



SOCIALIST PARTY OF MICHIGAN MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

March 2024 Workers of Michigan Unite!

Rest in Power Deandre Jones

Deandre Jones died on February 24th.

Deandre Jones was beloved by his community, and for several years him and his family had been fighting a struggle to hold Graphic Packaging International accountable for its pollution of the Northside neighborhood.

Deandre Jones suffered from asthma- residents of the Northside neighborhood experience disproportionately high rates of asthma. Fumes from the nearby Graphic Packaging and the city wastewater treatment plant are documented sources of hydrogen sulfide gas which exacerbates that condition.

Deandre Jones' sister died of an asthma attack when she was 17 years old.

Deandre Jones and his sister were plaintiffs in a lawsuit filed against Graphic Packaging, the city of Kalamazoo and state and county officials.

The life expectancy in the Northside neighborhood, a predominately black, working class neighborhood in Kalamazoo, MI, is 14 years less than surrounding areas.

I never met Deandre. I have been following the struggle against Graphic Packaging and speaking out on it for several years now. Many of my colleagues and comrades have organized in this struggle- many live in the neighborhood and have asthma themselves. What is going on in the Northside neighborhood is a text book case of environmental racism. The parts of Kalamazoo on the whiter side of historical redlining do not have to deal with hydrogen sulfide gas.

They do not have to deal with the noxious, unhealthy aerosols the state refers to as “nuisance odors.”

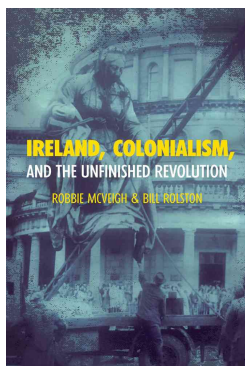
They do not have to bury their children from asthma attacks.

I have written before in our newsletters about sacrifice zones, about the human costs of capitalism, and about those in marginalized communities who struggle against it. Those very brave people who- staring down the leviathan of industry sickening their neighbors- plant their feet and fight- and lead others to do so.

Deandre was one of those people. He was 33 years old. May his example inspire us to organize and continue to fight against exploitation, for our rights, and for clean air.

-Andy Argo
Socialist Party of Michigan

Radical Recommendations



Ireland, Colonialism, and the Unfinished Revolution by Robbie McVeigh and Bill Rolston

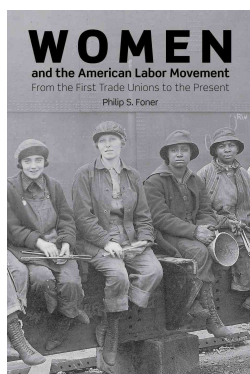
Ireland's prime minister recently resigned, and on his way out challenged President Biden directly on his material support for the genocide in

Gaza. He said, "We see our history in their eyes, a story of displacement, of dispossession, and (in which) national identity questions are denied. Forced emigration, discrimination, and now hunger." McVeigh and Rolston's book brings the history the prime minister was gesturing to in vivid detail, from England's proto-imperial engagement with Ireland in 1155, through the struggle for Independence in the early 20th century, to how that legacy reverberates into the modern day- and how the Socialist republic envisioned by Irish revolutionaries like James Connolly has yet to come to fruition (hence, an unfinished revolution). From [Haymarket Books](#).

Women and the American Labor Movement

By Philip S. Foner

Phillip Foner trains their eye on the history of women workers in the U.S. in this sweeping and gripping history. From early examples of indentured servants organizing in the Colonies to the role of women in some of the 19th and 20th century's most pressing labor struggles, Foner guides the reader through how workers often dealing with the double struggle of being working class and the subjugated sex took vital roles in historical labor struggles and organized industries many male-centered unions wouldn't touch, such as textiles and domestic work. From [Haymarket Books](#).



Radical Recommendations

The Palestinian (1977)

A documentary in the shadow on the Lebanese Civil War- ostensibly over the extent to which their government should exercise solidarity with Palestinian resistance- this nearly 50 year old film documents both the political situation of exiled Palestinians and the war crimes perpetrated against them by the Israeli government.

A documentary that simultaneously inspires and kindles indignation, we see a people who have continued to fight against their colonization and extermination across decades and whose stories could literally be pulled from today's headlines on the genocide in Gaza. Available for free on [YouTube](#).

From [Revolutionary Left Radio](#)

Liberation Theology: Jesus Christ and the Fight for Human Emancipation

In this interview with the hosts of the left-wing religious podcast The Magnificast they sketch out a brief history of Liberation Theology, the intersection of Christian centered struggles for social justice with Socialism and Marxism, and juxtapose it against the strain of right-wing ethnonationalism that "hijacks" Christianity in the imperial core of the United States.

Events and Announcements

-The SPUSA's presidential campaign- with Presidential candidate William Stodden and Vice Presidential candidate Stephanie Cholensky- recently hosted a response to the State of the Union address. To hear a Socialist response to the speech from the Capitalist-in-Chief, visit [Socialist Party USA on Facebook](#) or the link below.*

-Kalamazoo Non-Violent Opponents of War are holding weekly vigils in Kalamazoo in front of the Federal Building at the corner of Park St. and W Michigan Ave Sundays at 11:30AM. Recent and current vigils are focusing on the genocide in Gaza.

*<https://fb.watch/r7Yzunc3NN/>