



SOCIALIST PARTY OF MICHIGAN MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

March 2023

Workers of Michigan Unite!

Hello Michigan socialists!

This month has been full of many ups and downs for workers in Michigan. The Repeal of "Right to Work," a policy designed and implemented in many states to weaken and defund labor unions, is cause for reflection of the power of worker organizing. That the capitalists and the politicians who represent them have ceded this point to organized labor is a testament to the increased pressure they are feeling as a class to give concessions to workers.

We must also be vigilant in understanding where they stopped short- defanging the bills of reasonable protections that threaten their interests (pointedly, walking back protections of teachers to strike during the school year.) However, we should not become overly cynical or dismiss this as mere incrementalism or political theater. The workers of Michigan ARE uniting and the ruling class is taking notice.

Michigan Codifies LGBTQ+ Protections As Fascism Ratchets Up

In other news from the legislature, Michigan now legally recognizes LGBTQ+ individuals as protected under the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act. While this is a boon to queer workers who have historically had to fear retaliation from bigoted bosses and landlords it comes at a time where the stakes for LGBTQ+ workers are very high.

At CPAC- the Conservative Political Action Conference that represents the mainstream of American conservatism- featured speaker and Daily Wire host Michael Knowles called for the "eradication" of transgenderism.

This is nakedly genocidal rhetoric being espoused by one of America's capitalist political parties- mirroring if not directly attempting to recreate the anti-LGBTQ purges of the Nazi Party. Much like the Nazis burning the library of the Institute of Sexology- the largest collection of research on queer and trans people at the time- fascist operators have targeted trans people as a group they can scapegoat and smear to gain power.

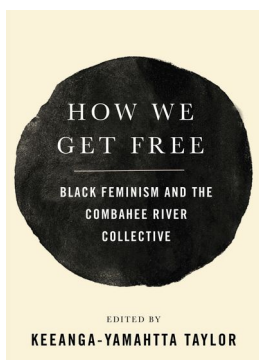
At a time when some of history's worst atrocities seem close to repeating themselves, we need more than legal protections. The working class must unite to protect our queer and trans comrades from fascist lies and fascist violence. If we wait for "rainbow capitalists" to save us history may repeat again- and it will be too little, too late.

“The power of capitalism, its power seems inescapable- but then, so did the divine right of kings. Any human power can be resisted and changed by human beings.”

-Ursula K. Le Guin, Science Fiction Author

Celebrating Women's History Month

How We Get Free- Black Feminism and the Combahee River Collective by Keeanga- Yamahтта Taylor



The Combahee River Collective, a path-breaking group of radical black feminists, was one of the most important organizations to develop out of the antiracist and women's liberation movements of the 1960s and 70s. In this collection of essays and interviews edited by activist-scholar Keeanga-Yamahтта Taylor, founding members of the organization and contemporary activists reflect on the legacy of its contributions to Black feminism and its impact on today's struggles. -Available from Haymarket Books

The Next American Revolution- Sustainable Activism For the 21st Century by Grace Lee Boggs

A vibrant, inspirational force, Boggs has participated in all of the twentieth century's major social movements—for civil rights, women's rights, workers' rights, and more. She draws from seven decades of activist experience, and a rigorous commitment to critical thinking, to redefine “revolution” for our times.

From her home in Detroit, she reveals how hope and creativity are overcoming despair and decay within the most devastated urban communities. Her book is a manifesto for creating alternative modes of work, politics, and human interaction that will collectively constitute the next American Revolution—which is unraveling before our eyes.

-Available from University of California Press



International Women's Day: Roots in Radical History, Labor & Reproductive Rights

In this interview on Democracy Now! Professor Nancy Kreiger sketches out the radical history and origins of International Women's Day and its roots in Socialist organizing and labor struggles.

https://www.democracynow.org/2023/3/8/iwd_united_states

Toward a Revolutionary Feminism: A Continuum of Women's Work

In this episode of Revolutionary Left Radio guest Tai Lee discusses feminist theory, marxist v. liberal feminism, patriarchal realism, gender abolition, historical and dialectical materialism, why the "gender critical" movement is fundamentally anti-Marxist, key feminist thinkers, and much more!

<https://revolutionarylefradio.libsyn.com/feminism>