, East Palestine

BY TONY LANE

PITTSBURGH — "I'm very glad to be here in a region where the working class has been part of profound struggles," Rachele Fruit, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, told a campaign meeting here April 23.

"I was fortunate to be able to speak with some of the fighters in East Palestine yesterday, fighters who are learning from experience what the ugly face of capitalism looks like," she said. Fruit visited East Palestine, Ohio, as part of her two-day campaign tour in the Pittsburgh area.

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Rail workers in Canada fight for a new contract, safe work conditions



Militant/John Steele

During 2018 strike by 3,000 rail workers, unionists picketed Canadian Pacific in Montreal. Some 9,300 unionists at Canada's two biggest rail companies are voting on strike action in May.

BY PHILIPPE TESSIER

MONTREAL — Some 9,300 train conductors, yard workers, train engineers and dispatchers at Canada's two biggest rail companies — Canadian National Railway and Canadian Pacific Kansas City — are fighting for safe working conditions and livable work schedules. Their contract expired Dec. 31, and they're debating and voting on whether to call a strike. The vote by members of Teamsters Canada Rail Conference concludes May 1.

A strike or a lockout could come as early as May 22. On April 11, the company posted an "offer" on its website, bypassing the union negotiating committee. "It is an offer made to divide the workers," said Juan Garcia, a train conductor at Canadian National in Montreal for the past 10 years.

CN bosses are demanding a series of concessions, including that union members have to be available to work 12 hours every shift. The current contract

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Crisis of capitalism rattles regimes in Latin America, hits toilers hard

BY RÓGER CALERO

Amid the economic and political crisis of capitalism, accelerated by Moscow's invasion of Ukraine and the Tehran-backed Hamas pogrom against Jews in Israel Oct. 7, conflicts and threats between regimes across Latin America have grown. This was highlighted in an April 11 *Financial Times* article titled, "Latin America beats the world at trading insults, but not trade."

It argues that if Latin American "leaders" would only bring down a notch the cross-border insults and "all-out personality conflicts" between them, there might be a better chance to bring the region out of the decadelong economic stagnation the competing capitalist regimes there have faced.

"Once elected, they see no reason to ease up on vitriolic abuse of opponents, a tactic that works well on the campaign trail," the article said, pointing to the increasingly coarse political discourse be-

tween them. These disputes "can have ugly consequences" in the region.

The most recent example is the decision of the Ecuadoran government to send police squads into the Mexican Embassy in Quito to arrest Jorge Glas, the former Ecuadoran vice president who had sought asylum there to avoid corruption charges. Mexico's rulers

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UAW members win raises, COLA, end tiers at Daimler

Australia's rulers blocked entry to Jews before, during, after WWII

BY LINDA HARRIS

SYDNEY — The deadly Oct. 7 pogrom by Hamas and Tehran against Jews in Israel triggered a wave of Jew-hatred across Australia. Hamas supporters here celebrated the bloodbath Oct. 8 and 9 and chanted against Jews.

Physical assaults, verbal abuse and harassment of Jews have sharply increased. Jewish businesses have been vandalized and boycotted. Some 600 Jewish people involved in the arts had their names and personal details posted on social media in February by anti-Israel activists, leading to harassment, death threats and job losses.

Last November, more than 100 Australian Holocaust survivors signed a statement against the surge in anti-semitism. “Never did we think that we would witness a re-enactment of the senseless and virulent hatred of Jews that we faced in Europe,” it said.

Until Oct. 7, many Jewish immigrants here had the illusion that Australia could be a new “golden country” for Jews. But Jew-hatred isn’t new in Australia.

Like other “democratic” imperialist governments, Canberra refused to open its doors to Jews trying to escape the Nazi regime in the lead-up to World War II. Antisemitism was whipped up to justify strict immigration restrictions.

After Kristallnacht, the Nazi pogrom against Jews in Germany, in 1938, Aboriginal leader William Cooper led a march to the German Consulate in Melbourne. They protested “the cruel persecution of the Jewish people by the Nazi government in Germany” and demanded that the Jew-hating violence

“be brought to an end.”

That year, some 50,000 applications had been received by Australia from Jews wanting to escape from the Nazi terror. At a conference on this refugee crisis held in Evian, France, Canberra refused to increase its annual quota of 5,000 immigrants per year. Its representative, Thomas White, said his government remained committed to its policy of favoring British migration. “Australia does not have a racial problem and is not desirous of importing one,” he said.

Fewer than 8,000 Jews gained entry to Australia and some 1,100 Jews made their way to New Zealand between 1933 and 1939.

After the war’s outbreak however, the Australian government agreed to accept Jews classified as “enemy aliens,” who had been imprisoned in Britain. Camps there were overcrowded following the mass internment of German and Italian nationals, including large numbers of refugees, many of whom were Jews.

Some 7,500 internees were shipped to Canada and Australia in 1940. One of the transport ships bound for Canada was torpedoed and sunk. A number of the survivors were then deported to Australia on the Dunera, a military transport ship that carried more than 2,500 internees, two-thirds of whom were Jewish, shipped together with 450 German and Italian prisoners of war. Conditions on the ship were appalling, with prisoners beaten and abused.

On arrival they were interned in camps at Tatura in Victoria and Hay in New South Wales. There was no separation of Nazi supporters and Jews.



AAP Image/Dean Lewins

Crowd of 1,000 outside Sydney Opera House Oct. 9 celebrating Tehran-backed Hamas’ deadly pogrom in Israel two days earlier. Some demonstrators set off flares, chanted “Gas the Jews.”

The only way for Jews to get out of the camps was to enlist in the Australian armed forces. Many of them remained in Australia. By 1942 most had been released from the camps.

Jewish refugees from Europe who had made their way to Singapore, then a British colony, were also interned as London declared war on Germany. Some 230 of them were expelled and shipped to Sydney, from where they were sent to the Tatura prison camp.

After the war, the Australian government made changes to immigration laws to help meet the needs of bosses for labor. Increased numbers of immigrants from Europe were accepted, including Holocaust survivors. In 1945 Labor Minister for Immigration Arthur Calwell hypocritically announced that 2,000 close relatives of Jews already resident in Australia would be granted entry “on humanitarian grounds.”

Some Jewish refugees in Shanghai, China, were able to take advantage of this new policy. Of the 18,000 Jews who had fled Europe to Asia, many ended up in Shanghai, where they were permitted to stay without a visa. But the Australian consul in Shanghai responsible for immigration classified Jews stranded there as “thoroughly undesirable.” As a result, no more than 1,500 Jews from China managed to enter Australia.

A virulent campaign in some of the press and by a number of prominent politicians was launched against Jewish im-

migration. In 1946, Liberal Party member Henry “Jo” Gullett said in Parliament: “We are not compelled to accept the unwanted of the world at the dictate of the United Nations or anyone else.” Antisemitic cartoons were run in leading papers like the *Bulletin* and *Truth*.

In 1947 Calwell placed new limits on the number of Jews entering Australia — a quota of no more than 25% of Jews on any ship could come to Australia. A clause on immigration forms asking, “Are you a Jew?” had been introduced by the government in 1939 and remained there until 1953.

Some 31,000 Holocaust survivors were eventually settled in Australia. While the size of the Jewish population here has increased to about 120,000 today, immigration restrictions have ensured that it remained less than 0.5% of the total population. However, given the slaughter of 6 million Jews in the Holocaust, this is now the eighth largest Jewish population in the world.

The antisemitic record of Australia’s rulers and today’s resurgence of Jew-hatred confirms that there is no solution to the Jewish question under capitalism. “Fighting antisemitism is at the center of my campaign,” Robert Aiken, Communist League candidate for mayor of Liverpool, Sydney, told the *Militant* April 27. “It is a deadly illusion that the government can be relied on for protection. Workers and our unions must organize against all attacks on Jews.”

THE MILITANT

Protests against ‘Russian law’ spread in Georgia

Georgia, a former Soviet republic, has been rocked by demonstrations against a proposed bill to outlaw “foreign influence.” It is modeled on a law used by Russian President Vladimir Putin’s regime to clamp down on opposition. “This is about our future,” one protester said.



Civil.ge/Nini Gabritchidze
Thousands protest against Georgia’s Foreign Agents Law in Tbilisi, the capital, April 22.

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant*’s views. These are expressed in editorials.

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Philadelphia Aramark workers strike for better wages, benefits

PHILADELPHIA — “We want to be treated fairly and with respect,” Lori Gibson, one of hundreds of UNITE HERE Local 274 members on the picket line here on strike against Aramark April 25, told the *Militant*. They were picketing at the gates leading to the Wells Fargo Center where the National Basketball Association playoff game that night between the Philadelphia 76ers and the New York Knicks was taking place.

The union announced it would be picketing “until further notice.” Strikers protested outside the following playoff game April 28.

Some 400 concession staffers, bartenders, cooks and maintenance workers voted 92% in March to strike after their contract expired. This giant sports complex in South Philadelphia has three venues — Wells Fargo; Citizens Bank Park, where the Phillies play; and Lincoln Financial Field, the Eagles’ football stadium. Many of the workers are part time and work jobs at two or all three of the venues.

Workers told the *Militant* they should get the same hourly rate no matter which venue they are working, and all those hours should collectively count toward getting health care and overtime pay.

They also described harsh working conditions. One of the favorite chants on the picket line is, “My neck, my back, my paycheck is whack!”

Aramark has only offered a 25 cents pay increase. “That’s what I’m talking about when I say no respect,” said Gibson, who has worked as a prep cook there for three years. “Are you kidding me?”

Aramark is also in negotiations with UNITE HERE over contracts at CBP and the Eagles’ stadium. Local 274 is demanding that workers with 750 hours

a year across all three venues should be eligible for health insurance. Aramark is demanding 1,500 hours.

Elizabeth Plepis has worked 20 years as a bartender and server at CBP and picks up hours at Wells Fargo, where she makes less per hour. “I’m working part time because I was taking care of a family member with cancer and Alzheimer’s. What else could I do?” she asked, passing out union flyers to drivers through the gates. “The truckers always honk in support,” she said.

“I have been getting fist-bumps,” said Makel Bevins, a 28-year-old student at the Community College of Philadelphia who works at a concessions stand. “They ask me why we’re on strike. To me, the demand for health care coverage is the most important.” Fewer than 20 of Aramark workers at Wells Fargo have year-round health insurance.

UNITE HERE put up a billboard on I-95, a major interstate running parallel to the sports complex, with a “count-down” to the strike deadline.

“People shouldn’t have to choose between paying bills, for groceries or seeing a doctor,” Gibson told the *Militant*. “But as my grandmother used to say, ‘We can have a pity party, or we can do something about it.’”

The strikers need solidarity, from the other 1,900 workers at Wells Fargo, represented by another 11 unions, and working people elsewhere. For information on picketing or to send messages of solidarity, contact UNITE HERE Local 274, 1415 N. Broad St., Suite 219, Philadelphia, PA or call (215) 232-3145.

— Janet Post

UAW members win raises, COLA, end tiers at Daimler

STATESVILLE, N.C. — A tentative contract agreement was announced between Daimler Truck and the United Auto Workers April 26, an



Militant photos by Mary Martin

Above, UNITE HERE Local 355 hotel workers rally on International Workers Day in Miami May 1. Inset, Rachele Fruit, right, SWP candidate for U.S. president and a member of the local, and Fruit’s co-worker were among 150 joining the action. Unions, immigrant rights fighters held protests, rallies around the world.

hour before the strike deadline. According to UAW officials the four-year agreement will include raises of at least 25%, the end of wage tiers, and a first-time cost-of-living adjustment clause to raise wages as prices rise.

Gains made by UAW strikes last fall against Ford, General Motors, and Stellantis, including workers at the GM Services Parts Operations in Charlotte, brought wide attention in the labor movement and inspired Daimler workers.

On March 8 union members voted by 96% to authorize a strike if needed. In recent weeks hundreds of workers have turned out at union rallies and “practice pickets,” many of them wearing shirts with the slogan “Tick tick” — noting the clock was running down on the contract’s expiration and their willingness to strike.

Some 7,000 workers covered by the agreement work at four plants in North

Carolina, where Freightliner and Western Star trucks, and Thomas Built buses are built. The new agreement would raise workers’ pay in the bus plant to match wages paid to truck plant workers. Another 300 union members covered by the contract work at parts distribution centers in Georgia and Tennessee.

Tanya Hendrix, who has worked for Daimler’s plant in Cleveland, North Carolina, for 27 years, told the media that bargaining was different this time, with workers unwilling to accept concessions. “We wanted big raises and we won. We wanted a cost-of-living increase and we won.”

Workers at Daimler have been in the UAW for decades, with workers in the Mount Holly plant winning union representation in 1990. It took a 17-day strike for them to win the first contract in December 1991.

Hundreds of Daimler workers who rallied at the Local 3520 union hall here April 27 to hear about the tentative agreement erupted with an extended ovation when veteran strikers from Local 5285 at the Mount Holly plant were invited up on the stage.

UAW members at the rally told the *Militant* that Nissan, Hyundai and BMW plants were also in their sights. Margarita Sanders, a UAW Local 5287 member, said she was excited about helping other organizing efforts. “If they need us, we’ll be there!”

The agreement comes one week after workers at the Volkswagen assembly plant in Chattanooga, Tennessee, voted overwhelmingly to bring the UAW into the plant, the first foreign-owned auto plant in the South to be organized. Workers at the Mercedes-Benz plant in Vance, Alabama, will vote on union representation May 13-17.

UAW members will meet in upcoming weeks to discuss the tentative Daimler agreement and then vote on it.

— Diane Shur, Jane Roland and Sue Skinner

Rail workers in Canada fight for new contract, safety

Continued from front page

allows workers to stop working after 10 hours if they’re too tired to go longer. They want to cut the current personal leave days from 10 to five, while giving most workers an extra vacation week instead.

This gives workers much less flexibility to meet their needs since personal leave days can be taken whenever workers need them, whereas vacation bids are put in at the beginning of the year and are determined by seniority. “They want to control our time off work, making sure they always have enough workers available. They want even more from us than they already have,” Loupca Fournelle, a train conductor in Montreal for the past year and a half, said.

The company offers a “guarantee” there will be no layoffs for workers employed when the contract is signed, effectively creating a two-tier setup for new hires. They also demand laid-off workers can be forced to take a job away from their terminal, anywhere across the country, if there is a shortage of workers.

The company is proposing a series of measures that would force road crews arriving at a terminal to stay on the job and break down their trains by destination. Under the current agreement, arriving crews go on rest, and regularly scheduled yard crews put the cars in or-

der. This means cutting jobs, both Garcia and Fournelle explained.

The rail bosses are dangling a 5,000 Canadian dollars (\$3,650) lump sum bribe for workers to sign the contract.

‘Seems like no choice but to strike’

“Seems like we won’t have a choice but to go on strike,” Damien Venne, a Canadian National train conductor in Montreal for the past five years, told the *Militant*. The company’s demands also “mean a pay cut on every long-distance train, on top of everything else we would be losing.”

At Canadian Pacific Kansas City two options were sent to union members Feb. 28, also bypassing their negotiating committee. While the strike vote is still underway, CPKC has moved to change the conditions of work, to force long-distance crews to take days off away from home without pay. Under Canadian law, previous contract terms are supposed to be respected until a new contract is signed. The company now refuses to cover chiropractic appointments and massage therapy.


“Your Union Executive is taking the appropriate steps ... in stopping this heinous action and violation of our members,” a union bulletin said March 28. We are “holding the employer accountable to their responsibilities to fully assess the risk and harm to the members being subjected

to the ridiculously long layovers at the away-from-home terminal, in many instances in very remote locations.”

Canadian National owns about 50% of the country’s rail trackage, Canadian Pacific Kansas City, 30%. In Canada, 70% of intercity commodity exchange moves by rail and 50% of international exports. Both railways run coast to coast. The merger of Canadian Pacific and the Kansas City Southern in 2021 makes it the only railroad that runs from Canada into Mexico.

Over 3,000 train conductors and yard workers at Canadian National were on a “strike for safety” in 2019. They were followed by 750 signal and communications workers, members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, in 2022. And some 240 Unifor union members walked out at Canadian National’s Autoport in Nova Scotia in March. At CPKC, 3,000 Teamsters went out in 2018 and 2022.

As this fight unfolds, 3,000 CN track maintenance workers, members of the United Steelworkers union, are also fighting for a new contract. The negotiating committee reached a tentative agreement with the railway bosses March 1. The vote hasn’t yet been reported. Unifor union-organized truck drivers who drive for Canadian National voted 82% to give a strike mandate to their leadership. These two contracts also expired at the end of last year.



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Shifts in world politics boost interest in Pathfinder books

BY LAURA GARZA

LOS ANGELES — “Books by revolutionary working-class leaders” read the banner over the Pathfinder Books booth at the *Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books held over the April 20-21 weekend on the University of Southern California campus. The booth was staffed by supporters of the Socialist Workers Party election campaign of Rachele Fruit for U.S. president.

The booth also displayed a blowup of the cover of the new book *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class*. The book has articles by six leaders of the communist movement going back to V.I. Lenin, the central leader of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia.

At the heart of many of the discussions was the need to oppose Jew-hatred and defend Israel’s right to exist as a refuge for Jews.

Other discussions took up the key place for working people of defense of constitutional freedoms, the big vote for the United Auto Workers union at Volkswagen, the working-class road to women’s emancipation, and the need for working people to break from the capitalist parties and form our own party, a labor party.

“I am happy to see progressive people supporting Israel’s right to exist and giving solidarity,” said Jannis Deisinger, 28 years old and a worker in the music industry who is originally from Germany. “It’s sad that many in the young generation get fooled and support Hamas, which attacks women and gay rights.” He bought the new book and a subscription to the *Militant*.

Some didn’t agree. Others had mixed opinions, but wanted to talk. “I believe Israel should continue to exist,” said Nikolas Schwerber. But he thought there was “a strong moral case against the way they have responded to Oct. 7. I know people on both extremes.” After more discussion he bought two books,

The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and The Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation by Abram Leon.

Overall, fairgoers bought 218 books at the booth and 53 subscriptions to the *Militant*. That includes 33 copies of *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch*; 16 copies each of *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us: The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward* and *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?* and 15 copies of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes. At least 14 titles were sold about the example of the Cuban Revolution.



Militant/Norton Sandler
Pathfinder booth at Los Angeles book festival April 20-21 at University of Southern California.

Campaigners take SWP program to working class

Continued from front page

attracted to its political program to sign up as campaign endorsers.

The international campaign to win 1,350 subscribers for the *Militant*, to sell the same number of books by SWP leaders and other revolutionaries, and to raise \$165,000 for the Militant Fighting Fund has been extended one week — to May 14.

This will allow branches of the Socialist Workers Party in the U.S. and the Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada and the U.K. to continue getting out widely and using the just-published book *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class* by V.I. Lenin and other leaders of the communist movement. The extra week will also help all areas meet their goals for subscriptions and books.

Ved Dookhun, the SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Pennsylvania, joined the April 25 picket line of UNITE HERE Local 274 members in Philadelphia. They are on strike against Aramark, a giant “food service and facilities” conglomerate. The unionists work jobs at different South Philadelphia sports arenas, often only part time. Dookhun was there to show solidarity and to back their demand to get the same hourly rate across all the venues, hours that should all count toward getting health care and overtime pay.

Dookhun also told Aramark workers about the deteriorating conditions and schedules on the railroad that threaten the safety of workers and those who live near the tracks.

“We need to break from the capitalist Democratic and Republican parties and form a labor party based on the unions,” Dookhun, a rail worker, told

strikers Lori Gibson and Makel Bevins. “This can be an important step on the road toward working people taking political power into our own hands. This is the only way we can open the door to ending exploitation and oppression once and for all,” he said.

A labor party would build solidarity with the strike, encouraging workers at other workplaces to walk the picket lines. It would be a tool to help workers recognize our common class interests against those of the employers and the parties that serve them and to see what we can accomplish when we stand up together.

The Socialist Workers Party and the *Militant* present “many interesting ideas,” Bevins said, as he subscribed.

In New Chicago, Indiana, SWP members met Anthony Garcia April 27. “Garcia was impressed with Dean Hazlewood’s explanation of why we need to support Israel as a refuge from Jew-hatred and pogroms and why Hamas needs to be destroyed,” Dan Fein told the *Militant*. Garcia purchased *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch*.

“I want to learn more about socialism, and this book about fighting Jew-hatred seems like a good place to start,” Garcia said. “Socialism is the best way because it’s workers who do all the work.”

SWP campaigners joined a protest by some 150 flight attendants and their supporters at the American Airlines terminal at Chicago’s O’Hare airport April 18. For months flight attendants across the U.S. have been demonstrating, to demand wage raises to cover inflation, full pay for all the hours they work and for limits on the length of their shifts and on-call hours.

Campaigners sold five *Militant* subscriptions and four books there, including three copies of *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch*.

In Oakland, California, SWP campaigners set up a literature table April 27 near a Walmart, attract-

ing interest from shoppers and workers at the store alike. “Natalie, a new member of the Service Employees International Union, was attracted by our labor solidarity signs,” campaigner Carole Lesnick told the *Militant*. “She purchased a one-year subscription and the new book.

“One person we met came the next day to our Militant Labor Forum on the fight against Jew-hatred,” Lesnick said. “He subscribed to the *Militant* and got three books, including *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us: The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward*. He plans to join us campaigning at May Day activities here.”

To campaign for Rachele Fruit and other SWP and Communist League candidates, contact the campaign office nearest you on page 8. Contributions to the Militant Fighting Fund can be made out to the *Militant* and sent to 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018, or online at themilitant.com.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Meet and Hear Rachele Fruit, Socialist Workers Party Candidate for U.S. President. Sat., May 11. Reception, 7 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$10. Hilton Garden Inn, 3437 Bobby Brown Parkway. Tel.: (678) 528-7828.

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Campaign for what you are for, not who you’re against!

- ❑ I want to endorse Socialist Workers Party candidate Rachele Fruit for president.
- ❑ I want to join in campaigning or host a house meeting for the candidates. Please contact me.
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- ❑ Send me a 12-week subscription to the *Militant*, a socialist newsweekly. (\$5 enclosed, checks payable to the *Militant*.)

Send in along with your name, address, phone # and e-mail address to:

Socialist Workers Party 2024 Campaign, 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, NY, NY 10018. Tel: 347-871-0282 ✉ Email: socialistworkers2024@gmail.com

Campaign to expand reach of ‘Militant,’ books, fund

March 9-May 14 (week seven)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Fund received
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Chicago	100	60	100	60	\$14,000	\$10,345
Cincinnati	50	32	50	34	\$5,000	\$3,774
Dallas-Ft. Worth	60	45	60	55	\$5,000	\$4,565
Lincoln	15	13	15	14	\$500	\$404
Los Angeles*	120	99	120	97	\$16,000	\$7,925
Miami	35	20	35	49	\$5,000	\$2,705
Minneapolis	70	50	70	42	\$5,500	\$3,464
N. New Jersey	75	49	75	54	\$7,500	\$7,444
New York	100	71	100	70	\$20,500	\$17,393
Oakland	80	64	80	66	\$15,500	\$12,426
Philadelphia	55	36	55	54	\$6,000	\$6,531
Pittsburgh	45	28	45	32	\$6,000	\$4,744
Seattle	70	54	70	52	\$14,500	\$12,298
Washington	60	34	60	48	\$5,000	\$2,235
Other	0	21	0	150	\$0	\$2,350
Total U.S.	990	726	990	918	\$136,250	\$105,488
Prisoners		78				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	45	34	45	24	\$2,560	\$1,640
Manchester	35	31	35	39	\$1,200	\$525
Total U.K.	80	65	80	63	\$3,760	\$2,165
Canada	90	74	110	98	\$12,150	\$11,585
Australia	30	27	30	33	\$5,000	\$4,500
Total	1,190	970	1,210	1,112	\$157,160	\$123,738
SHOULD BE	1,350	1,053	1,350	1,053	\$165,000	\$128,700
* Raised goal						

‘We need to build a labor party’

Continued from front page

“Just since I’ve been here, we’ve seen another example of the face of Jew-hatred,” she said, referring to a Pittsburgh home displaying an Israeli flag that was spray-painted “For blood and soil,” a Nazi slogan, on April 21. “Our campaign will, first and foremost, defend Jewish people, and explain the stakes in this battle for all working people.”

“The deepening world capitalist economic crisis is bringing devastation and war to millions,” she said. “The future of humanity depends on the U.S. working class taking power away from the capitalist rulers and starting down the road to make a socialist revolution. The fight over which class will rule is the central question that matters for working people everywhere in the world, but the U.S. working class is decisive in that fight.

“Today in the Middle East the U.S. rulers have deployed 45,000 troops across 10 countries. They have the interests of the ruling capitalist families to defend there, and the means to do it. In the last couple of decades they have expanded their presence in Asia and the Pacific, seeking to contain China’s growing influence and dominance.

“We oppose U.S. troops, bases, armaments in the Middle East, all of which help Washington prepare for wars that will never cease until the working class takes power.”

At the same time they prepare for new wars abroad, Fruit said, “the federal government is working to clean up the reputation of the FBI and expand the use of the government’s secret police here at home. This week Congress reauthorized its warrantless surveillance powers, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

“The Democratic Party is leading the charge against our rights,” she said, “with its sights set on working people who are paying the price for the crisis of capitalism, who resist being told how to think and live, and for whom the Democrats have no solutions other than to try to criminalize them.

“In states where they’re the majority, the Republicans carry out their own attacks on political rights, including criminalization of women’s right to choose abortion, increased use of the death penalty and more.

“Today workers by the hundreds of thousands are fighting for contracts that confront the skyrocketing cost of food, shelter, fuel, medical care, child care and elder care, as well as the untenable, too often deadly, working conditions we face,” Fruit said.

‘We need a labor party’

“What the working class needs is our own political formation independent of the boss parties, a labor party based on the unions that unites the whole working class to fight together. It could expose and fight against every outrage, every crime the rulers commit against us. A labor party could explain that no worker has to die on the job if we fight and win workers control over safety and production.”

Fruit pointed to the falling birthrate in the U.S. — and in much of the capitalist world — a sign of the deepening social crisis. Facing this, “the government’s immigration policy is their labor policy. The bosses need workers to exploit. That’s where their profit comes from.

“At the same time, the bosses’ scapegoating of immigrants is used by the

ruling class to divide and weaken us, to lower wages for all workers. The fight to unify our class is a life-and-death question for the working class. The Socialist Workers Party calls for amnesty for all immigrant workers in the U.S.

“Our continuity goes back to the Bolshevik-led Russian Revolution in 1917. That was the first time the working class took political power and held it. The fight for workers power was reopened in the Americas with the Cuban Revolution led by Fidel Castro in 1959. In both cases, they defied the most powerful forces on earth, and won.

“Against relentless attack from the U.S. rulers, the Cuban toilers have shown the world for 65 years how social relations can change, how human beings will change. And we fight like hell to defend it. As Raúl Castro said in January on the 65th anniversary of the revolution, ‘We have overcome our problems by fighting, and it has been worth it.’”

A lively discussion followed the talk. One participant asked if Fruit could say more about the situation facing Jews today. “The fight against Jew-hatred is an essential part of the working-class fight to take political power,” she said.

“We defend the right of oppressed nationalities — African Americans, Palestinians, Kurds, Jews and the wide variety of nationalities in China.”

Meeting participants enthusiastically contributed \$1,000 to the SWP national campaign.

Fight in East Palestine

“How many smoking guns do you need?” Daren Gamble, a retired bricklayer and member of the Unity Council for the East Palestine Train Derailment, asked Fruit in her East Palestine visit April 22. He described the refusal of Norfolk Southern or federal authorities to admit their responsibility for the disaster brought down on working people in the wake of the February 2023 toxic train derailment there.

Jami Wallace, president of the Unity Council, told Fruit, “Nothing we need is getting done. They build a park instead of meeting people’s needs.” Fruit said, “The government and the company are

Dennis Richter, SWP candidate for vice president

The Socialist Workers Party nominated Dennis Richter as its vice presidential candidate April 29. Due to health considerations that need attention over the next several months, Margaret Trowe, who had been the party’s candidate, will no longer be able to run.

Dennis Richter grew up in a rural agricultural town in west-central Minne-



Dennis Richter

Militant/David Rosenfeld



Militant/Mary Martin

“Only the working class can end disasters like the derailment in East Palestine, Ohio,” said Rachele Fruit, left, SWP candidate for president, at meeting April 22 with Jami Wallace, Unity Council for the East Palestine Train Derailment president, and retired bricklayer Daren Gamble.

doing everything in their power to cover up that they’re responsible for what working people here face. You’re asking the same people who are responsible for the situation to solve it. This can only be resolved by the working class.”

Gamble was impressed with what Fruit had to say. “Everyone deserves a chance in life. I’m with you guys,” he told her, signing up as an endorser of the SWP campaign.

Fruit also met Chris Albright, a residential gas pipeline worker, member of the Laborers union, and a leader of Justice for East Palestine Residents and Workers, a coalition fighting for the health care of area residents and for safer railroads. Albright hasn’t worked since shortly after the train derailment, when he developed congestive heart failure.

“We reach out and get one union involved, but we need to get all the unions together,” Albright said. “Safer railroads are needed or disasters like this are going to happen again in another town.”

“Unions are key to fighting for this,” Fruit agreed. “And we need to organize a labor party based on the unions, a party that will organize all workers to fight.” She pointed to the example of thousands of autoworkers who struck the Big Three auto bosses last year and the impact that had on autoworkers in the South, who were not unionized. “Workers at the Mercedes-Benz plant

in Alabama were told unionizing ‘is not the right thing to do.’ They responded by stepping up their organizing effort.”

The \$600 million settlement Norfolk Southern agreed to has left residents feeling victimized again. After legal fees, the 100,000 area residents it covers would get less than \$6,000 each.

Albright called it “a slap in the face. It might buy one pill of the medications I need.”

Gamble said the settlement “is a total crock. It won’t even pay the taxes for our relocation expenses. We’d be better off to fight to the bitter end and get nothing.”

“This is the way the capitalist system works,” Fruit said. “The answer is for working people to organize in our millions to take political power into our own hands.”

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sota. While in high school in the 1960s he was drawn to the massive Black-led proletarian movement that tore down Jim Crow segregation and strengthened the U.S. working class.

He joined the Socialist Workers Party in 1972 in Minneapolis and worked with party leaders and cadres who came out of the labor struggles of the 1930s, with continuity going back to the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia led by V.I. Lenin, and the fight against the counterrevolution led by Joseph Stalin.

Richter — an opponent of Washington’s imperialist exploitation of workers and farmers worldwide — has organized and participated in demonstrations against the U.S. rulers’ wars, from Vietnam to Iraq and Afghanistan.

An industrial worker for over 50 years, he has been active in the unions working on the railroad, in meatpacking, and in the steel and garment industries. Richter has participated in union fights for higher wages and for workers control over production and working conditions.

He traveled to Cuba in 1971 and

2018, learning firsthand about the socialist revolution carried out by workers and peasants there, and its example for working people everywhere. He is part of activities opposing Washington’s economic war on Cuba.

He ran for mayor of Los Angeles in 2017 and for governor of California in 2021.

Today Richter lives in Fort Worth, Texas, and works as an airline food service worker and is a member of the UNITE HERE Local 23. He walked the picket line with co-workers and built solidarity with the United Auto Workers union strike in 2023. He participated in the UPS Teamsters practice pickets leading up to their 2023 contract ratification.

He has been active in walking the picket line and building support for Teamsters Local 997 on strike at Molson Coors brewery in Fort Worth.

Responding to the murderous Oct. 7 Tehran-backed Hamas pogrom against Israel, Richter joined protests against Jew-hatred and antisemitic attacks, and in support of Israel’s right to exist as a refuge for Jewish people.

Fighting Jew-hatred: continuity of the Socialist Workers Party

The following excerpt is from Chapter 5 of *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class*. The book describes the continuity of the movement in the fight against Jew-hatred going back more than 100 years. It helps make clear the decisive importance of building a communist leadership capable of leading hundreds of millions to fight to take political power for the working class and oppressed nations worldwide. Copyright © 2024 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

A few months after the US communist movement took on its current form as the Socialist Workers Party at the opening of 1938, the party's Political Committee adopted a resolution on the Jewish Question. In November, the SWP National Committee issued a declaration in response to the Nazis' Kristallnacht pogroms across Germany earlier that month. That call to action launched the campaign the party organized and led — before, during, and after World War II — demanding that Washington open the doors to Jews seeking refuge from Nazi persecution. Excerpts from these two SWP documents appear below.

Theses on the Jewish Question SWP Political Committee, 1938

Our approach to the Jewish question can be none other than that of the international class struggle. In its death agony the capitalist class maintains itself in power by resorting to unmitigated brutality and violence aimed at the working class, particularly at its vanguard. It utilizes every element of hatred and prejudice which it can fan into flame to bring about division among the masses and to establish a social basis for its fascist, gangster rule.

The Jews, by virtue of the fact that everywhere they form only a small minority of the population, and because anti-Semitism has always been

fostered, sometimes openly, sometimes in masked form, constitute an easy scapegoat upon whom the big bourgeoisie can divert the pent-up, dangerous wrath of the backward elements among the masses, and particularly of the desperate middle classes. The fascist hirelings of the big bourgeoisie use the most vicious, lying propaganda to inflame to pogrom temperature the dormant antagonism to the Jews.

Precisely because the fomenting of anti-Semitism has become an inseparable part of the technique of fascist reaction, the revolutionary party has a double duty to perform in combating it. It has the duty of exposing the real aims of the capitalists, hidden behind the smokescreen of anti-Semitism and thereby inoculating the masses against the poison; it has also the special task of mobilizing the real defense of the persecuted Jews, a defense of necessity based on the might of the organized working class. If these tasks are properly carried out, then we can at the same time hope to attract to our firm support the Jewish masses. ...

The Transitional Program includes the necessity for building workers' defense groups. This idea can find especially fertile soil for implanting and for growth into reality among the Jewish masses.

It goes without saying that such defense groups constituted under our influence must not consist of Jews alone. Nevertheless, we must take full advantage of the great concentration of the Jews in New York City to enlist as many as possible in such defense organizations. In this respect the situation in Jersey City [with its incipient fascist, union-busting, Jew-hating gangs organized by Democratic Party mayor Frank Hague] and its implications for the Jews need hardly be emphasized.

Jewish organizations must be encouraged to set up defense groups, which should be offered aid by workers' organizations. Similarly we must exert our influence wherever possible to have workers' defense groups come to the aid of the Jews when necessary.

❖
Open the doors to refugees from Hitler's Nazi terror!
From Socialist Workers Party
'Call to Action'
SWP National Committee,
November 1938

The entire world has been shocked to the depths by the outburst of a new campaign of brutal violence against the Jews in Germany [the Kristallnacht pogroms of November 9–10, 1938].

The hideous terror of Hitlerism has never struck with such cruel and merciless force.

Throughout Germany, bands of Nazi gangsters organized and commanded by their leaders, have wrecked and looted stores owned by Jews. Jewish synagogues have been burned and destroyed by the instructed



Socialist Workers Party called November 1938 protest in New York demanding Washington open entry to the U.S. to Jewish refugees. Action was called after Kristallnacht, when Nazi storm troopers rounded up 30,000 Jews, destroyed Jewish businesses, synagogues in Germany.

fascist mobs. The workers of Germany, who hate and despise Hitlerism with all their strength, were unable to come to the aid of the brutalized Jews because they are themselves still in the straitjacket of the Nazi terror.

The brown-shirted monsters do not even bother to conceal their aim: the physical extermination of every Jew in Great Germany.

Already a "fine" has been levied against the Jews, which means in effect the complete confiscation of all their property and its distribution among the Nazi sadists.

The regime of the ghetto is to be restored in Germany by the complete segregation of all Jews into marked-off slums. With this measure, Hitlerism shows again that it means barbarism, the destruction of all civilized progress, the return to the shame and depravity of the Middle Ages.

Why are the Hitlerites increasing their murderous attack upon the Jews?

For two reasons:
They hope to take the minds of the German workers and peasants off the misery from which they suffer, to make them think that the Jews — traditional scapegoats for reaction — are

responsible for all their ills.

They hope to blackmail the international protest movement against fascism into cowardly silence.

If they accomplish these dastardly aims, they can continue without the slightest opposition their rule of blood and iron.

If they accomplish their aims, they will encourage the fascist reaction in every other country of the world to advance more boldly, more insolently, more successfully.

They must not be allowed to succeed! ...

WE THEREFORE DEMAND:

Throw open the doors of the United States to the victims of the Hitlerite pogrom regime!

We urge all workers and other labor organizations: Demand that the American government use its emergency powers to open the doors to the horribly persecuted Jews of Germany! ...

Show the victims of the fascist terror that you mean it seriously, by stretching out to them the hand of fraternal solidarity, by demanding of the American government the free and unrestricted right of asylum for the Jewish scapegoats of fascist barbarism!

Hamas boosters 'protest' on campuses, say 'Destroy Israel'

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

So-called Gaza Solidarity Encampments, first set up April 17 at the Ivy League Columbia University in New York by supporters there of the reactionary Oct. 7 Hamas pogrom against Jews, have spread to a number of other elite campuses in urban centers. The leaders of these actions sympathize with Hamas and promote the destruction of Israel, the spread of Jew-hatred, and physical attacks or threats aimed at Jewish students.

Similar antisemitic attacks have been building for months.

While some students are attracted to these campus "protests" because of a desire for peace and an end to harsh conditions facing Palestinians in Gaza — in fact, the result of Hamas' own actions — camp organizers seek to prevent any civil discussion or debate.

When three Jewish students walked through the encampment area on the Columbia campus April 21 they were met by a human chain of students and faculty who linked arms and marched forward in lockstep to "push them out of the camp."

This action was organized by Columbia student Khymani James, who is a leader of the Columbia United Apartheid Divest group that demands the university stop all business or cultural exchange of any kind with Israel. In a video he says bluntly, "Zionists don't deserve to live." A Zionist, a code word used for Jews, is "a white supremacist," he said. James now claims he regrets his remarks.

Two other Jewish students, Chaya Droznic and Jessica Schwab, walked through the encampment. They recorded one participant, whose face was covered by a kaffiyeh, telling them, "I'm gonna do just like they did all the soldiers on Oct. 7 ... yo, you all got smoked."

More than 100 Columbia professors signed a letter defending students who support the "military action" by Hamas.

This fits with the curriculum at Columbia and like-minded meritocratic institutions, especially the study of 20th century history there, Ross Douthat writes in an April 27 *New York Times* opinion article. "The ambit narrows to progressive preoccupations," he says, "anticolonialism, sex and gender, antiracism, climate."

"Class critiques are mostly invisible, left behind in the 19th century with Karl Marx."

"Note that these are usually children of the upper middle class," he added, "18-to-29-year-olds in general are more likely to be worried about economic issues." In this context, "Israel gets to be the singular scapegoat."

The administration's response to the occupation has been to make classes "hybrid" for the rest of the semester. Jewish students are advised to not come on campus.

Similar tent "encampments" have been set up at New York University, Harvard, Yale, University of California, Los Angeles and other upper-crust campuses. The Jew-hatred they promote involves, and draws the

sympathy of, academicians and other privileged layers, but is deeply abhorrent to the vast majority of working people.

These actions are not spontaneous. They're coordinated and well-financed by liberal nonprofits and foundations, which generously cover their well-remunerated full-time staff and expenses of groups like Students for Justice in Palestine.

The liberal media runs features pitching the events at Columbia as a modern-day echo of social protests in the 1960s.

But those actions came in the context of Cuba's socialist revolution, the powerful Black proletarian movement that overthrew Jim Crow segregation, and the growing fight against Washington's war against the people of Vietnam and their fight for independence and national liberation. They won the support of the



Pro-Hamas building takeover at Columbia University April 30. Organizers of actions are increasingly open that their goal is to destroy Israel, support killing or expulsion of Jews there.

working class, changing social relations forever.

Today's pro-Hamas actions — including the encampments — support obliterating the Israeli state and expelling or killing the Jews there and

are a deadly obstacle as well to the struggle of all working people in the region. Hamas leaders have made it clear their goal is to find a way to carry out more pogroms until their genocidal goal is accomplished.

Fight against Jew-hatred is crucial for the working class

Continued from front page
prevent Israel from securing a decisive victory by taking Hamas out in Rafah. At every step, the Biden administration advances the U.S. rulers' own interests in the region, as opposed to those of Jews in Israel.

Liberal media never call Oct. 7 a pogrom. But that's what it was, just like the anti-Jewish pogroms that took place in Russia, Eastern Europe and Germany in the 1900s leading up to and during World War II.

More than 1,200 people were killed by the Hamas death squads Oct. 7, over 5,000 injured and more than 240 taken hostage. It was the largest single massacre of Jews since the Nazis' annihilation of 6 million Jews during the Holocaust in World War II.

The scope of Hamas' barbarity is laid out in a powerful new documentary film, "Screams Before Silence," by Sheryl Sandberg. It includes interviews with survivors of the assault on the Nova music festival who describe the systematic rapes and murders carried out by Hamas thugs they witnessed Oct. 7. Two former hostages describe how they or fellow hostages were sexually abused while in captivity.

Others interviewed were among the first on the scene at the kibbutzim that were assaulted or at the music festival and who saw the mutilated bodies. Rami Davidian, a local farmer who helped extricate survivors, describes coming across the bodies of women, tied to trees, legs apart, with objects rammed into their vaginas.

These accounts "depict a pattern that could not have been unless it was premeditated and pre-conceived by Hamas," says Ruth Halperin-Kaddari, a former United Nations commissioner. Sandberg's film is available for free on YouTube.

More Hamas lies
The latest anti-Israel smear — the charge by Hamas officials

that Israeli soldiers killed civilians and buried them in mass graves near Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis — has been widely reported in the press.

But the *New York Times* had to admit that satellite photos proved that the graves had been dug before the Israeli forces that cleared Hamas thugs out from the hospital were even there. The Israel Defense Forces also refuted the lies, noting that they dug up some of the graves looking for murdered hostages and then reburied the bodies they found.

Meanwhile, the United Nations released a report April 22 to answer charges by the Israeli government that the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees is complicit with Hamas and its Jew-hating course. The agency runs 40% of the schools and almost all the health facilities in Gaza.

The report boasted that the agency, which has thousands of employees in Gaza, has "a more developed approach to neutrality" than any other U.N. agency and that while it could do more, the problems are minimal.

The books used in Gaza schools are

provided by UNRWA. They include maps that show "Palestine," but no state of Israel. They extol wearing explosive suicide belts and encourage jihad with a goal of "terrorizing the enemy" and "achieving martyrdom."

Gazans speak out against Hamas

As Israeli forces progress in degrading Hamas' military capacity, more Palestinians in Gaza are speaking out against the reactionary group's dictatorial rule.

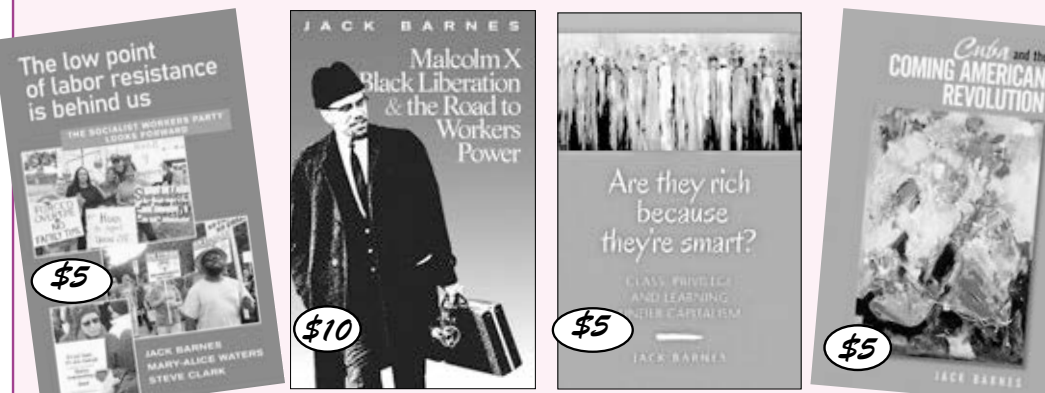
We want leaders "who won't drag people into a war like this," freelance journalist Salma El-Qadami told the *Washington Post* from Gaza. "Almost everyone around me shares the same thoughts. We want this waterfall of blood to stop. Seventeen years of destruction and wars are enough." She's referring to the repeated assaults on Israel carried out by Hamas since it took power in 2006 aimed at provoking Israeli counterattacks and creating more Palestinian martyrs.

"Hamas listen to us! We're not spies, nor cowards, nor mercenaries," dentist Rami Haroon wrote on Facebook from Gaza April 20.

"We're the unemployed and the working people, and the owner of the poor kiosk. We have been suffocated by you for a long time. Enough! Let us breathe! We've tried to express that more than once and every time you confront us with violence and cruelty."

Hamas is the main obstacle working people face in Gaza. Its defeat will open space for workers to begin to organize in their own class interests, including to secure Palestinian national rights and to join together with fellow working people in Israel and across the region to advance their common class interests.

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Freed hostage Amit Soussana interviewed in "Screams Before Silence," describing sexual abuse she suffered in Hamas captivity.

The revolutionary potential of the working class in the US

The French edition of *In Defense of the US Working Class* by Mary-Alice Waters is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for May. It features the talk Waters gave at an April 24-26, 2018, international conference in Havana organized by the Cuban Institute of History and the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC). Waters is a member of the Socialist Workers Party National Committee and president of Pathfinder Press. Her talk was followed by a panel on the U.S. class struggle titled, "From Clinton to Trump: How US working people are responding to the antilabor offensive of the bosses, their parties and their government." The panelists were leaders and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party with years of experience in industry and trade unions, as well as on the land. They explained the growing resistance by working people to the decadeslong offensive by the bosses and their government. Copyright © 2019 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Militant/Laura Anderson

Kentucky teachers walk out in protest in April 2018 inspired by victory two months earlier in West Virginia by teachers, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, who won raises for all state employees. Actions pointed to social movement needed to fight for interests of all working people.

...tive answer to the first question is being given right now from West Virginia to Oklahoma, from Kentucky to Arizona and beyond by tens of thousands of teachers and other public workers in states Trump carried by a large margin in 2016. ...

The West Virginia teachers strike was just that kind of volcanic eruption. It seemed to come out of nowhere, but it had been building for years. Its roots were deep. ...

In the best traditions of trade unionism — and a precursor of the fighting labor movement that will again be built — the strike took on elements of a genuine social movement, battling for the needs of the entire working class and its allies. ...

We say not only is socialist revolution in the US possible. Even more important, revolutionary struggles by the toilers are inevitable. They will be forced upon us by the crisis-driven assaults of the propertied classes — as we've just seen in West Virginia. And they will be intertwined, as always, with the example of the resistance and struggles of other oppressed and exploited producers around the globe.

What is not inevitable is the outcome. That is where political clarity, organization, prior experience, discipline, and, above all, the caliber and experience of proletarian leadership are decisive.

Our confidence comes from the

class struggles we ourselves have been part of, as well as what we learned firsthand from the battle-tested workers who recruited us to the communist movement. ...

The world we are living in today is not headed toward a future of capitalist peace and prosperity. To think otherwise you'd have to believe that the ruling families of the imperialist world and their financial wizards have found a way to "manage" capitalism in crisis. That they've discovered the means to preclude shattering financial collapses and breakdowns of production, trade, and employment.

You'd have to believe that the credit crisis that exploded as recently as 2007-08 was an aberration and won't happen again, with even more devastating consequences for working people.

The opposite is the truth.

The crisis of finance capital is not a short-term cyclical adjustment. World capitalism's profit rates have been on a long downward curve since the mid-1970s — more than four decades. Do any of us believe, under the domination of breakdown-ridden financial and banking capital, that world capitalism is entering a sustained period of increased investment in the expansion of industrial capacity and massive hiring of workers?

All evidence points in the other direction.

We have entered what will be de-

...cades of economic, financial, and social convulsions, of intensifying rivalries among capitalist state powers. Decades of sharpening class conflicts and devastating bloody wars like those in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, and more.

The coming years will end in World War III — inevitably — if the only class capable of doing so, the working class, fails to take state power. If we fail to take the power to wage war out of the hands of the imperialist rulers, in the United States above all.

But for us, a sober and realistic assessment of what lies ahead is reason neither for panic nor demoralization and despair. To the contrary. The years that are coming will also bring increasingly organized resistance — worldwide — by growing vanguards of working people pushed to the wall by the capitalists' drive to intensify the exploitation of working people in order to reverse their declining rate of profit.

It is through those struggles that class consciousness, as well as confidence and leadership capacity, will develop among working people — unevenly but apace.

And time is on our side — not theirs.

On March 13, 1961, barely a month before the victorious battle of Playa Girón, or the Bay of Pigs debacle as it is known in the US, Fidel Castro spoke to tens of thousands of Cuban workers, farmers, and youth preparing to meet the invasion we all knew was inevitable. Answering Washington's illusions that the attempted invasion would install in Cuba a government subservient to the US rulers, Fidel told the cheering crowd: "There will be a victorious revolution in the United States before a victorious counterrevolution in Cuba."

His words were not empty bravado. Fidel never stooped to demagoguery. ... We, and the revolutionary people of Cuba, understood him well. He was speaking as a leader offering — advancing — a line of struggle, a line of march, for our lifetimes. He was, as always, addressing Lenin's question, "What is to be done?" ...

The political capacities and revolutionary potential of workers and farmers in the US are today as utterly discounted by the ruling families and their servants as were those of the Cuban toilers at Playa Girón.

And just as wrongly.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY MARY-ALICE WATERS

Is a socialist revolution in the US really possible? Or are those like ourselves, who answer with an unhesitating "Yes," a new variety of utopian socialist fools, however well meaning?

The clearest and most demonstra-

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BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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MARY-ALICE WATERS

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SWP campaign stands for independent working-class political action

We urge our readers to endorse Rachele Fruit, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president. There is no other choice you can make that will advance toward a break with the capitalist parties and a step toward independent working-class political action.

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Thousands of workers are using unions to stand up to bosses' attempts to profit at our expense, and to fight for wages and conditions that can give family members time and energy to study, to be active in unions and have a political life, rather than be torn apart by today's capitalist crisis. These struggles are inspiring others to organize unions to defend themselves. Workers and the unions need to fight for a program to advance the interests of our class as a whole and unite all those exploited and oppressed by capital.

Alongside today's labor struggles, millions can see the rulers have no solutions to the social disasters, rising Jew-hatred and devastating wars shaking the U.S.-dominated imperialist world order. Their "solutions" just breed more of the same.

In a million different ways — from the schools, to conditions at work to the daily media — the capitalists and their meritocratic middle-class backers try to

teach workers we're incapable of joining together to change our lot, let alone to change the world. They assert they're the ones who should be looked to to administer society, falsely claiming to govern for "all of us." But the capitalist rulers are our class enemy. Any policy based on looking to or collaborating with them, weakens us and strengthens their grip.

All political questions are class questions. The lesser-evil choices the capitalist parties present are a trap. Neither the Democrats nor the Republicans — nor any third capitalist campaign — can be bent to advance workers' interests. We need to build a party of our own, a labor party based on the unions, that brings together and organizes the tens of millions of working people to act on our own class interests, interests we share with fellow workers worldwide.

There is no motion in the unions today to build a labor party. The SWP 2024 presidential campaign offers a unique opportunity to advance that perspective. It offers a way to support what you're *for*, not who or what you're against. A course to advance the self-confidence and class independence of working people.

Your endorsement makes a difference. It encourages others to learn about the alternative that Fruit is presenting, what it will take for working people to end capitalist rule, to bring to power a government we can call our own and to begin transforming the world and ourselves in the process. Join us!

Democrats' attack on rights is a threat to workers

Continued from front page

must be provided with all the charges so they can defend themselves.

Judge Juan Merchan — another Democrat — has imposed a far-reaching gag order, ruling that Trump can't comment on potential witnesses like Michael Cohen and Stephanie Clifford, better known as Stormy Daniels. At the same time, Cohen and Clifford are giving interviews smearing the former president.

In a further blow to free speech, Merchan fined Trump \$9,000 April 30 for violating the order and threatened to jail him if he did so again. The "violations" included Trump reposting articles from the *New York Post*, *National Review* and a 2018 statement signed by "Stormy Daniels" denying ever having had an affair with him.

Any time governments or courts trample on constitutional freedoms — regardless of who is in the dock — it's dangerous for working people. In a capitalist state based on the exploitation of the vast majority by the propertied few, these freedoms are vital protections workers need in order to fight for our own interests.

Bragg's prosecution of Trump relies heavily on character assassination. Merchan has granted the prosecution's requests to present to the jury testimony concerning unrelated and salacious gossip about Trump. The first week of the trial was dominated by testimony from David Pecker, former publisher of the *National Enquirer*. In response to questions by the prosecution, he described rumors that Trump had fathered a child with one of his employees and claims he had an affair with model Karen McDougal.

If Trump decides to testify, Merchan will let prosecutors interrogate him about these types of allegations, issues that the former president faces no charges over. They will also be permitted to ask him about other legal cases, like the New York civil business fraud case and writer E. Jean Carroll's lawsuit for slander.

None of this has anything to do with Bragg's charge that Trump falsified business records in 2017. It has everything to do with trying to portray him in the worst possible light to help prejudice the jury — and rig the election for Joseph Biden.

In a related matter, film producer Harvey Weinstein, who faced multiple rape allegations, had his 2020 conviction for rape and sexual assault overturned April 25 by the New York State Court of Appeals. It ruled the trial judge allowed prosecutors to introduce sexual assault testimony against Weinstein from three women that was unrelated to his prosecution.

This was an unabashed effort to prejudice the jury against Weinstein amid a series of protests by the "Me Too" movement demanding courts "believe women."

"Until Thursday, it seemed that we had entered a new age of accountability, legal and social, not just for Mr. Weinstein but also for the abusers who'd come after him," wrote *New York Times* contributing editor Jessica Bennett April 27. She decried the appeals court for upholding constitutional protections, arguing the legal system has to be changed.

Weinstein remains incarcerated on a separate conviction for rape in California.

Supreme Court takes 'election fraud' case

In another case, the U.S. Supreme Court began hearing Trump's appeal April 25 that as a former president he has immunity from prosecution by the Justice Department's special counsel Jack Smith. Smith's charges include accusations of conspiring to obstruct an official proceeding — Congress voting to confirm the 2020 election results — and to defraud the U.S.

"The Framers did not put an immunity clause into the Constitution," liberal Justice Elena Kagan argued at the hearing. "Wasn't the whole point that the president was not a monarch?"

But a number of other justices expressed reservations about the political character of Smith's prosecution. "I am concerned about future uses of the criminal law to target political opponents based on accusations about their motives," Justice Neil Gorsuch said.

Justice Samuel Alito said he feared Trump and other former presidents could face politically motivated trials and find themselves "unable to engage in other activities." In Bragg's current trial of Trump, the presidential candidate is required to attend every court session, on pain of incarceration.

Justices also discussed differences between actions that are related to presidential responsibilities and some that are private. They may decide to send the case back to the trial court for arguments and a decision on the status of each of Smith's charges. That would make it even more likely any trial in the case could only begin after the November elections.

Crisis in Latin America

Continued from front page

responded by breaking diplomatic relations with Ecuador. Glas had held government posts under former President Rafael Correa, who sought asylum in Belgium when he also faced allegations of corruption.

Days before the raid there had been an escalation of insults, including Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador questioning the legitimacy of Ecuador President Daniel Noboa's electoral victory in October.

"This never happened even in the worst times of divisiveness and disagreement between Latin American states," Brazil's president, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, said, referring to the police raid on the Mexican Embassy at an April 17 emergency meeting of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (Celac). Celac is a regional political bloc formed in 2010 to counter the Washington-dominated Organization of American States.

The free trade Andean Community (CAN) bloc is fragmenting, said Colombian President Gustavo Petro at the Celac summit, pointing to sharpening conflicts between the bloc's four members, Bogota and the governments of Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. "We are seeing presidents go to prison and exile, and coups d'états, which are now covered up as parliamentary coups, but they are coups," he said.

While the political polarization and instability might discourage capitalist investment and trade in the region, as the *Times* article stressed, the deepening crisis in bourgeois politics is a symptom of the economic stagnation, not its cause.

Political crisis, economic slump

The capitalist rulers have proven incapable of turning around the economic slump, or offering any solutions to the devastating consequences for working people of the social and economic crisis. This fuels the fractures in governmental relations and deepens class tensions at home. They accuse each other of corruption, of being controlled by lobbyists, of failing to maintain law and order, and on and on. They resort to anti-immigrant demagoguery, vulgar swipes on women's social gains and reactionary antisemitic attacks.

As they do this they contribute to the erosion of the capitalist "world order" led by Washington and related institutions through which they maintain their rule. Working people should not dismiss this simply as "nasty politics," since these attacks also undermine political rights and the space we need to practice politics free from harassment by the government, the bosses and thugs unleashed by rightist and leftist forces.

The worldwide capitalist crisis puts additional pressure on trade and political alliances in Latin America. This was reflected when Xiomara Castro, president of Honduras, sent messages as the chair of Celac praising Vladimir Putin's reelection in Russia and against Israel's war against Hamas. "I send a message of congratulations to President Vladimir Putin on his convincing victory in the Russian election," Castro had written.

Representatives of 10 other Celac members publicly disassociated themselves from her message, saying she overstepped her authority in sending it.

Under these pressures, the foreign and trade policies of the four governments with the largest economies in the region — Mexico, Brazil, Colombia and Argentina — more openly express the separate interests of their own capitalist rulers and their imperialist allies abroad, including on the conduct of their neighbors.

In late March Presidents Petro and Lula sharply criticized the decision by Venezuelan authorities to bar the main opposition candidate from registering to run in the upcoming presidential elections.

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro claimed he was responding to an alleged assassination plot involving opposition figures. They "make attempts on my life" and "the cowardly left is not capable of condemning the coups," Maduro said, referring to the other governments. "They stay silent in a complicit manner."

Washington reinstated sanctions on Venezuela's oil trade April 18. It had suspended them as part of pressing on Maduro to open up the elections.

Petro and Lula have been centrally involved in ongoing negotiations between Washington and Caracas, as well as with opposition capitalist parties in Venezuela, in order to see the coming elections as "fair" enough to allow further steps to move beyond the political impasse Venezuela has been in for years.

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