

THE MILITANT

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25th anniversary of University for Older Adults celebrated in Cuba
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 89/NO. 14 APRIL 14, 2025

New protests erupt in Gaza against brutal rule of Hamas

BY SETH GALINSKY

Three days of protests by thousands of Palestinians in Gaza punctured the illusion promoted by Hamas and its apologists around the world that the Tehran-backed group defends the national interests of the people there. The just demands and courage of the protesters deserve the support of working people everywhere.

The Nazi-minded group is the biggest obstacle Palestinian workers, fishermen and farmers in Gaza face to being able to advance their own interests, as well as a deadly threat to Jews and Israel's existence.

Palestinians took to the streets in at least five cities in Gaza March 25-27, chanting slogans against Hamas' dictatorial rule, including demands to free the Israeli hostages Hamas holds. Some carried banners reading "Stop the war" and "We want to live in peace." The protests started back up April 2.

At one action, hundreds chanted "[Hamas leader Osama] Hamdan leave Gaza! Hamdan go to Iran!" Working people in Gaza are well aware of the
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Socialist Workers Party 2025 campaign 'Workers need to take political power into our own hands'



Militant/Deborah Liatos
 Laura Garza, SWP candidate for mayor of Los Angeles, and Eric Simpson, SWP candidate for mayor of Oakland, California, join march in defense of immigrants rights in Delano March 31.

SWP candidates get hearing for working-class program

BY MAGGIE TROWE

DELANO, Calif.— Norton Sandler, Socialist Workers Party candidate for California governor, launched his campaign as he joined several thousand farmworkers and other unionists fight-
Continued on page 4

Join campaign to put the SWP on New Jersey ballot

BY TERRY EVANS

UNION CITY, N.J. — Beginning April 5, Socialist Workers Party campaigners will be fanning out from here across the state to introduce the party, its program, candidates and activities widely to working people, and to put Joanne Kuniandy for governor and Craig Honts for lieutenant governor, on the ballot.
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Farmworkers protest against ICE arrest of union leader

BY HENRY DENNISON

SEATTLE — Early in the morning of March 25 Alfredo "Lelo" Juarez Zeferino, a leader of the farmworkers union, Familias Unidas por la Justicia, was stopped by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents in Skagit County as he drove his companion to work at a nearby tulip farm.

Thousands march for rights of immigrants in California and Texas

— see page 8

Rosalinda Guillen, a farmworker and organizer who works with Familias Unidas, told radio station KUOW, "He tried to defend himself by not speaking to them and refusing to get out of the car, and they broke his car window."

Alfredo Juarez, now 25, was a teenager in 2013 when more than 200 berry pickers walked off the job at Sakuma Brothers Farms near Burlington, protesting low wages and abusive management. Over the next four years they built Familias Unidas por la Justicia, and fought for better pay and conditions. Juarez helped lead the effort, in the fields, in outreach activities and by help-
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Sugarcane cutters fight for pensions, rights in the Dominican Republic



Militant/Gerardo Sánchez

Haitian-born cane cutters at meeting in Santo Domingo March 18. Overwhelming majority of cane cutters, farmworkers, construction workers and domestic workers in Dominican Republic are of Haitian descent, a crucial component of working class there.

BY SETH GALINSKY
 AND RACHELE FRUIT

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic — "Sugarcane cutters are among the most exploited section of the working class in the Dominican Republic," Jesús Núñez, national coordinator of the Sugarcane Workers Union, told the press at the opening of the group's second national conference held at the Autonomous University of

Santo Domingo here March 18.

"Thousands of cane cutters have applied for their pensions and been denied," he said. The fight for pensions and health care is a key part of the union's activity.

Most bateyes — company towns owned by the sugar barons — and other towns where the cane cutters live have little or no electricity, no running water
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Back BCTGM workers on strike at Knappen Milling in Michigan

BY BETSY FARLEY

AUGUSTA, Mich. — Twenty workers at Knappen Milling, members of Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Local 3G, went on strike here March

11. The workers, who make baking flour, are fighting for wages that keep up with sky-high prices and for safety on the job.

The union is also demanding reinstatement of a union security agreement it lost in 2012 when Michigan passed a "right to work" law. It was repealed in 2023.

On March 26, workers from BCTGM Local 57 in Cincinnati and BCTGM Local 81 in Traverse City, Michigan, drove to Augusta to sup-
Continued on page 5

Toilers in Ukraine fight to defend their nat'l sovereignty

BY ROY LANDERSEN

President Donald Trump's efforts to broker a ceasefire in Moscow's war against Ukraine have become more protracted than he expected. The Ukrainian government has backed Trump's ceasefire plan, but Moscow categorically rejects it. Russian President Vladimir Putin's regime is continuing its murderous bombardment of civilian targets in Ukraine, whose people remain determined to defend their country's sovereignty.

Moscow's offensive in Ukraine's
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25th anniversary of University for Older Adults celebrated in Cuba

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

HAVANA — The main auditorium at the University of Havana was packed with 200 enthusiastic students, graduates and volunteer teachers who came to celebrate 25 years since the founding of Cuba's University Courses for Older Adults — “Cátedra del Adulto Mayor.” They cheered and applauded as Teresa Orosa, president of the program, also known as the University for the Third Age, reviewed their shared achievements and awarded certificates to the graduating class of 2024.

Many of those attending the Feb. 24 event had left home very early in the morning in order to arrive on time, undeterred by the acute scarcity of public transportation in Havana, one of the current challenges working people have faced because of Washington's decadeslong efforts to economically strangle the Cuban Revolution.

Orosa, a professor at the University of Havana, was the founder and has been a driving force of the program. It was launched with the backing of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC), the nationwide trade union federation.

Over the years the effort became a nationwide movement, with hundreds of classrooms established in communities across the island and more than 120,000 graduates since its founding in 2000.

With the involvement of Cuba's mass organizations — from the CTC to the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution and the Federation of Cuban Women — organizers and participants secure spaces to hold the classes, whether in a local community center, an unused classroom, a private

home, or — when the students are inmates — a prison. They recruit teachers and guest speakers in different fields, some of them retired teachers whose experiences reach back to the early days of the revolution. The program is self-financed.

The courses — from history to science and culture — are decided based on the participants' interests. They include activities to enhance physical and cognitive skills affected by aging, as well as workshops to keep up with technological advances, from using cellphones to making electronic payments.

The University Courses for Older Adults, together with the social and day care centers for the elderly that exist in Cuba, take on added importance today given the country's rapidly aging population — a quarter of Cubans are now 60 or older.

Learning as a lifetime activity

The educational program builds on the conquests of Cuba's socialist revolution in making learning a lifetime activity and breaking down prejudices and other barriers to the involvement of the broadest numbers of working people in social, productive and political activity.

“Our students come from all areas of production,” said Orosa. “We have port workers, artists, tobacco workers, scientists, teachers, food and health workers.”

“At first I was a bit fearful, because of my disability,” said María Eugenia Pino, a member of Cuba's National Association of the Blind, when she was interviewed by Cuban TV last March. “But I told myself, this is a challenge I will confront, I'll be brave.” Pino was



Militant/Jonathan Silberman

Over 200 students, graduates and volunteer teachers attend event at University of Havana Feb. 24 celebrating contributions of the University for Older Adults to Cuba's socialist revolution.

a graduate of the 2023-24 course.

At the Feb. 24 event, Orosa pointed to activities the University Courses for Older Adults holds to mark historic dates, such as Cuba's successful 1961 mass mobilization to eradicate illiteracy or the April 1961 defeat of the U.S.-organized invasion at the Bay of Pigs. Many of the students are themselves veterans of these political and military battles of the Cuban Revolution, including the literacy brigades that taught over 700,000 workers and peasants to read.

At these events, “who would have thought that our students would bring the old rusty lanterns and uniforms

from 60 years ago” when they went to the countryside to teach peasants to read and write, said Orosa. “Who would have known that among us there are so many combatants” who took part in different revolutionary battles, whether in Cuba or abroad.

“It's been a life-enriching experience,” 86-year-old Georgina Arias told the *Militant*. A retired primary school teacher, Arias started participating in the University Courses for Older Adults 16 years ago. “After graduating I became a teacher in this program. I received a diploma from the Teacher Trainers Association,” she added with pride.

PSA flight attendants protest for equal pay

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

PSA Airlines flight attendants, who are members of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, organized protests at the airline's four hubs across the country March 26 — in Charlotte, North Carolina; Dayton, Ohio; Philadelphia; and Washington, D.C. PSA, a subsidiary of American Airlines, pays flight attendants 45% less than crews doing the same work for American.

“We're doing the same job, and we deserve to be paid and compensated accordingly,” Keturah Johnson, a flight attendant from Washington, D.C., told the *Charlotte Observer*.

Flight attendants “can't afford rent and apartments, they're having to live

with their families,” Rebecca Black, an AFA negotiating committee member, told WDTN TV News. During the first three years on the job, the majority of PSA flight attendants are locked into a pay rate of approximately \$24,000 a year. American Airlines made \$846 million in profits in 2024.

Flight attendants at American, after a long fight, voted up a new five-year contract last September. Along with wage increases and compensation for waits between flights, they became the first organized flight attendants to win pay during boarding time, a key demand in negotiations.

The company has dragged out negotiations at PSA for two years.

THE MILITANT

Serbia protests hit gov't, NATO, Moscow interference

Thousands in Serbia marked anniversary of the 1999 U.S.-led bombing of Belgrade that killed thousands as Yugoslavia broke apart. Anger at Moscow is coupled with hatred of NATO as Serbians are roiled by the deepening crisis of the capitalist world “order.”



Reuters/Djordje Kojadino

Protest in Belgrade March 24 against razing building bombed by NATO in 1999.

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As prices stay sky-high, now coffee's going up another 25%

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Amid growing anger, working people are feeling the squeeze of persistent high prices for groceries, rents, child care and other necessities. And some favorites, like coffee, eggs and chocolate, have been rising at record rates. "If your favorite coffee beans have vanished from the shelves, don't worry, they will return soon," Reuters reported March 27. "The bad news is they will be up to 25% more expensive."

Many workers simply can't afford it. As coffee prices rose 4.6% last year, the amount of roast and ground coffee sold in North America and Europe fell 3.8%. Projected continuing spikes in coffee prices over the coming weeks will mean workers either need to cut back on their morning coffee or ditch something else to pay for it.

The farmers and agricultural workers who plant, grow and harvest these beans don't benefit from the price increases. Some 60% of the world's coffee is produced by an estimated 12.5 million people toiling on farms no larger than 50 acres — most even smaller than that. But close to half of them live in poverty.

Chocolate products have jumped by 10% to 20% over the past year as the price of cocoa has more than doubled since the beginning of 2024.

A handful of giant companies that dominate the egg industry, like Global Eggs, are reaping big profits as prices soared to over \$10 a dozen in stores earlier this year. And they're consolidating their monopoly. Luxembourg-based Global Eggs, under the control of Brazilian billionaire "Egg King" Ricardo Faria, has been expanding its operations worldwide. It bought out Grupo Hevo, based in Spain, in November, and is now putting down \$1.1 billion for Hillandale Farms, one of the largest U.S. chicken egg suppliers.

Global Eggs, like other giant distributors, attributes the price spike to shortages caused by the bird flu epidemic. But what's really happening is bosses are utilizing the epidemic to maximize their profits as working people foot the

bill. Cal-Maine Foods, the largest egg producer in the U.S., reported \$356 million in gross quarterly profits last month, a fourfold increase over a year ago.

High prices for groceries, transportation costs, health care, child care, interest payments on credit-card debts and more are the product of the deepening economic and social crisis of the dog-eat-dog capitalist system today, which the bosses and bankers seek to offload on the backs of workers and farmers.

Capitalist crisis hits workers hard

In an effort to make ends meet, many working-class families are forced to cut back on spending or go deeper in debt. "Footfall to U.S. stores fell by 4.3% year on year in early March," reported the *Financial Times*, with fewer visits to "big-box stores," like Walmart, Target and Best Buy.

Visits to fast-food restaurants were down 2.8% in February, with orders at breakfast spots — hit with the exorbitant egg prices — dropping by double digits.

Various "consumer surveys" by government agencies and others "add to evidence of gloom" warned the *Wall Street Journal* March 25. It said that increasing numbers of working people expect both prices and unemployment to rise. One such survey by the University of Michigan showed "consumers" confidence that economic and social conditions will improve has declined by 27% over the past year.

Of course there's no such thing as "consumers." This generalization hides the real class divisions that exist between the working class, who are being hit hard, and the wealthy rulers and their upper-middle-class hangers-on, who keep buying up luxury items like there's no tomorrow.

The *Wall Street Journal* has a regular feature called "Mansion Global." This week they ran an article headlined "\$1.7 billion worth of homes on a 4-mile stretch. Welcome to Miami's richest road."

It describes the housing on North Bay Road. Homeowners there, among other

Huge protests in Turkey hit Erdogan gov't, repression



Reuters/Louisa Gouliamaki

Hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets in Istanbul March 29 after the government of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan had Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu arrested. Imamoglu was set to be Erdogan's main opponent in the upcoming presidential election after 15 million people voted in a primary to nominate him as the Republican People's Party (CHP) presidential candidate March 19.

"We are here today for our homeland," 17-year-old Melis Basak Ergun said at one of the nightly protests at Istanbul City Hall, vowing protesters would never be cowed "by violence or tear gas." Some 1,900 demonstrators have been arrested along with more than a dozen Turkish and international journalists.

Working people in Turkey face an economic and political crisis. Inflation topped 44% last year. For students joining the demonstrations, protester Talya Aydin said, "it's about change, but it's also the austerity measures that they've been forced to accept."

"Journalists, union leaders and artists are also under attack. The goal is to silence the whole nation," Arzu Cerkezoglu, president of the Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions of Turkey, said March 19. Members of teachers and textile workers unions have been placed under house arrest.

Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtas was imprisoned in 2016, and in 2024 was sentenced to 42 years. He ran for president from prison in the last election. Some 2 million Kurds live in Istanbul, the largest city in Turkey.

At the demonstration, Ozgur Ozel, head of the CHP, called for the release of Imamoglu and Demirtas, saying protests will continue until they are free.

Imamoglu and 105 others, including several municipal officials, have been charged with corruption as well as aiding a "terrorist organization." This charge refers to CHP coordination with the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party in the 2024 municipal elections. Battling for national rights for decades, there are 30 million Kurds in Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria — the largest oppressed nationality in the world without their own state.

— JANET POST

similarly well-heeled sorts, mostly "new money," include Barry and Linda Gibb, Shutterstock founder Jonathan Oringer and venture capitalist Joshua Kushner and wife Karlie Kloss.

One recent sale on the stretch —

just an empty lot — went for \$105 million. The developer who shelled out for it says he plans to build a 50,000-square-foot estate and sell it for "around \$250 million."

But there's a bright spot for working people — the crisis is breeding an uptick in strikes and other struggles by workers and our unions to win protection from rising prices and onerous and unsafe working conditions and schedules, from flight attendants across the country to hotel and postal workers fighting for new contracts.

Socialist Workers Party candidates are getting a wider hearing about the need for working people to build a movement to fight for political power, while putting forward demands that include cost-of-living clauses in union contracts, Social Security and other benefits to offset inflation, and to prevent layoffs by spreading available work around with 30 hours work at 40 hours pay. And for a government-funded public works program to put millions of people to work building housing, child care and medical centers and other things workers sorely need.

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— 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

April 10, 2000

Various fronts in labor battles point to the many ways unionists are finding to show their strength. From conferences of labor women to picket lines to mass rallies, many workers are charting a path of solidarity and organizing their numbers in fights against the bosses.

The possibilities to bring the lessons of one fight to the next is something that all vanguard militants can become involved in. Farmers will continue their struggle; truckers and others are demanding government relief from profiteering by oil monopolies; working people are standing up to police brutality; and youth are taking a stand in defense of democratic rights.

The great strength our class has to draw on — in addition to the possibilities to organize union and political instruments — is the legacy and experiences of the struggles of the exploited and oppressed for more than 150 years.

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

April 11, 1975

Ten years ago this month Lyndon Johnson began the massive military escalation that ended with 540,000 U.S. troops in Vietnam. As the years of napalm, antipersonnel bombs, defoliation, strategic hamlet concentration camps, and B-52 saturation bombing went on, the whole world recoiled in horror. Vietnam became the central issue of world politics.

The public opinion combined with the tenacity of the Vietnamese eventually forced the U.S. rulers to bring the troops home from Vietnam.

"A rout beyond our wildest fears" was the way one military analyst summed up events over the past three weeks. So thorough has been the collapse and demoralization of the Saigon forces that the liberation fighters have been able to take over three-quarters of South Vietnam, including four of the five largest cities, without a single major battle.

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

April 10, 1950

There is an especially sinister side to the Atomic Energy Commission's censorship of the H-Bomb article by Dr. Hans Bethe in the April *Scientific American*. Under a special law the AEC has control over all technical data relating to atomic energy.

The AEC formally and hastily declared the already published material in Bethe's article "classified." From now on, those who write on this subject and those who publish such writings do so at their own risk. The AEC may slap a "classified" label on it.

This is not a measure of "military security." It is aimed at political suppression. Its purpose is to halt any and all discussion of the politics of the H-Bomb, as well as its moral and social implications.

In short, it is a move to muzzle any voice that may be raised against the production of the H-Bomb as such and against World War .

SWP candidates get hearing

Continued from front page

ing to defend the rights of immigrants at the “With These Hands” march and rally here March 31.

“This march points to the road that will bring workers together,” Sandler told participants he met. “It helps prepare us for the political struggles ahead, the fight to break from the bosses’ parties and chart a course forward to take power into our own hands, ending capitalist exploitation once and for all. That is what the Socialist Workers Party is fighting for.”

Sandler, a member of the party’s National Committee, will speak in Oakland April 6 and Los Angeles April 13. SWP candidates and trade unionists Laura Garza, a freight rail worker running for Los Angeles mayor, and Eric Simpson, a machine operator running for mayor of Oakland, came to the action on union buses.

The candidates and supporters handed out a statement, “Amnesty for immigrants! The road to unify the working class.”

“As the capitalist crisis deepens today,” the statement says, “more workers are asking how to unite and use the full strength of our class and our unions to stand up to the bosses’ assaults on wages and working conditions. The working class makes gains when we join together and fight, regardless of color, nationality, sex or legal status.

“What’s needed today is an amnesty for undocumented workers, removing the burden of fear, tearing down barriers to fighting side by side against the bosses and their government.”

During the 3-mile march one farmworker after another got a copy of the SWP flyer from this reporter, as I explained why the fight for an amnesty is a necessary step to unify working people so we can build together a powerful movement capable of ending the wars and social catastrophes in today’s crisis of the capitalist system.

Some 30 marchers bought subscriptions to the *Militant*, and a similar number picked up books by revolutionary working-class leaders. This gives an important boost to the eight-week international campaign to expand the paper’s readership.

The SWP, alongside the Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada and the U.K., are organizing to win 1,300 people to subscribe to the paper, get out the same number of books and raise \$165,000 for the annual Militant Fighting Fund. The drive goes from March 22 to May 20.

The results of the first week’s campaigning appear in the chart on page 5.

Timothy Frankland, a member of the American Postal Workers Union in Minneapolis, values the *Militant* and recently renewed his subscription for two years.

Postal workers look to the ‘Militant’

“I read the *Militant* because it provides a weekly update on the struggles of the working class in America, Canada and the rest of the world,” he told SWP member Gabby Prosser. “It does an incredible job of linking those struggles to historical events. Attacks on the working class are not new, and it is great to get reminders of how working people have overcome those struggles in the past.”

At a postal workers rally in Los Angeles, one participant came over to the SWP literature table. She told Laura Garza and Bernie Senter, “Yes, the *Militant*, I need to get it again.” She had subscribed at another postal workers rally in nearby Pasadena last August, and said her mother reads the paper’s Spanish pages. She renewed her subscription and bought *Teamster Rebellion*, a firsthand account by Farrell Dobbs of the strikes and organizing drives that brought hundreds of thousands into the union in the 1930s.

In Montreal, Katy LeRougetel, one of the Communist League’s two candidates for Parliament, spoke with former postal worker Rita Nahabedian on her doorstep. Nahabedian worked in a pharmacy at the postal counter that was shut during a strike by postal workers in Canada last year. She told LeRougetel she was opposed to the government’s intervention to ban the strike.

Nahabedian also wanted to discuss the trade conflicts between Washington and Ottawa.

Keen interest in Pathfinder books at Asian Studies conference

BY MARY ELLEN MARUS

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Association for Asian Studies conference here March 13-16 drew over 3,000 professors, librarians and students from China, Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, the U.K. and the U.S., among other countries. Presentations covered topics like Asian immigration to the U.S., human rights in Japan, what next after martial law in South Korea, the Uyghur diaspora and Taiwanese political history.

The conference took place as the growing rivalry between Beijing and U.S. imperialism in Asia strongly affects conditions in this region of the world. There were over 500 panels, workshops and film showings.



Militant/Carole Lesnick

Norton Sandler, SWP candidate for governor of California, speaks to ABC Bakersfield reporter at march of thousands defending immigrant rights in Delano, California, March 31.

“Canada’s ruling rich are trying to line us up behind them in their trade war with the bosses in the U.S.,” LeRougetel said. “We say workers have common interests and a common enemy, the capitalists. We have to organize to fight for jobs and the other things we need — the same as workers in the U.S., China, and other countries.”

Nahabedian bought a subscription to the *Militant*.

Workers unity against the bosses

SWP member Lisa Rottach reports that she and Dean Hazlewood took part in a solidarity rally March 28 in East Chicago, Indiana, for the 70 United Steelworkers Local 1011-09 members fighting for a new contract with Safety-Kleen.

“Thanks for coming out today,” Noel Muniz, a mechanic and secretary of the local, told them. “Unity is how we will achieve our goals. The rich

only care for the rich.”

“That’s true,” Rottach replied. “The capitalists worldwide organize to defend their interests. They have their governments, political parties, courts, armies and cops. My party says we must break with the Democrats and Republicans. The Socialist Workers Party is a party of working people, with an international working-class program.”

Muniz subscribed to the *Militant*, bought *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us: The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward* and *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch* and contributed to the Militant Fighting Fund.

To join the SWP campaign, contact the party branch nearest you listed on page 7. To contribute to the Militant Fighting Fund, send a check to the *Militant* at 307 W. 36th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018 or donate online at www.themilitant.com.

In his keynote address, “Authoritarian Shocks: Centralizing Control In and Over Hong Kong Since 2020,” professor John P. Burns described how the Xi regime in China systematically cracked down on political freedoms.

One of 70 publishing houses with booths at the gathering, Pathfinder Press attracted lively nonstop discussions. *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution* by Armando Choy, Gustavo Chui and Moisés Sío Wong, was the bestseller. One visitor sent a photo of the book to a friend in Cuba, who texted back saying, “that must be Pathfinder.”

A professor from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago picked up *Cosmetics, Fashion, and the Exploitation of Women*, which discusses how the capitalist cosmetics and fashion “industries” play on the emotional, sexual and economic insecurities of women and adolescents to generate profits, for possible use in his class. He also said he would help get more Pathfinder titles into the school library.

Looking at the book, a young woman from China said that to be considered attractive there women must maintain unblemished, white skin. This title was the second best seller.

A woman panelist who spoke on “Women Combatants in Myanmar,” bought two books on the role of women in Cuba’s socialist revolution — *Marianas in Combat* and *Women in Cuba:*

The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution — as well as a subscription to the *Militant*.

A Stanford University student involved in a fight to win a union for graduate student workers bought *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us*, which contains the Socialist Workers Party 2022 convention resolution. A worker at the conference center said she “loved” the books and the discussions she had at the booth, and will consider attending a Militant Labor Forum when she gets back to Cincinnati.

Happy to see the Pathfinder booth, a research analyst from Montreal said, “Given what’s happening in the world today, these books contain material that needs to be read.” He got a subscription to the *Militant* and a copy of *Fascism: What It Is and How to Fight It* by Leon Trotsky.

Another professor looking for books for her students bought *Out Now! A Participant’s Account of the Movement in the United States against the Vietnam War* by Fred Halstead and the Education for Socialist bulletins *Maoism vs. Bolshevism: The 1965 Catastrophe in Indonesia*, China’s “Cultural Revolution” and *The Disintegration of World Stalinism and Revolutionary Strategy in the Fight against the Vietnam War*.

Overall sales totaled 89 books, more than twice as many as sold at last year’s conference. This reflects the impact of the big changes taking place in the world today as the crisis deepens.

Socialist Workers Party Campaign Join in building the working-class alternative

California

Norton Sandler, governor
Laura Garza, mayor of Los Angeles
Eric Simpson, mayor of Oakland

Florida

Laura Anderson, mayor of Miami

Georgia

Susan LaMont, mayor of Atlanta

Minnesota

Kevin Dwire, mayor of Minneapolis
Edwin Fruit, Minneapolis City Council

New Jersey

Joanne Kuniarsky, governor
Craig Honts, lieutenant governor

New York

Paul Mailhot, mayor of New York City

Ohio

John Hawkins, mayor of Cincinnati
Ned Measel, Cincinnati City Council

Pennsylvania

Tony Lane, mayor of Pittsburgh

Texas

Alyson Kennedy, mayor of Fort Worth
Hilda Cuzco, Fort Worth City Council

Help put SWP on NJ ballot

Continued from front page

“Our campaign couldn’t be more timely,” Kuniansky said when she and Honts spoke to the *Militant* March 30. “More workers are giving a hearing to a party that tells the truth about the deepening assaults on our jobs, living standards and working conditions, and that speaks out boldly in opposition to capitalist rule.”

The campaign will be an important vehicle for getting the SWP more widely known, to involve others in its activities and to find those interested in joining.

“The SWP is the only party that explains that the economic crises and wars shaking the world are an inevitable product of the workings of capitalism and the breakdown of the imperialist world order,” Kuniansky added. “That’s accelerated further since Moscow’s murderous invasion of Ukraine and Hamas’ Nazi-inspired pogrom against Jews in Israel.

“We say fundamental change is necessary and workers are capable of running society — from top to bottom — to meet the needs of toiling humanity and to put an end to the threat of new and more dangerous wars,” she said. “To do this, we need to build a party that can lead millions to take political power from the exploiting capitalist class into our own hands.”

“That sounds more and more needed and realistic to many workers today,” Honts added. “We explain that out of the upheavals created by the profit-driven workings of capitalism, the working class will have a chance to take politi-

cal power, opening the door to humanity moving forward.”

Progress in that direction begins with the experiences workers acquire in the class struggle here and around the world.

Kuniansky pointed to the working people who’ve taken to the streets in Gaza in recent days, chanting “Out, out, out Hamas,” and the hundreds of thousands protesting Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s assaults on political freedoms. “Our party starts with the world and points everywhere to workers’ common class interests,” she said.

“The confidence and combativity of working people in the U.S. has increased in the past few years too, as we use our unions to defend ourselves,” she said. In recent weeks Kuniansky and Honts have joined union rallies of flight attendants and postal workers fighting against the ravages of high prices and for better contracts and joined the picket line of Teamsters at 10 Roads Express.

They’ve built support for a New York conference demanding a halt to the U.S. rulers’ economic and political war against Cuba’s socialist revolution; joined an action in Teaneck, New Jersey, defending Israel’s right to exist as a refuge for Jews; and in Passaic, a march to defend the rights of immigrant workers.

A class break with capitalist parties

“Democrats are attacking the billionaires that Trump puts in his administration, but they had no problem with the bankers, bosses and landlords who backed them when they were in the White House,” Honts said.

“Wherever we go, we meet workers who are disgusted with the Democrats and Republicans,” Kuniansky said. “And they’re interested to find out their choices are not limited to having to pick the ‘lesser evil’ of the bosses’ two main parties, and that a working-class alternative — the SWP — exists.”

“There can be no effective fight to defend workers’ living standards, nor prevent the U.S. rulers’ wars, unless it’s also directed against both their parties,” Honts said.

“Our campaign for ballot status will be an opportunity to explain why workers and our unions need to break from relying on the Democrats and Republicans. The SWP is the party that workers need today and our campaign shows what can be done to build it,” he said.

Throughout April, party campaigners will be collecting 3,200 signatures, well over the 2,000 required, to show the support that exists for the party being on the ballot.

As they have in many other states, Democrats in New Jersey moved to increase the obstacles facing the SWP — and third capitalist parties — in seeking to get on the ballot. Gov. Philip Murphy signed a bill more than doubling the petitioning requirements earlier this year, a brazen attempt to



Militant/Terry Evans

Joanne Kuniansky, SWP candidate for New Jersey governor, with Joe Rutkoski, NALC Branch 38 president, at March 23 rally in Springfield, N.J., against threatened cuts in postal service.

tighten the Democrats’ and Republicans’ political monopoly.

Undeterred, Socialist Workers Party campaigners are speaking broadly to workers across the state, on their doorsteps, in Walmart parking lots and elsewhere to get the signatures required. A rally launching the campaign will feature Kuniansky, Honts and Paul Mailhot, the SWP candidate for mayor of New York, in Union City April 5.

The SWP has been on the ballot for president and for statewide office in New Jersey since 1948. It’s always used the campaigns to advance

a working-class road forward, to increase workers’ confidence in ourselves and fellow working people, and to show why the fight for workers to take power in the U.S. and advance the fight for a socialist world is both possible and necessary.

Join the SWP 2025 campaign! Introduce the party’s candidates to your family, friends, co-workers and neighbors, and join the party’s candidates as they talk to working people statewide. To help out, contact the SWP in New Jersey, New York and Philadelphia at the addresses listed on page 7.

Back BCTGM workers on strike

Continued from front page

port them. As the strikers and supporters picketed in front of the plant, passing drivers honked their horns, many waving and giving thumbs up.

“We had to come,” said Walter Brooks, chief steward of Local 81, who made the three-and-a-half-hour drive with two other members. “We will do anything we can to back up workers on strike.”

Ivan Caro, a miller at the plant, said millers currently make \$25 per hour. “That’s way below industry standard, and most other workers make only \$19 or \$20 per hour,” he said. “The company only offered us a \$1.60 raise over three years, but then they want to raise health insurance premiums so that’s no raise at all.”

Jacob Cusimano explained that on afternoon and night shift millers have to work alone in their building on a dangerous job. “They won’t hire people to replace those who quit or get fired and expect us to pick up the slack,” he said.

“We had to strike against these conditions,” Cusimano said. “No way we’re going back to work without a contract.”

Luke Moreland, a truck driver and warehouseman at the plant, said, “It makes so much difference when workers from other unions show up to support us.” He said workers from the nearby Kellogg’s cereal plant in Battle Creek stop by all the time.

Trevor Bidelman, BCTGM Local 3G business agent, told the *Militant* more than 150 workers at the Battle Creek plant voted to donate their strike fund money to the workers here. “That brings the strike pay for Knappen Milling workers up to \$500

a week,” he said. “Smaller strikes are harder to sustain, and we knew we could help.”

“Our brothers needed our help, and we came because we’re in this fight together,” said Sonya Munday, BCTGM Local 57 vice president. The Cincinnati unionists work at Kellanova, Kellogg’s snack division in that city. She made the four-and-a-half-hour trip with two other members of the local. “Companies follow each other, and we need to support our fellow workers,” she said. “Our strength is in our numbers.”

BCTGM International Representative Lisa Gregory said a GoFundMe is being set up to support the strikers, “and we’re encouraging locals to come up here because the solidarity is so important. If people can send supplies, please send them to the Local 3G office, basic necessities like toiletries, dog food, everything families need. We’re at our best when we’re all standing together.”

Join the picket line at 110 S. Water St. in Augusta. Send contributions to BCTGM Local 3G, 1006 N. Raymond Road, Battle Creek, MI 49014.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles
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Communist League candidates on the ballot

Philippe Tessier and Katy Le-Rougetel, Communist League candidates running in Montreal’s Bourassa and Dorval-Lachine-LaSalle ridings, have been certified on the ballot in the April 28 federal elections.

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

March 22-May 20 (week one)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Fund received
UNITED STATES						
Atlanta	55	9	55	7	\$10,000	\$300
Chicago	65	14	65	8	\$13,500	\$0
Cincinnati	50	10	50	8	\$5,000	\$0
Fort Worth	60	16	60	14	\$5,000	\$1,010
Los Angeles	100	17	100	46	\$15,500	\$50
Miami	30	1	30	4	\$5,000	\$150
Minneapolis	65	19	65	14	\$5,500	\$1,645
N. New Jersey	70	14	70	19	\$7,500	\$1,430
New York	90	22	90	32	\$20,500	\$2,506
Oakland	80	20	80	32	\$15,000	\$5,200
Philadelphia	50	12	50	7	\$5,500	\$0
Pittsburgh	50	14	50	6	\$6,000	\$0
Seattle	60	7	60	6	\$15,000	\$0
Washington	45	5	50	0	\$4,500	\$150
Other		0		0		\$0
Total U.S.	870	180	875	203	\$133,500	\$12,441
Prisoners		27				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	45	12	45	8	\$3,000	
Manchester	40	15	40	37	\$1,200	\$25
Total U.K.	85	27	85	45	\$4,200	\$25
Canada	90	18	100	20	\$11,850	\$1,250
Australia	30	5	30	5	\$4,500	\$600
Total	1,075	257	1,090	273	\$154,050	\$14,316
SHOULD BE	1,300	163	1,300	163	\$165,000	\$20,625

New protests against Hamas

Continued from front page

role of the reactionary bourgeois regime in Iran in backing Hamas, its dictatorial rule and their common aim of eliminating Israel and the Jews.

The protests show how the blows Israeli forces have dealt to Hamas have widened space for working people in Gaza.

After the protests Hamas thugs murdered at least six of the leaders and brutalized others, slandering them as Israeli agents, hoping to once again intimidate the people of Gaza into drawing back and staying silent.

One of those murdered by the Hamas death squads was 22-year-old Oday Nasser al-Rabay, a resident of Gaza City. He was kidnapped March 28, tortured for four hours, dragged by a rope around his neck and beaten with clubs and metal rods in front of passersby.

But if Hamas thought this would silence his family, they were mistaken. Al-Rabay's family led a funeral procession through the streets of Gaza City March 29 chanting "Hamas out," and made a video denouncing Hamas.

"These unjust criminals who unjustly killed this Muslim must be held accountable," one of his relatives says in the video.

Debate in Israel

The protests against Hamas have spurred further debate inside Israel over the road forward to preventing more anti-Jewish pogroms like the massacre of 1,200 people Hamas carried out Oct. 7, 2023, and how to defend Israel's existence as a refuge from Jew-hatred.

Some capitalist politicians in Israel claim "there are no innocents in Gaza" and that most Palestinians there supported the Oct. 7 slaughter of Jews.

But this is a slander, Hamas never had support from the majority of Gazans.

It could only maintain its dictatorial rule by routinely torturing and murdering its opponents, suppressing strikes and restricting women's rights. With funding from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, Hamas tried to inculcate school children with Jew-hatred and win its supporters to embracing "martyrdom" in order to wipe Israel off the map.

"The protests now erupting are not happening in a vacuum," well-known Israeli journalist Nadav Eyal wrote in Ynet news March 27. "Many [Gazans] are weary of war, and many never supported Hamas to begin with."

This "doesn't mean they've become pro-Israel, especially amid Gaza's widespread devastation," Eyal said, but "they

are willing to take to the rubble-strewn streets to denounce an oppressive, murderous, genocidal regime."

An article by Seth Frantzman in the *Jerusalem Post* noted some of the obstacles working people in Gaza face, including the refusal of the most prominent Arab-language media like Al Jazeera to cover the widespread anger and opposition to Hamas. Many Arab governments "fear the street power of protesters more than they fear Hamas," he said.

The Jordanian government "may back the Palestinian Authority [Hamas' main rival], but they don't want protesters in their own country getting any ideas," he writes. Many governments also "saw the success of the Syrian revolution and how it led to the fall of the Assad regime, and they don't want to end up like Bashar al-Assad."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu saluted the protests. "We have seen something we have never seen before — public protests against Hamas rule in Gaza," he said. "This shows that our policy is working," referring to the stepped-up military action aiming to disable Hamas in Gaza.

The willingness of working people in Gaza to fight to get Hamas' boot off their necks is a positive sign for the class struggles that lie ahead. The need to unify working people in common actions to defend our class interests, and to take on and defeat Jew-hatred and all national oppression will be crucial to working people making progress.

On March 22 tens of thousands in Israel joined protests organized by Netanyahu's political rivals, demanding he halt the war, negotiate with Hamas and make freeing the remaining hostages the top priority, instead of dismantling Hamas. The editors of liberal bourgeois media like the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* give the impression that these protests have broad support. In reality they reflect the views of a mostly middle-class minority.

Big support in Israel to end Hamas

Working people in Israel overwhelmingly support the renewed offensive. They know that if Hamas is not dismantled, it will reorganize and carry out more and bloodier pogroms in the future. Under the impact of Hamas' continuing vows to carry out more massacres of Jews, even some bourgeois liberal Israeli opponents of Netanyahu are beginning to recognize reality.

"Israel's objective is clear:

Farmers in Isfahan, Iran, demand water, rights



Hundreds of farmers in eastern Isfahan province in Iran have been protesting over the failure of government authorities to ensure their access to water for their crops. They've been fighting for over two decades for the government to release more water to the Zayandeh Rood River from dams upriver.

Farmers say that government mismanagement and diversion of the water to industry and a neighboring province have made the drought, the result of a long-term decline in rainfall, much worse. Since 2000 the river, which runs through the city of Isfahan — the third-largest in Iran — has been almost completely dry.

The latest round of daily protests began March 29, above, and grew larger by April 1.

For years the government has promised to solve the problem. "We heard only lies!" the farmers said. "They said it was a drought, but the mafia [a reference to corrupt government officials] and industries are getting their fill of our share." This protest "is not just for water, it is a battle for justice, livelihood and survival."

— SETH GALINSKY

ensure that Hamas can no longer function as an organized terrorist entity," says a March 19 editorial by the *Jerusalem Post*, which has previously been virulently opposed to Netanyahu and his conduct of the war. This requires "a refusal to engage in futile negotiations that only serve to prolong Hamas' grip on power."

Stop Tehran having nuclear weapons

At the same time, the Israeli government is preparing steps to eliminate the threat posed by the Iranian regime's drive to get nuclear weapons. The rulers there repeatedly call for the destruction of the "Zionist entity." It's believed that Tehran could manufacture enough weapons-grade fuel for six nuclear weapons in a week if it decides to do so. That

would risk a new Holocaust in Israel.

The administration of Donald Trump has imposed new sanctions on Iran, looking to pressure Tehran into talks over its nuclear program.

But sanctions harm working people of all nationalities in Iran, who are the main obstacle to Tehran's attempts to extend its reactionary influence throughout the region, and are the most important ally of the toilers in Israel. Many working people in Iran see Hamas' war against the Jews and Tehran's attacks on their rights as two sides of the same coin.

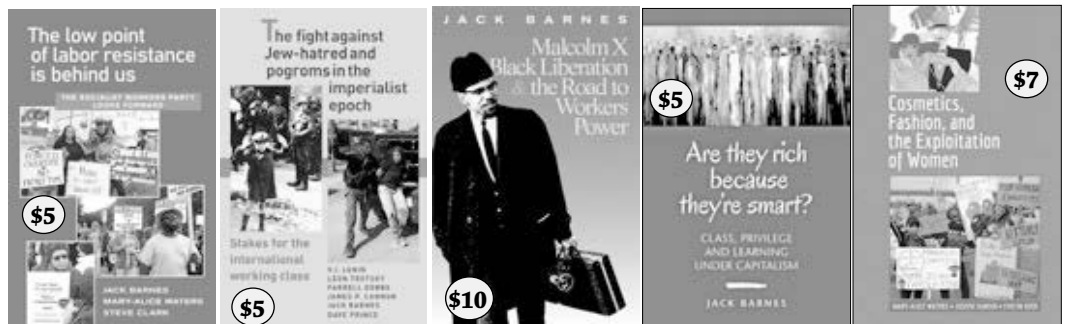
The Israeli government has made it clear that it will act militarily to prevent Tehran from acquiring even a single nuclear weapon. Ynet news April 1 published a list of the six main nuclear development sites in Iran.

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Thousands took to the streets of Beit Lahiya April 2 to demand Hamas get out of Gaza. Anger at Hamas for bringing destruction to Palestinians is growing.

Cuba's socialist revolution set example for toilers worldwide

The French edition of *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for April. Sixty-four years ago, Cuban workers and peasants in the Revolutionary Armed Forces and militias fought to defend their socialist revolution arms in hand, defeating the U.S.-backed mercenary invasion at the Bay of Pigs in less than 72 hours. This first military defeat of U.S. imperialism in the Americas electrified working people and youth there and around the world. The excerpt is from the chapter, "There will be a victorious revolution in the United States before a victorious counterrevolution in Cuba." Copyright © 2001 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Granma

Literacy brigade volunteers in Havana, 1961. Mass literacy campaign closed gap between town and country, cemented worker-peasant alliance, advanced road to Cuba's socialist revolution.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY JACK BARNES

In September 1960, addressing the United Nations General Assembly, Cuban prime minister Fidel Castro announced to the world: "In the coming year, our country intends to wage its great battle against illiteracy, with the ambitious goal of teaching every single illiterate person in the country" — one million Cubans, roughly one-third of the adult population — "to read and write." And that's exactly what they did, as some 100,000 young people, most of them teenagers, went to the countryside and lived and

worked alongside peasant families. ...

On April 15, 1961, when the Yankee-organized mercenaries announced their imminent invasion by simultaneously bombing three Cuban airfields, the revolutionary government mobilized the people's militias and other military units. In the declaration announcing that state of alert, Fidel Castro called on all Cubans to "occupy their assigned posts, whether in a military unit or a workplace" — and he added, in the same sentence, "with no interruption in production, the literacy campaign, or a single revolutionary task."

Four days later, when the counter-revolutionary forces had been defeated, the communiqué signed by Fidel reporting that victory to the Cuban people was demonstratively dated: "April 19, 1961, Year of Education." ...

Nineteen sixty-one in Cuba was the Year of Education in all the meanings of that word — the capacity to learn, to produce, to become a more disciplined revolutionary soldier, to create, to develop. The Year of Education meant making culture more accessible. It meant bravery in serving the highest human goals. It meant extending a hand of solidarity to anyone fighting against injustice and oppression anywhere in the world. It meant offering your life to achieve these goals.

Fidel Castro, Ernesto Che Guevara, and other leaders of the Cuban Revolu-

tion were very much aware that the greatest obstacle to the line of march of the toilers is the tendency, promoted and perpetuated by the exploiting classes, for working people to underestimate ourselves, to underestimate what we can accomplish, to doubt our own worth. That's why revolutionists in Cuba were so proud that the literacy effort had continued with minimal disruption as the battle against the invaders — a battle for the very life of the revolution — was fought and won. "The literacy campaign has not stopped even during these days," announced Fidel Castro in his April 23 report on the victory to the Cuban people.

Whatever any particular individual was doing over those three days, April 17-19 — whether deployed at the front, working in the fields or factories, or helping someone learn to read and write — the Cuban people felt the bond of a common battle waged by equals. A common bond that provided a basis for discipline, a basis for the shared joy of construction, the joy of creation, and the joy of victory in battle over those who sought to destroy everything their revolution was making possible.

What a moment for the people of Cuba to announce to the world the socialist character of the revolution! ...

The literacy campaign was central to strengthening the worker-peasant alliance on which revolutionary Cuba was founded; it was central to nar-

rowing the gulf between toilers in city and countryside. Peasants and their families in prerevolutionary Cuba had virtually no educational opportunities. This was especially true for women in rural areas. So the literacy campaign struck a mighty blow for the emancipation of women, too.

A central part of the education of every revolutionary-minded person is coming to recognize the terror, violence, and degradation on which the landlords and capitalists base their rule. That's one of the lessons underlined by José Ramón Fernández, commander of the main column that repelled the invaders at Playa Girón, in his July 1999 testimony before a Havana court during the trial of a lawsuit brought by the people of Cuba against the U.S. government for the thousands of deaths and massive physical destruction Washington's decades-long effort to destroy the Cuban Revolution has wrought.

In 1961 the literacy campaign volunteers were among those in Cuba against whom the U.S. government unleashed its counterrevolutionary assassins and torturers. As we explained in the foreword to *Playa Girón*, for young people in the United States during those opening years of the revolution, the press dispatches and photographs depicting "Cuban teenagers lynched for the crime of teaching peasant families to read and write" offered a graphic representation of the motives, the real character of the contending class forces confronting each other not just in Cuba but the world over.

Such images confirmed what young people in the United States in the early 1960s were learning here at home about the lynchings, night-riding terror, and police violence, both local and federal, against Blacks and civil rights fighters. This helped us understand the class reality that cop beatings, frame-ups, humiliations, and, yes, executions on the streets are part of the everyday life of millions of workers — daily horrors that bear down disproportionately on Blacks, Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, other oppressed nationalities, and immigrants. It opened our eyes slowly but surely to recognizing that the capitalist rulers will unleash fascist terror in face of a challenge to their rule by workers and farmers.

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5,000 march in California to defend immigrant rights

BY DEBORAH LIATOS

DELANO, Calif. — Over 5,000 workers marched here March 31, demanding rights for immigrant workers and protesting recent deportations and other attacks. Over 30 buses organized by the California Federation of Labor and other unions, as well as other organizations, brought workers from around the state — including Los Angeles, Oakland, Sacramento and San Diego — to make clear “an attack on one worker is an attack on all workers. Solidarity is our strength.”

In addition to the United Farm Workers union and a number of county labor federations, contingents included workers in the United Steelworkers, United Auto Workers, Teamsters, Service Employees International Union, UNITE HERE, teachers unions, and United Food and Commercial Workers.

The March for All Workers was organized by the United Farm Workers union, which was started here, and held on Cesar Chavez Day, an official holiday in California. Chavez helped

start up the UFW, which led battles to organize agricultural workers after its founding in 1962.

The 3-mile march wound through the community and local fields. It followed a similar route as Chavez’s funeral procession in 1994. Delano is in Kern County, where the Border Patrol has recently carried out immigration raids.

Farmworkers in California grow one-third of the country’s vegetables and three-fourths of its fruits and nuts. It is estimated that up to half of California’s farmworkers are undocumented.

Farmworker contingents

Contingents of farmworkers were spread throughout the march. Andrés Cruz Garcia has been a farmworker for 25 years in Monterey County. “Now there is a lot of fear. In Delano there have been deportations. Not in Monterey, but it is only three hours away,” Garcia told the *Militant*. “I have worked with the union because with his wife and there are rights and protections, health benefits and better wages.”

Farmworkers protest against ICE arrest of union leader

Continued from front page

translate for fellow workers in English, Spanish and Mixteca, the first language of many of the union members.

They won solidarity from other unions. The United Steelworkers opened their hall for the farmworkers to meet in, the longshoremen refused to load Sakuma berries onto cruise ships, and many other unionists attended their rallies, marches and other activities.

In September 2016 Familias Unidas won a union representation election by 192 to 52 at Sakuma Farms and then won their first contract the following June, only the second farm in Washington state to be organized by a union.

ICE agents took Juarez to a lockup in Ferndale, in the northwestern corner of the state. As soon as word got out about his arrest, a protest of more than 100 people was organized there.

Faviola Lopez and other members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 3000 joined the demonstration. “We are seeing an attack on union leaders who are in the immigrant community. We won’t stand for workers being attacked,” Lopez told the online *Salish Current*. “We should all stand together to make sure

people’s rights aren’t infringed on, and we all have our right to dignity in our workplace and in housing without being scared for our own safety.”

Tara Villalba, with Community to Community Development, an organization that has stood with Familias Unidas from the beginning, also spoke with *Salish Current*. “He’s part of all the organizing that happens in the farmworker community. He worked with daffodil and tulip cutters, and he works at Sakuma.”

Juarez was then taken to ICE’s Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma. The Washington State Labor Council sponsored a rally of more than 400 there March 27. The action protested ICE’s detention of Juarez as well as that of Lewelyn Dixon, a University of Washington lab technician and Service Employees International Union member. Dixon, a 50-year resident of the U.S. who has a green card, was detained when she returned from visiting her family in the Philippines.

“We are here in this moment because the stakes are clear,” Cherika Carter, secretary treasurer of the State Labor Council, told the crowd. “Our freedom to protest, to speak, to organize and to



Militant/Deborah Liatos
Over 5,000 workers march in Delano, California, March 31. They demanded rights for immigrant workers, protested recent deportations. Unionists brought solidarity from across state.

All of the farmworkers I talked to pointed to the importance of fighting to have a union. “I have worked four years without a union picking mandarins, garlic and chiles. With the union the pay is better,” Macario Bautista said. “This is my first time participating in a march.”

Felix Rodriguez, 30, a farmworker in Oxnard was marching with his wife and two young children. They both work at a strawberry farm. “They only

pay us \$2.40 for a flat of strawberries,” he said. “There has been no increase for three years, but the rent and the prices on everything have risen.”

Gabriel Calderon, a shop steward in Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Local 37, came on one of the buses organized by the Los Angeles Labor Federation. He attended with another co-worker from the bread plant where he has worked for five years.

“I’m here to support immigrants and the farmworkers union through my union, BCTGM,” he said. “My grandfather used to be a farmworker.”

Ramona Partida came to Delano on a bus organized from Los Angeles by UNITE HERE Local 11. “My first job when I came to the U.S. was working three years in the fields. I picked strawberries for \$1 for each little box. Many of the bosses yelled and tried to speed us up. They spoke loud and rude, disrespected and humiliated us.

“After moving to Los Angeles, I worked in a car wash and in restaurants, three jobs to survive. I now work in a restaurant in the Westin Bonaventure Hotel,” she said. “UNITE HERE Local 11 is my first union job. I get better wages and benefits because of the union.”

“But we won’t let it happen and we are not afraid,” she said. “When working-class people stand together we are a force that can’t be stopped.”

Community to Community Development is collecting funds for the defense of Alfredo “Lelo” Juarez. To contribute go to <https://www.foodjustice.org/donate-1>.

Immigrants’ rights march in Dallas says No! to deportations

BY JOSEFINA OTERO

DALLAS — Thousands joined the “2025 Mega March” for immigration reform organized by the League of United Latin American Citizens here March 30. The spirited protest marched through downtown Dallas to City Hall. Other participating organizations included Families United, Dallas AFL-CIO, Lideros comunitarios y activistas de Dallas (Community Leaders and Activists of Dallas), and the Socialist Workers Party.

The Regional Hispanic Contractors Association organized a bus that brought 50 workers in three trips to the march. The march was mostly Latinos, but also Black and Caucasian workers, who brought their families with them as well. ¡Si se puede! (yes we can) was a prominent chant during the march.

“Building the unity of the working class is a key question for the Socialist Workers Party,” this *Militant* reporter told Brenda Daeb, a four-year member

of the League of United Latin American Citizens, and Carmen Mejia, a LULAC volunteer. “That’s why we support amnesty for all those in the U.S. without papers. We are all part of the working class, and the unions must organize us all.”

Elena Hoffman from El Salvador, who now lives in Houston, came with her husband, one of the march organizers. “People from all over are affected by what is happening in their countries,” she said.

Alicia Isaar was just walking in downtown Dallas when she saw the march and joined it. Isaar, who is part Jewish, said she agreed with the SWP’s support for Israel’s right to defend itself as a refuge from Jew-hatred and pogroms.

“I think it is very important to be experiencing this march and it is meaningful for me to be here,” Nicholas Castillo, a college student and aspiring journalist from nearby Carrollton, told the *Militant*.

Wearing a “Todos somos America”

Cane cutters fight for pensions, rights in Dominican Republic

Continued from front page

ter and dirt roads that become a muddy mess when it rains. There are almost no medical clinics. Most can’t read or write. But by standing up for their rights, they show they’re not victims, but fighters.

It is not unusual for workers in their 80s to still work part time cutting cane to avoid eviction from company-owned housing. Several of these workers were brought up to the front of the room and introduced.

Núñez noted that Haitian-born workers and workers of Haitian descent are the overwhelming majority of cane cutters; as well as of farmworkers in rice, bananas, vegetables and other crops; and in construction and domestic workers. They and their children are a crucial component of the working class in the Dominican Republic. The struggle to end the discriminatory conditions they face is crucial for unifying working people.

In this fight, the government of President Luis Abinader backs the sugar bosses every step of the way. It added new restrictions on cane cutters getting their pensions, requiring them to obtain a Dominican residency ID, which is only valid for four years.

Some workers are still fighting to get a pension for the first time. For others the payments stopped when their ID residency expired and bureaucratic red tape make getting a renewal difficult.

The Sugarcane Workers Union was formed in 2009 and has led a series of battles — including organizing hundreds of demonstrations — succeeding in winning pensions and residency documents for thousands of Haitian cane cutters.

Threats of deportations

Every government in the Dominican Republic, no matter which capitalist party is in power, has fostered racism against workers of Haitian descent, seeking to divide and weaken the working class. This worsened after the country’s Constitutional Court ruled in 2013 that a reactionary reform to the Constitution that denied citizenship to those born to



Militant/Gerardo Sánchez
Cane cutters and members of international delegations at Sugarcane Workers Union conference in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, March 20. Union banner says, “The sugar industry and capitalist exploitation,” calls for “Pensions for cane cutters, for social security with dignity.”

“undocumented” Haitian parents was retroactive back to 1929.

Even after a law was passed a year later that opened a complicated path to legal residency, thousands — despite having been born in the Dominican Republic — find themselves threatened with deportation. So are new Haitian immigrants, who arrive in the country every day, fleeing increasingly dangerous conditions in Haiti.

Last October the Abinader government ordered the immigration police to start deporting 10,000 Haitians a week, aiming to instill fear among those who remain. While deportations rose, the roundups have fallen far short of that goal.

Núñez points out that while Haitian-born workers face the worst conditions, Dominican workers also face challenges getting pensions that are adequate in the face of today’s sky-high prices.

Sanctions lifted on sugar baron

The conference took place just one day after the U.S. government lifted its sanctions on Central Romana, the largest sugarcane plantation in the country, part-owned by the U.S.-based Fanjul family.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection had imposed the sanctions on the company. It said Central Romana withheld wages, imposed excessive overtime and other abusive working and living conditions.

Central Romana — which sells sugar in the U.S. under the Domino and

C&H brands — is the largest employer in the Dominican Republic, with more than 20,000 workers and its own private police force. Most workers live in the company’s 101 bateyes.

The U.S. sanctions had nothing to do with improving workers’ conditions. U.S. companies responded by importing more sugar from other Dominican sugar plantations that treat workers no better than Central Romana.

In anticipation of the lifting of the sanctions, Núñez reported, Central Romana started jacking up production and extending the workday. Workers start work “at 4 or 5 a.m. instead of 6. They aren’t getting back to the batey until 8 or 9 at night, instead of 6 p.m.,” he told the conference.

Bosses there have a long history of harassment against union supporters. Since 2018, “la Romana has kicked 129 union coordinators out of their homes in the bateyes,” Núñez said.

Company security prevented cane cutters from boarding a bus sent to take them to this conference, he reported. “The cutters had walked 7 kilometers [4.3 miles] since la Romana has banned buses from picking them up in the company-owned batey.” But the guards found out and went to the rendezvous point. “They told the bus driver that if he lets the workers on the bus, they would slash the tires.”

Learning about other struggles

The conference was an opportunity for the cane cutters to learn



Militant/Philippe Tessier
Cane cutters take the floor at meeting at Autonomous University of Santo Domingo March 21 to describe conditions they face, their fight for pensions, health care and against deportations in face of disregard for workers’ lives, attacks by Dominican government and sugar barons.

about struggles of working people in other countries. Israel Rousseau, general secretary of the National Union of Sugar Workers of Cuba; Dania Leyva, a leader of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers; Hebert Garrido, from the Association of Bank Workers of Uruguay; a delegation from the Socialist Workers Party in the U.S., including Rachele Fruit, Gerardo Sánchez and Seth Galinsky; and Philippe Tessier from the Communist League in Canada all gave greetings or made presentations at the conference. Sánchez is an organizer with Local 111 of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union in Fort Worth, Texas, and Tessier is a rail worker in Montreal. Fruit is a hotel worker and member of UNITE HERE.

Many cane cutters nodded their heads when Rousseau explained that before the 1959 Cuban Revolution, sugar workers there faced the same challenges they do. He described the historic changes in conditions made possible by the revolution, including workers control over safety.

‘Workers gain confidence’

“Workers around the world are gaining confidence that we can win through the solidarity we are extending to one another. You are part of this,” Fruit said during a talk March 21 based on the book *Capitalism’s World Disorder* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes. “Only the working class is capable of ending this system of exploitation and ushering in a new future for humanity.”

After Fruit’s talk, nearly a dozen cane cutters took to the floor to describe the conditions they face.

“I came in 1960,” 81-year-old Luis Lacare said. “I have a paper saying I am eligible for a pension. But they haven’t paid me for 10 years.”

“I was born in Haiti in 1954 and came here in 1959,” said Cedemena Seda. “I was raised here. My children were born here. I say I am from here.”

“I cut cane as if I were a man. I spread fertilizer as if I were a man. I planted cane as if I were a man,” she said. But the government and the bosses “look at us as if we are garbage.”

Pointing to gains made by working people from having a union, she said when she was a child “there was no school in the batey. But now my children can read.”

For a sliding scale of wages and hours

The following is an excerpt from the founding resolution of the Socialist Workers Party, written by Russian revolutionary Leon Trotsky and adopted in 1938. It addresses the centrality of the workers' movement taking on the fight against the twin scourges of unemployment and high prices.

Against a bounding rise in prices, which with the approach of war will assume an ever more unbridled character, one can fight only under the slogan of a *sliding scale of wages*. This means that collective agreements should assure an automatic rise in wages in relation to the increase in price of consumer goods.

Under the menace of its own disintegration, the proletariat cannot permit the transformation of an increasing section of the workers into chronically unemployed paupers, living off the crumbs of a disintegrating society. *The right to employment* is the only serious right left to the worker in a society based upon exploitation. This right today is being shorn from him at every step. Against unemployment, "structural" as well as "conjunctural," the time is ripe to advance, along with the slogan of public works, the slogan of a *sliding scale of working hours*. Trade unions and other mass organizations should bind the workers and the unemployed together in the solidarity of mutual responsibility. On this basis all the work on hand would then be divided among all existing workers in accordance with how the extent of the working week is defined. The average wage of every worker remains the same as it was

under the old working week. Wages, with a strictly guaranteed *minimum*, would follow the movement of prices. It is impossible to accept any other program for the present catastrophic period.

All out on May Day!

The sizable, labor-backed marches supporting the rights of immigrants in Delano, California, and Dallas, Texas, are an example for the entire labor movement. They brought together thousands of workers to protest against deportations. Socialist Workers Party members urging amnesty for all immigrants in the U.S. to help unite the working class won widespread support.

The same spirit and labor participation marked protests in Washington state against the Immigration and Customs Enforcement's arrest of farmworker union leader Alfredo "Lelo" Juarez.

Bosses' superexploitation of workers without papers is an important source for their profits. At the same time, the capitalist rulers try to turn native-born against immigrant workers, to prevent common action against their real enemy — the bosses and their government.

Labor must take on and rebut every one of the rulers' attempts to divide us. Fighting for an amnesty for workers in the U.S. without papers helps lift the fear of deportation that hangs over millions and strengthens labor's ranks for the battles to come.

Build on these actions by spreading the word about coming protests to mark International Workers Day, May 1!

Ukraine toilers fight to defend nat'l sovereignty

Continued from front page

southeast is faltering as Russian workers in uniform are exhausted by staggering losses in troops and equipment.

Putin announced March 28 that he refuses to negotiate anything with the Zelensky government in Ukraine, calling for a new U.N.-run government to replace it and discuss a ceasefire.

Kyiv denounced the proposal. Trump condemned it as well, and two days later threatened to impose secondary tariffs on countries importing Russian oil, especially China and India.

Ceasefire proposals discussed earlier, to stop the two sides targeting energy infrastructure and for a Black Sea truce, have not been implemented.

Kyiv's missile and drone strikes have driven Russia's Black Sea navy from its base in Sevastopol on the Crimean Peninsula. Ukraine's grain exports are nearly back to prewar levels. Cargo ships travel close to the country's coast, protected by its navy.

In return for a maritime ceasefire, Moscow called on European and other capitalist powers to lift financial sanctions on Russia. Putin's goal is to revive Moscow's economic reach. The fact is, sanctions — a favorite tool of imperialist powers — fall hardest on working people and are an obstacle to forging unity between workers in Russia and fellow working people in Ukraine and around the world.

Leaders of more than two dozen European governments met at a Paris summit March 27, declaring now was "not the time" to end their sanctions against Russia.

Trump is also pressuring Kyiv to accept a new deal allowing far-reaching U.S. control over Ukraine's lucrative critical minerals and energy assets, but without Washington providing any security guarantees to Kyiv. The White House says this shift would deter future aggression by Moscow.

The deal would cover all mineral resources, including oil and gas, and major energy assets, including nuclear power plants, across all of Ukraine. Ukrainian officials say it would undermine their nation's sovereignty, deepen Kyiv's dependence on Washington and deal blows to the devastated country's economy. Washington and Moscow are also exploring a deal to jointly exploit Russian rare earth minerals.

Washington hopes to impose stability for its own political and economic interests by ending the larg-

est ground war in Europe since World War II. Trump hopes to pull off a peace deal and normalize relations with Putin's regime, opening the door to blunt Moscow's growing ties to Beijing, Washington's main global adversary.

Putin: 'We'll finish them off'

Putin reaffirmed March 28 that Moscow's aim was to conquer Ukraine. "There are reasons to believe that we will finish them off," he said, claiming Moscow was "moving toward achieving all the goals stated at the beginning of the special operation" — Moscow's euphemism for its bloody invasion.

His regime is planning to increase the size of its military forces to 2.39 million, up 180,000, over the next three years. This spring's annual call-up of conscripts aged 18 to 30 will be the largest in 14 years.

Capitalist powers everywhere are rearming for new wars. A "peace" settlement imposed by Washington that violates Ukrainian sovereignty will contain the seeds of future conflicts.

The rulers of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania fear Moscow's expansionist course will target them after a ceasefire. The three Baltic states were incorporated into the Soviet Union during World War II. They regained independence in the 1990s after the Soviet Union disintegrated.

Moscow tightens grip in occupied areas

Around 6 million people, including 1.5 million children, now live under Moscow's boot in parts of Ukraine under occupation. The Russian regime "has been foisting its citizenship on Ukrainians living in occupied territory since 2014, with the measures of coercion becoming more aggressive after its full-scale invasion of Ukraine," Halya Coynash wrote in the March 24 Kharkiv Human Rights newsletter.

Putin is targeting people in these areas for his upcoming conscription drive.

Ukrainian parents in occupied areas may lose custody of their children unless at least one has a Russian passport to register them for school.

Putin recently ordered Ukrainian citizens in the occupied territories to either "legalize" their immigration status by getting Russian passports or get out by Sept. 10.

Meanwhile, Moscow is organizing an influx of Russian citizens to the territory it has seized.

Court orders San Jose strikers back to work



Militant/Betsey Stone

Members of Amalgamated Transit Union in San Jose picket March 17. Judge ordered strikers back to work March 26.

BY BETSEY STONE

SAN JOSE, Calif. — The 17-day strike of public transit workers here ended abruptly March 26 after a Santa Clara County judge ordered the strikers back to work. It was a blow to the 1,500 bus drivers, light-rail workers and other members of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 265 who maintained strong picket lines and won widespread support throughout their strike.

Just two days before the back-to-work order, the workers had voted by 83% to reject the latest offer by the Valley Transportation Authority. "We were hoping to stay out as long as we could so we could negotiate a good contract," striker Jose Salas told KTVU Fox News after hearing of the judge's order. "But obviously the judge ordered us back to work, siding with the VTA."

"Shame on the VTA for challenging and backtracking on our members' protected right to strike," Amalgamated Transit Union International President John Costa said in a statement released by Local 265. "This court ruling is not the end, and fight is far from over." The union plans to appeal.

A suit challenging the union's right to strike was filed by the Valley Transportation Authority March 10, the first day of the strike. The argument used was bogus, claiming a no-strike pledge in the expired contract continues to apply. Superior Court Judge Daniel T. Nishigaya scheduled a court hearing for March 26, where he ordered the strikers back to work.

In negotiations during the strike the transit company offered a wage increase of 11% over three years. But what fueled the 83% no vote was not the modest wage raise but the bosses' demand for take-aways on the handling of grievances and overtime policies, as well as the refusal of the VTA to sign an agreement assuring workers wouldn't be disciplined or sued for going on strike.

The vote also reflected workers' anger at the bosses' campaign in the media painting the strikers as greedy and uncaring about the riders. The day before the court hearing, San Jose Mayor Matthew Mahan joined in, attacking the strikers in an op-ed piece claiming the company's offer was "generous" and claiming that meeting the strikers' demands would mean slashing service and raising rates.

"My opinion is the VTA was stalling in the negotiations, hoping for the decision by the judge," bus driver and trainer Rafael Arguello told the *Militant* March 30.

This was the first strike by this union and for most of the workers. Strikers told the *Militant* how proud they were seeing the unity forged on the picket lines and the bonds they will carry with them as they return to work.

"The transit workers in San Jose are the latest of many examples in the U.S. and elsewhere of workers facing attacks on the right to strike," Eric Simpson, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Oakland, told the *Militant*. He had visited the picket line and campaigned in support of their strike. "The VTA board's outrageous attack on the workers and the smearing of their motives by the Democratic Party mayor underlines the need for our unions to break from supporting the parties of the bosses," he said. "We need to challenge their rule at the political level as well as on the picket line."