

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Moscow admits its strategy is to 'destroy Ukraine's people'  
— PAGE 2

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 88/NO. 44 NOVEMBER 25, 2024

## Jew-hating mobs attack Israeli fans after soccer game in Amsterdam

BY SETH GALINSKY

The organized vicious assaults on Jews in Amsterdam Nov. 7 — in the heartland of imperialist Europe — were planned in advance and carried out by supporters of Hamas. The Dutch police knew in advance and did little to stop the right-wing thugs from rampaging for hours through the streets, beating up and harassing Jews.

Some 30 Jews were injured, including five who were hospitalized, when the thugs — some armed with clubs and knives — ambushed fans of Israel's Maccabi Tel Aviv soccer team after a match with Amsterdam's Ajax team ended. They went after anyone they suspected of being Jewish.

"It was a pogrom," one victim told Israel's *Haaretz*. He noted that the attacks took place two days before the 86th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the "night of broken glass," when Nazi storm troopers led a series of pogroms against Jews all across Germany Nov. 9-10, 1938.

Videos show the thugs in Amsterdam, some on motorized scooters, chasing

Continued on page 8

## Join campaign to expand reach of the 'Militant,' books, fall fund

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

FORT WORTH, Texas — With the 2024 election over and President-elect Donald Trump preparing his administration, members of the Socialist Workers Party are finding ongoing interest among working people in the party's program and activity. Workers want to discuss what can be done in the face of a harshly declining living standard under both Democratic and Republican administrations.

Whoever they voted for on Nov. 5, workers are determined to defend their class interests, as today's union struggles show. At the same time, tens of millions worldwide are getting drawn into politics under the impact of attacks on Jews — like the recent "Jew-hunt" in Amsterdam — Moscow's invasion of Ukraine and the threat of more wars.

In these conditions, interest grows in the SWP's call for a class break with the capitalist rulers and their twin parties. Through the pages of the *Militant* and books by SWP leaders, the party explains that the working class is an

Continued on page 4

## 'Unions are stepping forward to take on the bosses attacks today'



Militant/Mary Martin

Rachele Fruit, right, SWP candidate for U.S. president, speaks with Boeing striker Howard Allen on picket line in Everett, Washington, Oct. 5, about key issues facing workers today.

## 'We learned a lot in our campaign': an interview with Socialist Workers Party candidates Rachele Fruit and Dennis Richter

BY TERRY EVANS

Rachele Fruit and Dennis Richter, the 2024 Socialist Workers Party candidates for president and vice president, presented the SWP's working-class program to working people in cities, towns and rural areas across the U.S. and internationally.

They spoke to the *Militant* Nov. 11 about the interest they found as they discussed building support for union struggles against bosses' efforts to put the capitalist crisis on workers' backs and the stakes for the working class

in the face of mounting economic and political instability worldwide. And they discussed the watershed events marked by Moscow's assault on the sovereignty of Ukraine, Hamas' Nazi-like pogrom in Israel, and the rising threat of more wars. Everywhere, they found an openness to discussing the working-class road forward advanced by the party.

"Many times over, workers I spoke with would point to the worsening prospects they faced starting and pro-

Continued on page 9

## Milk-Bone strikers fight attacks on health care, win labor support



Chuck Reeves

Teamster Local 446 members join BCTGM Milk-Bone strikers Nov. 10 in Buffalo, New York.

BY CANDACE WAGNER

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Some 30 members and supporters of Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Local 36G were on the picket line at the J.M. Smucker Company's Milk-Bone factory here Nov. 10 when *Militant* worker-correspondents arrived to bring solidarity. The 165 production workers in the plant walked off the job Oct. 28. Health care costs are the central issue.

The strikers are definitely set up for business. They have a generator running and TVs to watch. And there is Wi-Fi and lots of food.

"With the raise offered, I think we probably would have taken it," Cathy Kennedy, a worker at the plant for 21 years, told the *Militant*. "But only if they didn't touch the insurance. With the increased costs for medical, we would have lost the raises." Strikers

Continued on page 7

## Conference to build solidarity with Cuba across Asia meets in Beijing

BY ANNALUCIA VERMUNT

BEIJING — The 65-year-long punishing sanctions imposed by Washington against the Cuban people and their socialist revolution were condemned by participants at the 10th

Asia-Pacific Regional Conference of Solidarity with Cuba, held here Oct. 29-30. The meeting took place as the United Nations General Assembly overwhelmingly passed a resolution calling for an end to the U.S. rulers' economic, financial and commercial embargo. A week earlier, Cuba's entire electrical system collapsed for several days, the result of this decadeslong economic war.

Continued on page 3

## Cubans rebuild after ravages from two hurricanes, effects of US rulers' embargo

BY SETH GALINSKY

Since Oct. 20 Cuba has been battered by two hurricanes and two earthquakes, all made worse by Washington's relentless economic war on the Cuban people.

Hurricane Rafael made landfall Nov. 6, just 17 days after Hurricane Oscar. Artemisa, on the western part of the island, was hit hardest, with wind gusts of up to 125 mph.

Continued on page 3

### Inside

Ottawa orders dockworkers back to work, into binding arbitration 4

'Enshrining' abortion weakens fight for women's rights 7

D.C. protest defends Israel's right to exist as refuge for Jews 8

— On the picket line, p. 5 —

UAW holds first strike ever at Georgia automotive parts plant

Dallas Black dancers fight firings for joining union

# Moscow admits its strategy is to 'destroy Ukraine's people'

BY ROY LANDERSEN

The regime of Russian President Vladimir Putin is openly admitting to a deliberate course of systematic murder, targeting Ukrainian civilians with drones, bombs and missiles. Small drones now zero in and drop grenades.

"The West is faced with a choice," Sergei Shoigu, secretary of Putin's Security Council and former defense minister, said Nov. 7. He threatened "the destruction of the Ukrainian population" if Washington does not force Kyiv to the negotiating table.

The Kremlin hopes Washington will roll back its sanctions and pressure Kyiv to agree to peace terms favorable to Moscow under newly elected President Donald Trump. Russian forces occupy almost a fifth of Ukrainian territory.

Shoigu declared that the "collective West is losing its economic, political and moral leadership."

From its first days, Moscow's invasion has targeted working people who came forward as the heart of the fight to resist Putin's assault on their country's national sovereignty. And they remain defiant and determined in the face of the Kremlin's attempts to terrorize them today.

The once occupied city of Kherson in Ukraine's south is a special target for Russian drone operators just across the Dnipro River. They are brash enough to put up online videos of their murderous attacks.

Civilians out in the open, in cars or on buses are hunted by operators using small China-made drones fitted with videocams to locate and track workers and drop small explo-

sives and mines on them. There are now dozens of attacks each day, too numerous and flying too low to be stopped by normal air defenses.

Serhiy Dobrovolsky was killed by a grenade dropped on him in his backyard. He was among 50 civilians killed in over 7,000 drone attacks in Kherson since July. More than 600 were injured, including several children.

"They can see who they are killing," Angela Dobrovolsky, Serhiy's wife, told BBC News. "Is this how they want to fight, by just bombing people walking in the streets?"

Olha Chernishova was carrying her groceries home from her car when she heard the telltale whirring of a drone overhead. She ran for her house and was showered with broken glass when a grenade dropped by the drone operator hit her car.

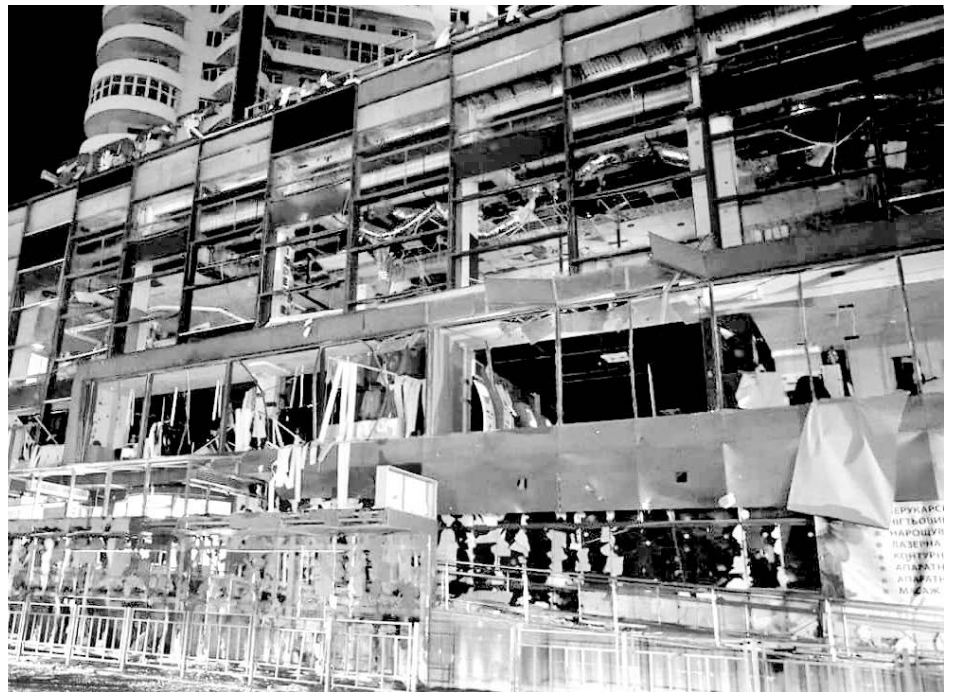
"This is a systematic, well-planned operation to destroy civilian life in Kherson," Serhii Kuzan, a military adviser, told the *Guardian*. Its goal "isn't to win on the battlefield, it is to destroy the civilian population so the central government will negotiate or surrender."

## Tenfold increase in drone attacks

The number of long-range drone strikes is now 10 times those of last year. Swarms of delta-winged kamikaze drones constantly appear over residential neighborhoods, including near nightly attacks aimed at Kyiv, the capital.

In October, the Ukrainian military tracked a record 2,023 unmanned aircraft targeting civilian and military targets.

The port city of Odesa that month



State Emergency Service of Ukraine

Damage from bomb attack by Moscow on a supermarket in Kharkiv, Ukraine, Nov. 3, wounding 15. Moscow says its goal is to target, kill, demoralize working people and break their spirit.

was hit by missiles every second day, with more than a dozen people killed. In Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, about 380 buildings were damaged in October. Nine people were killed and over 40 injured in scores of air and artillery strikes on Zaporizhzhia Nov. 7.

Moscow's airstrikes now target supermarkets to deny civilians food and other necessities.

Putin's bombardment has a precedent in the deliberate targeting of civilian populations by allied forces during World War II. The U.S. and U.K. firebombed workers' neighborhoods in cities like Dresden and Hamburg in Germany, killing tens of thousands. The U.S. Air Force did the same to Tokyo, and dropped even more deadly atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

## US pressure on Ukraine sovereignty

The ruling capitalist families and their government in the U.S. are motivated solely by their own economic and political concerns. Washington consistently defends its imperialist interests, not the restoration of Ukraine's sovereign borders.

The U.S. rulers adjust their largely bipartisan course by making use of alternating administrations of Democrats or Republicans.

Washington and its allies have provided a flow of arms to help Kyiv avoid defeat, but not enough to decisively repulse the invasion.

The Joseph Biden administration has carried out a policy of verbal support for Ukraine while providing far less weaponry than they need. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky told the media Oct. 30 that only 10% of U.S. military assistance promised by Biden this year has actually arrived.

Under these circumstances, Ukraine's outgunned and stretched defenses are under constant pressure on the eastern front. Moscow has made gains on the battlefield there in recent months, but at a staggering cost. Putin's military commanders advance by use of "meat wave" assaults, which means extremely heavy casualties. Almost 60,000 Russian soldiers are estimated to have died this year alone.

The disdain Putin shows for Russian workers in uniform is fueling mounting opposition to his war among soldiers and their families, and other working people in Russia. They are key allies of the Ukrainian toilers and their determination to defend their national sovereignty.

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# THE MILITANT

## Penny trial highlights social crisis in New York

**Daniel Penny faces manslaughter charges for restraining Jordan Neely, a crazed homeless Black man threatening subway riders. Cops refused to give him needed medical care. The real crime is government lack of care for those beaten down by capitalism.**



AP/Kena Betancur  
Daniel Penny, right, at New York courthouse Nov. 1. He faces charges of manslaughter.

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The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Telephone: (212) 244-4899

Fax: (212) 244-4947

E-mail: [themilitant@mac.com](mailto:themilitant@mac.com)

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# Cuba solidarity conference

Continued from front page

Opening the conference, Fernando González, president of the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP), thanked delegates for all their actions in support of Cuba. He highlighted the historic ties between China and Cuba, which dates back 177 years to the first arrival of Chinese immigrants in Cuba. Cuba was the first Latin American country to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, and today China is Cuba's largest export market.

Sun Yi, deputy director of the Department of Latin American and Caribbean Affairs at China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told the conference the Cuban government has estimated the cost of the blockade for the 12 months ending in February to be over \$5 billion. He joined in condemning Washington's inclusion of Cuba on its list of State Sponsors of Terrorism, noting, "These measures have profound consequences for the people and affect all sectors, including the most sensitive ones, such as health, food and energy."

The meeting was hosted for the first time in China as part of celebrations marking the 70th anniversary of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. The association's vice president, Yuan Mindao, told the meeting it urges the U.S. government to lift the blockade on Cuba and take it off its terrorism list.

Some 70 delegates from 16 countries and 36 organizations across the Asia-Pacific region took part. They were joined by the Cuban ambassador to China, Alberto Jesús Blanco Silva. Alongside González, the delegation that traveled from Cuba was Alicia Corredera, director of ICAP's Asia-Pacific division, and Mailin Sánchez, from the tourism organization Amistur Cuba.

## Cuba solidarity with world's peoples

Many delegates voiced gratitude for acts of solidarity by the Cuban Revolution to the peoples of their respective nations. These included assistance with vaccines and medicines in Cambodia, a literacy program for Aborigines in Australia and earthquake relief in Nepal in 2015.

Robert Corpuz, a delegate from the Philippines, described his experiences studying at the Latin American School of Medicine in Cuba, where thousands of students from Asia, the Pacific and elsewhere have been given the opportunity to receive free medical training. "In doing so, we also experienced the hardships of the Cuban people," he said, "but the Cuban people and government never wavered in their commitment to us, the foreign students, and shared with us what was possible."

Dong Huy Cuong, vice president of the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations, noted that the two countries have close bonds, having "shared the experience of facing a powerful adversary." Cuba, he said, "inspired others to stand up for national independence. We will never forget Fidel Castro." In the midst of the liberation war waged by the Vietnamese against Washington and other imperialist powers, which they won in 1975, Castro pledged, "For Vietnam, Cuba is ready to shed its blood."

Janet Roth from the Communist League in Sydney described examples of working-class resistance in Australia, including among construction workers, nurses and railway workers. She stressed, "the need to learn from the Cuban Revolution and to act to defend it if we are to advance the working-class movement."

"The workers and peasants of Cuba showed what working people are capable of achieving with a revolutionary leadership and program. They showed what is needed to end exploitation and oppression — for the working class to take political power."

## Cuba gives inspiration

The largest delegation from outside China was from Japan. Matsutake Teruyo of the Japan-Cuba Friendship Association praised the example set by the Cuban Revolution. "The victory of the revolution also showed the world that it is possible to overcome the tyranny of a great power with enormous military strength," she said, "and gave courage to people all over the world."

"This is an economic war against Cuba that has been going on for over 60 years," González explained. It was begun in 1960 by the John F. Kennedy administration, acting on a secret State Department memo. "The majority of Cubans support Castro," the memo said, proposing an economic war that "makes the greatest inroads in denying money and supplies to Cuba, to decrease monetary and real wages, to bring about hunger, desperation, and overthrow of government."

"The U.S. intention was for the Cuban people to blame their government. This has not happened," González



ICAP/Leima Martínez

Participants in 10th Asia-Pacific Regional Conference of Solidarity with Cuba in Beijing Oct. 29. In front from left, Ambassador Phouangkeo Langsy, vice president of Laos-Cuba Friendship Association; Fernando González, president of Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples; Bijay Kumar Padhihari, general secretary, Indian Society for Cultural Co-Operation and Friendship; H.E. Mrs. Nin Saphon, National Assembly of Takeo Province, Cambodia.

said. "In the last 10 years it has been tightened in unprecedented ways. To list us as a country that supports terrorism denies Cuba the right to financial assistance. We have been hugely impacted but we will not surrender."

González expressed his gratitude for the political solidarity shown toward the Cuban Revolution today, adding that material aid is crucial, given the increasing toll of Washington's sanctions. "Assisting a specific economic project at the local or city level in Cuba is another way to support us," he said.

Mailin Sánchez gave a special presentation to promote "socio-political tourism as a way of building solidarity among peoples," including organizing solidarity brigades, conferences and specialized tours.

Annalucia Vermunt from the Auckland Cuba Friendship Society pointed out Washington's stepped-up enforcement of sanctions is severely impacting Cuba's tourism industry. Passport holders from New Zealand, Europe and elsewhere are barred from using the convenient ESTA visa waiver for U.S. entry if they have recently visited Cuba.

Educating others about the real history of the Cuban Revolution is key to broadening support for solidarity efforts, she said.

"The solidarity from different countries inspires us to continue to fight," González said at the end of the conference. "Our victories belong to everyone."

Janet Roth contributed to this article.

# Cuba rebuilds after ravages of hurricanes, US embargo

Continued from front page

There is hardly "a park, a cultural center, a neighborhood or state institution, a home of a relative, neighbor or friend, nor a tree," reported the weekly *El Artemiseño*, "that was untouched by the wind." The main hospital, the sports stadium and the theater were all heavily damaged. Some 37,000 acres of planted fields were wiped out.

The two earthquakes, the strongest at 6.8 magnitude, struck the eastern coast Nov. 10, damaging 2,000 homes and injuring seven people.

But unlike in the U.S., where the capitalist government leaves working people to fend for themselves, in Cuba the government leads civil defense committees, mass organizations and the army to try to make sure no one is left on their own when natural disasters strike — a conquest of Cuba's socialist revolution.

As Rafael approached, local civil defense committee members went door to door to make sure residents were prepared.

The government sent buses to evacuate people from the most exposed areas. Some 99,000 people were evacuated in Havana to the homes of families and friends, as well as to 147 temporary shelters in schools and other public buildings.

Because of the more than 60-year-long U.S. embargo —

which prevents Cuba from purchasing oil it needs along with spare parts and other necessities — preparing for a storm, weathering it and rebuilding afterward is even more challenging.

Yet despite the shortages, the government and mass organizations work to assure that those in shelters have food, medical care and staff that organizes activities for the children.

Sometimes they face frustrating challenges. At one refuge in Alquizar, evacuees complained about the quality of the food, *El Artemiseño* reported. "We know what it costs the country to give us this attention," Mabel García said. "That's why it's a shame that resources are spent that don't meet the intended goal of providing nourishment."



Committees for the Defense of the Revolution

Cuba evacuated thousands as hurricane loomed. Activities were organized for children at centers like this in Guantánamo.

"These are complex times," replied Larexey Batista, first secretary of the Communist Party there, asking for patience. He noted that "today the food arrived on time and was better prepared."

Rafael hit just two weeks after a three-day island-wide blackout that was caused by holdups in fuel shipments, largely because of U.S. sanctions. Rafael knocked the power out again.

As soon as the storm ended, volunteer linesmen from around the island — "moved by solidarity which runs through their veins" in the words of the weekly *Ahora* — headed to Artemisa and Mayabeque to repair downed lines. Volunteers organized by trade unions worked side by side with soldiers to clear roads.

While power has been restored to most of the country, it's taking longer in Artemisa. As of Nov. 11 only 2% of the province had power.

From around the country Cubans are sending donations of food and clothing to the hardest hit areas. Aid has also been sent from Mexico, Colombia, Bolivia, Venezuela, Russia, China and solidarity groups in the U.S. to help in the rebuilding, including thousands of stoves, mattresses and zinc sheets for roofing.

The biggest victory, Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel said after Rafael passed, was that not one person lost their lives due to the storm.

# Ottawa orders dockworkers back to work, into binding arbitration

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — Within days of the port bosses locking out some 1,900 unionized longshore workers in British Columbia and Quebec, the government responded to cries by boss associations across the country to act and stepped in Nov. 12, ordering the workers back to work.

“We simply cannot afford this uncertainty and instability,” Labour Minister Steven MacKinnon said. He announced that he had instructed the Canada Industrial Relations Board to impose “final and binding arbitration.” The port workers are fighting to win contracts with adequate wages, safe working conditions, schedules that allow for a family life and against job cuts.

The Nov. 10 lockout at the Port of Montreal, the country’s second largest port, came after the Maritime Employers Association delivered its “final” proposal Nov. 7 that addressed none of the workers’ concerns. Over 90% of Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 375 members voted to reject the offer, by 99.7%. The workers had held strike actions at two of the main terminals at the port Oct. 31 and refused to do overtime. Their contract ended last December.

“It’s a dark day for the rights of workers. The right to bargain collectively is a constitutional right and is not negotiable,” the Canadian Union of Public Employees said. It’s “mind-boggling, as the employer locked out employees last Sunday night and immediately requested government intervention without actually bargaining.”

On Nov. 4 the British Columbia Maritime Employers Association locked out over 700 unionized foremen, who function as lead hands and are members of Local 514 of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union. The bosses’ ac-

tion shut down almost all of Canada’s West Coast port system, through which \$800 million in goods pass each day. That lockout followed a strike notice by Local 514 and a decision by union members to refuse all overtime. Their old contract expired March 31, 2023.

“We will fight this order in the courts. We will fight the arbitrated forced contract in the courts,” Frank Morena, president of Local 514, told the press.

Over 500 members of ILWU Local 514 and their supporters had rallied at the Vancouver docks Nov. 8. Members of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, ILWU Local 500, the International Union of Operating Engineers, and the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers joined in solidarity. Two ILWU Local 500 members held a flag signed by longshore workers in Hawaii and Japan in solidarity with the fight.

“Our 300 members of IAMAW Local 11, aerospace workers bring warmest solidarity greetings in your fight for a decent contract,” said a Nov. 7 letter from workers at Delta Aerospace near Vancouver. The message called the bosses’ efforts to force federal government intervention “an attack against collective bargaining rights of all workers in Canada.”

## Bosses demanded Ottawa act

In 2021, under the Liberal Party government of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Parliament passed a strikebreaking law ordering Mon-



Some 500 members and supporters of ILWU Local 514 rally at Vancouver, British Columbia, docks Nov. 8. Workers hold solidarity banner signed by dockworkers in Hawaii and Japan.

tréal dockworkers back to work under compulsory arbitration.

More than 100 employer organizations, including the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, signed an Oct. 31 open letter to the Trudeau government. It called on Ottawa to do whatever it takes to end the work stoppage, claiming, “We simply cannot afford another strike in the transportation sector.”

This referred to the August three-day shutdown of Canada’s two main freight transportation railroads, Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Kansas City, in a strike and lockout that involved 10,000 Teamsters union rail workers fighting for safer working conditions. The Canada Industrial Relations Board ordered them back to work and imposed binding arbitration.

Teamsters Canada denounced the

government’s attack on the dockworkers, saying the minister’s decision goes against Charter rights. “Unions will fight this to the end,” said Teamsters Canada National President Francois Laporte in a statement.

“It’s the same battle that we are waging, for better working conditions and humane schedules,” Montreal CN conductor Mychael Parsons told the *Militant* Nov. 6. “The companies make record profits off our backs. There is no reason why our working conditions must be so atrocious.” Parsons is one of a number of Canadian National conductors who made solidarity visits to Local 375 picket lines in Montreal.

Ned Dmytryshyn in Vancouver and Philippe Tessier in Montreal contributed to this article.

# Join campaign to expand reach of ‘Militant,’ books, fund

## Continued from front page

international class with common interests against the capitalists and their governments, and must chart an independent road forward.

SWP branches, along with the Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada and the U.K. are mapping out plans for the final days of the international campaign to sell 1,300 subscriptions to the *Militant* and the same number of books by SWP leaders and other revolutionaries. SWP members are raising \$140,000 for the annual party-building fund.

Central to bringing home the campaigns in full and on time, is continuing to introduce the party and its literature to workers on their doorsteps. SWP members Lisa Rottach and Dan Fein met construction worker Rogelio Avalos outside his house in East Chicago, Indiana, Nov. 9. Avalos told them he didn’t vote for either Donald Trump or Kamala Harris, because “neither one offered anything to workers.”

Rachele Fruit, the SWPs candidate for president, explained that to advance working-class interests we need to build a party of our own, and chart a

course to take political power into our own hands, Fein told Avalos. Fruit also called for an amnesty for undocumented workers in the U.S. in order to unify working people and strengthen the labor movement, he said.

“Yes, we need unity,” Avalos replied. “The government wants immigrant workers to do the jobs I used to do when I first came to the U.S. from Mexico in 1999.” Avalos got a subscription to the *Militant* and the book, *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class*.

As strike battles and other union struggles continue, more workers can see what’s possible when we rely on ourselves and fellow workers to stand up to the bosses’ attacks. The *Militant*’s weekly coverage of these struggles is one reason why the paper is winning new and long-term readers. A retired member of the United Steelworkers union at the Exxon oil refinery in Beaumont, Texas, just mailed in a one-year subscription renewal.

As SWP branches close in on their quotas, they’re taking advantage of the special offers on several titles, including *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us: The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward*; *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred in the Imperialist Epoch*; *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* and other titles.

Complaints are mounting among Democrats blaming their election defeat on workers of all nationalities and both sexes. Another of the titles on special offer is *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning*

*Under Capitalism* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes. It explains why the capitalist rulers and their backers in the upper-middle-class meritocracy, like Barack Obama and Kamala Harris, treat working people with utter disdain.

The preface and first chapters of the new edition of *Cosmetics, Fashion, and the Exploitation of Women* was printed in English in the last two issues of the *Militant*, and now in Spanish. These issues are being used by party members to secure specially priced prepublication orders for the book, which will be available in December.

To get involved in the campaign or to contribute to the SWP Party-Building Fund contact the branch nearest you listed on page 6.

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

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Fund received
<b>UNITED STATES</b>						
Atlanta	55	53	55	48	\$10,000	\$7,985
Chicago	90	75	90	72	\$14,000	\$8,249
Cincinnati	50	35	50	40	\$5,000	\$3,345
Fort Worth*	55	52	50	43	\$5,000	\$3,600
Los Angeles	115	93	115	84	\$15,000	\$10,530
Miami	35	23	35	12	\$5,000	\$3,231
Minneapolis	65	57	65	62	\$5,500	\$4,341
N. New Jersey	70	63	70	64	\$7,500	\$6,975
New York	100	96	115	106	\$20,000	\$17,522
Oakland	85	79	85	71	\$15,000	\$11,859
Philadelphia	60	47	60	53	\$6,500	\$3,545
Pittsburgh	40	27	40	30	\$6,000	\$4,182
Seattle	60	61	60	56	\$14,500	\$10,875
Washington	50	41	50	40	\$4,500	\$760
Other		11		94		\$1,590
<b>Total U.S.</b>	<b>930</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>\$133,500</b>	<b>\$98,589</b>
Prisoners		96				
<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>						
London*	50	54	130	132		
Manchester*	45	49	40	41		
<b>Total U.K.</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>173</b>		
Canada	90	83	90	101		
Australia	30	26	30	38		
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,145</b>	<b>1,121</b>	<b>1,230</b>	<b>1,187</b>	<b>\$133,500</b>	<b>\$98,589</b>
<b>SHOULD BE</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>1,138</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>1,138</b>	<b>\$140,000</b>	<b>\$122,500</b>

\*Raised goal

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# —ON THE PICKET LINE—

## Help the *Militant* cover labor struggles around the world!

This column is dedicated to spreading the truth about workers' struggles for a union movement in every workplace today. It gives a voice to those engaged in battle and helps build solidarity. We need your help to make it a success. If you are involved in a skirmish or strike or know other workers who are, please contact us at (212) 244-4899 or themilitant@mac.com. We'll work together to ensure your story gets told.

### UAW holds first strike ever at Georgia automotive parts plant

LITHONIA, Ga. — “We’re striking for better pay and benefits and against unfair treatment by supervisors,” Myra Williams, a union representative for United Auto Workers Local 472, told these *Militant* worker-correspondents outside the Woodbridge Corp. plant here Nov. 8. “Safety is a big concern and the forced overtime. There’s no balance between work and family life — it’s all work and no family!”

In the first strike in the local’s history, about 70 union members walked out Oct. 30. They voted by 98% to authorize strike action in August.

The workers make seating and dashboard components for Yamaha and Nissan cars and golf carts. Strikers say the company is hiring temporary workers and trying to keep one shift going.

Spirits are high on the picket line. Waving signs and shouting union slogans, strikers were answered by a steady stream of horn blasts from passing trucks and cars.

“We’re trying to get rid of the two tiers they started in 2009,” said Shawn Milligan, second shift union representative at Woodbridge. “New hires start at about \$15 an hour and by the time the next contract rolls around, they still won’t have gotten to top pay.”

“And top pay here for a production job is only \$20.50 an hour,” added Neal Turner. “That’s what I make after 31 years in the plant.”

“This strike has been a long time coming,” said Keith Walker, who has worked at Woodbridge for 34 years. “We’re tired of being forced to work all this overtime because they won’t hire enough people. Then when work is slow, they send people home after four or five hours. It’s totally wrong.”

Many of the workers at Woodbridge have been there for decades, strikers said, and a majority are women. We met union members originally from Nigeria, Ghana, Ethiopia and Cuba on the picket line. “This strike is a good thing,”

said one worker from Nigeria who has worked there 14 years. “How else are we going to get a raise?”

— Susan LaMont and Lisa Potash

### Brampton city workers strike for higher wages, improved schedules

BRAMPTON, Ontario — Some 1,200 city workers, members of Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 831, went on strike here Nov. 7. “Bargaining began on March 31, but there has been little progress,” union President Fabio Gazzola told CBC.

He said the striking workers want a pay increase, and a health and benefits package like management has. “It’s getting to the point where workers in Brampton can’t even afford to live in Brampton.”

The strikers got a boost when city bus drivers refused to cross their picket line beginning the next day. The drivers, members of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1573, are also negotiating for a new contract.

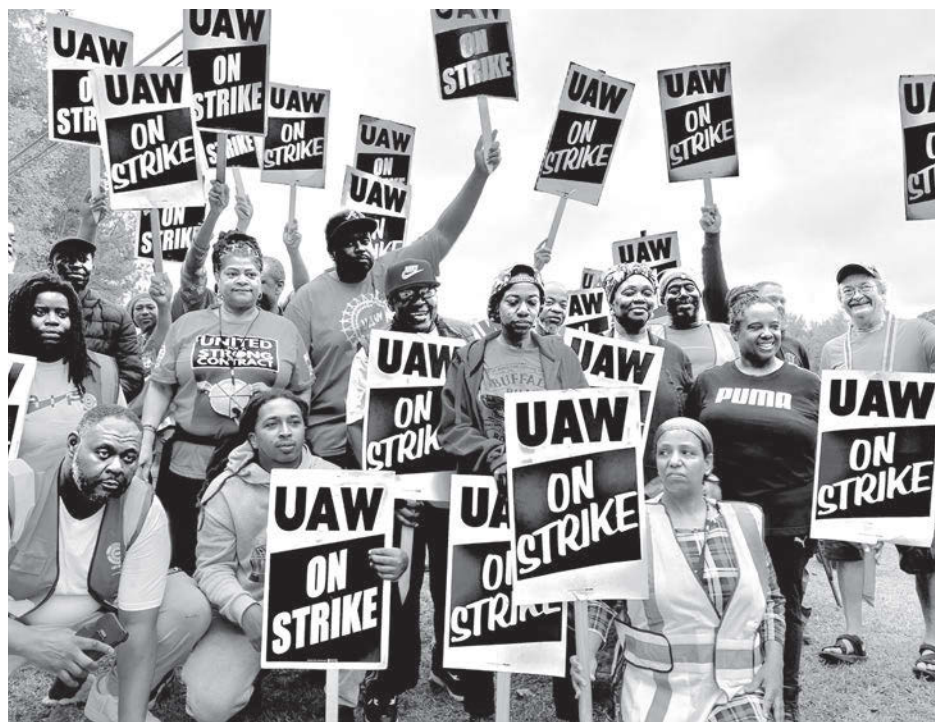
Striking workers work in public transit, parks and recreation, road maintenance and a host of other city services.

Ashley Truong carried a hand-written picket sign at City Hall saying, “A fight to keep life affordable.” She told the *Militant* she was glad the bus drivers weren’t crossing their picket lines. “We need all the help we can get.”

“The city of Brampton doesn’t want to negotiate a contract that’s fair and equitable,” CUPE Local 831 Vice President Ryan Smart told the *Militant*. Gazzola added, “We also need more predictable schedules to be able to plan to spend more time with our families.”

The striking city workers allowed some bus service to resume Nov. 9. This wasn’t because of Mayor Patrick Brown’s threat to seek an injunction, Gazzola said, but a sign they want to get back to the bargaining table. “We’re not here to disrupt the public, but we’re also here to try to negotiate and get a fair deal from the employer.”

— Beverly Bernardo



Militant/Susan LaMont

United Auto Workers Local 472 members on strike against Woodbridge Corp. picket plant in Lithonia, Georgia, Nov. 8. Unionists are demanding better pay, benefits, no forced overtime.

### Dallas Black dancers fight firings for joining union

DALLAS — On Nov. 9 fired dancers and 65 supporters picketed at the Dallas Black Dance Theatre’s performances put on with nonunion replacements. In May when the dancers voted to join the American Guild of Musical Artists union, the theatre bosses fired them.

The Dallas City Council paused funding to the Dallas Black Dance Theatre Oct. 23 over concerns about the firings. This puts on hold some \$248,000 in funding.

The National Labor Relations Board has filed a complaint against the dance company. The NLRB calls for the company to reinstate the dancers and provide them with back pay. It also urges that letters of apology be issued to the fired dancers, and they be compensated for all damages caused by their firing.

The dance company has until Nov. 15 to respond. If a settlement isn’t reached, a trial on the charges will be held Dec. 9.

“This kind of solidarity is what is needed,” Griff Braun, national organizing director for the union, told participants. “Everybody wants to see justice for the real Black dancers. Nov. 25 is our next protest.”

“They are trying to make us disappear and shut up,” said Sean Smith, one of the fired dancers. “All dance companies are watching what happens to see how they can treat their dancers.”

Other speakers included Katharine Goeldner, an opera soloist and Ameri-

can Guild of Musical Artists vice president from New York. “We’ve got your back!” she said. Braun concluded the rally by announcing a fundraising dance benefit in December.

Build solidarity with the fight. Email the Dallas Black Dance Theatre at admin@dbdt.com to urge them to reinstate the dancers and recognize the union. Donate at the union’s GoFundMe page.

— Josefina Otero

### Solidarity with food workers strike in U.K. for union rights

WREXHAM, North Wales — Several hundred Unite union members at Oscar Mayer rallied here Nov. 8, one of almost daily actions marking their determination to win their nine-week strike.

The walkout began after the large majority East European workforce was presented with a new contract that bosses demanded they sign or be fired. The company refuses to recognize their union and is pushing to end paid breaks and extra pay for bank holidays, resulting in a wage cut of some 3,000 pounds (\$3,825) annually. The workers make ready meals for supermarkets.

In the course of the fight, union membership shot up at the plant from 47 in April to 600 today.

At the rally were six workers who had initially not gone on strike, but were won to join the fight. Union leaders say that some agency workers, who were taken on full time in an effort to break the strike, have now joined the walkout.

The rally was joined by representatives of the union’s Food, Drink and Agricultural Workers Committee in Wales. “We have to win this fight, otherwise food workers will keep facing low wages, poor conditions and lack of union recognition,” committee chair Ivan Monckton told the *Militant*.

Earlier four strikers had traveled to address the Manchester South branch meeting of the Rail, Maritime and Transport union.

“It was a pleasure to welcome the Unite union Oscar Mayer strikers,” Clayton Clive, RMT branch secretary, posted after the meeting. “We had a whip round and raised 133 pounds. Solidarity, keep up the fight.” A further 200 pounds was sent from the branch to the workers.

Messages of support can be sent to Unite Union, 33 King Street, Wrexham, LL11 1HR, Wales, UK.

— Pete Clifford

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

### THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

#### November 29, 1999

The Russian government has begun a de facto military occupation of Chechnya — deploying 100,000 troops in and around the republic. The Kremlin, which originally claimed it needed to create a “buffer zone” against “Islamic terrorists,” is more openly stating that its aim is to retake the Chechen republic, which won a degree of autonomy in the 1994-1996 war.

The Yeltsin regime is trying to staunch the rising resistance to Russian chauvinism among the oppressed nations in Caucasus and to crush their fight for self-determination. The political instability in the region has alarmed Washington and other imperialist powers. The U.S. rulers have counted on the Yeltsin government to curtail social unrest in the region.

### THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

#### November 29, 1974

NEW YORK — Defying a United Parcel Service threat to close down its New York area operations, striking members of Teamsters Local 804 voted overwhelmingly to reject UPS’s “final offer.” The strike by 4,500 Teamsters has had an increasing impact, especially with the approach of the Christmas mailing season.

The key issue is UPS’s demand to replace full-time workers with low-paid part-timers. Driver Louis Bernard told reporters, “We can’t give in. Right now they are talking about part-time for inside workers. Next it will be drivers.”

Postal workers are in solidarity with the strikers. A delegation from the Metro Area Postal Union joined with strikers for a Nov. 14 demonstration outside the main UPS depot in Manhattan.

### THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

#### November 28, 1949

The “Victory Convention” of the CIO in Nov. 1948 hailed the election of Truman and a Democratic majority in Congress as a guarantee of new advances by labor. It was expected that labor would share in the fruits of “victory” through new social legislation, repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act and gaining substantial economic concessions from the employers.

A year later the position of the workers is worsened. The workers are beset by unemployment and declining income. The corporations are restoring the old pre-union conditions in the plants.

The workers will demand independent political action through their own party and program, which will free them for action against Big Business monopoly and all its political agents, Democratic and Republican.

# 'Solidarity, internationalism at heart of Cuban Revolution'

Red Zone: Cuba and the Battle Against Ebola in West Africa by Enrique Ubieta Gómez is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for November. Earlier Ubieta visited remote areas of Central and Latin America and the Caribbean to cover the work of Cuba's internationalist doctors and nurses there. In this book, he relates how Cuba's revolutionary government responded to calls for help during the 2014 deadly Ebola virus outbreak in West Africa, sending 256 medical volunteers. Their exemplary courageous and hands-on help for thousands helped eliminate the epidemic. The excerpt is from the preface. Copyright © 2019 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Cuban Medical Brigade in Guinea

Cuban medical workers with recovered Ebola patients in Guinea in 2015. Within three days, 12,000 Cubans volunteered to join the hazardous international mission, Ubieta writes.

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY RÓGER CALERO AND MARY-ALICE WATERS

*Red Zone: Cuba and the Battle Against Ebola in West Africa* is not a book about doctors, epidemics, or medical care, as central as those topics are to the remarkable account you are about to read. First and foremost, the book is "about the solidarity and internationalism that are at the heart of the Cuban Revolution," as author Enrique Ubieta told the audience at its launching in Havana in February 2016.

In August and September 2014, the World Health Organization and the gov-

ernments of three West African countries, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea, issued international calls for help in combating the largest epidemic on record of the deadly Ebola virus. In contrast to the meager and callously self-serving response of capitalist powers, especially the United States, France, and the United Kingdom, Cuba's revolutionary socialist government acted rapidly.

Within three days of a call to Cuban president Raúl Castro from Ban Ki-moon, secretary-general of the United Nations, more than 12,000 Cuban medical professionals had volunteered, many with experience responding to epidemics and disasters from Haiti to Pakistan to Central America. Of those volunteers, 256 Cuban doctors, nurses, and health care technicians were selected and trained for the mission.

Eight months later, when the last member of the Cuban medical brigade returned home in May 2015, the Ebola epidemic in West Africa had been virtually eradicated. ...

The Cuban volunteers in West Africa were part of the Henry Reeve International Contingent, launched in September 2005. President Fidel Castro initiated the contingent that year in response to Hurricane Katrina. The hope was they would be allowed to provide assistance to residents of New Orleans and the surrounding Louisiana bayous devastated by the storm.

The US government, however, flat-

ly rejected Cuba's offer to send 1,500 medical personnel to help. Instead, Washington brutally left working people there to fend for themselves, knowing full well that medical attention, food, and water were woefully lacking.

**"Cuba's 'army of white coats,' as Fidel Castro called them in 2014, acts in stark contrast to capitalist medicine..."**

This contempt for working people's lives and welfare on the part of the wealthy US capitalist families — and of the government and twin political parties through which they exercise their exploitation and class rule — has been repeated many times over, both before and after Katrina. ...

While many such occurrences are natural in origin, the catastrophic *social consequences* for tens and hundreds of millions are a product of capitalism. ...

Cuba's "army of white coats," as Fidel Castro aptly called them in 2014, acts in stark contrast to capitalist "medicine." Serving in 64 countries, these volunteers often work and live in the most remote rural regions or worst-off urban working-class neighborhoods. These are areas that profit-maximizing hospitals and "health-care" conglomerates stay as far away from as possible. As do most

physicians who graduate from medical school in the capitalist world, convinced that their diplomas entitle them to big bucks and the best comforts their class privilege can offer.

The goal of Cuba's internationalist cooperation is not simply to provide needed medical personnel where none currently exist. The Cuban government strives to contribute to building a medical infrastructure in these countries wherever possible, helping establish medical schools in some countries, bringing students to Cuba for medical training at little or no cost, and assisting in developing networks of primary care clinics.

Cuba's revolutionary government has extended medical assistance to countries with which it doesn't have diplomatic relations as well. That was the case, for example, when 2,400 doctors, nurses, and others went to the mountainous Kashmir region of Pakistan in 2005 following the 7.6 magnitude earthquake that killed some 80,000 human beings there. Cuban medical volunteers set up 30 field hospitals, later donated to the Pakistan government. Cuba provided 1,000 scholarships to students in the region to study at the Latin American School of Medicine in Havana.

Like other missions abroad, the fight against Ebola was a learning experience for the Cuban medical personnel involved. This was especially true for younger brigade members, who have never themselves (nor, as years go by, their parents or even grandparents) lived or worked under the dog-eat-dog social relations bred by capitalist exploitation and rendered even more brutal by imperialist oppression.

In *Red Zone*, Ubieta said at the 2016 launching, "I write about the seeds we are sowing inside and outside of ourselves. Every time a Cuban doctor takes part in a mission abroad, they renew themselves as revolutionaries."

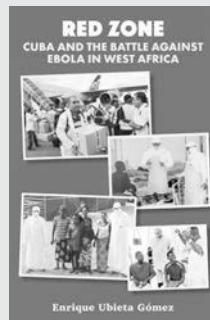
Some people contend "that the epic moments of the Cuban Revolution are a thing of the past," Ubieta noted, and "that Cubans should concern themselves only with their own individual, everyday problems, which can sometimes be overwhelming.

"And then suddenly you hear the battle cry, like the request we received for aid. And thousands turn out, volunteering to go. Solidarity is very much alive in the Cuban people."

### November BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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ENRIQUE UBIETA  
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# Spread the word, build support for union fights

The outcome of the U.S. elections has done nothing to deter the bosses from putting the crisis of their capitalist system onto the backs of working people. And it has done nothing to quell workers' determination to use unions to fight their attempts to profit at our expense. As battles unfold at Milk-Bone, hotel chains, on the docks and elsewhere, workers seek to organize the broadest possible solidarity and respond to these struggles as a class.

Employers are trying to hold down wages while the prices of groceries, rent, child care and more have soared. They're attempting to cut pensions, health care and other things workers must have to survive; to get more production out of fewer workers; to gut safety, threatening workers' lives and limbs; and to foist exhausting schedules and forced overtime on us, wrecking havoc with family and political life.

The strikes taking place today are the foundation for workers advancing our interests as a class against the capitalists and their government.

As workers fight, we gain confidence in ourselves and strengthen our unity in the face of bosses' never-ending attempts to try to turn us against one another. Employed or unemployed, immigrant or native-born, of whatever nationality or hue, we share common class interests. A victory in any of these fights means workers and the union come out better prepared to respond to the next assault, and to organize solidarity for whoever else needs it.

Experience on the picket line also helps workers recognize a vital fact — that all class struggles are political battles.

At the urging of the barons of business, the Canadian government intervened Nov. 12 against locked-out port workers in British Columbia and Quebec. Acting as a class, the capitalist ruling families want to impose binding arbitration on the unionists as they fight for better wages and schedules, jobs

and safer conditions. Now is the time to redouble solidarity with the port workers' struggle. All unions should demand government hands off!

Bring solidarity to fellow unionists, like striking members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union at Milk-Bone in Buffalo, New York, or members of Unite, the union striking at Oscar Mayer in Wrexham, North Wales.

Every reader of the *Militant* can help. Let your co-workers, fellow unionists, friends and family members know about the struggles you read about in the On The Picket Line column on page 5 of this issue. Send messages of support from your union, win contributions to the unions' strike funds and visit their picket lines. Send notes to the *Militant* to get out the word about your actions. Let striking workers know they don't fight alone!

Working-class solidarity is a weapon that can make a difference to the outcome of these fights and reinforce workers understanding that we are a large and potentially powerful class whose future depends on our acting on this reality.



Militant/Pete Clifford  
Members of Unite union on strike at Oscar Mayer in Wrexham, North Wales, rally Oct. 24 to press fight against wage cut, win union recognition.

## 'Enshrining' abortion weakens fight for women's rights

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Based on false claims that the U.S. Supreme Court Dobbs' ruling in 2022 threatened to make women's right to choose to have an abortion illegal nationwide, Democrats put initiatives on the ballot in 10 states this year to "enshrine" abortion rights in state constitutions. They passed in seven states — Arizona, Colorado, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, Nevada and New York — and failed in three others — Florida, Nebraska and South Dakota.

Similar measures passed in 2022 in California, Michigan and Vermont and in 2023 in Ohio.

While the fight for decriminalization of abortion is part of the broader battle for the rights of women and all working people, moves to "enshrine" it in state constitutions is an obstacle to advancing this fight. It closes down room for needed debate to win more widespread support.

"Our starting point is that there can be no road to women's liberation without dealing with the broader social crises bearing down on the families of working-class women," Socialist Workers Party leader Mary-Alice Waters said at the party's national conference in 2022. "And addressing the challenges and responsibilities that fall heavily on women as the bearers of new life."

Liberals falsely claim that abortion is the central issue to resolve the crisis facing women. Not only is this false, it ignores the fact it involves the potential for human life. Terminating a pregnancy should only be an option when all other things fail.

We challenge those "who cloak their assaults

on women's right under a pro-life mantle," Waters said. "The working-class party that fights for the liberation of humanity is a party of life. We must take back that banner as ours."

"Enshrining" abortion in state constitutions is an effort to foreclose the ability of working people to discuss and debate these questions, get greater clarity and prepare to move forward more united.

The votes on these referenda reflect the divided sentiments on the issue, and show the need for further clarification.

In Nebraska, for example, there were two such measures on the ballot — one to "enshrine" the right to abortion and another that set limits on decriminalization. Nebraska Initiative 434, which amends the state Constitution to bar abortion in the second or third trimester, except in cases of medical emergency or for pregnancies resulting from incest or sexual assault, passed. Initiative 439, which proposed "enshrining" abortion until fetal viability, failed.

In New York, the initiative that passed — Proposition One — doesn't even mention the words "abortion" or "women." The actual wording of the amendment was *not* on the ballot. Its Democratic Party endorsers listed it as the "Equal Rights Amendment." But this is a total cover-up from what this proposed amendment was all about.

It added an extensive list of new categories for "protective status" in the state Constitution — "ethnicity, national origin, age, disability" and "sex," which included "sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, and reproductive healthcare and autonomy."

In a number of the states that enshrined abortion rights in their constitutions, including New York, Maryland and Colorado, state laws already exist protecting women's right to choose to have an abortion. In New York, abortion was decriminalized in 1970, three years before the Roe v. Wade ruling.

## Back Milk-Bone strike

Continued from front page

explained that the company's proposed plan means higher monthly payments, higher deductibles, higher payments for care, and a much higher out-of-pocket yearly maximum.

The strike has won broad solidarity. Members of Teamsters Local 449, a large local of UPS workers and other truck drivers and warehouse workers, showed up on the picket line. They set up a tent and served chili and hotdogs. Members of the United Auto Workers, the Machinists union and the Buffalo Teachers Federation have visited the picket line, bringing refreshments and solidarity. "Buffalo is a union town," said Chuck Reeves, BCTGM international representative.

Strikers told the *Militant* that the bosses are going to court to get an injunction against the pickets. "The company claims we're harassing people in the neighborhood," one striker said, laughing. "We have great relations with them. One resident offered to provide electricity from his home for our needs. When we barbecue, we invite the kids. We had a Halloween candy giveaway. Is that what they call harassment?"

While medical care expenses are what provoked the strike, workers told the *Militant* there were many other problems, especially with working conditions.

"The company is always preaching 'safety, safety, safety,'" Kennedy said. But her husband, who worked in the plant for 17 years, was seriously injured on the job twice. And then the company fired him for being off too long. Kennedy said BCTGM Local 36G is looking for ways to fight his firing. "All he wants to do is get back to work," she said.

Work schedules are a big problem. "The phone rings almost every day for overtime," striker Tony Serra said. "They can make you work 16-hour shifts. There's mandatory overtime and we work every other weekend." Serra, with 21 years in the plant, is the picket captain on his shift. "Milk-Bone has gone through many owners since I've worked here. Smucker has owned it for nine years now and this is the worst management I've ever worked under."

Until recently, Reeves was a mechanic at the large General Mills plant in town, one of the six Buffalo-area facilities organized by the local. "Smucker claimed to the press that 'communications are open' with the union," he told the *Militant*. "In reality, they haven't communicated at all, except by sending threatening letters to union members."

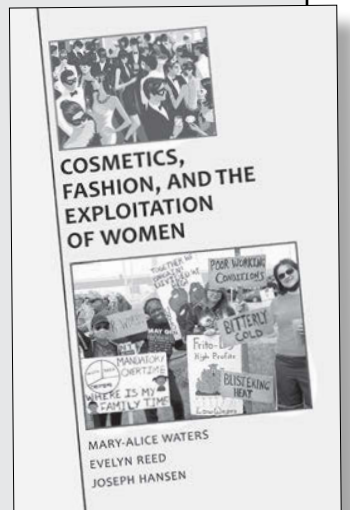
The company listed profits of \$1.3 billion last year. Besides the very profitable pet food lines, the company owns Folgers, the Hostess snack line, and other products.

"Very few Smucker plants in the country are union," Reeves said.

The picket lines are up 24/7. Go show your support at 243 Urban Street in Buffalo.

### Prepublication special offer!

How the cosmetics and fashion bosses rake in profits from the social insecurities of women and youth. This lively debate from the mid-20th century — now in a 2024 edition with a new preface and an opening article by Mary-Alice Waters — offers a Marxist understanding of the origins of women's oppression and fight for their liberation as part of the working-class struggle for power.



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# Jew-hating mobs in Amsterdam

Continued from front page

ing Jews down the streets. Gangs surrounded some of their victims, demanding to see their passports to determine if they were Jews and then beating them. At least one Jewish man was thrown into a canal and only allowed out when he obeyed the attackers' order to shout "Free Palestine."

One video shows a man, who was knocked unconscious, being repeatedly kicked. The attackers tried to run over some Jews with cars.

Melhem Asad, an Arab Druze citizen of Israel and fan of the Maccabi team, told Israel's Channel 12 News that "the local police just screwed up. They didn't guard us, we felt really exposed."

Asad encountered a group of Arabic-speaking thugs getting ready to assault some Jewish Maccabi fans. He spoke to the thugs in Arabic, saying, "No Jews are still here, that they escaped." He said, "I directed them the other way and then ran toward groups of Israelis and warned them."

The statements by several organizations of Hamas supporters posted on Telegram, Instagram and WhatsApp before the soccer match show that these were coordinated, planned attacks. Some boasted that they were going to carry out "Jew-Hunt II" when the soccer game ended.

"This is a direct clash with our enemy," read one post on Instagram. "We're not here to retreat, we're here to ignite," said another. "Let's set it off. Bring the war home."

## False narrative by liberal media

Much of the liberal media — including the *New York Times*, BBC and others — put forward the narrative that the Maccabi fans provoked the attack. They point to videos the night before of Maccabi fans tearing down a Palestinian flag. One widely circulated video showed a large group of the team's fans entering a subway station while singing anti-Arab songs.

"I don't agree at all with what happened from our side," Dan Kopla, one of the fans attacked in Amsterdam, told Israel National News. "Even so, they should not be taking it out on all Jews."

Kopla noted that while the police and local authorities did nothing, "a lot of citizens opened their homes for scared Israelis, which was heartwarming."

Dutch officials stated afterward that they were "ashamed" that the anti-Jewish attacks occurred. But they have no explanation for why police generally left Jews on their own and why not one attacker was arrested during the assaults.

The next day the government banned all protests for three days. But the attacks on Jews were not "protests." They were fascist-like thuggery. The government is now using that to set a precedent for restricting democratic rights.

## Jew-hatred, part of imperialist epoch

Like Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom in Israel, the mass assault in Amsterdam has provoked discussion by opponents of Jew-hatred on what it represents and the way forward. Is another Holocaust like what the Nazis carried out in World War II possible?

At a Nov. 9 program on "Israel at the Crossroads" attended by some 500 people at the 92nd Street Y in New York, Bernard-Henri Lévy, the well-

known French-Jewish author of *Israel Alone*, said the assault in Amsterdam "should be a wake-up call for all of us in Europe and America."

Brutal assaults like this are spawned by those who speak of "global intifada" and "present Hamas as a liberation movement," he said. Only by standing up for themselves, he added, can Jews win broader support for the fight against Jew-hatred.

"Some media sources have attempted to frame this as a 'clash' and even tried to blame the Israelis in an effort to justify these disgusting acts," noted a Nov. 9 statement by Students Supporting Israel at Columbia University in New York. "Hateful slogans should be condemned regardless of who chants them. However, a small group of reckless supporters chanting slogans in Hebrew does not justify violently hunting down every Jew and Israeli in the streets."

"Do not expect to be saved by others," the group said. "We have learned from history that we must rely on ourselves."

"It would be a dangerous illusion to believe that 'democratic' imperialist governments, whether in Washington, Amsterdam or anywhere else, can be relied on to take on Jew-hatred," Joanne Kuniansky, the 2024 Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from New Jersey, told the *Militant*.

"What happened in Amsterdam shows the real dangers of Jew-hatred and pogroms. They are an integral part of the social convulsions and wars of the imperialist epoch. The fight against them is a working-class battle."

"The goal of the capitalist rulers is to defend their economic and political interests at all costs," she said. "History teaches that when they fear the working class is on the road to taking political power, the boss class will unleash Jew-hating fascist gangs to defend their class rule."

# D.C. protest defends Israel's right to exist as refuge for Jews

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

WASHINGTON — Several thousand people joined in "Stand Together," a Nov. 10 rally and concert to defend Israel's right to exist, to demand Hamas release the hostages it has held for over a year and to fight against antisemitism. The event at the Nationals Park stadium here was sponsored by the Jewish Federations of North America, Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and other national and local groups.

Many participants wore the sticker "401," marking the number of days since Oct. 7, 2023, when Hamas death squads slaughtered 1,200 men, women and children, wounded thousands and kidnapped 250 hostages. It was the largest anti-Jewish pogrom since the Nazi Holocaust in World War II.

"I came to the rally to support my people, and Israel," Cohava Golden, a participant from Boston, told this *Militant* worker-correspondent. "The mob brutality in Amsterdam was against people because they are Jewish, and, to make it worse, the coverage in some newspapers blames us for what happened."

The rally took place two days after organized violent attacks were carried out against Jewish soccer fans in Am-

## Iran hospital workers: 'We are nurses, not slaves'



Coordinating Council of Nurses' Protests

Nurses and other health care workers at hospitals in at least 17 cities held protests or took strike action leading up to and on Iran's National Nurses Day Nov. 7. They are protesting low wages, mandatory overtime, understaffing and poor working conditions.

"We are nurses, not slaves! Without nurses, the system collapses," said a Nov. 9 statement from the Coordinating Council of Nurses' Protests. As the government attempts to use its deepening conflict with Israel to convince workers not to protest, the council responded, "Enough war-mongering. Our table is empty."

"Our colleagues in Yazd and Shiraz have been at the forefront" of this round of protests, the council reports. Protests in Yazd, above, went on for seven days in a row. In Shiraz, workers at four hospitals held a "full strike" with "partial strikes" at two others. In August nurses and other hospital workers held protests or went on strike at over 60 hospitals and health centers in 40 cities.

At the official Nurses Day ceremony in Tabas, in the South Khorasan province, in Mashhad and other cities nurses intervened with protest signs and took the floor to raise their demands. In other cities nurses boycotted the government-sponsored events and wore black ribbons in protest.

"We overwork the nurses while we do not pay them proper salaries," Mahmoud Umidi, an official of the Nurses House, a government-recognized association, told the Tehran-based Iranian Labour News Agency.

The average wage for nurses at public hospitals in Iran is \$200 a month, and even that is often paid weeks or months late.

To make up for what Iran's Ministry of Health admits is a shortage of 70,000 nurses, many hospitals impose mandatory overtime.

As many as 1,500 nurses emigrate to Germany, Switzerland, Australia and elsewhere every year, where they can earn more than 20 times as much. Others, fed up with the low wages and bad conditions, just quit and stay at home or find other jobs, including at private clinics offering cosmetic surgery.

The protests and strikes "will continue until we win our inalienable trade union rights," the Coordinating Council of Nurses' Protests said.

— SETH GALINSKY

sterdam after a match in which an Israeli team played. Jewish men, women and children were hunted and attacked on the streets by pro-Hamas mobs.

Family members of some of the 101 hostages still held by Hamas or Islamic Jihad were featured speakers. One was Yarden Gonen, sister of Romy Gonen, who was kidnapped at the Nova music and dance festival, a special target of Hamas thugs. "This is a fight not just for Israel, but for every person who believes in peace and dignity," she said. "If we as a society do not save my sister and all of the hostages, your loved ones could be next. We must unite so that Oct. 7 does not happen anywhere else."

"In this war, we have no other choice but to win and we are winning — at great cost," Michael Herzog, Israeli ambassador to the United States, told participants. "We are dismantling Iran's 'ring of fire' that surrounds Israel. We are creating opportunities for a better Middle East."

Other speakers included political figures like U.S. senators Chuck Schumer and Mitch McConnell, who addressed the crowd by video. A performance by the Israeli Idan Raichel Project was a highlight of the event, along with other musical and cultural

performances. A dance troupe performed a piece about Hamas' attack on the Nova music festival.

Both Democratic and Republican elected officials spoke. "People often ask me, 'Ritchie, you're not Jewish, you're Black, you're a Latino. Why do you speak so forcefully against antisemitism?'" Ritchie Torres, Democratic congressman from New York, said. "I see my freedom as a Black Latino from the Bronx as inextricably bound to the freedom of the Jewish people. It is progressive to defend Israel's right to defend itself."

Socialist Workers Party candidates in the 2024 elections, James Harris for D.C. delegate to Congress and Ved Dookhun, the SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Pennsylvania, along with other SWP campaigners, participated in the action.

"The SWP defends Israel as a refuge against Jew-hatred and pogroms, the only country that will fight against the slaughter of the Jews arms in hand," said Harris. "The road forward is tied to building working-class parties of all religions and nationalities in every country, including in Israel and in the U.S., that can unite all those exploited and oppressed by capital and work toward taking political power."



# Interview with SWP candidates Rachele Fruit, Dennis Richter

Continued from front page  
 viding for families,” Fruit said. In her home state of Florida, “nearly 30% of parents are either quitting their jobs or taking reduced hours to look after their children because they can’t afford child care.”

The social, economic and moral crisis coming down on workers will not go away with a new president, she said.

During the campaign, Fruit and Richter walked picket lines of striking Machinists at Boeing, longshore workers at Gulf and East Coast ports, nurses, postal workers fighting for a better contract, and with other unionists. They used their campaign to win support for these fights.

Every union struggle is watched closely by fellow workers, Fruit pointed out. Two-tier contracts have been forced on unions for decades, but when United Auto Workers members threatened to strike earlier this year at Daimler Truck in North Carolina, they forced bosses to back down “and end the two-tier wage setup, something that was noticed by tens of thousands of other workers,” she said.

“Nurses in Pittsburgh fought and won a new contract that included more hiring,” Fruit said, pointing to comments by one striker who said that improving health care required extending their fight to hospitals across the region, including where nurses didn’t yet have a union.

“When workers make gains somewhere,” Richter said, “that’s seen as good for the rest of us. More workers are looking to solve our problems together as a class, not as individuals.”

“They were interested when we explained our program is built on the experiences of past workers’ struggles and revolutionary advances, not some ‘good ideas.’”

“Workers know we’re exploited by the bosses,” Fruit said. “What we bring to these discussions is the recognition that society *can* be organized differently. That’s possible if



Dennis Richter, right, SWP candidate for vice president, brought solidarity to National Nurses United picket in contract fight July 17 at University Medical Center in New Orleans.

we overturn the rule of the capitalist class and replace it with a government of our own.

“Millions see that the Democrats and Republicans are not the answer to what we face,” she said. “We got a tremendous response when we explained workers need a party of labor, a political vehicle to fight for the things that our class needs.”

“Trump claims he’s going to end inflation and stop the wars unfolding today,” Richter pointed out. “But many workers are skeptical.” At the same time, “many readily agreed when we said that workers are a class with our own interests, that we’re the great majority, produce all the wealth and need to organize together to defend ourselves.”

In the course of union struggles, workers “seek ways to overcome divisions that the bosses use to weaken us,” Fruit said. She pointed to a fight in July by truck drivers in Mexico and the U.S. who joined together to try to improve their working conditions.

Fruit visited Charleroi, Pennsylvania, in October where immigrant

Haitian workers had been slandered, she said. “At a factory plant gate I met workers who disagreed with looking at immigrants that way. One native-born worker told me, ‘Immigrants are human beings just like us.’”

Both parties look to regulate immigration up and down, as the bosses’ need for cheap labor requires. President Joseph Biden issued an executive order in June to speed up deportations. President-elect Donald Trump is threatening mass deportations. Throughout their campaign, Fruit and Richter explained that fighting for an amnesty for undocumented workers in the U.S. is key to forging working-class unity and building a stronger labor movement.

## Fighting Jew-hatred

“We began the campaign with the need to respond to Hamas’ Oct. 7 pogrom,” Fruit said, a turning point in world politics. “We utilized the continuity of the communist movement, going back to the fight waged by Lenin and the Bolsheviks during the Russian Revolution against all expressions of Jew-hatred.”

“Mostly workers are repelled by what Hamas did and agreed when we said Israel must be defended as a refuge for Jews. Some asked, ‘Why does there have to be so many Palestinian deaths?’ I explain that this was the responsibility of Hamas, which purposely puts their weapons caches, missiles, tunnels and bases in schools, hospitals and under workers’ homes.”

“When workers see Israeli forces acting to defend Jews from Hamas’ death squads, they identify with this fight,” said Richter. “Many ask, ‘Why are they doing this to Jews?’”

“Without understanding how Jew-hatred rises in the imperialist epoch amid the decline of world capitalism, the Jewish question remains a big mystery,” he said. “Without seeing what every working-class

movement will eventually face from fascist forces — which organize under the banner of Jew-hatred — it cannot be understood.

“It’s in the working class that we find real interest in learning more about this. If you don’t start from within the working class, you’d think more and more people are turning against Jews,” Richter said. “We find just the opposite — it’s there that you will find workers who will come to the defense of Jews.”

## A working-class foreign policy

A working-class foreign policy is needed, Fruit said, “because the U.S. rulers do nothing in the Middle East, or anywhere else in the world that’s not based on their own class interests.”

“Two Iraq wars and the war in Afghanistan were not ‘mistakes,’ by the U.S. rulers,” Richter added. “They will use their massive military forces again, with deadly consequences for workers. What can stop that is the working class taking power into our own hands.”

“The biggest question we were asked was, ‘Is it possible for workers to do this?’” Fruit said. “It is, as confidence and class consciousness grows.”

During her visit to the U.K., she met rail workers in Manchester who fought successfully for union recognition. “One of them asked, ‘How do you get workers who are involved in a fight for better wages to learn about broader political questions?’ I said that begins to happen when workers struggle together and start to see what we’re up against — the bosses, their parties and their government — and to see what workers are capable of doing.”

“We point to Cuba’s socialist revolution, its leadership and what working people there accomplished and have defended ever since,” she said. “It shows what’s possible.”

“And we point to the working-class solidarity that comes to the fore when there’s a social catastrophe, like after the recent hurricane in North Carolina, or the deadly flooding in Spain.” In the absence of aid from capitalist governments, “workers step forward to do what’s needed. Examples like this show the ability of the working class to run society. But to unleash that potential, workers need to take political power,” Fruit said.

“Along the way, working people will need to defend constitutional freedoms from attack by both Democrats and Republicans,” said Richter. “No matter who is in the White House, they’ll use the capitalist ‘justice’ system — the cops, the FBI and the courts against workers and the working-class vanguard.”

“Today Democrats are reacting hysterically to their election defeat,” Fruit said. “They blame working people who couldn’t bring themselves to vote for Kamala Harris.”

In sharp contrast “the SWP is looking forward,” she said. “Workers face a good situation, more of us are confident we can use our unions to defend ourselves. And to workers who backed the SWP campaign, we say, ‘Our party is your party.’ Learn more about the SWP and its program, and join us in the class struggles that lie ahead.”

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