Oklahoma's teachers confront the Capitol

By Otis Grotewohl and Molly Matewan

April 2 — Tens of thousands of Oklahoma educators, state workers, parents, students and community members converged today on Oklahoma City, the state capital, to demand adequate funding and resources for public education. Two minutes later, the Oklahoma City school system sent out a robocall that its schools would be closed until teachers return to their classrooms.

Oklahoma Education Association President Alicia Priest said to ralliers at the Capitol that educators will remain on strike until they win the full funding they've been asking for. Picketers circled the building chanting, “Education is a right, that’s why we have to fight.” Spirits were lifted by music from school bands there to support striking teachers, the majority of whom are women.

Hope Davis, a Deaf student and one of the first speakers at the rally, called legislation passed March 28 “a bandaid” when the state needs stitches. The legislation had granted teachers an average $6,000 raise for one year only, and inched up tax-cuts had granted the oil industry and cigarettes.

Due to this crisis, pro-union sentiment on the rise for many community members. A teacher/folk singer known as Mr. Booker told WW that until now “union” had been a bad word in Oklahoma.

An education ‘bandaid’ proposal inspired by the nine-day education workers’ strike in West Virginia — represented at today’s rally by West Virginia Education Association President Dale Lee — teachers, paraprofessionals and school staff in Oklahoma have been readying picket lines since early March. Heading into Monday, the first day of walkouts, education workers called for a $10,000 wage increase over a three-year period. Oklahoma teachers last saw a raise in 2008, an increase so paltry they were lifted by music from school bands there to support striking teachers, the majority of whom are women.

By Monica Moorehead

The heinous murder of 22-year-old African-American Stephon Clark by the Sacramento, Calif., police on the night of March 18 continues to make national headlines, thanks to the heroic vigilance of the Black Lives Matter movement, national allies and social media.

Police shot at Clark 20 times in his grandmother’s backyard. The police said they “feared” for their lives, claiming Clark had a gun in his hand. But they did not find a gun — they found him clutching a cell phone. Nevertheless, the cops handcuffed Clark as he lay bleeding to death.

Results of a March 30 independent autopsy, requested by Clark’s family, confirmed eight of the 20 bullets hit him in the neck, back and thigh, causing widespread breakage of bones and massive bleeding, especially in his lungs. Based on these findings, Bennet Omalu, a forensic pathologist, stated, “His death wasn’t instantaneous. Death took about three to ten minutes.” (Washington Post, March 30) Omalu stated that the police were facing Clark’s back when they started shooting at him in the dark.

An “official” coroner’s autopsy has not taken place as of April 2. Clark is survived by his partner, Salena Manni, their sons and his grandmother.

Continued on page 3

1988: Winnie Mandela's legacy

Winnie Mandela’s legacy

By Monica Moorehead

The heinous murder of 22-year-old African-American Stephon Clark by the Sacramento, Calif., police on the night of March 18 continues to make national headlines, thanks to the heroic vigilance of the Black Lives Matter movement, national allies and social media.

Police shot at Clark 20 times in his grandmother’s backyard. The police said they “feared” for their lives, claiming Clark had a gun in his hand. But they did not find a gun — they found him clutching a cell phone. Nevertheless, the cops handcuffed Clark as he lay bleeding to death.

Results of a March 30 independent autopsy, requested by Clark’s family, confirmed eight of the 20 bullets hit him in the neck, back and thigh, causing widespread breakage of bones and massive bleeding, especially in his lungs. Based on these findings, Bennet Omalu, a forensic pathologist, stated, “His death wasn’t instantaneous. Death took about three to ten minutes.” (Washington Post, March 30) Omalu stated that the police were facing Clark’s back when they start-
**Howard University Protests erupt amidst corruption scandal**

Washington, D.C., Workers World bureau

April 2—Students and organizers at Howard University are engaged in a fifth day of protests and sit-ins in administrative buildings after the university fired six employees for appropriating nearly $3 million in financial aid funds. Students have called for the removal of President Wayne A. Frederick, as many view him as an embodiment of the administration’s lack of care. They are also calling for the removal of his board of trustees.

Participants as HU Resist, the students assert that the sit-ins are not entirely about money or funds. They are also about a gross misuse of power and irresponsibility on the part of the administration’s lack of care for its students. Multiple students reported that tutoring and counseling services are also being provided at the sit-in—a reminder that those left out are at the forefront of a conscious movement. (Twitter: @HUResist)

Students protest at Howard University.

**Join us in the fight for socialism!**

Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black and brown youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis. WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and distributed to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you.

Contact a Workers World Party branch near you:

**Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a national, interracial and multinational organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it’s the only way forward!**

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits. Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, joblessness and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black and brown youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis. WWP fights for socialism! Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you.

Contact a Workers World Party branch near you:

**Available online: www.workers.org/books**
Police murder of Stephon Clark ignites militant protests

By Taryn Fivek
New York

More than 1,500 people took the streets of New York City on March 28 to demand an immediate end to police terror and abolition of the New York Police Department. Protesters lifted up the names of Stephon Clark, a 22-year-old father of two who had been shot eight times by police in Sacramento, Calif., on March 18. He was killed in the backyard of his grandmother’s house, unarmed and with his back to the cops. His death is one more in a long line of Black lives murderously taken by police.

The march was organized by Workers World Party, the People’s Power Assembly and NYC Shut It Down. Four days earlier, organizers had raised the banner of Black Lives Matter at the NYC #MarchForOurLives and distributed 3,000 flyers about the March 28 protest to the many teenagers and adults marching against gun violence.

The U.S. is the world’s number one arms dealer. Large U.S. cities are more and more aply described as occupation zones as cops equipped with body armor and assault rifles literally carry the two Black, Brown and migrant youth. As capitalism grinds down to its dead end, the ruling class must deny the working class and oppressed any opportunity at revolutionary action and organizing — hence, the heavy investment in the police.

During the March 28 event, the NYPD brutally tried to crack down with scoot- ers, bicycles, cars and even a helicopter, making 13 arrests. Many teenagers who had heard about the action from the anti-gun movement expressed their outrage. They brought homemade signs to the kickoff rally held at Columbus Circle, co-chaired by members of WWP, PPA and NYSDS. The rally featu red speakers from Why Accountability Must Be Inscribed on the Fundamentally #Justice4StephonClark.

So many people were outraged at another senseless murder that the NYPD did not have enough scooters and bicycles to contain the march. Despite brutal arrests, the people moved fast and held the streets for most of the march. Local, national and international media were present and moved with the march to Times Square, where youth held numerous speak-outs before dispersing to do jail solidarity and outrage. This incredible show of force from the movement and the youth, mainly Black and Brown, showed that the Black Lives Matter movement is not abating but is clearly reproducing itself. Some who had been only eight years old when Trayvon Martin was murdered were militantly marching for him, as well as for Eric Garner, Sandra Bland, Stephon Clark and all Black lives taken by racist police.
The National Conference to Defeat Austerity was held in Detroit on Saturday, March 24. Led by a coalition of organizations and trade unions impacted by the Moratorium Now! Call to Stop Foreclosures, Evictions and Utility Shutoffs, the event was a resounding success.

Since the early 2000s, the city of Detroit has been at the epicenter of austerity impacts, as the city and finance capital against the U.S. working class. Some 139,699 of Detroit’s 384,672 homes were foreclosed because of mortgage defaults or unpaid taxes from 2005 to the present.

The conference then broke into seven super workshops as broad enough in scope so that they can be guaranteed to the entire population. Solidarity messages to the conference were from Caracas. He said that despite the hardship caused by U.S. economic sanctions against his country, he is confident of the victory of President Nicolás Maduro in the upcoming elections.

The opening plenary was chaired by Gabrielle Dior, a young African-American homemaker from Detroit, who played a major role in building the economy.

The final session was chaired by Yexenia Vanegas, a community activist from Caracas. He said that despite the hardship caused by U.S. economic sanctions against his country, he is confident of the victory of President Nicolás Maduro in the upcoming elections.
Following Dr. King's murder
Lessons of the April 1968 Black rebellions

Below are excerpts from an April 11, 1968, NW article by Workers World Party founding chairperson Sam Marcy, a week after the assassination in Memphis, Tenn., of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

By Sam Marcy

...The rebellions which opened spontaneously upon the heels of the announce- ment of the assassination of Rev. King were so widespread that they had an almost universal character throughout the length and breadth of this land. The magnitude and depth of the uprisings were so great that President Johnson had to cancel his Vietnam conference in Honolulu to attend to the crisis here — a sure sign that, for the moment at least, the war of liberation at home took precedence over that, for the moment at least, the war of liberation waged by the Vietnamese people against the U.S. occupation.

It is sufficient merely to remember that the storm of uprising engulfed 110 cities as of April 9, as revealed by the New York Times.

Nowhere in recent contemporary history has there taken place such a simulta- neous and complete spontaneous rising as we witnessed last week. Its very scope and magnitude send terror and confusion into the camp of the ruling class. The very ferocity and boldness of the mass rising were the only real factors that stopped the government from unleashing as extreme a terror as it did last summer [when National Guard troops were used to put down urban uprisings in cities like Newark, N.J., and Detroit].

Nevertheless, in the space of barely three days, the government made 16,253 arrests, left 3,550 injured and 396 dead, all as of April 8.

It must be remembered that many smaller cities did not report all at press time. Many of them generally refuse to release the true number of arrests or injured except on official re- quests from higher authorities.

No matter how the bourgeois press will distort the real character of the events follow- ing the assassination, there are two fundamental aspects of these events which cannot be obscured by mere propaganda.

The first one is that the uprisings were not of an accidental character, or solely a protest at the murder of Rev. King, but were a general expression of the revolu- tionary momentum inherent in the lib- eration struggle. The King assassination crystallized and accelerated the tempo of the rebellions.

The second aspect of the rebellion is the implicit rejection of the theory of nonviolence as a method of achieving lib- eration. The ruling class could scarcely fail to notice this.

To the extent that more token conces- sions are made to the Black masses, they are to be regarded as a by-product of the struggle carried on by the masses, and not at all as concessions handed down from above to assuage the grief of the masses. (It is plain for all to see that the passage of the current token civil rights bill in the reactionary House of Representatives by such a decisive majority is clearly a con- cession to the rebellions of the past week.)

Throughout the entire period until the burial of King, the ruling class so manip- ulated all of the important public events that aside from the rebellions themselves, there was no truly visible and significant force to break the law to be able to meet their basic needs. Despite this crim- inalization of the workers' militancy, they contin- ue to be a vital part of our communities by playing a crucial role in the state's dairy industry, and being at the forefront of the fight for workers' liberties for all.

The very sight of Nixon, Rockefeller, Kennedy, Romney, Humphrey and the other pillars of imperialist racism at the funeral could not help but add insult to injury. The masses of the people were even deprived of having their own way of interpreting the events. No wonder the masses resorted to retaliatory force!

In the epoch of imperialist decay, force has been the only arbiter in great events. Not a single important contemporary world issue has been decided without it, and until imperialism is swept off the face of the earth, that is how it will invariably be. Peaceful methods for the solution of great problems as well as small will prevail and endure after the reactionary obstruction of monopoly capitalism and racist oppression are swept away by a proletarian revolution.

Immigrant women protest: ‘We will not be caged!’

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Syracuse, N.Y.

"We will not be caged!" was the rallying cry against deportation of immigrant women and children in upstate New York on March 28. Caravans of protesters from across New York, the capital of which converged on the Immigration and Customs Enforcement federal facility in Batavia, N.Y.

The March rally celebrated Women's History Month with a action for justice.

Organizers were the Workers' Center of Central New York, the independent, militant Black Alliance for Peace, Greater Seattle Chapter 92. Other protesters were also among workers' organizations that participated in the action.

Orozco forde of a car-on Алексан who was detained in Batavia from December 2007 to February 2018, witnessed how that detention center, which houses the majority of immigra- tion detainees in upstate New York, ex- panded to include women, with the number of female inmates rising since the fall.

A protestor by the name of Athy's said: "Immigrant women in upstate New York for have faced incredible isolation and discrimination, [including] discrimi- nation at the workplace. Border Patrol's close relationship with local law enforce- ment and the lack of a driver's license ... forces them to break the law to be able to meet their basic needs. Despite this crim- inalization of the workers' militancy, they contin- ue to be a vital part of our communities by playing a crucial role in the state's dairy industry, and being at the forefront of the fight for workers' liberties for all.

Vets, gov't workers rally against privatizing VA

By Jim McMahan

Seattle

On March 27, government workers and veterans decried the 90,000 vacant staff- ing positions at veterans hospitals across the country. Health care workers' posts have been cut as part of an effort to pri- vatize the Department of Veterans Affairs, according to spokespeople at the rally.

American Federation of Government Employees Local 3397 led the Keep the Promise Rally — to deliver quality health care — partnering with Veterans for Peace, Greater Seattle Chapter 92. Other organizations also participated at the lunch-hour action outside the VA.

Dan Gilman of Veterans for Peace said privatization plans by the Trump Administration would result in a health care structure that lacked experience in treating veterans of many wars. He called for establishing large coalitions to fight Trump's plans.

Beverly Anderson, president of Local 3197, told the crowd that the local VA had lost 700 positions in the recent peri- od due to cuts and management harass- ment. Activists chanted, "Hey, hey, ho, ho, staffing shortages have got to go!"
Interview with Amazon worker

“We feel extremely exploited”

Bulletin: Two thousand Spanish workers struck an Amazon facility in Madrid on March 21 and 22 over inadequate wages and working conditions injurious to their health. According to the Unión General de Trabajadores (UGT) and Comisiones Obreras (CCOO), two of Spain’s labor unions, it was a “complete success,” with 98 percent of workers observing the stoppage.

Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos has an ob- scene individual net worth of over $124 billion. Yet the company’s half-million-plus workers worldwide are struggling to survive. Amazon’s unconstitutional working conditions are being proposed to their physical limits to maximize pro- ductivity at Amazon’s “fulfillment cen- ters.”

Comrade James Costello was hired at the Indianapolis warehouse in October, just before the high-peak pressure season that began on “Black Friday.” Amazon has five warehouses in Indiana, each em- ploying around 2,000 workers. Amazon is now the 15th largest employer in the state. This is Part 2 of Costello’s recent conversation about working for Amazon with WW labor reporter Martha Grevatt.

Martha Grevatt: What are you paid?
James Costello: $13 an hour on night shift, day shift $12. After 90 days you normally get a small raise, but some peo- ple don’t get it.

MG: Are there any benefits on top of your pay?
JC: There are benefits that you have to pay some of the cost of. I do not get those benefits because I can’t afford them to my- self. A lot of workers do not have benefits. There are no fully covered benefits.

MG: Do you have co-workers on public assistance who are forced to donate plasma, work multi- shift work, and class sizes that have ballooned.

JC: Yes. Amazon is a company where the CEO is one of the richest people in the country and the world, but because the pay is so low many workers have no oth- er option but to get assistance elsewhere, working multiple jobs or through food stamps and other survival programs.

MG: Is there a high turnover rate?
JC: Yes. Some get fired for a small mistake, but only one. One worker could be shutting down on Monday,” a post that gained widespread approval as workers in West Virginia rallied to support the Oklahoma City Federation of Teachers in their negotiations with Oklahoma City Public Schools.

Oklahoma teachers strike: ‘Fund kids, not oil!’

About 2,500 Arizona teachers rallied on the capital in Phoenix on March 28, joining a wave of organizing as education budget increases threaten the class sizes and buildings that are key to their success. Teachers from around the country like Gloria Rubac and Sara Catalinotto came to Oklahoma in solidarity with the teachers’ strike.

unions. In West Virginia, education work- ers fought for and won the same raise for everyone regardless of position, whether teacher, cafeteria worker or bus driver.

Groundswell of labor struggle in ‘right-to-work’ states

Oklahoma educators have seen an out- pouring of solidarity from union siblings locally and beyond. In a state with less than 6 percent of its workers unionized, Oklahoma City Teamsters joined teachers at the Capitol to amplify their demands. The Facebook page “I Support Oklahoma Teachers” reported unions of iron workers and operating engineers standing in solidarity as well. “It looks like there is talk among the workers about how conditions could be better. However, a lot of workers also talk about how hard it would be to organize success- fully under Amazon. What would you say that you and your co-work- ers want to see if you could unionize?

We would demand adequate breaks with better policy on when they start, so that when you reach the break area you can take a rest and hydrate. We want a Walmart that shows you the ter- rible treatment of workers — warehouse workers now as well as retail employees. Do you see a comparison?

JC: Yes, I do. When you look at Amazon and at Walmart, it’s the same policy of push- ing out a high number of goods while keeping wages low, and at the same time trying to make it impossible to unionize. They both push heavily anti-union mate- rial through the orientation process, as well as Anti-union union drives, which were met with a high level of resistance from the company.

MG: Is there any talk about bringing in a union?

JC: There is talk among the workers about how conditions could be better. However, a lot of workers also talk about how hard it would be to organize success- fully under Amazon.

What would you say that you and your co-work- ers want to see if you could unionize?

Walmart is notorious for its ter- rible treatment of workers — warehouse workers now as well as retail employees. Do you see a comparison?

JC: Yes, I do. When you look at Amazon and at Walmart, it’s the same policy of push- ing out a high number of goods while keeping wages low, and at the same time trying to make it impossible to unionize. They both push heavily anti-union mate- rial through the orientation process, as well as Anti-union union drives, which were met with a high level of resistance from the company.

MG: Is there any talk about bringing in a union?

JC: There is talk among the workers about how conditions could be better. However, a lot of workers also talk about how hard it would be to organize success- fully under Amazon.

What would you say that you and your co-work- ers want to see if you could unionize?

Walmart is notorious for its ter- rible treatment of workers — warehouse workers now as well as retail employees. Do you see a comparison?

JC: Yes, I do. When you look at Amazon and at Walmart, it’s the same policy of push- ing out a high number of goods while keeping wages low, and at the same time trying to make it impossible to unionize. They both push heavily anti-union mate- rial through the orientation process, as well as Anti-union union drives, which were met with a high level of resistance from the company.

MG: Is there any talk about bringing in a union?

JC: There is talk among the workers about how conditions could be better. However, a lot of workers also talk about how hard it would be to organize success- fully under Amazon.

What would you say that you and your co-work- ers want to see if you could unionize?

Walmart is notorious for its ter- rible treatment of workers — warehouse workers now as well as retail employees. Do you see a comparison?

JC: Yes, I do. When you look at Amazon and at Walmart, it’s the same policy of push- ing out a high number of goods while keeping wages low, and at the same time trying to make it impossible to unionize. They both push heavily anti-union mate- rial through the orientation process, as well as Anti-union union drives, which were met with a high level of resistance from the company.

MG: Is there any talk about bringing in a union?

JC: There is talk among the workers about how conditions could be better. However, a lot of workers also talk about how hard it would be to organize success- fully under Amazon.

What would you say that you and your co-work- ers want to see if you could unionize?

Walmart is notorious for its ter- rible treatment of workers — warehouse workers now as well as retail employees. Do you see a comparison?

JC: Yes, I do. When you look at Amazon and at Walmart, it’s the same policy of push- ing out a high number of goods while keeping wages low, and at the same time trying to make it impossible to unionize. They both push heavily anti-union mate- rial through the orientation process, as well as Anti-union union drives, which were met with a high level of resistance from the company.

MG: Is there any talk about bringing in a union?

JC: There is talk among the workers about how conditions could be better. However, a lot of workers also talk about how hard it would be to organize success- fully under Amazon.

What would you say that you and your co-work- ers want to see if you could unionize?

Walmart is notorious for its ter- rible treatment of workers — warehouse workers now as well as retail employees. Do you see a comparison?

JC: Yes, I do. When you look at Amazon and at Walmart, it’s the same policy of push- ing out a high number of goods while keeping wages low, and at the same time trying to make it impossible to unionize. They both push heavily anti-union mate- rial through the orientation process, as well as Anti-union union drives, which were met with a high level of resistance from the company.

MG: Is there any talk about bringing in a union?

JC: There is talk among the workers about how conditions could be better. However, a lot of workers also talk about how hard it would be to organize success- fully under Amazon.

What would you say that you and your co-work- ers want to see if you could unionize?

Walmart is notorious for its ter- rible treatment of workers — warehouse workers now as well as retail employees. Do you see a comparison?

JC: Yes, I do. When you look at Amazon and at Walmart, it’s the same policy of push- ing out a high number of goods while keeping wages low, and at the same time trying to make it impossible to unionize. They both push heavily anti-union mate- rial through the orientation process, as well as Anti-union union drives, which were met with a high level of resistance from the company.

MG: Is there any talk about bringing in a union?

JC: There is talk among the workers about how conditions could be better. However, a lot of workers also talk about how hard it would be to organize success- fully under Amazon.

What would you say that you and your co-work- ers want to see if you could unionize?

Walmart is notorious for its ter- rible treatment of workers — warehouse workers now as well as retail employees. Do you see a comparison?

JC: Yes, I do. When you look at Amazon and at Walmart, it’s the same policy of push- ing out a high number of goods while keeping wages low, and at the same time trying to make it impossible to unionize. They both push heavily anti-union mate- rial through the orientation process, as well as Anti-union union drives, which were met with a high level of resistance from the company.

MG: Is there any talk about bringing in a union?

JC: There is talk among the workers about how conditions could be better. However, a lot of workers also talk about how hard it would be to organize success- fully under Amazon.

What would you say that you and your co-work- ers want to see if you could unionize?

Walmart is notorious for its ter- rible treatment of workers — warehouse workers now as well as retail employees. Do you see a comparison?

JC: Yes, I do. When you look at Amazon and at Walmart, it’s the same policy of push- ing out a high number of goods while keeping wages low, and at the same time trying to make it impossible to unionize. They both push heavily anti-union mate- rial through the orientation process, as well as Anti-union union drives, which were met with a high level of resistance from the company.

MG: Is there any talk about bringing in a union?

JC: There is talk among the workers about how conditions could be better. However, a lot of workers also talk about how hard it would be to organize success- fully under Amazon.

What would you say that you and your co-work- ers want to see if you could unionize?

Walmart is notorious for its ter- rible treatment of workers — warehouse workers now as well as retail employees. Do you see a comparison?

JC: Yes, I do. When you look at Amazon and at Walmart, it’s the same policy of push- ing out a high number of goods while keeping wages low, and at the same time trying to make it impossible to unionize. They both push heavily anti-union mate- rial through the orientation process, as well as Anti-union union drives, which were met with a high level of resistance from the company.

MG: Is there any talk about bringing in a union?

JC: There is talk among the workers about how conditions could be better. However, a lot of workers also talk about how hard it would be to organize success- fully under Amazon.
Dr. Olivia Hooker, teacher, survivor of 1921 Tulsa race attack

By Dolores Cox

Dr. Olivia Hooker is a 101-year-old survivor of the horrific racist attack on the African-American community in Tulsa, Okla., the worst race riot. To this day, she remembers the devastating, traumatic experience of rioters coming onto her family’s property on May 31, 1921.

Throughout U.S. history, there have been deliberate efforts to keep African Americans at the bottom of society. Black people have consistently been the targets of racial hatred and violence. The law of the land continues to be white supremacy and privilege. The U.S. is a relic with racism, wealth, and power concentrated in the hands of imperialist propaganda and war. Due to centuries of social, economic and political disenfranchisement, the Black population has much catching up to do.

Just two generations after the abolition of slavery, descendants of enslaved people in the Greenwood section of Tulsa created a thriving, self-sufficient community that was a center for business and wealth. Greenwood was known as “Black Wall Street.” Residents built and cultivated homes, schools, churches, restaurants, banks, theaters, hospices, hospitals and stores. Its residents were among the best educated African Americans in the country.

Racists razed Greenwood

However, African Americans’ attempts to rise up and move beyond oppression were defeated. Greenwood was torched and burned. But its growth was short-lived. Those who were afraid of its growth and advancement spread the most malicious lies, and the worst acts of violence. They attacked White rioters ran-sacked and looted businesses and homes and businesses in turn. They destroyed more than 1,000 homes, leaving 10,000 Black people homeless. The racists murdered an estimated 300 people and injured 800; others died trapped in the fires. Even the police shot residents. Within 16 hours, the entire community of 35 city blocks was obliterated.

Martial law was declared. The National Guard did not arrest the racists, but rounded up and detained thousands of African Americans, some for several days. Men and boys were placed in internment camps. All the weapons they had and their self-protection were confiscated and given to whites.

Hooker family attacked

Dr. Hooker was born in Muskogee, Okla., in 1915. When she was three years old, the family moved to Tulsa. When the riot occurred, Dr. Hooker was six. Racists burned the doll clothes her grandmother had made that were hanging on the clothesline. Inside the house, the assailants broke or stole the family’s possessions. They even destroyed the food on the stove. Then they took away her father and 8-year-old brother.

After the racist attack, Dr. Hooker’s mother and five children moved to Topeka, Kan. Her father stayed behind to try to rebuild his department store. A year later, the family moved back to Tulsa, attempting to pick up the pieces of their broken lives. Two years after the family moved to Columbus, N.Y., as an adult, Dr. Hooker’s father had been offered a job there. Both parents were high school teachers.

Workers World Party Strike Support

In fact, the racists murdered three times as many, not counting those trapped in the fires.

Update to this slightly edited article, originally published in Workers World on March 3, 2016. Not only is Dr. Hooker still alive today at 103, but she and other founders of the Tulsa Race Riot Commission finally won some historical reparations when on Feb. 20, Oklahoma state legislators announced the launch of an online public school curriculum related to the 1921 race attack. The Tulsa Race Riot had not previously been taught in the state’s school system. (tulsa2021.org)
Winifred "Winnie" Mandela, a heroic freedom fighter in the South African anti-apartheid struggle, died at the age of 81 on April 2 in a Johannesburg hospital after a long illness. She was a member of South Africa's parliament until her death.

She was an inspiration to oppressed women worldwide who joined the mass anti-apartheid solidarity movement, including this writer, who was a founding member of the U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network. That organization demanded U.S. corporations divest from the economy of the racist apartheid regime in the mid-1980s.

A memorial service for this "Mother of the Nation" will be held in South Africa on April 11. The official national funeral is scheduled for April 14.

The African National Congress, the oldest national liberation movement in South Africa and currently part of the ruling government, issued an April 2 statement titled "ANC dips revolutionary banner to Winnie Madikizela-Mandela."

In part read in part:

"The ANC lowers its revolutionary banner in honour of the memory of this great woman who was so loved and revered. Winnie Madikizela-Mandela was a great patriot and Pan Africanist, whose resilience and courage inspired freedom struggles not only in South Africa, but across Africa and her diaspora."

"Such was her impact as an activist and revolutionary around the world that, until the very end of her life, she was lauded and acknowledged for her contribution to the struggles of all oppressed peoples of the world.

"Her early exposure to apartheid in the Village of Moengweni, Bizana, in the Transkei, where she was born to Columbia and Ntomathamsanqa Mzikumane Ma-dikizela on 26 September 1936, inspired in her a lifelong hatred of injustice and racism. It was this early exposure, and later [her experiences] as a young social worker in Johannesburg, that set her on a life-long path, joining the ranks of celebrated freedom fighters of the African National Congress and the broad liberation movement in the 1970s. She counted amongst her friends and inspiration at the time the likes of Lilian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Ma Albertina Sisulu, Florence Matlwalé, Francine Baud, Kate Molse, Ruth Mompati, Hilda Bernstein and Ruth First.

"Comrade Madikizela-Mandela was an activist in her own right, and will be remembered for having stood at the forefront of the struggle for women's rights in South Africa — taking part in a number of demonstrations against the unjust pass laws. When the ANC was banned in South Africa — and the mere mention of the organisation's name could result in imprisonment — Mama Winnie and countless other dedicated activists kept the flames of resistance burning, speaking out against apartheid, against detentions without trial, against the pass laws, and against the brutality of the apartheid regime. For this she paid a heavy price.

"She was first incarcerated in 1956 and over the years would face many more such detentions and banishments including solitary confinement. Despite all these attempts to break her spirit, she remained steadfast and refused to cave with her political activism, displaying exemplary courage that made her a role model for many young women activists in South Africa.

"Imprisonment, banning, harassment, house arrest, solitary confinement and having her husband and father of her children, Isithwalandwe Tata Nelson Mandela, imprisoned for 27 years, did not break Mama Winnie's fighting spirit.

"We are grateful to her for having bequeathed us a lasting legacy and inspiration to serve our people."

To read the entire statement, go to tinyurl.com/y703qyxx.
After 152 years of U.S. aggression

Hands off Korea!

By Deirdre Griswold

People in the United States need to un-
derstand why the Korean people feel so
strongly about defending their soverei-
gnty and independence.

The Koreans are a distinct people
who were united for thousands of years
by language, culture and geography, but
have been divided since 1945.

Living on a peninsula with a moun-
tainous border had protected them from
land invasions and contributed to their
unique development. Their civilization
progressed so rapidly that “between 1011
and 1068, when the heavily armed U.S. gunboat, the General Sherman, steamed up the Daedong River.

It was stopped along the way by Korean people, who told the ship to leave but also
offered the sailors food and water.

Instead of waiting for permission to
to enter another people’s country, the war-
ship continued on its way to the city of
P'yongyang, where it fired its cannons.

For four days, there was fighting between
the U.S. gunboat fleet and the Korean defend-
ers. Finally, the Koreans surrounded the
warship with fire boats — small vessels
fueled with burning straw and wood —
and destroyed the invading Sherman, killing the whole crew.

When news of their defeat reached
Washington, it was a shock to the U.S.
ruling class. The industrialists and trac-
sers saw themselves as a budding world
power at the time, vying with the Euro-
pean colonialists for control of the Pacif-
ic. “Opening up” Korea would also give
them a stepping stone to China, with its
vast population and resources.

By 1871 — five years after the Gener-
ral Sherman disaster — the U.S. launched
another expedition to Korea, this time
with warships and 650 men. “They
let the Koreans know that their fleet
would be exploring the area, and that
they meant no harm,” says the U.S. Naval
Dictionary. But that’s not what happened.

This time they sailed up the Han River
to the area that is Seoul today, ignoring
Korean warnings to turn back. With su-
perior firepower, cannons and howitzers,
they attacked the Korean garrisons along
the river and killed some 300 people.

But the Koreans refused to give in to
the aggressors from across the ocean.

By 1898, after a war with Spain, a
decaying colonial ruler, the U.S. had
grasped the Philip-

pines (as well as Cuba and Puerto Rico)
and the Philippines (as well as Cuba and Puerto Rico) to become a Pacific power.

That same year it also for-
mally annexed Ha-

waii, five years after
U.S. planters had

Overthrown Indige-

ous Dynasty. Who

would be the first to
keep the peninsula from reuniting. After


That is why San Francisco workers are demanding full

retirement at age 50. They are beginning an unlimited work stoppage. Some electric-

45,000 people — U.S.

farmers and villagers, who protested for

the government of Alain Juppé.

Springbottom workers, who mainly are organized

by the CGT in both the private and the public sector, have

a nasty job. According to Baptiste Talbot, the lead-

er of the Federation of Public Service, “Our life expec-
tancy is 15 years less than that of a normal worker, and

we are three times more likely to die before the age of

65.”

By G. Dunkel

Major strikes are starting in France on April 3 to op-
pose the Macron government’s plans to impose auster-
ity on the French working class, lay off 120,000 public sector workers, break the workers movement. But
French workers are fighting back through political strikes, like the U.S. teachers’ strikes in West Virginia, Ohio and Oklahoma.

Railroad workers have scheduled the first two days of
the 36-day strike they plan to hold before the end of
June. They intend to strike April 3-4 and then work for
two days. Sanitation and sewage workers are going
out on strike during the first week of April and are con-
sidering staying out until June. Air France workers are striking on April 3, 10 and 11, but haven’t decided how long they will hold these work stoppages. Some electric-

ity workers have given notice that they intend to strike
every day for the next three months.

Workers in France have constitutional right to
strike as long as they give a few days notice. Concerned
that a major portion of its transportation system is not
going to operate, the government is warning these union members to stay clear with strikes.

SNCF, the government-owned company that runs the
railroads, is promising a bonus to any manager with a train
operator’s certificate who agrees to drive a train.

SNCF management is also disputing the validity of
the strike notice that the CGT, UNSA and CFDT unions,
which represent railroad workers, have given.

A recent wave of range-finding from the Greens to the Maoist Communist Party of French Work-

ers (PCOF), has been formed to resist “the breakup of the
SNCF;” a precursor to the government’s goal of breaking up the organized public service sector in France.

The left in France is still a significant political force.

The left coalition received between 25 percent and 30 percent of the votes cast.

“Together! Together! Yeah!”

At a press conference held by SUD Rail and CGT Rail
that took place at the end of March, Danielle Simonnot, of the Party of

the Left, said: “One chant sums it up: When everything is privatized, we’ll be deprived of all.” (LO’s, March 30) SUD Rail, another major union of railroad workers, plans

a national strike on April 3.

Clémentine Autain, representing France Unbowed, said at the same media event: “This is a trial of strength between the unions and the government. We must win it.”

The press conference ended with a chant of “Togeth-
er! Together! Yeah!” This slogan goes back to the victori-

ous struggle of 1965 when the railroad workers beat back
the government of Alain Juppé.

San Francisco workers, who mainly are organized
by the CGT in both the private and the public sector, have

a nasty job. According to Baptiste Talbot, the lead-

er of the Federation of Public Service, “Our life expec-
tancy is 15 years less than that of a normal worker, and

we are three times more likely to die before the age of

65.”

By Sara Flounders

Flounders sheds light on how to stand up to the imperialist war

machine and, in so doing, save ourselves and humanity.”

— Miguel Barroso, President of the European Parliament
Available at all major online booksellers.

Pentagon Achillesheel.com
No!' to war with Russia

Berlin Easter Peace March

No! to war with Russia

Workers World Party condemns the brutal massacre of peaceful Palestinian protesters by Israeli occupation forces in Gaza on March 30. We stand with the Great March of Return and the right of all Palestinian people to return to their stolen homeland.

We hold the U.S. government, which arms and funds the Israeli war machine, responsible for today's massacre after 70 years of massacre against the people of Palestine.

At least 16 Palestinian civilians are confirmed dead and 1,446 injured, according to the Gaza Ministry of Health. Israeli snipers targeted unarmed marchers while drones dropped tear gas from above. A young man was shot while praying. A farmer working his field was murdered with a tank shell.

These murders by the racist occupation army are as cowardly as the murders of Stephon Clark and so many more unarmed Black people by racist U.S. cops. They show how much the Israeli apartheid regime fears this united action of all Palestinian political factions and sectors of society.

Israel is part and parcel of the U.S. military-industrial complex, receiving more than $3 billion in annual direct military aid, nearly three times as much as the next highest recipient, and billions more by other means. Since its founding, Israel has served as both a military base and a bastion of white supremacy for U.S. imperialism in the Middle East, serving the interests of U.S. oil corporations.

The standard-issue weapon of the Israeli army is the M60, made in South Carolina and provided free to Israel by the Pentagon. This is the fully automatic version of the AR-15, the assault weapon widely condemned for its role in the Parkland school shooting and other mass shootings in the U.S. Yet neither Trump and the Republicans nor the Democratic Party opposition objects to providing these weapons to gun down Palestinian children and their families.

President's unilateral decision to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem was an act of incitement aimed at escalating the genocide of the Palestinian people and futhering the theft of land by Zionist settlers, many of whom come from the U.S. Meanwhile, the people of Gaza, 70 percent of whom are refugees, are living through their 11th year of total blockade. Gaza is the world's largest open-air prison, where nearly 2 million people are kept under siege, denied the right to medical care, education, drinking water and electricity.

Most people in Gaza are the children and grandchildren of refugees driven off their land a few miles away, in what are now Israeli cities and resort towns like Tel Aviv and Herzliya. Their labor built many of the luxury hotels and condos that now line the Mediterranean shore. U.S. hotel chains and developers claim to own much of the land that rightly belongs to expelled Palestinians. U.S. firms also help plunder natural gas from beneath the waters of Palestine.

On March 30, Palestinians were commemorating the 42nd anniversary of Land Day, when six Palestinian protesters were gunned down by Israeli forces in 1976, as they were protesting the Israeli government's confiscation of Palestinian land. The Great March of Return will continue until May 15, the 70th anniversary of the Nakba — the "disaster" — and the creation of the racist settler state of Israel.

As revolutionaries living in the belly of U.S. imperialism, we vow to do everything in our power to disrupt Washington's military, economic and political support of the Israeli apartheid regime. We stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Palestine and their just struggle to end the occupation.

End all U.S. aid to the racist state of Israel! Glory to the martyrs of Land Day 1976 and 2018!

From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free! Workers World Party March 31, 2018

WWP condemns Israeli massacre of protesters in Gaza

Israeli massacre in Gaza protested

Berlin Easter Peace March

‘No!’ to war with Russia

The traditional Easter Peace March began in England in 1958. West Germans began in 1960, and their march ended at the enormous Bergen-Home military camp and testing range between Hannover and Hamburg. That was in the midst of the threat of nuclear war between the U.S.-led imperialist world and the socialist world of the Soviet Union and its allies. Workers World received this release from this year’s marchers in Berlin in the midst of the current U.S.-NATO-European Union campaign denouncing and threatening Russia.

On the Easter march in Berlin, the following statement of the organizers met with great approval:

“Let us put in place a ‘strong signal of unity’ for peace: Détente with Russia — and the creation of the racist settler state of Israel. As revolutionaries living in the belly of U.S. imperialism, we vow to do everything in our power to disrupt Washington’s military, economic and political support of the Israeli apartheid regime. We stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Palestine and their just struggle to end the occupation.

End all U.S. aid to the racist state of Israel! Glory to the martyrs of Land Day 1976 and 2018!

From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free! Workers World Party March 31, 2018

The chants were militant: “NYC, you will learn, that refugees will return!”, “Free, free Palestine! Long live the Intifada!”, and “Resistance is justified, when people are occupied!”

The Facebook page for the protest at Washington Square Park lists Within our Lifetime-United for Palestine as calling the protest, which was endorsed by NYU Jewish Voice for Peace, Jews for Palestinian Right of Return, Samidoun, NY 4 Palestine, which includes American Muslims for Palestine, and the International Action Center, Al-Awda, Decolonize This Place, NYU Students for Justice in Palestine, Students for Justice in Palestine at the College of Staten Island and Labor for Palestine.

There were protests March 31, especially in Tunisia, Turkey and Lebanon. More protests over the new Israeli massacre are expected the first week of April. — Report and photo by G. Dunkel

TURN THE GUNS AROUND

Mutinies, Soldier Revolts and Revolutions

by John Catalinotto

Weaving together GI letters, interviews and first-hand narratives with historical research, the author brings to life GI resistance in the Vietnam War era, shows its relation to capitalist state power and highlights why breaking the military chain of command is an essential step to ending oppression around the globe.

“if schools in the United States really wanted to impart historical truth, Catalinotto’s ‘Turn the Guns Around’ would be required reading. He tells the true story of this epoch. Few participants knew more about the massive GI rebellion against the Vietnam War, the anti-war veterans’ movement or the history of soldier revolts from the Paris Commune to the Portuguese coup.”

—in Capt Larry Holmes

GI resistor and organizer for the American Servicemen’s Union 1972-74.
MEMORIAL FOR MILT NEIDENBERG
Workers pay tribute to revolutionary boldness

By Brenda Ryan
New York

Milt Neidenberg’s comrades, family and friends gathered in New York City on March 31 to celebrate his life. In moving tributes, they recounted the guidance he provided in labor and revolutionary struggles over the past 60 years and the creative, bold tactics he devised to fight the evils of capitalism and protect workers.

Milt was a former Workers World Party, who died on Feb. 4 at the age of 96, was a steelworker in Buffalo, N.Y., and later a unionized worker in New York City. His experiences and application of Marxism in the class struggle enabled him to develop winning strategies. As comrades said, he was their “secret weapon.”

First Secretary of Workers World Party Larry Holmes said Milt was a working-class Marxist intellectual. Like Party founders Sam Marcy and Vince Cope land, Milt acted as a working-class lawyer, said Holmes. “They may not have graduated from Harvard, but they graduated from the steel mills.”

Party members and friends shared accounts of union struggles in which Milt played a role, from the 1960s racist teachers’ strike against Black community control in Ocean Hill-Brownsville in Brooklyn to the Harvard University Dining Service workers’ strike in 2016.

Vondora Jordan spoke about Milt’s support of the World Wide Workers’ Strike campaign of the mid-1990s. A group of workfare workers and supporters backed by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees District Council 37 fought to unionize recipients of workfare and welfare who were losing their jobs. “Milt and his buddies were fighting for 15 groups and more.”

Others spoke of the impact Milt had on their lives. Bob McCubbin was a college student when he met Milt’s life partner, Rosemary Neidenberg, when they were co-workers in Buffalo. Rosemary invited him to dinner, where he met Milt. They took to political events, including a picket against a car dealership in Buffalo that refused to hire Black workers. “I had finally walked the walk on racism where previously I’d only talked the talk,” McCubbin said.

Deirdre Griswold, a Party founder, longtime editor of Workers World newspaper and member of the Secretariat, said she was 14 when Milt came to Buffalo and got three pails from Brooklyn to join him. She said it was a pretty dreary place then as the Korean war was going on, McCarthyism was raging and many Reds were losing their jobs. “Milt and his buds lifted everyone’s spirits. They were comrades in the truest sense, encouraging, not critical or competitive.”

She continued, “Their Jewish culture was proletarian. It was rooted in surviving oppression through solidarity and kindness and humor. It was just the opposite of re-actionary, bourgeois Zionist culture which uses the Nazi oppression of Jews an excuse to oppress Palestinian people and steal their land.”

John Catalinotto, a managing editor of WW, said Milt had set the bar high for older comrades who hoped to one day be able to retire. He quoted a poem about the culture of revolution by Bertolt Brecht wrote about revolutionaries with Lenin in mind: “Those who are stronger fight on for an hour. Those who are still stronger for a day. Those who are strongest fight their whole lives. They are the indispensable ones.”

With a break in his voice, Catalinotto said, “Milt was indispensable.”

Young members of the party read statements of tribute to Milt sent from branches in Atlanta, Buffalo, Chicago, Los Angeles, Portland, Ore., Rochester, N.Y., the San Francisco Bay Area, Texas, Tucson, Ariz., and West Virginia.

A young comrade in Philadelphia sent a video message in which he encouraged people to listen to Milt’s series of classes on labor history on YouTube. Highlights of the memorial were the musical performances. Pam Parker moved the audience singing “Mother’s Day” and “Bound for Freedom.” The Team Solidarity Singers sang several union songs, including “Solidarity Forever” and “Joe Hill,” to joyous accompaniment from the audience.

The most moving part of the program was a video clip from a 2009 celebration of Milt and Rosemary on their 50th anniversary in Workers World Party. In this Milt says love and passion are what kept him and Rosey in the struggle. But he adds that there has to be hate as well as love—he hate on a class basis “to select the best possible way to hit back, to be the most cunning, creative and strong” against vulture capitalists that rob the workers daily.

Milt advised his comrades to learn from setbacks and advances and to go back to the classics, Marx, Lenin and Engels, because they “give us a sense of direction and historical potential for what we can accomplish on the way to a revolutionary socialist future.”

By Brenda Ryan
New York

Milt Neidenberg’s comrades, family and friends gathered in New York City on March 31 to celebrate his life. In moving tributes, they recounted the guidance he provided in labor and revolutionary struggles over the past 60 years and the creative, bold tactics he devised to fight the evils of capitalism and protect workers.

By Brenda Ryan
New York

Milt Neidenberg’s comrades, family and friends gathered in New York City on March 31 to celebrate his life. In moving tributes, they recounted the guidance he provided in labor and revolutionary struggles over the past 60 years and the creative, bold tactics he devised to fight the evils of capitalism and protect workers.

Milt Neidenberg

Milt Neidenberg

Milt Neidenberg

Milt Neidenberg

Milt Neidenberg

Milt Neidenberg

Milt Neidenberg

Milt Neidenberg

Milt Neidenberg

Milt Neidenberg

Milt Neidenberg

Milt Neidenberg

Milt Neidenberg

Milt Neidenberg

Milt Neidenberg

Milt Neidenberg

Milt Neidenberg

Milt Neidenberg

Milt Neidenberg

Milt Neidenberg

Milt Neidenberg

Milt Neidenberg

Milt Neidenberg

Milt Neidenberg

Milt Neidenberg
Trump concibe golpe derechista

Por Fred Goldstein

Trump concibe golpe derechista

24 de marzo - Con nombramiento del multimillonario George Bostic, cronista y racista John Bolton para el cargo de Asesor de Seguridad Nacio-

nal, Donald Trump virtualmente trans-

formará el cargo de Asesor de Seguridad Na-

cional, y en parte fraccionales. Pero

litas no son tan importantes como el

Pompeo, quien fue traído de la jefatura de

La corriente reaccionaria que emana de

Más de un millón de estudiantes sa-

El movimiento Las Vidas Negras Im-

Cofin, fuera el director del sindicato de acero y el ali

moto de "derecho al trabajo" (¡trabajar por

realizaron un heroico ataque en un esta-

maestros de Virginia Occidental, quienes

El movimiento de solidaridad con las/

El movimiento Las Vidas Negras Im-

Vale la pena señalar que Trumka y com-

El pueblo se mueve en dirección opuesta a Trump

Trump, la clase dominante y los jefes sindicales usan de las/los trabajadores para influir en la reacción política. Pero el pueblo se está moviendo en la dirección opuesta.

La clase dominante siempre lleva a cabo sus golpes en dos fases. Primero, trata de imponer sus fuerzas y desplazar a los/das representantes de masas en el aparato político, económico y comercial. El resultado de esta deslocación político-institucional es que la clase dominante no tiene ya la capacidad de imponer sus políticas sin enfrentar la resistencia de las/los trabajadores y las/os oprimidas. Esto se aplica no solo a los trabajadores de empresas corporativas, sino a los patronos y los banqueros que quieren mantener su poder y sus enormes beneficios. Es el arribo de la reacción política. Pero el pueblo se está moviendo en la dirección opuesta.

Y no solo los trabajadores de las empresas corporativas, sino también los trabajadores de los sectores de servicios, de agricultura, de minería, de construcción, de salud, de educación, de transporte, de comunicaciones, de energías, de medios de comunicación, de deportes, de entretenimiento, de arte, de cultura, de educación, de salud, de vivienda, de político, económico y comercial. El resultado de esta deslocación político-institucional es que la clase dominante no tiene ya la capacidad de imponer sus políticas sin enfrentar la resistencia de las/los trabajadores y las/os oprimidas. Esto se aplica no solo a los trabajadores de empresas corporativas, sino a los patronos y los banqueros que quieren mantener su poder y sus enormes beneficios. Es el arribo de la reacción política. Pero el pueblo se está moviendo en la dirección opuesta.

Y no solo los trabajadores de las empresas corporativas, sino también los trabajadores de los sectores de servicios, de agricultura, de minería, de construcción, de salud, de educación, de transporte, de comunicaciones, de energías, de medios de comunicación, de deportes, de entretenimiento, de arte, de cultura, de educación, de salud, de vivienda, de político, económico y comercial. El resultado de esta deslocación político-institucional es que la clase dominante no tiene ya la capacidad de imponer sus políticas sin enfrentar la resistencia de las/los trabajadores y las/os oprimidas. Esto se aplica no solo a los trabajadores de empresas corporativas, sino a los patronos y los banqueros que quieren mantener su poder y sus enormes beneficios. Es el arribo de la reacción política. Pero el pueblo se está moviendo en la dirección opuesta.