

THE ORGANIZER

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY USA NATIONAL OFFICE

MARCH 2012

International Women's Day 2012

A Day of Empowerment, Resistance, Celebration



About IWD History...

1909: The Woman's National Committee of the Socialist Party calls for a national day of protest on the last Sunday of February to support women's suffrage in the context of the

broader movement for women's rights, workers' rights, and social justice.

1910: The Women's Congress of the Socialist International meets in August in Copenhagen and approves the call for an international day of protest. The specific date is left open to the participants in each country.

1913: Russian socialists begin celebrating International Women's Day. Their intention is to organize rallies for the same day as that set in the United States, but since the Julian calendar lags several days behind the Western calendar, the events take place in early March by our reckoning.

1917: The date of March 8 for International Women's Day gets established when tens of thousands of women, demonstrating on that day in Petrograd, the capital of Russia, spark a revolution that topples three centuries of czarist autocracy.

About IWD and Peace....

In August 1914, World War I erupted, leading to the slaughter of millions. International Women's Day became a focal point for those calling for an immediate end to the war. On February 23, 1917, (March 8 on the new calendar), tens of thousands of Russian women celebrated International Women's Day by surging onto the streets of Petrograd demanding peace. These militant protests led to the downfall of the czar and, soon afterward, Russia's decision to leave the war.

Senseless war continues. Once again we are told that military action in Iraq and Afghanistan is intended to promote freedom and peace, and once again we know the real reasons are about power and wealth. As we demonstrate our opposition to war and occupation this and every International Women's Day, we commemorate the heroic actions of the women in Petrograd in 1917 and the women in Tehran in 1979. In doing so, we maintain an unbroken link in the struggle for peace, justice, and equality.

continued on next page

SPUSA National Committee Meets In Dallas

On the weekend of January 28-29th, the Party's National Committee met in Dallas Texas. The Committee elected new officers; Stephanie Gussin was elected as the new vice-chair and Kristin Schall was elected as the new Editor of *The Socialist*. The NC also rechartered the Party's Women's Commission and filled the spring and summer calendar with a series of campaigns and mobilizations.

- On March 8th Locals will kick off spring activist work with International Women's Day actions. *The Socialist* has put out a special International Women's Day issue and IWD actions will be posted online at: www.socialistparty-usa.org/iwd2012.html
- On March 16-18th the Party will take part in the Left Forum in New York City. We'll be tabling and taking part in workshops including one featuring SPUSA presidential candidate Stewart Alexander. (www.leftforum.org)
- On March 23 – 25th the Party will take part in the United National Anti-War Committee's National Conference in Stamford Connecticut. We'll be there as part of our affiliation with UNAC and hoping to build the anti-war movement.
- In April we'll be organizing for May Day actions and the G-8 demos in May. On May Day we'll be coordinating local actions across the U.S. May Day is the historic kick off to our Socialist Summer campaign, but this year we'll be organizing a second action in May before Socialist Summer gening. The Party will organizing a contingent at the G-8 demonstration in Chicago on May 19-20th. May Day and G-8 info out to members and on-line in early April.
- Socialist Summer will start immediately after the G-8 demos. The campaign will consist of two parts, the first is the three activist campaigns; "Occupy Wall St", Electoral Action/Ballot Access and Youth Organizing. The second part being our National Organizing Conference on July 28-29th in Memphis Tennessee.

While all this is happening, the Party's electoral campaigns have started with a bang. The Alexander/Mendoza campaign has already hit the radio and web with interviews and video promotions. You can get updates on the Party's presidential slate at: www.stewartalexanderforpresident2012.org

Other electoral campaigns can be found on the Party's Campaign Clearinghouse website at: www.vote-socialist.org

The Next National Committee meeting will be held on June 9-10, 2012 in New York, NY.

IWD continued...

About IWD and Power...

International Women's Day is about power: theirs and ours. Their power puts courts and legislatures in charge of whether or not a woman can have an abortion. Our power leaves this decision where it belongs: with the woman herself. Their power dictates a profit-driven "managed care" health care system, at the service of the health insurance industry and transnational pharmaceutical companies. Our power lies in grassroots organizing, for a national system of universal health care under community control.

Their power rests in greedy corporations owned by an ultra-wealthy few that deplete the world's resources and exploit its people. Our power depends on building a mass movement for a new society rooted in cooperation, equality, and workers' control.

The SPUSA's International Women's Day website can be found at: www.socialistparty-usa.org/iwd2012.html

JOIN THE SPUSA WOMEN'S COMMISSION

The Women's Commission of the Socialist Party USA is dedicated to the principles of socialist feminism and strives to establish a equal society through education, organization, and direct action. We are united by our common belief in the Party's goal of establishing a radical democracy that places people's lives under their own control - a non-racist, classless, feminist society.

Contact Women's Commission Chair: asarlay@gmail.com

Mark your Calendar!

**SPUSA NATIONAL ORGANIZING CONFERENCE
July 28-29, 2012 in Memphis, Tennessee!**

More info soon!

The Organizer

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



The Socialist Party's Presidential Campaign is in full swing and is making some great strides in the effort to spread the Party's message. While many of you have been very gracious in the contributions you have offered, we are entering a critical period for the Campaign and are issuing a fundraising call to the Locals throughout the country. Our request is that your Local set aside just one spring month where you attempt to hit a Campaign fundraising goal of \$200. If you need or would like to share fundraising ideas, contact Mimi Soltysik at socialistpartyusala@gmail.com.

Your Local's contribution will help our candidates with travel expenses, assist in the production of Campaign communication pieces, and might even enable the purchase of an advertisement or two.

The Campaign is committed to spreading awareness of the Socialist Party USA and its platform and principles. The public is thirsty for information and we have an amazing opportunity to give them a drink. Please help your Party in this effort.

Contributions should be sent to:

Alexander/Mendoza 2012
4202 Bluffpoint Rd. Rowlett, TX 75088
payable to: "Stewart Alexander for President".

You can also forward your donations directly to the Campaign website: www.stewartalexanderforpresident2012.org

The Organizer is the newsletter of the Socialist Party USA National Office. Subscriptions are free to members and sustainers. For bulk copies contact the SPUSA National Office at 339 Lafayette St. #303 New York, NY 10012. The Editor is Greg Pason, National Secretary.