



# THE SOCIALIST

Magazine of the Socialist Party USA May-June 2005 Volume 31, Number 2

\$1.00



**INSIDE: TACO BELL BOYCOTT VICTORY \* VERMONT SAYS BRING OUR TROOPS HOME!\* OPPOSING MILITARY RECRUITMENT \* LGBTQ ACTIVISM \* LOCAL REPORTS \* POETRY \* AND MORE!**

# THE SOCIALIST

Editorial Staff

## Editor/Layout

Greg Pason

## Editorial Board

Mark Alper  
Michael Baker  
Mary Loritz  
James Marra  
Tina Phillips  
Steve Rossignol

## Contact the SP USA

### Socialist Party USA

339 Lafayette St. #303  
New York, NY 10012  
Phone/Fax: (212) 982-4586  
NatSec@sp-usa.org  
www.sp-usa.org

## Submissions

### Send all correspondence to:

The Socialist  
c/o 339 Lafayette St. #303  
New York, NY 10012

Articles may be submitted in print or on IBM-compatible disk, or by e-mail to natsec@sp-usa.org. The views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Editorial Board of The Socialist or the Socialist Party USA.

## Subscription Rates

1 year individual \$10  
1 year institution \$25

**Cover Art:** Photo of striking C.I.W. worker by Steve Sears



# THE SOCIALIST

May-June 2005 Volume 31, Number 2

## MAY DAY 2005

The May Day issue of The Socialist was produced by the National Secretary and National Office Volunteers.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### 3 TACO BELL BOYCOTT VICTORY

*By Steve Sears*

### 4 OPPOSING MILITARY RECRUITMENT WHEREVER IT IS

*By Tom Keenan*

### 5 FROM SDS TO NCOR: SOCIALISM, ANARCHISM AND BERNARDINE DOHRN

*By Tom Good*

### 7 IWW CENTENNIAL: 1905 – 2005

*By Harry Siitonen*

### 8 WHY A SOCIALIST PARTY QUEER COMMISSION?

*By Steven Donahue*

### 9 ARTS & CULTURE

*By the SP USA Arts & Culture Commission*

### 10 VERMONT SAYS BRING OUR TROOPS HOME!

*By Mary Alice Herbert*

### 13 FAITH & SOCIALISM

*By Antonio Salas*

### 14 NEWS FROM SP USA LOCALS

### 15 SOCIALIST PARTY USA DIRECTORY

## From the Socialist Party USA Statement of Principles

*The Socialist Party strives to establish a radical democracy that places people's lives under their own control; where working people own and control the means of production through democratically elected bodies; where full employment is realized for everyone who wants to work; where workers have the right to form unions freely, and to strike and engage in other forms of job actions; and where the production of society is used for the benefit of all humanity, not for the private profit of a few. We believe socialism and democracy are one and indivisible.*

## TACO BELL BOYCOTT VICTORY!

By Steve Sears

On April 1<sup>st</sup> 2001, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) announced a boycott of Taco Bell after almost a year of requesting their assistance in improving wages and working conditions in the Tomato fields of South Florida. As we stood around that Orlando Taco Bell after the announcement, we all knew we would see victory, but no one could guess when. The when turned out to be almost four years later in Louisville, Kentucky on March 8, 2005. Lucas Benitez, co-founder of the CIW, announced the end of the boycott at a press conference at YUM! Brands headquarters. YUM! Brands is the largest restaurant corporation in the world and the parent company of Taco Bell, KFC, Pizza Hut, A&W, and Long John Silvers. After four years of education and actions around the country, Taco Bell had finally agreed that they are responsible for the conditions and the pay in the fields of South Florida.

The Coalition of Immokalee Workers is a community-based worker organization. Its members are largely Latino, Haitian, and Mayan Indian immigrants working in low-wage jobs throughout the state of Florida. The CIW was formed in 1993 to work on improving the community and the lives of farmworkers. In just a few short years, the CIW was able to organize three general strikes and a 30 day hunger strike by six workers. These actions brought about an end to the declining wages and brought industry-wide raises of 13-25%. But this only resulted in bringing wages back to pre-1980 wages and a yearly average of only \$7500, well below the poverty line.

While continuing to organize for fairer wages, they also turned their attention to attacking involuntary servitude in Florida. From 1998 to the present, the CIW has helped free over 1200 workers from five slavery rings operating in the fields of South Florida. The latest case came in November of 2002 when three crew leaders from Lake Placid, Florida were convicted of forcing 700 workers into slave labor in Florida's citrus groves. They were sentenced in May, 2004, to a total of 31 years and nine months in federal prison, and were ordered to forfeit \$3 million in proceeds from their immigrant smuggling operation. In 2003, three members of the CIW became the first U.S. based human rights defenders to be awarded the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award.

Farmworkers in Immokalee earn about \$.40 -.45 per 32-35 LB bucket of tomatoes picked. This means that they must pick and haul two tons (125 buckets) just to earn \$50. Many days, workers walk home with much less. Arising at 4am, they gather downtown where the buses will pick them up. They arrive not knowing if they will be able to find work or not. If luck is with them, they will board a bus or truck and spend sometimes up to 2 or more hours driving to the fields. They are not paid for the drive. Once they arrive, they may have to wait for the dew to dry or even loose the entire day if the weather goes bad. They work as long as they are told

and receive no overtime. If they refuse to work late, they will find no work in the future. They have no right to organize, no benefits, no pension and no sick leave. There use to be beatings in the field, but that ended after 600 CIW members marched to a crew leader's house after he beat a worker for drinking water. When they informed the community that if you beat one of us, you beat all of us, crew leaders listened and there has not been a single incident since. Greg Asbed, lead organizer for the CIW told me they still have that worker's bloody shirt so all workers will remember.

The Taco Bell boycott has gained tremendous student, religious, labor, and community support in the years since its inception, including the establishment of boycott committees in nearly all 50 states and a fast-growing movement to "Boot the Bell" from college and high school campuses across the country. By the end of the boycott, 22 campuses had "Booted the Bell" costing untold amounts of money and negative publicity for Taco Bell. In 2003 one of the largest hunger strikes in labor history took place at the Taco Bell HQ in Irvine, CA. Seventy-Five farmworkers and students fasted for 10 days, galvanizing support from around the country. During this whole time, the CIW asked Taco Bell Executive's one question "Can Taco Bell guarantee its customers that the tomatoes in its tacos were not picked by forced labor?" The answer was silence. The 2004 Truth Tour visited both YUM! Brands HQ in Louisville, KY and Taco Bell HQ in Irvine, CA and featured marches and actions across the country.



photo by Steve Sears

The CIW organizing model is simple: educate and activate. They spend most of their time talking to college students and church members about the conditions they live in daily. They have formed alliances with major religious organizations such as the National Council of Churches, the United Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), United Church of Christ, Pax Christi USA and others. They are endorsed by Labor Unions, Student and Global Justice groups as well as individuals such as Noam Chomsky, Kerry Kennedy, Tom Morello, Eric Schlosser, and many others.

**Continued on page 4**

# OPPOSING MILITARY RECRUITMENT, WHEREVER IT IS

*Bu Tom Kennan*

*Ed. Note: Tom Keenan is a student at William Paterson University (WPU) in Wayne New Jersey, who was recently arrested for "trespassing" for leafleting against military recruiters at his school. Tom's case came two days after the Socialist Party of New Jersey and North Jersey Anti-Racist Action helped organize an anti-recruitment teach-in at the school. Tom's case spun into a student movement at WPU and built solidarity among students and community activists in the Paterson/Wayne area.*

The military ceases to effectively present itself as a tool of defending people, and keeping peace. Instead it outright parades itself as a delivery system for American Businesses into foreign economies. Therefore, those that recruit are finding it harder and harder to make the role of soldier very attractive. They can't very well tell them the truth: that they'll be asked to kill and die in the interest of Globalization, Racism, Capitalism, and the expansion of American Imperial Power. So they dress it up the best they can. One popular way to appeal to potential recruits is to tell them about how they can pursue their current interests, just in the military. I'm talking about attracting musicians to come play in the Marine Corps Band, nurses to join as medical aid, journalists to work in propaganda, etc. Unfortunately for those who fall for this, the job you enlist to do is not guaranteed as the job you will end up doing. Drummers enlist to play music and end up driving tanks. And this is compounded when said drummer finds out that though his enlisted time is up, he is being retained indefinitely by the military body he enlisted with. So when someone asks me what I was doing protesting the military recruiters at a career fair for nursing students, I remind them of that fact.

I can't go into the details of the events that led up to my arrest, because they have been touched on in media sources and because the case is still pending. I do want to touch on why it is a necessity to oppose military recruitment in all its forms, with all its promises and lies, in every medium it pokes its large and ugly, carpet bombing head. There is no benign recruitment, because it all contributes to that machine. Whether you're a rifleman, sniper, drummer or photographer, you have become part of that delivery system; that corrupted body. So as those who oppose militarism and its means of continuation, military recruitment, we are obligated to confront and protest it in all its forms. At every job fair, at every high school, at every mall and recruiting station, we have to make our presence known.

With my arrest and the following brutality/charges against students at City College of New York, for protesting military recruitment at their university job fair, it's becoming clear that to oppose recruiters is becoming dangerous. The military is nervous; they aren't meeting their quotas of bodies. So how do we respond? More people, more attention, more action.

The increased intensity by recruiters and other representatives of the state to silence and neutralize us is a sign that what we're doing is working, and what they're doing is rapidly falling apart. They cannot wage a war without support abroad AND without support at home. These are drastic times, and increased measures must be taken to show the dissenting public's commitment to ending American Imperialism

*Tom Keenan is a member of North Jersey Anti-Racist Action. [www.anti-racist.org](http://www.anti-racist.org)*

## TACO BELL BOYCOTT VICTORY

*Continued from page 3*

Their demands on the industry are very simple and have not changed since their first letter to Taco Bell:

1. Pay one penny more per pound of tomatoes and ensure this penny is passed to farmworkers,
2. Arrange three way talks between the fast food industry, the growers and the CIW.
3. Change their Supplier Code of Conduct to include language on indentured servitude and stronger enforcement policy.

All three of these demands were met by YUM! Brands and Taco Bell. In addition, YUM! agreed to work with the CIW to pass legislation in Florida to improve conditions in the fields. YUM! also agreed to work with the CIW in convincing the rest of the fast food industry. Another part of the agreement establishes a process for farmworkers to file complaints, which would be investigated by Yum! and the coalition. If companies violated policies, Taco Bell would stop doing business with them. The agreement represents an immediate wage increase for workers who have had stagnant wages for more than 25 years.

What's next for the CIW? Their anti-slavery work will continue with the help of the many student and religious groups who have supported them over the years. The campaign for Fair Food not Fast Food will also continue with new details to be released soon. When I spoke to members on the way home from Louisville, no one could tell me exactly where this campaign will go next. But, I was continuously told that the next target would be "an industry leader who would help move others." Take that however you wish, but may I suggest if you like Big Mac's, you may want to get one soon.

They have created a model based on the IWW of old and used it to bring down a giant of the fast food industry.

*Steve Sears is currently the Chairperson of the Socialist Party of Florida.*

## From SDS to NCOR: Socialism, Anarchism and Bernardine Dohrn

By Thomas Good

Growing up during the Sixties and early Seventies I was an admirer of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS). Participatory democracy as an internal structure for a political organization and as a model for deepening democracy in the United States had tremendous appeal. Despite being a few years too young to participate in SDS I nonetheless felt a part of the Movement and a personal regard for Bernardine Dohrn: "La Pasionara of the Lunatic Left" as she was called by J. Edgar Hoover. She was attractive, flamboyant and brilliant as the spokesperson for the resistance. I was impressed with her revolutionary fervor and, being an adolescent, smitten as well.

However, SDS fractured in 1969 and in 1970 the leadership (the Weatherman faction) went underground to pursue Armed Propaganda as a means of conveying their revolutionary message. When Vietnam ended in 1975 the Weather Underground Organization (WUO) lost a lot of their impetus and the peace movement itself seemed to grind to a halt. Many activists, myself included, joined socialist organizations in order to continue the struggle. Although The War had ended, the Empire was not dismantled and it used various lethal methods to continue State policy by other means. It had to be resisted, even with our depleted numbers.

After the seizure of power by the Bush forces in 2000 and the flagrant violation of international law embodied in the invasion and annexation of Iraq, the Old Left, many New Leftists and the Anarchist Resistance took to the streets. In my own experience, as we all sat together in jail, during the 2004 Republican National Convention, solidarity was very evident. In the grime of Pier 57 sat 70 year old Quakers, middle-aged New Leftists, Old Left socialists, and large numbers of young anarchists. In this climate I witnessed the beginnings of a dialogue between the old and new guard.

### NCOR

Since 1998, American University in Washington, D.C. has been the site of the National Conference on Organized Resistance (NCOR), an event designed to "provide a space for activists to meet each other, have in-depth discussions, analyze our strategies, tactics, beliefs, learn a few new skills, and give everyone a lot to think about".

Myself and one other member of Socialist Party USA which journeyed to the 2005 National Conference on Organized Resistance (NCOR). We intended to table there as a means of building our upcoming direct actions. {2} But we were also keenly interested in attending a workshop entitled: "Comparing Radical Traditions: A Democratic Socialist-Anarchist Dialogue. The workshop was being led by Lucas Shapiro, a Young Democratic Socialists leader with an impressive resume. I was personally hopeful that the dialogue I witnessed at Pier 57

could be replicated on a much larger scale. The workshop was a very big draw, much to the surprise of the presenters. Sitting cross-legged on the floor, my comrade Sam and I listened as the basic arguments of the YDS folks were laid out. Unfortunately the focus appeared to be on the issue of whether the State was essential to the continuation of various basic services (such as sewage disposal, etc). This narrow focus caused some restlessness within the audience, largely young and anarchist. It also was revealing in the sense that the YDS presenters appeared to be unable to conceptualize a social order born of a revolutionary change rather than a series of incremental reforms. More significant was the fact that by zeroing in on anti-statist versus social democratic viewpoints no dialogue on practical matters occurred.



*Bernardine Dohrn at NCOR photo by Tom Good*

This issue was raised as an obviously heartfelt plea by a young anarchist sister who complained of being tired of rehashing the same old divisive arguments and who clearly wanted to know how the Left could work together. I spoke at this point suggesting that the SP was very eager to hear what our friends in the anarchist community had to say and that we are extremely interested in working together. I did not expect much in the way of response, but to my surprise the response was very positive and several anarchist brothers and sisters requested the url of our website.

Sunday morning, after some tabling and conversation with other activists Sam and I located the lecture room where Bernardine was speaking. We got there early (for once) and secured seats in the second row.

**Continued on page 6**

DIRECT ACTION



TENDENCY

**Yours In The Struggle  
And In The Streets. May  
Day Greetings From The  
Direct Action Tendency**

[www.actiontendency.net](http://www.actiontendency.net)

**Continued from page 5**

Bernardine was introduced as a former SDS/WUO leader, a professor of law at Northwestern University and child's rights activist, a mother of three and lastly, a grandmother - at which point she smiled and raised both fists in the air in celebration. She began her talk with some obviously sincere praise for the activists in the room: "You're doing great! We are hoping to join you (in the struggle)". "We are living with a permanent war...and a...national security state. How do we go towards building a radical movement?", she asked. "Today the US spends as much (on the military) as all of the other countries of the world combined. Why? There are three reasons: to control the world's resources; to police unfriendly or terrorist regimes (and); to dominate markets".

Dohrn spoke about the World Social Forum where the idea that the US and its ideology of consumerism, its belief that "this is the only game in town, that this is the dominant ideology" was effectively challenged. She urged the activists present to reject this ideology and to work to overcome the geographic illiteracy that afflicts all Americans, and to overcome the memory loss this illiteracy facilitates: "We have a kind of amnesia about the rest of the world". Dohrn put a question to the audience: "Can you name the six nations that border Iraq?" No one activist could do it but working together the audience was able to name these countries. Dohrn saluted this...and spoke about the Iraq invasion: "This incredible, illegal, immoral war in Iraq (has produced) over 1100 US dead". Returning to US amnesia and ignorance of other cultures Dohrn spoke about the fact that the Vietnam and Iraq wars, despite many differences, "in some ways are eerily similar". Both nations are "countries with an ancient civilization". Iraq she added, "is the cradle of civilization", a fact completely devalued and ignored by the US. This myopia has lethal consequences: "the bombing and devastation in Fallujah is the Guernica of our time", Dohrn said. This cannot stand, she argued, urging a redefinition of 'terrorism' from a "humanist" point of view: Terrorism is systemic violence against civilians." Further stripping away any mystification, Dohrn noted that, from the US point of view: "Terrorism means any opposition to the US government."

Turning to what is going on internationally; Bernardine noted that the unlawful detention of political prisoners of Arab descent in the US has produced "show trials of Arabs (which) have produced nothing". Yet no one here speaks up, none question these arrests either in the US or in the "little puppy dog of the United States, England". "We need to know what is happening in Mosul, in San Quention, Attica..." she intoned. She spoke about struggling to free political prisoners who had challenged US ideology and been jailed for it. She spoke of the plight of all political prisoners and prisoners of (class) war here in the US who have been "excluded, marginalized". "In prison we have the modern day equivalent of slavery", she noted. She urged intensifying efforts to free some prominent political prisoners like Leonard Peltier and David Gilbert.

Speaking about the need for unity and reconciliation within the Left, Dohrn pointed out that one glaring failure of the Sixties was the ostracizing of veterans. She noted

that Black vets in particular had allot to offer in terms of educating those youth who might be lured into military service.

Turning to alternative models of development in the world, Dohrn spoke about Venezuela as a counterpoint to US cultural hegemony. In Venezuela she pointed out a "Democratic, Peaceful, Bolivarian, Revolutionary" government is feeding the people and providing healthcare, thanks to the presence of Cuban doctors. Noting that we must all struggle together towards this and other anti-imperialist, anti-consumerist models of development Dohrn stated that "under one big tent" is how we must carry the struggle forward. We must remember that "the Black freedom movement" is the cornerstone of our struggle, she insisted. She noted that "we need three things: organizing, activism and education". All three must be present for us to be effective she added.

Concluding her remarks, Bernardine emphasized that the young are the hope and expressed gratitude that the Sixties generation might be allowed to play a role in the struggle by "riding on your coattails". Dohrn mentioned a tidal wave of change that will yet bring about a better world. She leaned forward and said: "You're part of that tidal wave, I thank you!"

**Conclusion**

Journeying home, Sam and I discussed our upcoming direct actions and also the need to continue the dialogue between socialists and anarchists. Thinking about Bernardine's advice on the subject we made a note to incorporate equal parts humanism and humor in our organizing and to remember to thank our young anarchist brothers and sisters for allowing us to be a part of the struggle for their future.

*Thomas Good is a member of the Socialist Party of New York City and edits Electronic Worker where this article originally appeared. [www.electronicworker.net/](http://www.electronicworker.net/)*

**SOCIALIST PARTY  
OF  
CALIFORNIA**

**Agitate!  
Educate!  
Organize!**



# Industrial Workers of the World

## IWW Centennial: 1905 - 2005

By Harry Siitonen

Frequently, when someone sees one of us wearing an IWW t-shirt or a button at a demo or picket line, the question invariably pops up: "What, are you guys still around?" But we're here to tell you, we never left. We're celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> birthday this year and are organizing workers with good, recent successes. But more on that later. Let's go back to the very beginning.

### BEGINNINGS

Near the turn of the 20th Century, there was considerable dissension among workers over the narrow craft orientation and exclusivity of the American Federation of Labor, with the bulk of the American working class left unorganized. So in June of 1905, a gathering of about two hundred socialists, anarchists, and radical unionists from all over America held a convention in Chicago, at which the Industrial Workers of the World was organized. The theme was industrial unionism, where all workers would be organized in solidarity in One Big Union, irrespective of race, color, ethnicity or gender. Its founders included Big Bill Haywood of the Western Federation of Miners, Daniel De Leon, Eugene V. Debs, Lucy Parsons, Mary Harris "Mother" Jones and many others. Its current Preamble has the spirit if not the letter of the original:

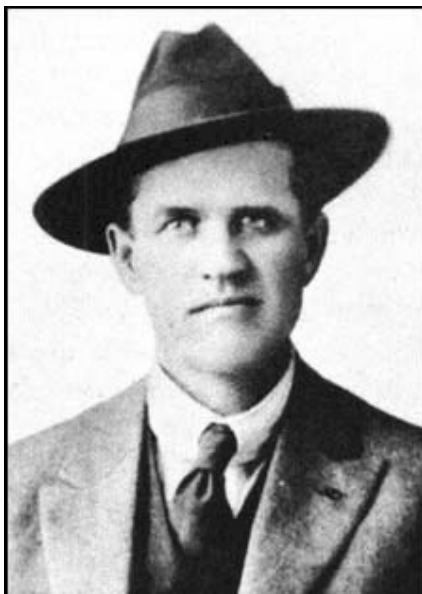
*"The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life. Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system, and live in harmony with the earth. .. Instead of the conservative motto, 'A fair day's wage for a fair day's work', we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, 'Abolition of the wage system'."*

While some mistakenly consider the IWW as anarchist or anarcho-syndicalist, it's more inclusive than that. It espouses revolutionary industrial unionism, and poses no ideological litmus tests, as long as one is a wage or salaried worker, and is not an employer of wage labor. The emphasis is on democratic rank and file unionism, instead of a hierarchy of union bureaucrats running the show.

Since the beginning, women, immigrants, and people of color were welcomed and many have been prominent in the organizing. People like Carlo Tresca, Joe Hill, and Mary Jones were among those immigrant activists.

*Continued on page 11*

***"It is the duty of the IWW to oppose war at any and all cost. If we fight, let us fight for freedom."***



Frank Little, April 16, 1917  
Wobbly Organizer and Agitator

**Lynched by the Copper Trust**  
August 1, 1917

**"WE NEVER FORGET"**

Tom Mooney Local  
Western Massachusetts

## JUNE IS LGBTQ PRIDE MONTH

### WHY A SOCIALIST PARTY QUEER COMMISSION?

By Steve Donahue

*"The Socialist Party stands for the abolition of every form of domination and exploitation..."*

SPUSA Platform

There are many groups that fight for the civil rights of LGBT people. The National Gay Lesbian Task Force for example is, "the movement's leading voice for freedom, justice, and equality." Another group, the Human Rights Campaign does much the same albeit in a much better funded, politically connected and corporate style. For example the HRC just announced that, "Citigroup, the world's largest financial institution, has become a platinum level sponsor of HRC's mission of securing equal rights for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans." There are also Log Cabin Republicans who claim to fight for LGBT rights and are also fighting hard right now to privatize Social Security.

Groups like these are struggling for LGBT people to be accepted into mainstream society. The problem however is that most of these same groups fail to critique mainstream society. To be frank, many of the appointed leaders and spokes persons in the movement for LGBT rights are really quite reactionary.

One might wonder if the mainstream LGBT movement is not working overtime to be incorporated with a hearty handshake into the capitalist USA oppressors' club. Indeed many of our LGBT gate keepers are solidly rooted there already. The mainstream movement has contributed to forms of oppression linked to gender identity and appearance "lookism". All this is to be expected from a movement that over time has hooked itself up with the power politics of capitalism and the Democratic and Republican parties

We need a more integral analysis and praxis if the movement for LGBT rights and dignity is to be something good for everybody. The Queer Commission of the Socialist Party-USA (Queer includes all who want to identify: lesbian, transgender, genderfuck, bisexual, gay...) invites all caring people to join us in abolishing every form of domination and exploitation.

The SPUSA Queer Commission is engaged with all who are fighting against anti queer legislation, hate and violence. We ask all socialists to stand with us in this struggle. The SPUSA Queer Commission likewise serves the movement for LGBT rights by actively supporting all efforts for real liberation, like liberation from economic exploitation and the rule of capital, from militarism and imperialism, or from racist ideology and white skin privilege. This list can be much longer but why not conclude on a positive note by simply saying that the Queer Commission of the Socialist Party USA will continue to work for a democratic non authoritarian socialist society even as it joins with queers of all stripes in fighting for real live queer liberation not assimilation. Love who you want and how you want. Just love.

*Steve Donahue is Chair of the Queer Commission and active in the SW Pennsylvania Socialist Party.*

### LGBT GROUPS MAKING THE LINKS BETWEEN QUEER RIGHTS & SOCIAL & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

There are some non-mainstream LGBT groups that are making the links between Queer activism and other social justice issues. While the mainstream media won't promote them *The Socialist* will:

**Audre Lorde Project** [www.alp.org](http://www.alp.org)

**Queers for Palestine** [www.quitpalestine.org](http://www.quitpalestine.org)

**Queers For Peace & Justice** [www.QueerJustice.org](http://www.QueerJustice.org)

**Queer Insurrection** (San Francisco) [www.lagai.org](http://www.lagai.org)

**Southerners On New Ground** [www.southnewground.org](http://www.southnewground.org)

**Queeruption** [www.queeruption.org](http://www.queeruption.org)

**FIERCE** [www.fiercenyc.org](http://www.fiercenyc.org)

**Pride At Work** [www.prideatwork.org](http://www.prideatwork.org)

We encourage people reading this to join the Socialist Party USA and Young Peoples Socialist League, their Queer Commissions and link up with others working to link Queer rights and social and economic justice.

### MAY DAY GREETINGS FROM THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF NEW JERSEY



[WWW.NJSOCIALISTPARTY.ORG](http://WWW.NJSOCIALISTPARTY.ORG)

### 2005 SOCIALIST PARTY USA NATIONAL CONVENTION

October 21-23, 2005

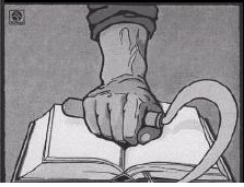
Gateway Hilton, Newark NJ

For information check out:

<http://www.sp-usa.org/2005convention/>

See you there!





# ARTS & CULTURE

## A View from the Barrios

© Carlos Raul Dufflar

I used to see the Tower of Power,  
not far from the tenements and projects,  
in the heart of the Barrios,  
As the voices of María, Julio, Ramón, Rosendo  
worked from sunrise to sunset.  
They never went late to work  
They never missed a day in their life  
They never spoke bad against their greedy bosses  
And were always paid less than everybody else  
Because greed was the heart of the bosses' love  
His stamp of approval was always  
"Hey, I don't make profit here  
I don't make money  
I'm just getting by"  
So he said  
But on this early morning  
On September,  
When the birds will not sing  
A beautiful love song to you and me  
The thunder of the dragon entered the tower of the  
mighty  
Whose great badge of merit is  
Not being kind to a fellow human being  
And cruelty is his great honor  
In the name of misinjustice to the working class  
How many lives hang in the balance  
Must we sing a new song again?  
Even for those people whose hearts were never  
touched  
Whose faces we never seen  
All life is precious  
Keep the incense burning  
For the leaves are aging  
For each one has a story to tell before each one  
Returns back to the earth  
To Raimunda, my mother, to Carlos, my father  
To my great-grandmother, to my great-grandfather  
In our lives  
We must never forget Inéz, Cholo, Ramón, Carmen,  
Chino,  
Pedro Carlos, Eduardo, El Brasilerio, Leocadia,  
And all who made the Heart of El Barrio  
As proud members of La Clase Obrera  
With a gold star  
For those workers who gave their lives  
For those who live now  
On this Day to Honor the Haymarket Martyrs

9/11/2001

## Reflections on Ancestors: Remembering Ossie Davis, James Forman, Shirley Chisholm Ron Milner and Others Recently Returned

*By the SP USA Arts and Culture Commission*

The loss of Ossie Davis has been a deep, indescribable loss to the Freedom Movement. The Giant left behind a long life of contributions to the struggle, tirelessly seeking justice. For over five decades, his partner in the struggle has been his wife and rock, Ruby Dee. Even at the end of his time on the planet, he remained active and ready to do what had to be done.

His funeral at Riverside Church in Harlem, NYC, bore witness to great sadness and great joy that this great Comrade-in-Arts brought to generations of Blacks asserting self-determination, and the world community of artists asserting cultural freedom. He was saluted in words, song and drumming by Harry Belafonte, Maya Angelou, Amiri Baraka, Wynton Marsalis and others.

Sadly, Davis was only the latest of many lights recently lost to us. Only shortly before we mourned the passing of Dr. James Forman, scholar, activist and chief theoretician of the SNCC.

At the dawn of 2005, we saw pass Shirley Chisholm. The achievements of SNCC and other movements for Black human rights preceded her famous 1972 run for the Democratic presidential nomination. She was the first Black woman to seek the nomination of a major party for the office.

The year 2004 saw us mourning the losses of two cultural revolutionaries: Ron Milner of Detroit and Reverendo Pedro Pietri of the Barrios of New York. Milner was one of the most important Black playwrights of the 20th century. Pietri was a poet and playwright who captured the Borincano (Puerto Rican) experience.

And to speak of culture, we need to return to Davis, and continue the fight that he fought, that he continued to fight to the very end. We only need to know and understand his example, and that of Chisholm, of Forman, of Milner, of Pietri, of Louis Robichaud, of Richie Pérez.

Of so many others. Like all the other icons who have left us, such as Julia De Burgos (poetic voice of the working class and Puerto Rican experience), Bernardo Vega (great working class interpreter of Puerto Rican and Cuban history and of its tobacco workers' experience) and Paul Lafargue (a Cuban socialist who married Karl Marx' daughter).

And, in this celebration of the 119th anniversary of the first May Day, the martyrs of the Haymarket in Chicago, who gave their life for the Great International Workers' Day in 1886, and whose memory is never forgotten every First of May, with peace and love.

# VERMONT SAYS BRING OUR TROOPS HOME!

By Mary Alice Herbert

Town Meeting in Vermont happens on the first Tuesday of March no matter what the weather brings. The "nor'easter" that day didn't keep townspeople or reporters from around the world from attending meetings in the 50 some towns where a resolution questioning the use of the National Guard in Iraq was on the agenda. It passed overwhelmingly in 45 of those towns.

The resolution quoted the US Constitution which says that Congress may call up the militia only "to execute the laws of the Union, suppress insurrection and repel invasions." It went on to say that our men and women are being put in harm's way in a war that posed no threat of attack on the US by being in Iraq and that the large number deployed there compromises the capacity of local communities to respond to emergencies. It called for the legislature to set up a commission to study the effect of Guard deployment on readiness here in the state and to ask the Congressional delegation to work to restore a proper balance between the powers of the state and the federal government over the use of the Guard.

When I spoke to move the resolution in Putney, I spoke about how easy it had been to collect many more than enough signatures during January to put the resolution before the meeting. I explained that the Guard had been "federalized" back in the 1980s after the governors of Vermont and several other states had refused to send them to fight in Central America, another unpopular war. I quoted the pamphlet that had been distributed before the meeting: Vermont leads the way in per capita deaths in Iraq. Guard and Reserves make up 40% of the US force in Iraq and Vermont's percentage is even higher. National Guard soldiers are dying at rates 35% higher than other military. I also told them about a friend from NY who said that her niece in the regular army was not worried about going to Iraq, because they are sending the National Guard instead.

VT's National Guard had recently stated that we still had enough protection at home because in the last emergency, a severe ice storm a few years ago, only 700 guardsmen had been called out. I wondered what would happen in case of an accident or an attack on the local nuclear power plant and quoted a defense department expert who says that the Pentagon is jeopardizing homeland security by deploying the National Guard in such large numbers and lengthening their stays in Iraq.

A young single mom whose fiancé is in training in Mississippi spoke emotionally after I sat down. When the voice vote came it was loud and clear. There was not one audible nay. Shingo Egi, the Japanese reporter who attended the meeting in our neighboring town of Dummerston said, "I think I was able to tell the Japanese readers that the citizens of the US can be characterized as rich in variety, not just the cowboy style people that we might imagine reading news that comes out from the Bush Administration"

The director of the area VFW Post said he thought the resolution was extremely well written, right on about the war, respectful to veterans and that he supported it fully.

Now activists in Vermont face the task of seeing that the legislature sets up the commission set out in the resolution.

Mary Alice Herbert is a resident of Putney Vermont and was the Party's vice-presidential candidate in the 2004 election.

For more information on the Vermont Iraq Resolution and how you can present a similar resolution to your town or city government go to: [www.iraqresolution.org](http://www.iraqresolution.org)

## Celebrate International Labor Day

**Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at Noon- 5PM**

Brattleboro, Vermont  
Town Common.

Music, Speakers, Soap Box and  
Haymarket Memorial

For information call Mal at  
(802) 387-4060

## The Fight for Working People Shall Continue May Day Greetings



**Socialist Party of Wisconsin  
and  
Socialist Party of Metropolitan  
Milwaukee**

**Continued from page 7**

The IWW was a militant union from the beginning and was not timid about taking on the employers. So it drew the immediate enmity of the ruling class, as a threat to the status quo. IWW members were accused of being bomb throwers and saboteurs, but generally espoused the philosophy of the “folded arms” in the withholding of their labor when the occasion called. And they were often effective in improving working conditions. What they considered “sabotage”, comprised tactics of slowdowns, following rules exactly, mass sickouts---practices which are not uncommon today in workplace struggles. For the Wobblies often favored the idea of “striking on the job”, rather than just striking and starving on the picket line outside the plant and watching the scabs do their work, unless there was a good chance of winning the more traditional strike.

But the bosses were relentless and these masterless rebel workers were often jailed, beaten and sometimes killed in trying to wrest some dignity from the voracious robber barons of capitalism. Free speech fights were a fight-back tactic particularly in the Western States, where IWW organizers would be arrested for soap boxing in the skid rows of large cities. Many civil liberties gains were made when hundreds of members came from all over to soapbox, and got arrested packing the jails. Often the free speech bans would be lifted, as in Spokane in 1909.

**1908 CONVENTION SPLIT**

In 1908, there was a policy split (nothing new on the Left), which culminated at the 1908 Convention in Chicago. Daniel De Leon's doctrinaire Socialist Labor Party group wanted to dominate the fledgling union under his autocratic dominance, and thus wanted that political action should be included in the policy. But the more radical faction, led by Saint John, Trautmann and Haywood favored an emphasis on direct action, propaganda and strikes as the effective way forward, and opposed arbitration and political affiliation. The militants won and the De Leonists left in anger. Although Haywood himself and thousands of other Wobblies were Socialist Party members then, the IWW since then has not been affiliated with or endorsed any political party, direct action being its forte. Present policy is that you're welcome in the organization whatever your personal political or religious stance and can be active in such movements, but just leave your politics or anarchism or religion outside the IWW union hall.

**ORGANIZING**

The IWW first got on the map in labor struggles at Goldfield, Nevada in 1906 where for a time it ran the town as a de facto government. In 1909, the IWW won a spectacular victory in McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania, at the Pressed Steel Car Company which drew widespread notice. Meanwhile, in Alexandria and Grabow, Louisiana, IWW poet Covington Hall was organizing lumberjacks and mill workers. Big Bill Haywood, who had been found innocent of a framed up murder charge in Salt Lake City in 1907, went down to Louisiana to lend a hand. He

discovered that black and white lumberjacks were meeting separately at Alexandria

By 1912, the union had about 50,000 members, including dockworkers, and in agriculture, textiles, logging, and mining. They were involved in around 150 strikes in that period. The most famous of these was the Lawrence textile strike in Massachusetts. Since the mills employed thousands of immigrant workers of many nationalities, with limited knowledge of English, no one thought a successful strike organization possible, especially the mill bosses. But rallies were addressed by ethnic speakers of all these groups in their own languages, and an amazing solidarity was forged. This strike also involved masses of women workers who performed heroically, inspiring the beautiful labor song, “Bread and Roses.” At that time, the IWW did not believe in signed contracts and eventually the union vanished from Lawrence. The same kind of strike was prosecuted in 1913 at the Paterson, NJ mills, which eventually fizzled out.

From the late 1910s to the 1930s, the IWW's Marine Transport Industrial Union, led by an African-American dockworker Ben Fletcher, organized mainly Black longshoremen. Between 1915 and 1917, the IWW Agricultural Workers Organization organized many thousands of agricultural workers throughout the Midwest and West, and was also heavily engaged in Canada.

**BIG BILL OUSTED**

While the IWW primarily eschewed electoral action in favor of industrial direct action as the best way to achieve the new society, thousands of Wobblies did belong to the Socialist Party. The Party was enjoying considerable electoral success, winning the municipal governments in a number of cities, including Milwaukee. Many good legislative gains were made for the people of these cities under Socialist administrations. But these gains brought about a trend to compromise on Socialist basics to attract more middle class votes, even those of small business. With the bad press of the capitalist media hounding the IWW, the more reformist elements of the Socialist Party felt that the IWW elements in the SP were a liability for growing electoral success. So in 1912, Haywood was recalled from the National Committee, despite pleas by such Party luminaries as Helen Keller. His views were thus declared incompatible with Party policy. This led to a major exodus of thousands of IWW members from the SP. This became the first major schism within the Party. From my perspective, the move really hurt both the Party and the IWW badly and was a tragedy. The Party lost thousands of its most militant, courageous, class-conscious working class members for good. The increased electoral successes for the Party did not happen in any great measure.

**STATE REPRESSION**

Although the IWW's tactics emphasized non-violence, the reaction by the government, bosses, and mobs of “respectable citizens” were brutally violent. In 1914, Joe Hill (Joel Hagglund), a Swedish-American itinerant worker and famous Wobbly songwriter and poet, was accused of murder on only flimsy circumstantial evidence and was executed by a firing squad in Salt Lake City in 1915. IWW organizer and General Executive Board member Frank Little was lynched by company thugs during a copper

**Continued on page 12**

strike at Butte, Montana. At Everett, Washington, a drunken mob of deputized businessmen led by Sheriff Donald McRae, attacked Wobblies on the steamship Verona, killing five, with six lost in Puget Sound. Hundreds of Wobblies were shipped in freight cars to be marooned in the New Mexico desert by copper bosses and their vigilantes during a strike at Bisbee, Arizona.

World War I gave the Army the opportunity to crush the IWW. Although most Wobs opposed the war, the union never took an official position on it. But the government and employers fomented a lynch spirit to attack the IWW. In 1919, in Centralia, Washington, vigilantes attacked the IWW hall, and when IWW member and returning war veteran Wesley Everest shot back, he was killed by the mob. In September, 1917, the Feds made simultaneous raids on 48 IWW halls around the country. 166 IWW activists were arrested for conspiring to hinder the draft, encourage desertion, and intimidate others under the new Espionage Act. 161 went on trial before Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis in 1918 and all were found guilty. Some had not even been members for many years. While on bail, Big Bill Haywood fled to the Soviet Union where he died in 1928, a lonely and broken man. Communist Party promises to reimburse the bail money for Haywood and others were never fulfilled. Even after the war, the repression continued. IWW members were persecuted and harassed under state and federal laws. A number of Wobblies were sentenced to lengthy prison terms under the so-called criminal-syndicalist laws. Many foreign-born Wobblies and other radicals were deported under the Palmer Raids.

## **POST-WORLD WAR I**

Another major hit hurt the IWW as a consequence of the Russian Revolution. Considerable numbers of members were lost to the Communists in the heady days of promise in its aftermath. Although the Union at first was sympathetic, soon reality hit. The Red Labor International in Moscow urged Wobblies and other radicals to join the AFL and other "yellow unions" and "bore from within". Those kinds of tactics were distasteful to the IWW and something an honest rebel could not countenance. Then Moscow wanted to name who could be on the IWW General Executive Board. This went totally counter to the IWW's principle of union democracy; its rank and file members elect the GEB, no one else. So with the increasing top-down dictatorial rule developing in the Soviet Union, the IWW became an opponent.

Still, despite all its adversities the IWW continued to organize. In 1923, its membership was at its historic highest of some 100,000 members. Then the disaster of "splititis" struck again in 1924. A bitter division developed between the "Easterners" and the "Westerners" over a number of issues. Chief among them was the role of the General Administration, simplified as a fight between "centralists" and "decentralists". This battle played holy havoc for several years before it subsided.

However, by 1930, the membership had shrunk to around 10,000. It was still able, however, to conduct a successful state-wide mining strike in Colorado win the late 1920s.

The IWW never gave up fighting and during the 1930s organized a number of stove factories in Cleveland with which it signed contracts and represented until the 1950s. Of course, all this time, Wobblies took part in the CIO organizing drives of the 1930s. Many were "two-carders". They held membership in whatever union existed on their job, but also kept up their IWW dues and always maintained the principles of union democracy and rank and file militancy wherever they worked.

With the passage of the Landrum-Griffin Act in 1959 and its anti-communist affidavits to rid unions of leftist leaders, the IWW lost the Cleveland metal shops. As a point of principle, the IWW, along with the Typographical Union and United Mine Workers, refused to sign such loyalty oaths, so the Cleveland shops left the Union and affiliated with a more compliant one. This was a major loss for the IWW.

The IWW was at a lowest ebb in membership as the Sixties approached, but the Civil Rights Movement, anti-war activity and university student movements brought new life to the Union.

In the 1980s the IWW were successful in organizing a large non-profit book store and warehouse operation in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and gained a voice in its management. But a few years later the top managerial bureaucracy sold out to a for-profit operation elsewhere and the Ann Arbor workplaces were closed. From the 1990s on the Union achieved good successes in organizing shops.

In Berkeley, California, the Union has succeeded in organizing three workplaces which are now under contract. These include two recycling plants and a fabric store with almost all women employees. Portland, Oregon has organized numerous non-profits and shops in various industries, operates the Red and Black restaurant collective and a couple of years ago at the city's May Day parade, 300 people marched under the IWW's banner. . In the Stockton, California area close to 250 independent truckers, mostly East Indian, but including Filipinos, African-Americans and Mexicans joined the IWW in 2004 and have won some important disputes, particularly in the payment for excess wait time and reinstatement of firings. Since these truckers are "independent contractors" they are not recognized as a labor union under Federal labor law, but it's surprising what can be done on an informal basis as long as strong solidarity is practiced.

Other labor struggles the Union has participated in was Redwood Summer and the picketing of the Neptune Jade in the Port of Oakland in late 1997, for which the IWW earned positive recognition from the maritime unions, in which some of our members are two-carders. In recent years, the union has set up organizer training programs both in the US and Canada in many localities. Our brilliant young female General Secretary-Treasurer Alexis Buss has played a vital role in organizing these trainings. With the difficulty of going to NLRB route for recognition in the hostile anti-labor climate of late-stage

*Continued on page 13*

## IWW CENTENNIAL

neo-liberal capitalism, the IWW has brought the concept of "minority unionism" to the fore. Never mind playing around with the obstructive government restrictions on recognition. It's possible to sign up workers in the Union, and operate informally at a workplace in solidarity direct actions to defend and advance workers rights in increasingly sweatshop conditions. Here GST Buss and veteran labor activist Staughton Lynd have conducted workshops around the country on minority unionism. This really harks back to the early days of IWW organizing when loggers would have stop-work meetings to demand lice-free mattresses in the bunk houses and decent grub at the evening meal, and win.

### IWW AND WORKER CULTURE

We would be remiss if the importance of the popular culture of the IWW wasn't included in this article. The entire labor movement has enjoyed the impact of IWW songs, poetry, skits, music, art (particularly cartoon and poster art), and irreverent satire, even at its own expense. Being the free-spirited, anti-authoritarian kind of folks the Wobblies are, the juices of their cultural creativity know no parallel in the labor movement. "Solidarity Forever", written by early Wobbly Ralph Chaplin, has become the virtual national anthem of the entire labor movement. Joe Hill is celebrated for both his irreverent, colorful Songs. Poets included Covington Hall, Ralph Chaplin, Arturo Giovannitti, and Matilda Rabinowitz. The IWW a best-seller at every public gathering where an IWW literature table is table is present. If you ever have a chance to go hear a Utah Phillips concert go hear him or buy one of his CDs. This veteran IWW sordough knows all the old faves, and is a great story-telling raconteur to boot.

### THE FUTURE

We've been here for a century now, and raring to go on and organize workers for the next 100. The so-called "mainstream" unions in this country are shrinking rapidly and represent 13% of US workers at present. Animated, even panicky, discussion is going on right now for the restructuring of the AFL-CIO, but most proposals are for top-down hierarchical approaches, staying within the parameters of business unionism, supporting the Democrats with even more money, and not challenging the very existence of capitalism as a class movement. Certainly, the core ideas expressed in the IWW Preamble are more relevant than ever. The IWW will be in the middle of all this dialogue, calling for a class-conscious, rank-and-file controlled democratic labor movement, empowering women, people of color, and sexual and other minorities within the working class to be fully participatory components within it. And above all, working to end the great scourge of capitalism. At the Seattle anti-WTO globalist demonstrations in 1999, the IWW contingent carried a banner, reading: "Capitalism Cannot Be Reformed". Amen!

*Harry Siitonen is a member of the Bay Area Socialist Party and was a past General Secretary-Treasurer of the IWW. (For information on the IWW, contact: [www.iww.org](http://www.iww.org) or Write to: IWW, POB 13476, Philadelphia, PA 19101.)*



## The Debs Tendency

Revolutionary Socialist Tendency of the Socialist Party USA

**May Day greetings from all the comrades in the Debs Tendency  
Saludos en este Dia del Trabajo de parte de todos los companer@s de la Tendencia Debs.**

[www.debstendency.org](http://www.debstendency.org)

**For Working Class Unity and Victories!  
Por la Unidad y Victoria de la Clase Obrera!**

## FAITH & SOCIALISM

*By Antonio Salas*

We are people who come from various religious traditions but are rooted in a common vision which affirms peace, equality, human dignity, care for creation, and human cooperation.

This leads us to reject an economic system where value is placed on profit over dignity and human well being, competition over cooperation and hierarchy over mutuality and reciprocity.

Therefore from our religious faith we work for democratic socialism or what Martin Luther King called the Beloved Community. A community that recognizes the sacredness of every individual and removes privilege based on class, race, gender, sexuality, and disability. A community that embraces nonviolence and coercion as a more perfect way of organizing our common life and one more consistent with a democratic vision. A community that produces for the human needs of all and not for the private enrichment of the very few. A community where justice and peace shall kiss.

If you are an SP member in good standing and interested in joining the commission or the listserve, contact Antonio Salas, Convener, at [antonios65@earthlink.net](mailto:antonios65@earthlink.net) or 510-663-6303 x1.

## NEWS FROM SP USA LOCALS

### BAY AREA LOCAL (CALIFORNIA)

Local members remain actively involved as labor and campus organizers within the Oakland Unified School District, UC Berkeley and Cal State Hayward. We continue our involvement with the Alameda County Peace and Freedom Party and FairVote/CFER (Californians For electoral Reform) and participate regularly in post-election anti-war demonstrations and rallies in the area. Local members recently participated at the Defend Oakland Public Education rally in Oakland.

The Local resumed its active membership and participation in the Socialist Unity Network, a coalition of San Francisco Bay Area-based socialist organizations (Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism, Democratic Socialists of America, International Socialist Organization, Socialist Party, and Solidarity). SUN recently held a public forum -- Crisis in Public Education. Speakers at the well-attended event were Peter Camejo on how progressive taxation for California would solve budget crisis and provide money for education; Bob Mandel of the Oakland Education Association on the redistribution of corporate wealth to pay for schools instead of closing, chartering or privatizing schools; and, Kathryn Lybarger of the UC Berkeley Labor Coalition on how UC Berkeley has money but won't give raises to staff and how the Chancellor is planning to open a charter elementary school. SUN's mission is to build and promote democratic socialism through educational forum and activities in the Bay Area.

On the 32nd anniversary of Roe v. Wade several local members participated in the March to Defend Women's Health and Rights in San Francisco. This march was a counter- demonstration to an anti-choice extremist's planned march in the city Francisco against women's health and rights that same morning.

In coordination with other Southern California Local members, Bay Area members helped organize a successful and memorable event to honor the ongoing contributions of Maggie Phair to peace, justice and democratic socialism.

For more information on the local, please contact Antonio Salas, chair, at antonios65@earthlink.net or visit our web site at [www.sp-usa.org/basp/](http://www.sp-usa.org/basp/).

### CONNECTICUT

On March 12, members of the SP met in West Hartford Connecticut and organized a Central/Eastern Connecticut Local of the Socialist Party USA. The Local endorsed March 19<sup>th</sup> action in Hartford and will meet on the first Saturday of every month. The Local's email address is: [SPCentralCT@gmail.com](mailto:SPCentralCT@gmail.com)

### NEW JERSEY

The Northern New Jersey Local has been active in anti-recruitment activism, holding regular pickets outside the Paterson New Jersey "Army of One" office and organizing an anti-recruitment conference at William Paterson University with North Jersey Anti-Racist Action.

Information on the ongoing Northern New Jersey campaigns can be found at the Local's website: [www.njsocialistparty.org/northnj/](http://www.njsocialistparty.org/northnj/).

### TOM MOONEY LOCAL (WESTERN MASS)

Issues of workers' rights, women's rights, and the US occupation of Iraq have been dominating the work of our local for the past few months. One of our members has been working with the union of teaching assistants as they resist the demands of the University of Massachusetts for further cutbacks in wages and benefits. Due to lies and intimidation by management, the union lost the election, but a lot of education and solidarity occurred during the organizing process. Right now, we are helping to rally community support for the nurses at the local Franklin County hospital who are currently going through tough contract renegotiation sessions.

At the meeting with the nurses, we encouraged them to join us for our International Women's Day rally and speak-out on the Greenfield Town Common, and to connect their oppressive working conditions to the assault on women's rights in general. Unfortunately, this aspect of our series of IWD events got cancelled due to miserable weather conditions, but we plan to stay in touch for future actions. Another positive outcome of our IWD organizing was the production of a brochure that describes the mission

### PENNSYLVANIA

The Socialist Party of Pennsylvania will be holding its annual conference this year on Saturday, May 7th, in the historic city of Philadelphia. We will be meeting at The Ethical Society, which is located at 1906 S. Rittenhouse Square, from 9:00am till 5:00pm. Low cost housing for those wishing to attend can be arranged through the Greater Philadelphia Local.

We are holding our conference in unity with other progressive groups from across the state. The theme of this year's conference is "Unity of the Left." We will kick off the weekend on Friday with a rally organized by Solidarity. On Saturday there will be joint panels on Socialist Values : Peace, War and Imperialism; Socialist Values : Gender Identity; and Socialist Values : Electoral Politics & Community Action.

### VERMONT

The Brattleboro Area local is now meeting at 2:00 pm the first Sunday of every month at the Common Ground on Elliot St. in Brattleboro. Info.: [malherbe@surfglobal.net](mailto:malherbe@surfglobal.net)

***Socialist Party  
of  
Southern California***

*Poca a poco se anda lejos*

*2617 So. Hauser Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90016*

# SOCIALIST PARTY USA NATIONAL DIRECTORY

## CALIFORNIA

**Socialist Party of California**  
*State Executive Committee*  
2617 S. Hauser Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90016

### Bay Area Socialist Party

P.O. Box 22822  
Oakland, CA 94609  
[www.sp-usa.org/basp](http://www.sp-usa.org/basp)

### Socialist Party of So. Calif.

2617 S. Hauser Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90016

## CONNECTICUT

**Socialist Party of Central CT**  
*SPCentralCT@gmail.com*  
860.423.9776

## COLORADO

**Socialist Party of Colorado**  
*State Executive Committee*  
c/o 2625 Pine St.  
Boulder, CO 80302

### Metro Denver Socialist Party

c/o 9624 GrapeCourt  
Thornton, CO 80229  
720-929-9185  
[fuichi@hotmail.com](mailto:fuichi@hotmail.com)

## FLORIDA

**Socialist Party of Florida**  
*State Executive Committee*  
c/o 1706 B Lake Ave.  
Panama City, FL 32401

### Jacksonville Socialist Party

c/o 13938 Manowar Ln.  
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250

## ILLINOIS

**Illinois Socialist Party**  
*State Executive Committee*  
c/o PO Box 578398  
Chicago, IL 60657

### Chicago Socialist Party

PO Box 578398  
Chicago, IL 60657

## IOWA

**Iowa Socialist Party**  
*State Executive Committee*  
PO Box 924  
Iowa City, IA 52244

## MASSACHUSETTS

*State Executive Committee*  
c/o 43 Taylor Hill Rd.  
Montague, MA 01351

### Greater Boston Socialist Party

PO Box 541468  
Waltham, MA 02454

### Tom Mooney Local

c/o 43 Taylor Hill Rd.  
Montague, MA 01351

## MICHIGAN

**Socialist Party of Michigan**  
*State Executive Committee*  
PO Box 3285  
Kalamazoo, MI 49003

### Kalamazoo Socialist Party

PO Box 3285  
Kalamazoo, MI 49003

### Detroit Socialist Party

PO Box 19221  
Detroit, MI 48219  
[Detroit.mi-socialist.org](http://Detroit.mi-socialist.org)

## NEW JERSEY

**Socialist Party of New Jersey**  
*State Executive Committee*  
PO Box 8622  
Saddle Brook, NJ 07663  
[www.njsocialistparty.org](http://www.njsocialistparty.org)

### Socialist Party of No. Jersey

c/o PO Box 86  
Rochelle Park, NJ 07662

### So. Jersey Socialist Party

c/o Box 543  
Newfield, NJ 08344

## NEW YORK

**Greater NYC Socialist Party**  
c/o 339 Lafayette St. #303  
New York, NY 10012  
[www.newyorksocialists.org](http://www.newyorksocialists.org)

### Central NY Socialist Party

PO Box 35113  
University Station  
Syracuse, NY 13235

## NORTH CAROLINA

**Socialist Party of North Carolina**  
*State Executive Committee*  
PO Box 37533  
Raleigh, NC 27627

## Salvador Allende Local

PO Box 37533  
Raleigh, NC 27627

## Art Young Local

PO Box 217  
Richlands, NC 28574

## OHIO

**Socialist Party of Ohio**  
*State Executive Committee*  
c/o PO Box 204  
Yellow Springs, OH 45387

### Northwest OH Socialist Party

c/o Geoff Braasch  
3222 Middlesex Dr. #D  
Toledo, OH 43606

## OREGON

**Socialist Party of Oregon**  
*State Executive Committee*  
PO Box 5633  
Portland, OR 97228

### Clackamas Co. Socialist Party

c/o 16 SW Monticello Dr.  
Lake Oswego, OR 97035

### Helen Keller Memorial Local

c/o 3375 NW Fifth Ave.  
Ontario, OR 97035

### Lane County Local

c/o 1555 W. 18<sup>th</sup> Ave. #6  
Eugene, OR 97402

### Multnomah County Local

c/o 6035 N. Greeley Ave.  
Portland, OR 97217

## PENNSYLVANIA

**Socialist Party of Pennsylvania**  
*State Executive Committee*  
c/o 102 Rachel Ln.  
Coatesville, PA 18320  
[www.sp-usa.org/sppa/](http://www.sp-usa.org/sppa/)

### Berks County Socialist Party

c/o 273 S. Fourth St.  
Hamburg, PA 19526

### Philadelphia Socialist Party

c/o 2211 Bainbridge St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19146

### Johnstown Socialist Party

c/o 331 Theatre Dr. #1-B4  
Johnstown, PA 19526

## South West PA Socialist Party

c/o 4618 Carroll St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15224

## TEXAS

**Socialist Party of Texas**  
*State Executive Committee*  
PO Box 2640  
Austin, TX 78768

**Socialist Party of the Rio Grande Valley/ Partido Socialista del Valle**  
PMB 117

E. Ruben Torres Sr. Suite A16  
Brownsville, TX 78526

## VERMONT

**Greater Brattleboro SP**  
c/o 71 Winchester Rd.  
Putney, VT 05346

## VIRGINIA

**Social Dem. Party of Virginia**  
*State Executive Committee*  
c/o 251 Finchingfield Ct.  
Sterling, VA 20165

## WASHINGTON

**Socialist Party of Washington**  
*State Executive Committee*  
PO Box 656  
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043

## WISCONSIN

**Socialist Party of Wisconsin**  
*State Executive Committee*  
1001 East Keefe  
Milwaukee, WI 53212

### Socialist Party of Milwaukee

c/o 1011 East Keefe  
Milwaukee, WI 53212

### Socialist Party of So.Cen. WI

c/o 3206 Gregory St.  
Madison, WI 53711

## NATIONAL OFFICE

**Socialist Party USA**  
339 Lafayette St. #303  
New York, NY 10012  
(212) 982-4586  
[www.sp-usa.org/natl-office/](http://www.sp-usa.org/natl-office/)

## Socialist Party USA Commissions

**Arts & Culture Commission**- Chair: Angel Martinez sp\_culture@yahoo.com

**Faith & Socialism Commission**- Chair: Antonio Salas. 477 Jean St. Apt. C Oakland, CA 9460 Antonios65@earthlink.net

**International Commission**- Chair: Mark Alper MarkVA29@aol.com

**Labor Commission**- Chair: Viji Sargis vsargis@hotmail.com \* [www.sp-usa.org/labor/](http://www.sp-usa.org/labor/)

**Native American Commission**- Chair: Hunter Gray 2000 Sandy Ln. Pocatello, ID 83204

**People of Color Commission**- Chair: Erik Toren 1008 El Campo Dr. San Juan, TX 78589

**Queer Commission**- Chair: Steve Donahue QueerSocialists@yahoo.com

**Women's Commission**- Chair: Susan Dorazio 43 Taylor Hill Rd. Montague, MA 01351

**Young People's Socialist League**- PO Box 204 Yellow Springs, OH 45384 [www.ypsl.org](http://www.ypsl.org)

## JOIN THE SOCIALIST PARTY USA!

### Annual Dues

(based on annual net income)

- Full-Time Students - **\$15**
- Incomes Under \$20,000 - **\$25**
- \$20,000 - \$35,000 - **\$60**
- \$35,000 - \$50,000 - **\$125**
- Income of \$50,000 - **\$250**

plus 1% of income over \$50,000

*waiver available for prisoners or long-term unemployed*

*I, the undersigned, desiring to bring about by democratic means a new society based upon democratic socialism, hereby apply for membership in the Socialist Party USA, and subscribe to its principles.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Send this form with dues payment to:

**SP USA 339 Lafayette St. #303 NY, NY 10012**

## THE SOCIALIST

339 Lafayette St. #303  
New York, NY 10012