

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Thousands of volunteers come to clean up after deadly floods in Spain
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 88/NO. 43 NOVEMBER 18, 2024

Boeing workers vote up contract, wage gains, look to pension fight

BY HENRY DENNISON

SEATTLE — After a seven-week strike, the Machinists at Boeing voted Nov. 4 to accept a four-year contract by 59%. It includes a 38% wage increase, a significant raise over the 25% first offered by the company in September.

“Without that kind of raise, how can the younger workers survive with the cost of living in this area?” Tom Mercer, who’s worked at Boeing for 29 years, told the *Militant*. “I’m barely getting by myself and I’m at one of the higher wages.”

Asked about bosses’ threat to move production elsewhere, Mercer said, “We’ve been through this before. Workers in those nonunionized plants in the country will realize that they will need to fight for a more livable wage. They will see the need to organize there too.”

The 33,000 members of International Association of Machinists District 751 and District W24 also got a signing bonus of \$12,000, paid parental leave and continuation of the annual bonus program.

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Rachele Fruit, Dennis Richter: SWP campaign shows way forward for working people



Rachele Fruit, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, speaks at event in Pittsburgh Oct. 30, chaired by Candace Wagner, party’s candidate for U.S. Congress from Pennsylvania.

Fruit: ‘Today’s strikes key to building the labor movement’

BY CANDACE WAGNER

PITTSBURGH — “The presidential campaign of the Socialist Workers Party is the only voice representing the interests of our class — and I mean the working class worldwide.”

Continued on page 5

Richter visits memorial to Black struggle in Memphis

BY AMY HUSK

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — During a tour stop here to meet with unionists and others who had helped put the Socialist Workers Party on the Tennessee ballot Oct. 30, SWP vice presidential candidate Dennis Richter visited the I Am A Man Plaza. He was hosted by Kermit Moore, president of the Memphis NAACP and leader of the A. Philip Randolph Institute.

The plaza commemorates the his-
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2024 US election reflects blows of capitalist crisis on working class Workers need our own party to fight for power

BY TERRY EVANS

The 2024 U.S. presidential election and its outcome reflected the growing dissatisfaction of tens of millions of working people with the economic and social conditions and growing threats of war they and their families have faced for many years.

These conditions worsened under

Statement by Rachele Fruit, Dennis Richter: ‘A working-class program to meet today’s capitalist crisis’
— page 11

President Joseph Biden. Moreover, his administration and its liberal supporters stepped up assaults on constitutional protections as they went after those who opposed their course, including the Democrats’ major bourgeois political opponent.

As with previous Democratic and Republican White Houses, however, newly elected President Donald Trump proudly promotes capitalist social relations, the dog-eat-dog system responsible for these accelerating crises and wars — a system based on the exploitation of the
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Defend culture, oppose new call for writers boycott against Jews, Israel



March in Manchester, England, in January. Antisemitic campaign for cultural boycott of Israel is blow against artistic freedom, silent on pogrom, attacks by Iranian regime, Hamas, Hezbollah.

BY SETH GALINSKY

The Socialist Workers Party defends freedom of speech, art and culture. Defending culture, free-ranging

AS I SEE IT

debate and the right of journalists and artists to state the truth as they see it is crucial for working people to chart

a road forward amid the deepening social convulsions and wars of the imperialist epoch. That is why the campaign by the Palestine Festival of Literature to organize an international boycott of Israeli cultural institutions must be opposed.

The Palestine Festival of Literature — funded by a range of foundations in the U.S. and abroad and big capital-
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Erdogan moves to expand Ankara’s influence, attacks Kurdish regions

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Long-time President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is looking beyond Turkey to see how in today’s unsettled world he can best defend the interests of Turkey’s capitalist rulers, as well as his own position. He is trying to balance between Washington and Moscow as military conflicts from Ukraine to the Middle East threaten wider clashes and breed deepening instability.

As shifting international alignments pull at the U.S.-dominated imperialist world order, Erdogan looks to strengthen Ankara’s political and economic position in the region and beyond.

He has renewed his decadeslong assault on the Kurdish people, in Turkey and throughout the area. The 30 million Kurds spread across Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria are looking for a road to advance their national rights as the world’s largest nationality without their own state.

Erdogan was the sole member of the U.S.-led NATO alliance to attend the recent expanded conference in Rus-

sia of BRICS, named after its founding members — Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Moscow and Beijing try to use this bloc in their conflicts with Washington. Erdogan attended to seek openings to advance Ankara’s interests more broadly.

Driven by a deep economic crisis at home, Erdogan is trying to boost Turkey’s status as a power broker bridging Europe and Asia. With Moscow’s influ-
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Lenin backed self-determination for nations oppressed by Moscow 7

— On the picket line, p. 6 —

Thousands of hotel strikers rally in San Francisco

Eaton Aerospace workers keep up strike over pay, pensions

Daniel Penny trial highlights social crisis in New York City

BY PETER THIERJUNG

NEW YORK — The jury trial of Daniel Penny, 25, a former U.S. Marine and current architectural student charged with the 2023 death of Jordan Neely, opened here Nov. 1.

Penny pled “not guilty” after being indicted on second-degree manslaughter and criminally negligent homicide by Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg’s office. He faces 19 years in prison if convicted on both counts.

Neely, a 30-year-old African American, entered a subway train here May 1, 2023. Once the doors closed, he was erratic and became aggressive, screaming at passengers, “someone is going to die today,” riders told the press. He demanded food and water, and threw his jacket to the ground in a manner, some in the subway car said, they saw was a prelude to violence.

Penny, a passenger, grabbed Neely from behind and restrained him. Both fell to the ground as Neely sought to break free. Two other passengers joined Penny in holding Neely down. Penny reportedly told others to call the police. While passengers kept the train stopped at the next station, it took seven minutes before police arrived.

“I wasn’t trying to injure him,” Penny told detectives who interrogated him. “I was just trying to keep him from hurting anyone else. He was threatening people. ... I’m just trying to deescalate the situation.”

Neely had been homeless for more than a decade. Reports from family and police records document his spiral into mental illness, aggravated by drug abuse.

This city’s crises of homelessness, mental illness, rampant illegal drug use and crime have hit working-class neighborhoods hard, especially in African American and Latino areas.

The harsh consequences converge in the giant underground subway system with 472 stations and hundreds of miles of track. Those in need of shelter, sleep or for a handout turn to the subways, as do addicted users of illegal drugs and petty criminals preying on the vulnerable. The murder rate there is up over last year. This reality confronts more than 3 million people who travel to work every day on the subway.

As the trial progresses, politicians and others are attempting to frame the tragedy of Neely’s death as a clear-cut case of racist violence.

Penny is “a white man, a Marine, a trained killer who killed a Black man, a homeless man, and no one cared,” Rachel Cyprien, a real estate broker, told the Free Press as she and other supporters of Black Lives Matter gathered outside the courthouse to demand Penny’s conviction. Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, City Comptroller Brad Lander, Rev. Al Sharpton and others branded Penny a “murderer” and “vigilante.” Some described Penny’s actions to restrain Jordan Neely as a lynching.

Defense of constitutional rights

Arguments along these lines aim to undermine Penny’s constitutional rights — innocent until proven guilty among them — and railroad him to prison. Penny has denied the charges of racism.

Bragg’s office did not charge Penny



AP/Kena Betancur

Daniel Penny, right, at New York courthouse Nov. 1. He faces manslaughter, other charges for restraining Jordan Neely, a homeless Black man, who threatened riders on subway he was on.

with murder, but found lesser charges, nonetheless serious, to press against Penny. “This is not an easy case,” Assistant District Attorney Dafna Yoran told prospective jurors ahead of the trial. “It’s not easy finding someone guilty of killing somebody when you know they didn’t mean it,” she added, attempting to accustom the jury to considering a verdict on the lesser charges.

Defense attorney Thomas Keniff responded, telling the court Neely’s “I will kill” threat on the crowded subway car led Penny to step in to protect other riders. “This is a case about a young man who did for others what we would want someone to do for us.”

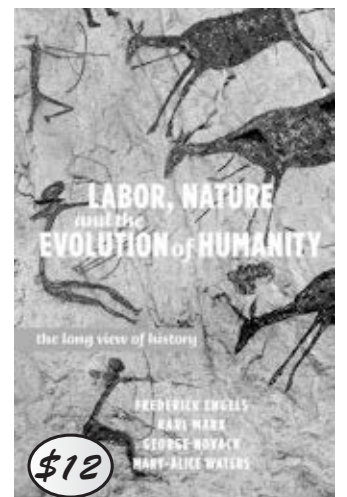
Among the first witnesses called by the prosecution were the police officers who arrived at the subway station. Undermining the prosecutor’s assertions, officers testified and bodycam videos showed they found Neely unconscious with a pulse. The officers administered chest compressions, CPR and Narcan, an opioid antidote, to try to revive him. But they testified they refused to give mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, saying Neely was “dirty” and could have had AIDS.

Subway passengers Ivette Rosario, 19, and Juan Alberto Vasquez, 59, were called by the prosecution. Both used their phones to video Neely being restrained by Penny. The prosecution asserts the videos verify Penny killed Neely.

Rosario said Neely’s tone was angry, nothing like she’s heard before in previous incidents on the subway. “I was very nervous,” she told the court. “I thought I was going to pass out.”

Vasquez, a freelance journalist, testified that Neely’s tone was “violent and desperate.” On cross-examination prompting objections by prosecutors, Penny’s defense attorneys noted Vasquez had at the time told a detective worries crossed his mind about a subway shooting that had occurred during rush hour in 2022 when a man wounded 10 passengers.

Since his indictment, Penny has received tens of thousands of individual contributions amounting to \$3.1 million to cover his legal defense expenses. The trial is expected to last at least five weeks.



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THE MILITANT

Carlos Harris freed from prison after 20-year frame-up

Carlos Harris walked out of prison Oct. 22 after spending 20 years in California state prisons for a crime he didn’t commit. Harris always maintained his innocence of charges of robbery and attempted murder. Family and supporters waged a long public battle for his release.



Courtesy of Harris Family
Family and supporters of Carlos Harris at Santa Clara County courthouse Oct. 17.

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Moves to expand Ankara's reach

Continued from front page

ence in Central Asia undermined by its invasion of Ukraine, Erdogan is pushing to revitalize ties with the historically Turkic nations there. He just returned from a trip to Kyrgyzstan.

He is also looking to mend relations with former foes, from Saudi Arabia to Egypt. He has sharply curtailed relations with Israel, while hailing Hamas as a heroic “liberation” group.

Kurdish national aspirations

One key challenge for Erdogan, and other capitalist rulers in the region, is the national aspirations of the Kurdish people. In the late 1970s the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) was formed, led by Abdullah Ocalan. The PKK won widespread support in the Kurdish region, and in Turkey's largest city, Istanbul, where 2 million Kurds live. Facing fierce repression, the group began a campaign of terror, and the regime responded in kind.

Ocalan was captured in 1999 and received a death sentence, which was commuted to life in prison three years later. He is still behind bars.

Mass popular protests broke out against the dictatorial regime of Bashar al-Assad in Syria in 2011, which were met with bloody slaughter by the government. This led to a far-reaching civil war, and to an uprising by Kurds across a swath of northern Syria near the Turkish border.

The Assad regime survived by the intervention of armed forces provided by Moscow and Tehran.

The Kurds in Syria, led by the Democratic Union Party (PYD), whose leadership looks to the PKK, carved out an autonomous region where they continue to rule. The Turkish regime views this as a dangerous threat that gives hope to Kurds seeking autonomy inside Turkey. Ankara has carried out military operations against the PYD ever since.

In late October, Turkish airstrikes hit Kurdish targets in neighboring areas of northeastern Syria and northern Iraq. Scores of people were killed or injured

and infrastructure destroyed. This latest offensive followed a deadly attack Oct. 23 on the government-run Turkish Aerospace Industries by the PKK, killing five people and injuring 22.

Some 900 U.S. soldiers are stationed in northeastern Syria, which includes most of that country's oil fields, to protect Washington's strategic interests.

Economic, social disruptions

The assault on the aerospace plant — and Ankara's deadly response — occurred a day after a surprise announcement. On Oct. 22 Devlet Bahçeli, leader of the Turkish Nationalist Movement Party, an ally of Erdogan's, had called for Ocalan to be allowed to come and address the Turkish parliament if he would end the PKK's war. Ocalan's nephew, Omer Ocalan, was allowed to visit him in prison, his first family visit in four and a half years.

Omer Ocalan, who is a member of the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party in Turkey's parliament, got a message from his uncle saying he was prepared to discuss ending the long-running conflict. Erdogan said he welcomed this “historic window of opportunity.”

At the same time, Erdogan turned up the heat against pro-Kurdish opponents. The Turkish interior ministry charged three Kurdish town mayors with “terrorism” — that is, support for the PKK — and replaced them with regime trustees Nov. 4. Thousands in the mainly Kurdish areas of Turkey mounted protests, which the police attacked with water cannons. A number of Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party representatives, some of whom won significant victories against Erdogan's party in March municipal elections, have been arrested.

The Turkish economy has faced double-digit inflation since 2017, with almost 50% in September alone. In the last 10 years, the Turkish lira lost 1,400% of its value against the U.S. dollar. This has caused a worsening social crisis hitting millions of working people facing rocketing prices for food and fuel.



Kurdish supporters in Diyarbakir, Turkey, protest Nov. 4 against Erdogan government's replacement of three elected mayors, alleging they have links with “terrorist” Kurdistan Workers' Party. Erdogan acts to expand Ankara's world standing while attacking Kurdish national rights.

It is against the backdrop of this social crisis and recent developments that Erdogan and Turkey's capitalist rulers are looking for openings internationally to advance their position.

At the same time, sanitation workers

in Istanbul, members of the Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions of Turkey, went on strike Nov. 4. Residents organized to remove some of the rotting garbage while making it clear they support the striking workers.

Thousands of volunteers come to clean up after deadly flash flood in Spain

BY ROY LANDERSEN

A massive rainfall in Spain's eastern Valencia region Oct. 29 — nearly 20 inches fell in eight hours, more than normally falls in a year — caused catastrophic flash floods that killed over 200 people. Many more are still missing. An impromptu army of thousands of volunteers of all ages, walks of life and different nationalities have converged to join in the cleanup.

They came armed with mops and buckets, pick-axes or shovels, bottles of drinking water or bags of food. They tirelessly shoveled and swept out mud and debris from streets and houses.

“Authorities appear overwhelmed by the enormity of the disaster, and survivors are relying on the esprit de corps of volunteers who have rushed

in to fill the void,” reported PBS. They are willing to help, “wherever needed,” is a common refrain.

The country's deadliest natural disaster in living memory hit without any serious warning by authorities. An emergency cellphone alert was finally sent out at 8:12 p.m. But “at about 8 o'clock I was up to my neck in water for an hour and swallowing mud,” Miguel Ángel, who had been trapped in his car, told *El Diario*. Hundreds more were trapped in homes, cars or factories.

The storm swept away everything in its path, leaving untold numbers still missing and countless lives upended. The floods battered Valencia's infrastructure, with bridges, roads and rail tracks destroyed and farmland submerged. The region produces about two-thirds of Spain's citrus crops, including oranges. Much of it is gone.

Covered in mud from toiling in the small town of Chiva, Alicia Montero said, “We work, stop to eat a sandwich they give us, and keep on working.”

“Chiva will take a long time to recover from this,” María Teresa Sánchez said as she cleaned out the bakery that has been in her family for five generations. She hopes to continue, but her 100-year-old oven may not be usable again. “But it is true that we have not felt alone. We are helping each other,” she said. “That is the shining light to this story.”

As price of chocolate soars, trick-or-treaters get rude surprise

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Trick-or-treaters this Halloween got a rude surprise, as chocolate candy, one of the most popular treats, was in short supply. Nerds Gummy Clusters took its place. The reason? The price of chocolate has soared, like prices for virtually all essentials working people need.

The average cost for 16 ounces of chocolate candy in October was \$9.19, nearly 40% higher than five years ago. And kids who still got chocolate bars in their Halloween bags noticed their portions had shrunk.

Despite claims by Democratic Party officials and the liberal capitalist media that the “war” against inflation has been won, stubbornly high prices on groceries, gas, housing, child care, health care and more remain in place and aren't coming down. This reality weighs harshly on workers and our families.

Prices have soared by about 25% on average since 2019, the government admits. The cost of gas has averaged \$3.48 a gallon this year, over 30% more than it was five years ago. In addition, car insurance costs have skyrocketed. The average annual bite is \$2,388 today.

Rents are 30% higher than they were five years ago and going up. And the ability to get and hold onto a home is class-divided. Young workers wanting to get out of their parents' place to live on their own and raise a family face huge obstacles. House prices, as well as mortgage rates, are sky high.

At the same time, because housing prices are going up, the boss class and their upper-middle-class minions have seen the value of their real estate climb.

Brace for higher butter prices

There's more. “Bakers brace for costly Christmas as butter prices surge,” reported Reuters Oct. 14. In Europe, butter prices are up 83% over last year. In the U.S., the Department of Agriculture projects butter prices rising 15% from 2023.

“A lot of people are having a big, big issue with the cost of food,” Cornelius Walker in Atlanta told the *Financial Times* Oct. 31. “Groceries are outrageous. Bread used to be \$1.50 or something for a loaf. Now everything is like \$3-4.”

Reports from the Labor Department show the economy is slowing down. In

October just 12,000 jobs were created, a sharp decline in the number of jobs reported to have been added in previous months. In September it was reported to be 223,000 new jobs. The department tried to blame the difference on the impact of hurricanes Helene and Milton, and on the Boeing strike.

But newly announced revisions to the August and September job figures wiped out another 112,000 jobs.

In October, 46,000 manufacturing jobs disappeared, driven by a decline in auto sales and production. This is part of an ongoing drop in industrial jobs. Instead of hiring new workers, bosses look to boost profits by speeding up production for those left on the job, dealing blows to life and limb. Where increases in job rolls were reported, it was in hospitality, education and health, jobs with less pay, insecure hours and fewer benefits.

While the “official” unemployment rate remains at 4.1%, the average number of weeks workers are unemployed has been growing, hitting a two-and-a-half-year high in October. An increasing number of workers today have been out of work for more than six months.

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For more info:
standtogethernovember10.org

Richter visits Memphis memorial

Continued from front page

toric fight by 1,300 Black sanitation workers who walked off the job in February 1968 protesting inhuman and discriminatory treatment by the city. Their fight for dignity, safety as well as fair wages and treatment, and carrying signs saying “I am a man,” was a watershed union and civil rights battle. It was in Memphis that Martin Luther King Jr., who had come to join in, was assassinated.

The plaza features a wall etched with the names of all 1,300 strikers. Moore’s first cousin, Quinton Moore Jr., is one of them.

“This is the place where the sanitation workers and supporters used to meet to march,” Moore said. The Clayborn Temple next to the plaza is “where workers and supporters took cover after being beaten and maced by the police. The police followed them and sprayed Mace into the church. Clayborn Temple was abandoned in the early 2000s and wasn’t restored until recently.

“In 2018 we organized a series of activities in Memphis to commemorate the 1968 strike. That’s when the I Am A Man Plaza was built so people had a place to come and learn about this important fight.”

Moore, who has been active in the Memphis labor movement for many years, talked with Richter about the importance of teaching young people about the strike and organizing more workers into unions today.

“Things are beginning to change,” said Richter. “People are inspired by the fights by unionists like in the auto industry and at Boeing. Workers need to see our own self-worth. You can stand up if you have self-worth. You get that in part by understanding your history.”

Memphis is marked by a rich history of intertwined labor battles and the fight to overthrow Jim Crow seg-

regation. Richter and his supporters visited the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel, where King was killed.

“I encourage anyone who wants to learn more about the civil rights movement to visit this museum,” the socialist candidate said. “Many of the exhibits highlight the involvement of millions of working people in this fight. From the lunch counter sit-ins to the Freedom Rides to the sanitation workers strike, you can see the power of a movement of workers who refuse to be treated as second-class citizens and stand up for their rights.

“It shows what working people are capable of.”

They enjoyed lunch at Ms. Girlee’s Soul Food Restaurant, run by the family of Baxter Leach, one of the striking sanitation workers in 1968.



Militant/Jacob Perasso

Kermit Moore, president of the Memphis NAACP, center, told Dennis Richter, SWP candidate for vice president, and campaign supporter Amy Husk about the I Am A Man Plaza created to introduce the fight by 1,300 Black sanitation workers in February 1968 to new generations.

SWP in final weeks of ‘Militant,’ books, party fund drive

BY DAVID ROSENFELD

CHICAGO — In the final week before the vote for the U.S. presidency, Socialist Workers Party members continued to find interest in and support for the party’s working-class program and course.

They’re taking steps toward successfully completing the eight-week campaign to sell 1,300 *Militant* subscriptions, the same number of books by party leaders and other revolutionaries and raise \$140,000 for the SWP Party-Building Fund, as they join picket lines and campaign door to door in working-class neighborhoods.

SWP congressional candidate Naomi Craine and party member Lisa Rottach participated in a rally to support a union-organizing drive at Lineage, a cold storage warehouse here. The drive by Teamsters Local 703 began in February. Eighty-four workers will vote Nov. 7 on whether to unionize.

Juan Manuel Garcia Nungaray and four co-workers from nearby produce supplier Marano attended to show their support. They’re members of the same local.

“We already have a union, but everybody needs one,” Garcia said.

“Solidarity strengthens our hand against the boss-

es,” Rottach said. “We need a party of our own, to put us in the strongest position to wage a fight to take power into our own hands. A party of labor would advance this fight on a global scale.”

“If we could get a labor party that would be amazing. I’m up for it,” Garcia said. He subscribed to the *Militant* and bought *Teamster Rebellion* and *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us: The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward* by SWP leaders Jack Barnes, Mary-Alice Waters and Steve Clark. Two other unionists bought *Militant* subscriptions. One also got *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by Barnes and gave a \$5 donation to the SWP campaign.

Ten new subscribers

“There are now 10 *Militant* subscribers in Spalding in rural Lincolnshire, where the strike by Unite union members at Bakkavor has entered its sixth week,” reports Communist League member Pamela Holmes from the U.K. “Six subscribers are strikers. The others have signed up when members of the CL have knocked on their doors.”

The CL has put winning solidarity with the strike at the center of its activity. “Many people we’ve spoke with on their doorsteps, work in the big food factories in or near the town,” Holmes

added. Workers at the Bakkavor plant in London bought 13 copies of the *Militant* with articles about the strike when she and another party member set up a table at the plant gate.

“Three of the new subscribers in Spalding have contributed to the League’s 6,000 pound (\$7,775) party fund, as well as picking up copies of *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us*; *Teamster Rebellion*; and *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class*.

“*The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms* has been far and away the top-seller,” Holmes, the organizer of the CL’s London branch, said. “Over 60 copies of the book have been bought — on picket lines, on doorsteps, in protests against antisemitism, at a Battle of Ideas Festival and at the Black British Book Fair.”

Ety Harel in Memphis, Tennessee, picked up a copy of the *Militant* Oct. 30 and then texted SWP campaigner Ned Measel to tell him the paper “was such a change from the usual media.”

The next day she met Measel and SWP member Amy Husk. Harel, who is 72, came here from Israel 10 years ago. She told the SWP members her parents moved from Salonika, Greece, during World War II to Egypt and then to Israel in 1955. Following the Nazi occupation of Greece, the Jewish community there was decimated, with some 45,000 dying in concentration camps and only a small number fleeing to other countries.

Harel subscribed to the *Militant* and got the books *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* and *In Defense of the U.S. Working Class*. She planned to vote for the SWP presidential ticket.

Rebecca Williamson reports that supporters of SWP presidential candidate Rachele Fruit got a good response at the annual Portland, Oregon, Book Festival.

Rachel Dyal, who works with people with eating disorders, described never-ending battles with insurance companies and medical institutions to get adequate health care for her patients. Dyal purchased a subscription to the *Militant* and the books *Woman’s Evolution; Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women*; and *Labor, Nature, and the Evolution of Humanity*.

To join campaigning with SWP or Communist League members contact the party branch nearest you listed on page 10.



Militant/Scott Breen

Vincent Auger, SWP candidate for Washington governor, introduces *Militant*, books by SWP, other revolutionary leaders, at Portland Book Festival Nov. 2.

Campaign to expand reach of ‘Militant,’ books, SWP fund Sept. 21 - November 19 (week six)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Fund received
UNITED STATES						
Atlanta	55	44	55	41	\$10,000	\$5,700
Chicago	90	68	90	64	\$14,000	\$8,249
Cincinnati	50	26	50	33	\$5,000	\$3,345
Fort Worth*	55	46	50	40	\$5,000	\$3,600
Los Angeles	115	85	115	73	\$15,000	\$7,180
Miami	35	18	35	11	\$5,000	\$1,530
Minneapolis	65	51	65	54	\$5,500	\$2,816
N. New Jersey	70	52	70	52	\$7,500	\$5,599
New York	100	72	115	96	\$20,000	\$13,323
Oakland	85	73	85	58	\$15,000	\$11,859
Philadelphia	60	37	60	42	\$6,500	\$3,545
Pittsburgh	40	27	40	22	\$6,000	\$4,182
Seattle	60	57	60	39	\$14,500	\$10,875
Washington	50	32	50	35	\$4,500	\$760
Other		11		104		\$1,590
Total U.S.	930	699	940	764	\$133,500	\$84,153
Prisoners		89				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London*	50	50	130	132		
Manchester*	45	47	40	39		
Total U.K.	95	97	170	171		
Canada	90	68	90	72		
Australia	30	23	30	38		
Total	1,145	976	1,230	1,045	\$133,500	\$84,153
SHOULD BE	1,300	975	1,300	975	\$140,000	\$105,000
*Raised goal						

Fruit: 'Today's strikes are key'

Continued from front page

Rachele Fruit, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, told a campaign meeting here Oct. 30.

Workers face similar conditions, "and we face the same challenge of developing a leadership that can lead a revolutionary fight for workers power in every country."

Full-time jobs that pay enough to cover workers' living expenses are hard to find in the U.S., Fruit said. "Millions work two or three jobs to make ends meet. The cost of rent, food, child care and other necessities are up about 25% on average since 2019."

Fruit and her running mate, Dennis Richter, have visited picket lines of striking Boeing workers, flight attendants, longshoremen, Teamsters, autoworkers and others. Fruit said she walked the picket lines of hotel workers who can't afford to live in the cities where they work in the Los Angeles area, and joined an action in downtown Miami organized by her union local of UNITE HERE

"These workers understand that the union is their vehicle to defend themselves. They are learning that their struggles are all political struggles too."

Steps toward independent working-class political action will come as struggles deepen, she said. We need a party of labor "to fight against every outrage that the rulers commit against us and fight for the things we need. But it will take a fight for power to secure them. That's the most important thing we can learn from Cuba's socialist revolution."

Fruit said, "Most workers know that this election won't solve any of the fundamental questions we face. That will depend on what we do to defend ourselves."

Fruit described discussions among rail workers about the conditions they face and votes on new contracts at a number of Class 1 railroads. The is-

sue of safety is a life-and-death question, she said, and it can't be bargained away. "No worker has to die on the job!"

In each area Fruit visited she sat down with workers to discuss the way forward. "In every case, our discussions centered on why we call for a party of labor and why the fight against Jew-hatred must be a question for the labor movement to champion. We have won new campaign endorsers in every city."

Fruit explained that the Republican Party has tried to recast itself as a party for working people.

"This has been Donald Trump's appeal since 2016," Fruit noted. "He is willing to talk about the carnage facing working-class communities across the country. But the problem, he says, is the immigrant 'invasion,' and he calls for massive deportations of undocumented workers, which divides our class. Trump has singled out Haitians in Charleroi, Pennsylvania.

"I got a chance to meet workers there yesterday, many facing layoffs if their plant closes in December," she said. The SWP calls for a union-led fight for a large-scale government-funded public works program to create jobs to put millions back to work at union-scale pay, building the housing, hospitals and other things we need.

"Kamala Harris shares the politics and social outlook of former President Barack Obama," Fruit told the meeting. "They speak for an upper-middle-class layer, tens of millions strong — the 'smart' people — that has growing clout in the Democratic Party. They blame workers who they call 'ignorant, racist, religious or patriotic' for the situation we find ourselves in."

The various frame-ups against Donald Trump organized by the White House and Democratic prosecutors were meant to prevent him from running for president, Fruit said, and they



Militant/Mary Martin

SWP presidential candidate Rachele Fruit, left, joined Oct. 6 rally in Seattle against Hamas pogrom in Israel Oct. 7, 2023. "We defend Israel as a refuge against Jew-hatred," Fruit said.

hoped to prevent millions from voting for him. In doing so they deal blows to constitutional freedoms working people need.

"Constitutional protections like freedom of speech, assembly, of worship, the right to bear arms, the right to a fair trial are held dearly by the working class," she said. "It is the working class that will have to fight to defend them for everyone, including our political opponents."

Take power from warmakers

The U.S. imperialist rulers seek to expand their economic, military and political sway throughout the world, Fruit said, "just like their competitors do. For decades they've deployed tens of thousands of troops, warships and fighter jets to the Middle East to protect their interests.

"They continue to try to stay Israel's hand," she said, as it defends itself from attack by the reactionary capitalist regime in Iran and its proxies, Hezbollah and Hamas. "Even after

Tehran launched 180 ballistic missiles against Israel Oct. 1, the Biden administration was still talking about the need for Israel to de-escalate.

"We defend Israel, which is a capitalist country, as a refuge against Jew-hatred and pogroms. It is the only country that will fight against the slaughter of the Jews," said Fruit. "But the state of Israel cannot solve the problem" and end Jew-hatred for all time.

"The solution is tied to building a revolutionary working-class party of all nationalities in every country, including in Israel and in the U.S., that works toward workers taking power.

"This is a revolutionary perspective," Fruit said. "It will take a disciplined movement of millions of working people to create a new world based on human solidarity. And it requires a party with the vision and the program to lead workers to victory. Join us in this effort, in whatever way you can. It's the most meaningful thing you can do with your life."

Meeting to celebrate life, political contributions of Jim Altenberg

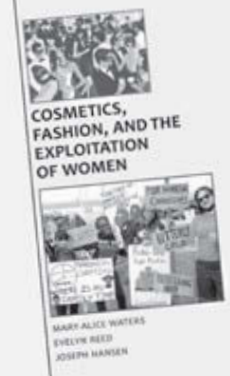
BY JOEL BRITTON

OAKLAND, Calif. — A meeting to celebrate the life and political contributions of Jim Altenberg will take place in San Leandro Nov. 16. Altenberg, 70, a member of the Socialist Workers Party for more than 20 years and a party supporter for the last two decades, died Oct. 31 after a long fight against cancer.

The meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Senior Community Center, 13909 E. 14th St., in San Leandro. Speakers will include SWP leaders Betsey Stone, Norton Sandler and Dave Prince, and Jim White, a leader of the SWP supporters auxiliary. A

buffet reception before the program will begin at 5:30. Messages for the meeting can be emailed to oakland-swp@gmail.com.

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Support 'New York Times' tech workers strike!



Militant/Roy Landersen

NEW YORK — Many of the over 600 tech workers on strike at the *New York Times* picketed outside the paper's headquarters Nov. 5 to demand equitable pay increases with similar workers at other media outlets, as well as stronger protection against unfair dismissal. The software developers, data analysts and designers behind the company's digital online presence voted 95% in September to authorize a strike by their Tech Guild union, giving company management until around Election Day to offer a fair contract. "Management is still dug in," a Tech Guild member told the rally, but "our newsroom colleagues are standing with us," refusing to do struck work. A *Times* spokesperson said the company was disappointed that the union "would strike at this time."

— ROY LANDERSEN

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Thousands of hotel strikers rally in San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO — “What do we want? Contract!” 2,000 hotel workers chanted Oct. 30 as they marched around Union Square, home to many of the city’s big hotels. The action ended with a sit-in on the cable car tracks outside the Westin St. Francis Hotel, one of five where workers are on strike. Dozens were arrested and released that evening.

The strike by hotel housekeepers, servers, bartenders, cooks, bellhops and other workers, members of UNITE HERE Local 2, began in late September. They’ve maintained loud picket lines, with chanting and drumming, outside the Hyatt, Hilton and Marriott hotels.

A key issue in this fight is the bosses’ push for cuts in health insurance. “We are not going to give up what we have won through past struggles,” Alfredo Corleto, strike captain at the Marriott Union Square, told the *Militant* Oct. 28. In 2018 workers at the Marriott hotels struck for two months, successfully keeping their health coverage at no cost for single workers and \$10 a month for families. “Now the hotel bosses are demanding we pay hundreds of dollars,” Corleto said.

Anthony Tran, a server at the Grand Hyatt, said the cuts bosses are demanding in retiree pensions and health care benefits would hit older workers like himself particularly hard. Many workers with less seniority lost jobs during the COVID shutdowns and never got them back, he said, meaning job combinations are the norm. “They want you to be a server and also bus the dishes,” Tran said. “We’re out here for everybody, for workers today and in the future.”

Supporters of the fight are urged to join the daily picket lines. Donations and messages of support are also welcome. Workers at the Grand Hyatt told the *Militant* they were buoyed when a worker at a nearby union hotel that is not on strike collected \$2,000 from his co-workers to buy food for strikers at the Hyatt.

— *Betsy Stone*

Eaton Aerospace workers keep up strike over pay, pensions

JACKSON, Mich. — The 525 members of United Auto Workers Local 475 remain on the picket line at Eaton Aerospace here, after rejecting a second contract proposal more than a month into their strike. “The new pay offer was only half a percent different. They just moved some numbers around,” striker Erik Palmer told this *Militant* worker-correspondent Oct. 28. “They were just trying to see if we’d crack.”

“Their insurance policy is substandard,” added his co-worker, Joe Fish.

The UAW members walked out Sept. 16, setting up around-the-clock picketing. The main issues include wages, insurance costs and the company’s demand to end the defined benefit pension plan and replace it with a 401(k) that would put benefits at the whims of the stock market. “The main reason I took this job was it offered a pension,” Palmer said.

“A lot of local unions have come out to support us,” said shop steward Ken Brown. Eaton has operations around the world and makes components for electrical, aerospace and other industries. Workers at the Jackson plant assemble hoses for civil, commercial and military aircraft, including for Boeing.

“The union has our last, best and final offer,” the company told Fox News Nov. 1. While saying it is willing to continue talking with the union, “at this time, we are focused on hiring permanent replacement workers.”

Some 400 members of the International Association of Machinists Local 660 at the company’s B-Line plants in Highland and Troy, Illinois, just east of St. Louis, struck Oct. 21.

A union statement summed up their issues: “insufficient wages to keep pace with inflation and industry standards, high health insurance costs, no improvements to work-life balance, and substandard retirement security.

“IAM members at Eaton are currently forced to work six-day workweeks. The company is also seeking to turn a 30-minute break into two 15-minute breaks, leaving little time to have a



Militant/Betsy Stone

Steel drummers on UNITE HERE picket line outside Grand Hyatt hotel in San Francisco’s Union Square Oct. 30. Some 2,000 strikers joined in protest actions at city’s big hotels there.

meal. Management also wants to eliminate two 10-minute breaks per shift.”

Meanwhile, members of the Unite union at an Eaton plant in Fareham, Hampshire, in the United Kingdom, have held a series of work stoppages, also over pay.

— *Naomi Craine*

W.Va. IAM members strike at Union Carbide, win contract

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. — After 10 days on strike at the Union Carbide plant here, members of International Association of Machinists Local 598 won an improved contract Oct. 31.

The 77 workers walked off the job Oct. 21 in a fight for higher wages and better benefits. Along with wage increases ranging from 15.91% to 20.28%, they won increased control over overtime, payments towards child care costs and other gains.

The strikers received warm support from the community. One donor brought three racks of wood for their burn barrels. They also received food and cash donations. This *Militant* worker-correspondent walked the picket line and witnessed several unionists come to support the strike, including miners, teachers and postal workers.

“Honk if you support fair wages for union workers,” read one of the signs

strikers carried.

The plant, a subsidiary of Dow Chemical, produces more than 500 chemicals and plastics, some of them highly toxic.

“Our members working at Dow Chemical perform dangerous jobs that demand appropriate compensation and respect for their labor. They are simply asking for what is fair,” T. Dean Wright Jr., president of IAM District 54, told the media during the strike.

— *Earl Christy*

IBEW union workers win vote in Siemens Texas plant

FORT WORTH, Texas — The Nov. 1 election victory for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers union at the Siemens plant here “was a landslide. An absolute landslide,” Joshua Worthey, business manager and financial secretary of IBEW Local 220, told the *Militant*.

The day before the vote, this *Militant* worker-correspondent and Josefina Otero joined about a dozen IBEW members holding posters saying, “Honk for the union” and handing out leaflets about the union election at the plant. There were loud honks and thumbs up from almost every car going in and out of the plant.

“Over 60% of the plant signed union cards before the vote,” said Jedon Shimpugh, an IBEW chief shop steward. “We put QR codes on the union flyers so workers could sign up online. They were really quick to use them. There is a voluntary organizing committee of 20 that is majority women. The plant has over 300 workers.”

Gianni Gipson, a member of the organizing committee, stopped her car on the way into work. “I moved here from Michigan, many of my family were members of the United Auto Workers,” she said. “We need the union here.”

Siemens opened the Fort Worth plant last October. They make low voltage switchgear and switch boxes that are used in data centers, electrical vehicles and EV charging systems. The company claimed the average salary would be \$63,000. But Worthey said, “The workers were promised wages that they were not given.” Assemblers make \$17 to \$21 an hour.

“There is still no HVAC and no bathrooms on the shop floor. The workers use porta-potties,” Worthey said. “There are a lot of safety issues inside the plant. The company refused to let OSHA inspectors inside. They have to get a court order.”

— *Alyson Kennedy*

— 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

November 22, 1999

For the eighth consecutive year the United Nations General Assembly voted in favor of a resolution condemning the U.S. government’s nearly 40-year-old embargo against Cuba. The tally of the vote: 155 governments in favor, 2 opposed (Washington and Tel Aviv), and 8 abstaining.

U.S. representative Peter Burleigh stated that the sanctions were intended to pressure Havana to respect “human rights” and implement “democracy.”

Ricardo Alarcón, president of Cuba’s National Assembly, responded by pointing out that Washington “backed to the very end” the repressive dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista. “Cubans have had to suffer, survive, and develop in absolutely unjust and unjustifiable conditions imposed in a cold, calculated way” at the hands of the U.S. rulers and their embargo since the 1959 revolution brought a government of workers and farmers to power.

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

November 22, 1974

The United Mine Workers of America announced Nov. 11 that a nationwide strike would begin at midnight. The outcome of the UMWA’s fight for higher wages, for a cost-of-living clause, and for union control of safety could have far-reaching effects on workers in other unions.

The rulers hope to use their attacks on the miners to justify a stepped-up assault on the living standards of all U.S. workers. While the coal companies’ earnings reached astronomical levels last year, miners’ real wages went down by 4 percent. Tragedies, such as the 132 miners who died in 1973, are of little concern to the capitalist government.

Pry open the books of the coal companies and their parent oil trusts for public inspection. Let the miners examine the books of these profiteers to see whether they really are “too poor” to pay decent wages and run safe mines.

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

November 21, 1949

American workers have now behind them a rich experience of four postwar years marked by numerous important struggles, including the recent steel strike.

The steel workers, like the majority of the labor movement, have emerged victorious in maintaining their union in the face of repeated attacks by the billionaire corporations. But in other respects — living standards, working conditions, job security, etc. — some sections have just barely held their own, while others have actually suffered setbacks.

Yet the workers have fought and fought well. What then accounts for this glaring paradox? The last four years should teach the workers that “pure and simple” trade unionism is much too narrow a field for the solution of their problems. The way out for labor lies in the political field under its own banner, with its own party and program, its own candidates.

Lenin backed self-determination for nations oppressed by Moscow

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Days before Russian President Vladimir Putin launched Moscow's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, he denied the country really exists as an independent nation, claiming it was "an inalienable part" of Russia. He blamed V.I. Lenin, the central leader of the Bolshevik-led Russian Revolution, for backing the creation of Ukraine.

Putin is determined to reassert Moscow's domination over countries once held within the vast empire of the Russian czars. The biggest obstacle to his goal is Ukrainian working people, who are the backbone of the fight to repel the invasion and to defend the country's sovereignty. Their chief allies are among the Russian soldiers, their families and other working people, who face the bloody consequences of Putin's war and his attempts to crush his political opponents at home.

The Socialist Workers Party supports the battle by Ukraine's people against Moscow's domination, consistent with the continuity of the communist movement and the example set by Lenin and the Bolsheviks, the vanguard of the world's first socialist revolution.

Lenin led the fight before, during and after the 1917 Russian Revolution to support the right of self-determination to nations seeking to break free from the czarist prison house of nations, including Ukraine. Subsequently, this course, which led to the flowering of the Ukrainian language and culture, was overturned in a bloody counterrevolution led by Joseph Stalin. This drove working people from political power and restored Moscow's domination over the nations freed from its grasp.

Under czarist rule, Ukrainians, Georgians, Jews, Tatars and millions

from Central Asia to the Caucasus region were denied the basic right to use their native language, practice the religion of their choice and exercise control over their cultural, economic and political affairs.

The 1917 Russian Revolution changed all that, bringing tens of millions into social and political life for the first time. Lenin and the Bolsheviks led workers and peasants to take state power, nationalize the factories, land and banks and run them in the interests of the great majority.

Key to advancing the revolution was the new government's championing of the right to self-determination of oppressed nationalities, within what had been the Russian Empire as well as worldwide.

Ukrainian Bolsheviks led in establishing an autonomous republic there that voluntarily joined the new Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Opposed Great Russian chauvinism

Even "the slightest manifestation in our midst of Great-Russian nationalism" had to be fought, Lenin explained, because it would prevent working people from fighting to "uphold the dictatorship of the proletariat and Soviet power in the fight against the landowners and capitalists of all countries and against their attempts to restore their domination."

Toward the end of his active political life, Lenin waged a battle between 1922 and 1923 within the leadership of the Communist Party to try to preserve the alliance of workers and peasants that was at the heart of the revolution. He resisted the growing privileged government bureaucracy headed by Stalin.

Lenin fought to safeguard the voluntary character of the union of Sovi-



Red Army troops in Kharkiv, Ukraine, Dec. 8, 1917. Bolshevik Revolution put Russian workers and peasants in power, ended Moscow's involvement in World War I, and overturned czar's "prison house of nations," offering self-determination to Ukraine and other nationalities.

et republics, which was threatened by Stalin's proposals that would reinstate Moscow's domination.

"Internationalism on the part of oppressors or 'great' nations," Lenin wrote in 1922, "must consist not only in the observance of the formal equality of nations but even as an inequality, through which the oppressor nation, the great nation, would compensate for the inequality which obtains in real life."

Stalin's victory and the police-state regime he led put an end to Lenin's communist course. In Ukraine, tens of thousands of revolutionary militants were executed or sent to labor camps. Leon Trotsky, the Bolshevik leader who led the fight to continue Lenin's course, was exiled and later assassinated by Stalin's secret police as World War II began.

The Stalinist regime took special vengeance against the workers and farmers of Ukraine. It systematically killed thousands of Ukrainian writers, artists, intellectuals and political officials.

Millions more were starved to death when Stalin forcibly requisitioned all grain in Ukraine to sell abroad, giving rise to the Holodomor in 1932-33, which literally means killing by hunger. Stalin's forced col-

lectivization of peasant land across the Soviet Union fell with special force in Ukraine.

"Nowhere did restrictions, purges, repressions and in general all forms of bureaucratic hooliganism assume such murderous sweep as they did in the Ukraine in the struggle against the powerful, deeply rooted longings of the Ukrainian masses for greater freedom and independence," Trotsky wrote in 1939.

Moscow's rule over Ukraine and other oppressed nations continued under subsequent Stalinist regimes until the Soviet Union disintegrated in 1991. Afterward, Ukraine and 13 other former republics declared independence.

The Socialist Workers Party gives unconditional support to the Ukrainian toilers' fight to defend their sovereignty.

Today, Putin insists Stalin was right against Lenin.

His regime's war to conquer Ukraine has accelerated the threat of more military conflicts as rival capitalist powers worldwide look to rearm and seek new alliances to protect their interests.

The stakes have heightened for workers worldwide to chart a road to take political power from the capitalist classes into our own hands, as the workers in Russia did in 1917.

BCTGM members in Buffalo on strike at Milk-Bone



BCTGM Local 36G

Workers who make Milk-Bone dog treats went on strike in Buffalo, New York, Oct. 28. Milk-Bone is owned by the J.M. Smucker Company. The union says that 165 members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Local 36G are fighting "against an increased cost to their health care, low wages," and the company's disrespect for its employees.

"Union members had hoped to improve their sub-par medical plan when they entered bargaining," Roger Miller, BCTGM international vice president, told the press. But the bosses' proposal to increase the plan's cost "would offset any wage increase they were able to win." You can show your support by visiting the picket line at 243 Urban Street in Buffalo.

— TERRY EVANS

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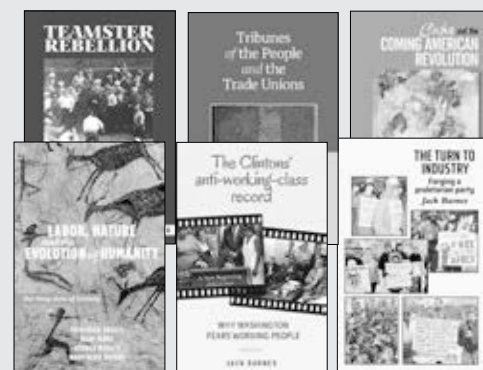
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Boeing workers vote up contract

Continued from front page

The workers did not win reinstatement of the pension plan. The company did not budge beyond agreeing to increase its contribution to workers' 401(k) plans.

More than 26,000 union members voted on the contract, a turnout of nearly 80%.

"A lot of people were hoping to get a pension back after the first two offers were rejected," Boeing worker Roger Bland told the *Militant*, "but there was a large group of workers who said, 'We should go back to work.' Over time more thought the pensions would never come back.

"When workers had different opinions on what the union should do, discussions on the picket line were civil," he said. "We learned what it means to be a union, to be part of a picket. We got to know each other and each other's strengths.

"It was a great experience. It gave Boeing a taste of what we're capable of," he said.

"I'm conflicted on it," Kelsey Eagan, who's worked at Boeing for two years, told the *Militant*. "There's

definitely some good things in it, but we still had fight left in us, I think. There's things that could've been addressed, like lowering medical costs.

"I think the strike was worth it," he added. During the strike workers won solidarity from fellow unionists, local businesses and farmers.

The agreement was an important advance over the concession contract pressed on workers in 2014 after bosses threatened to move production from the Seattle area. That contract froze the pension plan, eliminated it for new hires, increased medical insurance costs and locked workers into a 0.5% annual wage increase for eight years, during a period when inflation soared.

This time union members were determined to fight. When Boeing first offered a measly wage increase, combined with a proposal to eliminate the annual bonus, workers resoundingly voted down the offer by 96% and walked out Sept. 13.

In the contract the company also agreed to build its next new airplane in the Seattle area.

The strike at Boeing was one of a



Reuters/David Ryder

Boeing Machinists march after rally in Seattle Oct. 15. Workers won a 38% wage increase. "The strike gave Boeing a taste of what we're capable of," one worker told the *Militant*.

series of recent union battles by hundreds of thousands of autoworkers, nurses, dockworkers and others who have stood up for better wages and working conditions.

Its outcome will buoy others currently on strike, from hotel workers in San Francisco, to oil refinery workers at Marathon in Detroit, the United

Auto Workers on strike at Eaton Aerospace and others.

Every one of these fights deserves support. Organizing solidarity is key to defending workers' interests and strengthening the labor movement.

Rebecca Williamson and Vincent Auger contributed to this article.

2024 US election reflects blows of capitalist crisis on the working class

Continued from front page

labor of working people. Neither Republican Trump nor Democrat Kamala Harris offered protection from the crisis the bosses are loading on workers' backs, let alone any road forward for the working class and oppressed.

In an imperialist world marked by rising instability, Moscow's war on Ukraine, Jew-hatred and the Tehran-backed Hamas pogrom in Israel, the stakes for working people are enormous. Even more so as a growing number of rival capitalist states are armed with nuclear weapons and armories filled with drones and ballistic missiles.

Trump will use the White House to manage the affairs of the ruling capitalist families, from their profit-driven offensive against working people at home to their imperialist interests abroad.

Republicans took control of the Senate, but the final makeup of the House is yet to be announced.

Under Trump, the Republicans are "growing into a party that draws working-class votes of all races," Aaron Zitner wrote in the *Wall Street Journal* the day after the election. "Black and Latino voters," he pointed out, "tilted more toward Trump" this year than any other Republican candidate in prior U.S. elections for close to a century.

The liberal press acknowledged Trump's win. The U.S. rulers are keen to put the election campaign behind them.

Nonetheless, the editors of the *New York Times* were quick to proclaim a renewed drive to target Trump. "Institutions of American civil society will play a crucial role in challenging the Trump administration in the courts, in our communities and in the protests that are sure to return," they wrote Nov. 6.

End of retreat of labor movement

The election took place in the wake of a yearslong assault by the bosses and their government in Washington. They've held down workers' wages, threatened our safety with speedup and

debilitating schedules, slashed health care and pensions and used anti-labor laws to bar strikes, as Biden did to rail workers in 2022. The bosses rely on both their two main political parties to carry out these assaults.

In recent years workers have faced soaring prices and mounting indebtedness. Fertility rates have tumbled as more workers struggle to afford starting and maintaining families. Life expectancy has declined in the richest capitalist country in the world.

Over the past three years, the most important change has been in the working class — an end to a decadeslong retreat of the labor movement. More workers are turning to their unions to fight, like the 33,000 Machinists union workers did at Boeing.

Hundreds of thousands have walked picket lines, gaining greater confidence in themselves and their unions. These struggles underscore the fact that advances can be made when workers join together to fight for what we need, as opposed to depending on whichever capitalist politician sits in the White House.

Throughout the 2024 campaign, the Socialist Workers Party candidates — Rachele Fruit for president and Dennis Richter for vice president — won a hearing among workers. They've explained that every class battle is also a political struggle. And they've pointed to what the working class is capable of accomplishing, including the necessity of taking political power out of the hands of capitalists and into our own hands.

Both bosses' parties scorn workers

In sharp contrast, both the Democratic and Republican candidates and their parties denigrate working people. President Joseph Biden tarred Trump supporters as "garbage," and earlier as "MAGA extremists" and "semi-fascists." That's tens of millions of people!

Harris tried to walk back some of Biden's comments, but the Democrats' message throughout the campaign has

been unmistakable: Trump is a fascist, and, if you vote for him, *so are you*. Or if you don't vote at all, or vote for the Socialist Workers Party, you're enabling the forces of reaction. The upper-middle-class layers who dominate the Democratic Party look down on working people as morally inferior and the source of bigotry and reaction.

The liberal big-business press joined Harris and the Democrats in pushing this smear of Trump and his supporters. "The U.S. republic is in danger" from Trump, the *Financial Times* shouted, and "a startling share of America is unbothered."

At a 2008 fundraiser Barack Obama said workers who face losing their jobs "get bitter, they cling to guns or religion or antipathy to people who aren't like them or anti-immigrant sentiment." In 2016 Hillary Clinton said the same more succinctly, calling workers attracted to Trump "deplorable."

This year, Obama told Black men that if they don't vote for Harris it proves that they're prejudiced against women.

But workers aren't attracted to Trump because they're reactionary, sexist bigots. They're looking for an alternative to the conditions they and their families face.

Under the rulers' two-capitalist-parties setup, many workers vote for the candidate they think will do the least harm. Many others don't see any reason to vote at all. And a growing number are taking interest in the working-class alternative presented by the SWP.

A working-class road forward

Trump seeks to refurbish the image of the Republican Party as a party for workers. But he's a real-estate-dealing capitalist in search of the highest profits. And his campaign seeks to demonize a section of the working class — immigrant workers with and without papers — in an effort to convince workers this is the cause of their worsening situation, not capitalism. This

divides and weakens the working class and labor movement.

Harris also targeted immigrant workers as the problem, though she says she'd be nicer sticking it to them. She called for an increase in criminal penalties to be imposed on undocumented workers.

The SWP candidates say the fight for an amnesty for workers without papers in the U.S. is a life-or-death question — to unite the entire working class and to strengthen our unions.

Trump points to aspects of the crisis conditions workers face that Democrats seek to cover up. Biden bragged, "Our economy has grown more than any presidential term this century" Nov. 1, while the latest employment figures actually showed the slowest jobs growth in four years. Prices for many essentials are 20% higher under his administration. When asked, Harris said she couldn't think of a thing she'd do differently from Biden.

Both of the major capitalist parties try to hitch workers' interests to the fortunes of the bosses. Their candidates both talk about "our economy." But there is no "our" economy. For the bosses, a good economy is when profits are booming, a product of deeper exploitation of the working class. Changing this requires changing which class rules.

Throughout the campaign the Socialist Workers Party has been the only voice charting a road for workers to organize in our millions to defend our class interests and the interest of all those oppressed by capital. (See statement by SWP candidates Rachele Fruit and Dennis Richter on page 11.)

The SWP candidates are unionists, joining strike picket lines and building solidarity wherever they go. They've explained why workers need to break from the bosses' political parties and build a party of our own, a party of labor, that can fight to take political power.

The SWP will continue to present this working-class perspective and will continue to get a hearing.

Defend culture, oppose push for writers boycott against Israel

Continued from front page

ist interests based in the United Arab Emirates — says it has the signatures of over 6,000 “writers, publishers, literary festival workers, and other books workers” on its open letter titled, “Refusing Complicity in Israel’s Literary Institutions.”

The letter states that the signers refuse to “work with Israeli cultural institutions that are complicit or have remained silent observers of the overwhelming oppression of Palestinians. We will not cooperate with Israeli institutions, including publishers, festivals, literary institutions and publications.” Among the signers promoting the boycott are some well-known authors, including Jhumpa Lahiri, Arundhati Roy, Naomi Klein, Sally Rooney, Juno Díaz and Michelle Alexander.

They say not one word about the Tehran-financed and -backed Hamas death squads that entered Israel Oct. 7. The trained death squads planned and carried out a pogrom, murdering 1,200 men, women and children because they were Jewish — along with dozens of Arabs and immigrants because they were friends or worked with Jews. They unleashed special brutality, including rape and mutilation, against women, and abuse of men.

Nor do they say a word about how Hamas, Hezbollah and the bourgeois regime in Tehran repress working people in Gaza, Lebanon and Iran.

In fact, the letter complements the aim of a Jew-free Palestine, another Holocaust, which would have brutal consequences for Jews, Palestinians and all in the region and the world.

Answer to ‘a one-sided narrative’

The reply led by the Creative Community for Peace to this attack is important. Its signers include major literary and artistic figures who hold a wide range of political views, including Mayim Bialik, Ozzy Osbourne, Gene Simmons, Lionel Shriver, Bernard Henri-Lévy, Lee Child and Bret Stephens. Creative Community for Peace is an Israel-based organization dedicated to combatting antisemitism.

The signers of the Creative Community for Peace letter are not for censoring the boycotters. They call for open debate and discussion. They refuse “to capitulate to censorship based on identity or litmus tests.”

“We continue to be shocked and disappointed to see members of the literary

community harass and ostracize their colleagues because they don’t share a one-sided narrative in response to the greatest massacre of Jews since the Holocaust,” their reply states. “Israel is fighting existential wars against Hamas and Hezbollah.”

The reply notes that over the last year bookstore appearances by Jewish authors have been canceled, literary publications have rejected ads for books by authors who defend Israel’s right to exist, book readings by Jewish authors have been shut down and boycott supporters “have publicized lists of ‘Zionist’ authors to harass.” Many bookstores have set up displays on Gaza and the war that exclude any books that support Israel’s right to defend the safety of a refuge for Jews.

Deborah Harris, director of the Jerusalem-based Deborah Harris Agency, and Jessica Kasmer-Jacobs, a literary agent there, answered the boycotters in an Oct. 31 opinion column in the *New York Times*, “Stop the Boycott of Israeli Culture.”

“You cannot understand the terrible tragedy of this place if you read only the literature on one side,” Harris and Kasmer-Jacobs write. “You cannot advocate Palestinian rights by excluding and alienating the people who would fight for them from the only battleground where they might be won.”

Poet and literary critic Adam Kirsch noted in a column in the *Wall Street Journal* that unlike other boycotts, the anti-Israel one does not seek to change the policies or leadership of



Display at Next Chapter bookstore in St. Paul, Minnesota, features “Free Palestine,” books that ignore Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas pogrom in Israel that killed 1,200 Jews, others. Anti-Israel boycott seeks to censor those who disagree with them.

a country, but to deny it the right “to exist altogether.”

Trotsky: Art is incompatible with lies

In 1938 a “Manifesto: Towards a free revolutionary art” was issued by Diego Rivera, the Mexican muralist, and Andre Breton, a surrealist. Leon Trotsky, one of the central leaders of the Bolshevik Revolution, contributed to writing the Manifesto, which is reprinted in *Art and Revolution: Writings on Literature, Politics, and Culture*. The Manifesto fought against the use of institutions and the state against cultural and artistic freedom.

“Truly intellectual creation is incom-

patible with lies, hypocrisy and the spirit of conformity,” Trotsky said in a related 1938 article included in the book. It was written as rival imperialist powers were heading toward World War II. “Art can become a strong ally of revolution only insofar as it remains faithful to itself.” Those words hold true today.

Culture in the broadest sense requires debate, often sharp debate. And that is what the boycotters oppose and fear.

These are questions that must be discussed and debated. What is the origin of Jew-hatred and pogroms? Why can’t the existence of Israel be separated from the consequences of the Holocaust? Why is Jew-hatred part of the banner of reaction in the imperialist epoch, used against all organizations of the working class and toilers? What is Hamas’ continuity with what the Nazis did in Germany?

Working people all over the world of all nationalities and religions — including Jews, Arabs,

Muslims, Christians, nonbelievers — need culture, debate and discussion to expand our horizons, to act together in our common interests, to find a road forward for humanity.

This is also crucial to organizing working people in our tens of millions to take political power out of the hands of the capitalist rulers, to prevent a third imperialist world war with all its devastating consequences. It’s central to opening up the possibility, through cooperation, of solving seeming intractable conflicts in the Middle East, and to building a new world based on solidarity — with a new flowering of culture.

Protests in Iran call for end to the death penalty

BY SETH GALINSKY

Dozens of family members of prisoners on death row marched down a busy street in Tehran to the Majlis, the Iranian parliament building, Oct. 29, calling for the abolition of the death penalty. “No to executions” and “We are not afraid,” they chanted.

The march coincided with the 40th consecutive “no execution” Tuesday — a weekly one-day hunger strike by prisoners across the country. The number of actions jumped from 14 prisons in August to 24 in October.

The protests against the death penalty take place amid growing opposition by working people to the reactionary bourgeois regime’s threats to wipe out Israel and the Jews. Almost every day there are actions by workers demanding higher wages to match soaring prices, despite the regime’s warnings this undercuts their war effort. Nurses are planning nationwide protests Nov. 7. One of their slogans is, “Enough warmongering. Our tables are empty.”

At least 811 prisoners were executed between October 2023 and October 2024 — nearly triple the number executed in 2021. Roughly half were for drug offenses and a third on accusations of murder. A smaller number are opponents of the Islamist regime, accused of “armed rebellion,” “waging war against God” or “corruption on earth.”

According to a statement being cir-

culated by the Coordinating Council of the Teachers Unions and other independent unions that have been campaigning against the death penalty, 150 people were executed in October alone. “That means seven executions every day.”

The death penalty is used disproportionately against Iran’s oppressed nationalities, including Kurds, Arabs and Azerbaijanis. The hardest hit are Baluch. Less than 6% of Iran’s population, they account for 20% of all executions.

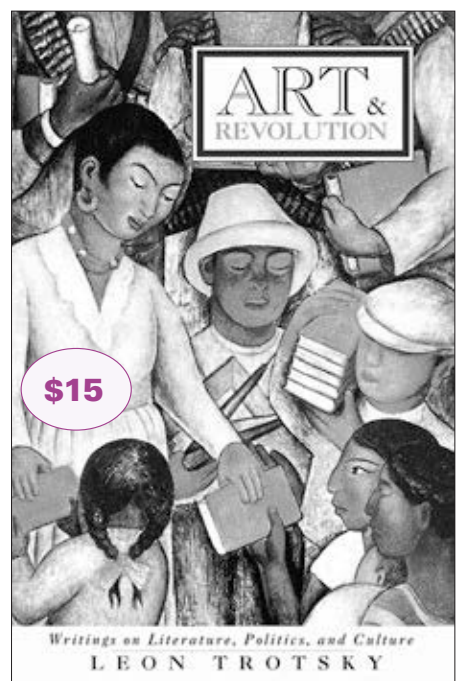
Opponents of the death penalty frequently emphasize that “execution is the most important tool of political repression in the hands of the rulers.” An Oct. 30 statement noted, “Execution is

a violation of human rights not only for political prisoners, but for all ordinary prisoners as well.”

At a retiree protest in Khorasan province Oct. 31, participants combined demands for higher pensions — “our pensions are in rials, our costs are in dollars” — with a call to end executions and torture.

They called for freedom for Ismail Gerami, a retired electrician and leader of the retirees, who was sent back to prison for an additional one-year sentence, and Sharifeh Mohammadi, a former member of the Coordinating Committee to Help Create Labor Organizations, who faces a death sentence.

Recommended reading



Retirees’ Union Group of Iran Oct. 31 retiree protest in Iran’s Khorasan province combined demands for higher pensions with call to end executions. Other retiree actions condemned regime’s “warmongering.”

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US rulers turn FBI into anti-labor political police operation

50 Years of Covert Operations in the US: Washington's Political Police and the American Working Class by Larry Seigle, Farrell Dobbs and Steve Clark is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for November. It traces the U.S. capitalist rulers' use of the FBI, their political police, to target the unions, the Socialist Workers Party and other working-class organizations, as well as movements for Black rights and against the Vietnam War. Today the FBI and the Justice Department have been central to the Democrats' campaign to try to prevent Donald Trump from winning the presidency again. This deals blows to constitutional freedoms vital to the working class and its vanguard. The excerpt is from the introduction by Steve Clark, a member of the SWP National Committee. Copyright © 2014 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, second from left, watches President Franklin Roosevelt sign 1934 bill expanding federal bureau's powers. As U.S. rulers prepared to enter imperialist competition for markets and power in World War II, they used FBI to frame up union fighters and SWP.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY STEVE CLARK

Fifty Years of Covert Operations in the US points to the century-and-a-half-long proletarian course that made possible what the Socialist Workers Party accomplished through its political campaign to expose government spying and harassment and mobilize opposition to it. From the moment the SWP filed its lawsuit in 1973 through the 1981 trial and post-trial proceed-

ings, the article [by Larry Seigle] says, the government

kept trying to prove that the party said one thing in public and something different in its closed meetings. They tried to establish that the party maintained dual structures, one for public purposes and the other hidden from view. In every case, the facts showed the opposite. While a workers' party has the right, in fact the responsibility, to protect the privacy of its members and supporters from the bosses and the police, it has no right to keep its ideas, methods, and organizational concepts hidden from working people. ...

As the trial demonstrated, the FBI's accusations of conspiracy and hidden goals were *pure projection*. It turned out to be the White House and FBI, not the SWP, that conceal their aims and methods. It turned out to be the White House and FBI, not the SWP, that maintain a covert structure to carry out what they cannot openly proclaim. It turned out to be the White House and FBI, not the SWP, that rely on conspiratorial modes of operation to achieve their goals behind the backs of the people of the United States.

The article traces the expansion of Washington's political police since US imperialism's repressive response, in the aftermath of World War I, to the Bolshevik-led October 1917 revolution in Russia and forging of the Communist International two years later — and

their impact on workers and farmers in the United States who sought to emulate those revolutionary examples. The government's aim above all was to crush the newborn communist organizations in the US founded in 1919. (Already in those years, J. Edgar Hoover headed the Justice Department cop agency that targeted communist and anarchist workers, their organizations, and Black leaders such as Marcus Garvey and A. Philip Randolph. That agency became the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1935, and Hoover remained its director until his death in 1972.)

This book puts a special focus on the Democratic administration of President Franklin Roosevelt in the late 1930s, as the US rulers prepared to enter the imperialist slaughter of World War II. It describes the growth and consolidation of the "national security" state in the wake of Washington's military, political, and economic victory in that war over its imperialist rivals, both "foes" (Germany, Austria, Italy, and Japan) and "allies" (the United Kingdom, France, and others).

The 1941 conviction and imprisonment of eighteen leaders of the Socialist Workers Party and class-struggle Teamsters leadership in Local 544-CIO in Minneapolis was a turning point in the buildup of US capital's political police. The frame-up was the Roosevelt administration's first use of the Smith "Gag"

Act outlawing advocacy of revolutionary ideas, which the Democratic president had signed into law the previous year. The real "crime" of these working-class leaders was that they were effectively organizing political opposition within the unions to Roosevelt's drive to whip up popular support for the US rulers' war aims that workers and farmers would be sent to fight and die for.

During the 1981 trial of the SWP's lawsuit, a chief government witness, Robert Keuch, an associate deputy attorney general, was questioned by an attorney for the SWP about Roosevelt's 1939 executive order directing the FBI to step up its "investigation" of "subversive activities." Keuch replied that "there are simply ways that individuals and groups can act that may not necessarily constitute violations of the criminal statutes" (translation: that are legal even under US bourgeois law). The White House was concerned first and foremost about those "who were trying to influence public opinion to keep the United States out of war, to keep us neutral," the Justice Department official testified.

The "crime" of "trying to influence public opinion" about the coming war was sufficient for Roosevelt to shred the Bill of Rights.

This new edition includes the article "Imperialist War and the Working Class" by Farrell Dobbs, which deals with these origins of Washington's "covert war" at home. Dobbs was a convicted Smith Act defendant, a leader of the Teamster organizing drives in Minneapolis and the upper Midwest, and then a central leader of the SWP for decades. He wrote this piece in 1949 as an introduction to the third edition of *Socialism on Trial*, the trial testimony by SWP national secretary James P. Cannon.

Dobbs also recounts and condemns the Smith Act prosecution in New York in early 1949 of eleven leaders of the Communist Party, which is described in the opening article in this book. All were convicted, and ten were given the maximum sentence of five years. Dobbs, who covered this nine-month frame-up trial week in and week out for the *Militant* newspaper, points to the political blow the Communist Party leadership dealt to the working-class movement by its refusal to defend the first Smith Act defendants during the 1941 trial in Minnesota.

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10 The Militant November 18, 2024

A working-class program to meet the crisis

Working people in the U.S. face a deepening economic, social and moral crisis of U.S. and world capitalism today. Bosses are pushing job cuts, onerous schedules that rip family life apart, attacks on health care and pensions, unsafe conditions and more. Government boards and bureaucrats bar strikes and back the bosses. And these attacks have been deepened under the administration of Joseph Biden and Kamala Harris.

Workers have responded with organization and strike action, from autoworkers to port workers, Boeing to hotel workers, and many more. Their fights have won support for other workers, an increasing recognition that workers are a *class*, with common interests and a common enemy — the capitalist ruling families and their government.

One backhanded reflection of this shift is the election of Donald Trump, who won larger votes from working people of all nationalities and hues.

But no capitalist party or candidate can lead the working class. That requires strengthening the unions and building our own political party, a party of labor, based on the unions with a program to fight for the interests of *all* workers. Organized and unorganized, immigrant and native-born, employed and unemployed.

It requires a party with a working-class foreign policy, that opposes U.S. imperialist intervention abroad; stands uncompromisingly in defense of Israel's right to exist as a refuge from Jew-hatred and pogroms; and backs workers' struggles everywhere.

In *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us: The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward*, available from Pathfinder Press, our party advances such a program:

Central to any communist program is a union-led fight for *employment*, with wage rates, work schedules, and job conditions necessary for families to live, rather than be torn apart by the bosses' relentless drive for profits. As our 1938 program affirms, "*The right to employment is the only serious right left to the worker in a society based upon exploitation.*" And thus our starting point.

Jobs, not dependence on welfare programs, open

a road forward. The historical record shows that after every substantial cyclical crisis of capitalism, the families of working people on welfare are poorer than they had been coming out of the prior downturn. Working people need a course that strengthens confidence in our own worth and our ability to organize together and fight. A course that helps the working class and unions forge alliances with farmers, other exploited producers, and the oppressed.

Class-conscious workers call for a shorter workweek with no cut in pay, with regular hours. We call for a massive public works program to provide employment for millions at union-scale wages building hospitals, schools, childcare centers, housing, bridges, roads, and other needed infrastructure. In face of inflation, we demand cost-of-living escalators for wages (as well as retirement, jobless, and disability payments).

These are among the central demands a class-struggle left wing of the labor movement would organize the unions to lead the working class in fighting for.

As the working class and unions carry out these class battles, millions of families need to supplement their incomes.

Not by trying to hold down two or three jobs, leaving no time to relax and to think, no time for union, political, and social activity, no time for families.

Not by dependence on "means-tested" welfare programs and government "poverty" bureaucracies that shame and stigmatize recipients, that create conditions that block people from holding a job, and that tear families apart.

What is needed is a floor for *all families* of working people — an income that's sufficient for workers to maintain steady employment, as the labor movement fights for universal childcare and medical care. Enough to enable our class to maintain its solidarity, trade union activity, and the vanguard élan necessary for struggle.

Such a fight can emerge from today's class battles, alongside growing self-confidence, solidarity and class consciousness. As struggles deepen, a party of labor can be built, determined to lead working people in our millions to fight to take political power.

The 2024 election is over. Join us in advancing this working-class perspective.

Marathon workers strike over wages, work hours

BY ILONA GERSH

DETROIT — Nearly 300 workers at the Marathon oil refinery here, members of Teamsters Local 283, walked off the job Sept. 4 after voting by 95% to strike. They had been working without a contract since January. It's the first strike at the refinery in 30 years.

They are fighting for a 22% wage increase over four years and schedules that allow for family and rest time. They presently work 12-hour rotating shifts for four days at a time, but often are forced to work overtime.

The strike has won wide support. "Steelworkers are following our strike very closely," said Jesse Dansby, a board operator and steward and trustee of Teamsters Local 283. The United Steelworkers organizes 30,000 refinery workers, including at other Marathon refineries. "The USW are going to set the pattern for contracts at all those refineries, and they want to see what we get in our fight."

"Marathon only wants to give a 3% raise, which is nowhere close to inflation in this day and age, as you know, and they want to take away our work," said Steve Hicks, president of Teamsters Local 283, when the workers walked out. "So subcontracting is a major issue with us."

Many strikers wore T-shirts that read, "Teamsters fuel Marathon profits" and "Our patience for a fair contract is on empty." People driving cars and truckers passing by honked in support. Four water- and wind-proof tents well supplied with food and drinks are set up by the picket lines to protect strikers from the cold and rain.

"Ford United Auto Workers Local 600 has donated funds and the use of its facilities for our meetings and activities," said Dansby. "And members of the UAW, which represents almost 6,000 workers at the River Rouge plant in Detroit, have joined our picket line."

Solidarity with strike grows

"Nurses have been on our picket lines too," he said. Nurses from all eight of the Corewell Health system's metro Detroit hospitals and its Southfield Service Center — some 9,600 workers — filed for representation by the Teamsters and will vote Nov. 12-14. "It's the largest Teamsters organizing drive in the last 50 years," Kevin Moore, president of the Michigan Teamsters, told the *Detroit Free Press*.

"Some women from UAW Local 598 and Women of Steel from USW Local 690 in Flint came down to donate a truckload of candy for our members to give out on Halloween," said Paul Kedzior, a steward and process operator.

The workers are demanding Marathon stop contracting out maintenance work. Under the last agreement, the company contracted out janitorial work. Wages for warehouse workers were cut to about half of the top pay for operations workers, and workers hired in the warehouse are barred from bidding on the higher-paid jobs.

"The company wants to make even more cuts into the maintenance union jobs. These jobs used to be ones that older workers and workers with injuries could bid into and hold during their last years of employment," Dansby explained. "But now it's virtually impossible for operations workers to bid into maintenance."

"We work in six units and have four shifts. Now we're on strike, standing up together and getting to know each other," he said, noting that the strike has strengthened the union.

The company has refused to negotiate since the second week of the walkout. "So we'll just keep standing strong and continue to fight," said Dynita McCaskill, one of the strikers.

"Join us on the picket line," says a leaflet being widely distributed. "Skip filling your gas tank at Marathon-owned gas stations, including Speedway. Spread the word about our fight on social media and keep the pressure on Marathon. Contribute to the success of collective bargaining and organize."

The picket line is organized 24/7 in front of the refinery at 301 S. Fort Street. Stop by or call the union hall at (734) 282-8850 with messages of support or to find out how to make donations to the strike fund.

Back strike by Southern California Kaiser workers

BY BERNIE SENTER

LOS ANGELES — Some 2,400 psychologists, therapists and other mental health workers have been on strike against Kaiser Permanente across Southern California since Oct. 21. "Unless we strike, our coworkers are going to keep leaving and our patients are going to keep struggling in an underfunded, understaffed system that doesn't meet their needs," Josh Garcia, a psychologist for Kaiser in San Diego, said in a statement distributed by the National Union of Healthcare Workers.

"I've worked at Kaiser 11 years," Lilian Honanian told the *Militant* on the picket line in West Los Angeles Oct. 31. "It's like an assembly line. It's a factory." Honanian, a psychiatric social worker, said they end up spending hours of their own time doing work because managers book patients back to back. "Conditions we have are unsustainable. We're struggling because we don't have enough time. They tell us to take notes home and work on them there. We're not paid hourly, so we are not paid overtime."

"Some people wait up to three months for an appointment," Vanessa Ramirez, a mental health registered nurse, told the *Militant*. The strike comes a year after Kaiser was fined \$50 million by California state regulators for excessive wait times for therapy appointments.

Jeremy Simpkin, a case manager with Kaiser for five years in Lomita, joined the West Los Angeles picket. "If you don't fill their productivity metrics, you're in trouble. Corporate America is squeezing the life out of us."

A 10-week strike in 2022 by Kaiser mental health therapists in Northern California won important gains, including more time for patient care duties between appointments, increased staffing levels and more services



Militant/Bernie Senter
Lilian Honanian on picket line at Kaiser West Los Angeles Medical Center Oct. 31. Workers are striking for more hiring, pensions.

at clinics. A National Union of Healthcare Workers Oct. 21 press release notes, "Kaiser management has refused to extend those gains to Southern California, creating in essence a two-tiered mental health system. Kaiser staffs approximately 40 percent fewer mental health workers in its Southern California region than its Northern California region — even though Kaiser has about 200,000 more members in Southern California."

The union is also fighting for the restoration of pensions. "Nearly all Kaiser employees receive pensions — including doctors, clerks, medical technicians and janitors — but Kaiser eliminated pensions for all mental health professionals hired after 2014," the union said. It is also demanding a 30% wage increase over four years.

Join the picket line. For locations go to: <https://home.nuhw.org/2024/10/20/kaiser-mental-health-strike-picket-line-locations/>.