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## **SUNDAY MORNING AT THE MARXIST LIBRARY**

### **COMPLETED PAST PROGRAMS 2012-2016**

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#### **2012 COMPLETED PAST PROGRAMS**

**Sunday January 8th, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

The Future of ICSS & Our Spring Schedule

Time to get together, talk about the future of ICSS, discuss our mission, and plan the schedule for our Sunday Morning Forums at the Marxist Library. Please come with suggestions and concrete plans. Newcomers and Old Timers welcome.

**Sunday January 15th, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

Lessons learned from the Occupy Oakland movement.

Description: Occupy Oakland is a dynamic social movement that has captured the attention from the nation. It has attempted to challenge capitalism. Has it? What are the next steps? That is what shall be discussed. Speaker: Javier from Occupy Oakland.

**Sunday January 22ed, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

Bringing Marx and Keynes into the 21st Century: Implications of Finance Capital for Economic Crisis and Depressions Post 2007.

Jack Rasmus will discuss the major insights--and limitations--of both Marx's and Keynes' explanations of the role of finance capital in contributing to economic crises (Marx) and depressions (Keynes). The talk will include an assessment of the emerging, but incomplete, role of finance capital in Marx's classical categories of rate of exploitation, organic composition of capital, falling rate of profit, and in clarifying the relationships between Marxist overproduction and realization crises. It will similarly assess the predicted--but missing explanation--of the role of finance in Keynes' and the undeveloped relationship between financial speculation, capital investment, and income inequality in Keynes' General Theory. Jack will then explain how his own theory unites both Marx's and Keynes' approach to explaining depressions and economic crisis

by introducing and integrating heretofore missing financial variables into both Marx's and Keynes's theories and their key concepts and categories of analysis.

**Sunday January 29th, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

Open Discussion on Marx, Keynes, and Crisis

Our regularly scheduled talk was cancelled, and so we have an opportunity for an open discussion on Marx, Keynes, and Crisis. Come prepared to debate and defend your views!

**Sunday February 5th, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

The Situationists and the Occupy Movement. (Ken Knabb)

Ken has translated numerous works by Guy Debord and the Situationist International. His own writings, including "The Joy of Revolution" and several texts on the Occupy movement, can be found at his "Bureau of Public Secrets" website: [www.bopsecrets.org](http://www.bopsecrets.org).

**Sunday February 5th, 2012 - 12:30 pm – 1 pm.** The Planning Committee meets following the talk on the first Sunday of every month. This is an open meeting. Everyone is welcome to help plan our future sessions.

**Sunday February 12th, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

The True Cost of Coal

Join the Beehive Collective for a visual workshop on "The True Cost of Coal." • Using a gigantic, portable mural teeming with intricate images of plants and animals, the Bees will walk participants through the connections between mountain top removal coal mining, coal-fired electricity and climate change. Using storytelling, small and full group discussions, we'll examine the local to global impacts of our industrialized way of life, drawing out connections to our participants' daily lives. Together we will analyze real costs, root causes, and what deep change can and does actually look like! • This workshop raises questions about resistance, regeneration, and remediation while celebrating stories of struggle from impacted communities. The TRUE COST OF COAL will challenge all of us who casually flip on a light switch to examine our own connections to this newest, most destructive form of coal mining—and to think about what we can do to stop it from within our own communities. • You can view the "True Cost of Coal" graphic and find more project info at:

<http://www.beehivecollective.org/english/coal.htm>

**Sunday February 19th, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

Auto Workers Strike in Delhi 2011

Raj Sahai and Sandeep Agarwal will co-present Indian auto and contract worker struggles: an interview video on auto worker strike in Delhi in 2011 and the ongoing struggle at their Alma Mater in India - IIT, Kanpur. How are the labor struggles in India relevant to our struggles in the US? Discussion to follow.

**Sunday February 26th, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

Occupy Everything: Anarchists in the Occupation Movement 2009-2011

Aragorn! of Little Black Cart will introduce a new book on Anarchist involvement in the Occupation Movement. This is a book where anarchists, in their own words, express how and why they engaged in this struggle, what methods they used and evaluates the success of working in the mixed crowds that the Occupy Movement attracted.

**Sunday March 4th, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

Celebrate International Women's Day 2012!

International Women's Day commemorates courageous battles by and for women around the world. Inspired by the valiant struggle of female garment workers in the United States, German socialist Clara Zetkin in 1910 proposed March 8 as a working-class women's holiday and day of solidarity to celebrate past victories and carry the fight forward. From Egypt and Palestine to Guatemala, Iceland, and the United States—and virtually everywhere in between—rebellion led by women against an unjust global economic order is very much alive today. Come celebrate IWD and discuss why both social and economic revolution are needed to win female liberation and freedom for all genders. Learn more about the ideas of revolutionary feminism, current battles for justice, and 2012 electoral campaigns that offer socialist feminist alternatives to the pro-capitalist, war-addicted Democrat and Republican parties. Toni Mendicino of the Freedom Socialist Party and Radical Women will lead off discussion. All are welcome!

**Sunday March 4th, 2012 - 12:30 pm – 1 pm.** The Planning Committee meets following the talk on the first Sunday of every month. This is an open meeting. Everyone is welcome to help plan our future sessions.

**Sunday March 11th, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

Frederick Jameson on the dialectic

Ron Kelch and Lew Finzel will lead off this latest "Dialog on the Dialectic." Frederick Jameson, called by many the U.S.'s leading cultural critic, has returned to the Hegelian dialectic in two recent works where he debunks many of the prevailing uses and criticisms of the dialectic, especially the notion that Hegel's absolute is any kind of terminus. Jameson also returns to Marx's dialectic in *Capital* through his own concept of an open, undefined utopia. Is Jameson's work adequate to the search for an alternative to capitalism today and to how Hegel and Marx saw the dialectic itself making a difference?

**Sunday March 18th, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

Third Party/No Party/Independent Politics: The political economy of the fight for democracy and the politics of transformation.

An examination of the political environment we face in a global economy and the growing merger of corporations with the U.S. government... focusing on the fight for democracy in the context of the politics of transformation in this country. The class will be in two parts.

Part I: Consideration of "What is politics?" in the context of the emerging guidelines of the bourgeois state - the "post-Washington consensus. Asking ourselves "What kind of society is consistent with an economy increasingly based in electronic production?" and

“What potential exists for programmatic politics emerging from impulses for such a society?”

While some knowledge of basic Marxist principles will be helpful, all those interested in the topic are welcome. Facilitated by Joyce Mills.

Joyce is a long-time Oakland resident in the fight against poverty and homelessness and for healthcare for all. She is a Public Health Nurse and mother of two boys and one grandson. She was a seminal member of the Labor Party, participating as a nurse leader and political educator in the Party’s “Just Healthcare” campaign. She is a revolutionary and teacher for the Institute for the Study of the Science of Society (ISSS).

**Sunday March 25th, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

Spontaneity, Organization, Philosophy: Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Marx

Rosa Luxemburg speaks to our time, having raised vital questions about organization, including its relationship to spontaneity and consciousness, and the nature of socialist democracy after the revolutionary conquest of power. These questions, brought to the forefront again with Arab Spring, became altogether new for the U.S. when Occupy Wall Street became an idea and a movement. Luxemburg’s concept of organization is measured against Marx’s, as integral to his philosophy of revolution, as we are facing the dilemmas encountered by revolutions today. Urszula Wislanka will lead off the discussion

**Sunday, April 1, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

On the materialist dialectic of Marx, Engels, and Lenin

After “the settling of accounts with Hegelian dialectic and Hegelian philosophy as a whole” in his Economic and Political Manuscripts of 1844 and other works, Marx had little further to say on dialectics. His last words on dialectics appear in his 1873 *Afterward to Capital*: “My dialectic method is not only different from the Hegelian, but is its direct opposite.” Marx entrusted to Engels the task of explaining dialectics. With Marx’s assistance, Engels wrote *Anti-Dühring*, which remains the classic—and best—statement on Marxist dialectics, as Lenin recognized. After brief introductions by Gene Ruyle and Bob Patenaude, everyone present will be invited to contribute their views in an egalitarian discussion.

**Sunday April 1, 2012 - 12:30 pm – 1 pm.** The Planning Committee meets following the talk on the first Sunday of every month. This is an open meeting. Everyone is welcome to help plan our future sessions.

**Sunday, April 8, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

David Graeber’s book, *Debt: The First 5000 Years* - a discussion

This work by David Graeber (who is known as one of the theorists of the OWS and anarchist movement) has some very insightful facts from history and anthropology showing that debt has been in existence for millennia and is based originally on not barter (of which there is no real evidence), but on the trade of favors. Money on the other hand rose from the need to pay soldiers who were not neighbors, but mercenaries who could not be counted on to return favors or debts.

Before the invention of coin or cash, the first agrarian empires used elaborate credit systems to buy and sell goods.

After a talk on the contents of this work by Glenn Turner, we will move into a lively discussion of its concepts along with questions and comments. How can these concepts help us understand the current Economic Depression and the Occupy movement?

**Sunday, April 15, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

Third Party/No Party/Independent Politics: The political economy of the fight for democracy and the politics of transformation. Part 2.

An examination of the political environment we face in a global economy and the growing merger of corporations with the U.S. government... focusing on the fight for democracy in the context of the politics of transformation in this country. The class will be in two parts.

Part 2: Consideration of Independent politics grounded in an understanding of government and "the state." The stages of development of social and political consciousness in a class-based society and asking "What is the role of Third Parties in this process?" ...discussion of relation of independent to bourgeois politics asking "What does Party formation have to do with political transformation?"

While some knowledge of basic Marxist principles will be helpful, all those interested in the topic are welcome. Facilitated by Joyce Mills.

**Sun, Apr 22, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Strikes, Occupations and Rebellion: Class War Against Austerity**

Gifford's multimedia presentation: Capitalism began its financial meltdown in 2007, but cracks were already showing. The racist crackdown on immigrants with the Sensenbrenner Act in 2006 sparked the nationwide general strike of millions on May Day; a strike of teachers set off an uprising in Oaxaca, Mexico where for 7 months protestors occupied the Zocalo, seized the university, and took over radio and TV stations; in France millions of students and young workers took to the streets, coordinated their actions, and forced the government to back down on the CPE "Kleenex" law that would have made work completely precarious. Striking textile workers in Bangladesh responded to police repression by burning and sacking factories. By 2008 there were food riots in over 35 countries, many in North Africa. In December 2008 there were 2 more sparks, in Greece the police murder of Alexandros Grigoropoulos set off protests, riots, and strikes – including general strikes – that have lasted to this day. In Chicago, workers at the Republic Windows and Doors occupied their factory when it closed and they were cheated out of their severance; after 6 days they won their pay.

In 2009 autoworkers occupied the Ssangyong factory in South Korea for 77 days when they were laid off after the plant was sold in bankruptcy. In 2010, the revolt spread everywhere, to France, Italy, England and the U.S. over education. As the crisis bankrupted whole countries, the new austerity was resisted in Spain, Portugal, Iceland, and the Balkans. A strike at a Honda factory in China shut down all Honda plants and even shut down other auto, electronics and plastics factories. At the beginning of 2011, revolts in Tunisia brought down the regime, soon duplicated in Egypt and set off uprisings across North Africa and the Arab world. In Wisconsin, austerity attacked the

public sector, resulting in an occupation of the capitol building and a wildcat strike of teachers accompanied by mass walk outs of students. On September 17 the Occupy Wall Street took over Zucotti Park in New York, continuing the spirit of Tahrir Square in Cairo. The Occupy Movement spread to over 1,000 cities worldwide. Oakland attempted general strike, had a port shutdown and other radical occupations. The world is on fire. This multimedia presentation looks at historical precedents to our situation and possible ways to link up with other anti-capitalist struggles across the planet.

**Sun, Apr 29, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Not By Cops Alone: Non-coercive Social Control in Late Capitalism**

In this presentation we will deal with 'Ideological Mystification' as an essential factor in the reproduction of late Capitalism. We will begin with a brief discussion of how Capital 'reproduces the conditions of production at the same time it produces' from Louis Althusser's 'Ideology and the Ideological State Apparatuses'. We will discuss some ideas originating in the Frankfurt school earlier in the 20th century. Also we will have a short introduction to "The Political Economy of the Sign" by Jean Baudrillard. A discussion will follow. (Presentation by Bob Patenaude, Director of the Niebyl Proctor Marxist Library)

**Sun, May 6, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Current Topics in Class Struggle: Open Discussion**

From time to time, ICSS schedules an open session to stop, look around, and see what's going down in Oakland and the world. Please come with your thoughts on what is to be done. Newcomers and Old Timers welcome.

**Sun, May 6, 2012 - 12:30 pm to 1 pm.** The Planning Committee meets following the talk on the first Sunday of every month. This is an open meeting. Everyone is welcome to help plan our future sessions.

**Sun, May 13, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Anarchism & Communism in Anthropological Perspective (Gene Ruyle)**

Anarchists and communists share a similar vision of the future, a vision many feel is unrealistic. But Anthropology shows us that, before the emergence of class rule and the state, our ancestors lived in societies that can properly be described as anarchist and/or communist. It is not unreasonable to believe, therefore, that after the impending social revolution, humanity will emerge into the next higher plane of human existence, a return to the liberty, equality, and community of the ancestral commune, but on a higher level.

**Sun, May 20, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Trayvon Martin. Troy Davis. Oscar Grant. Gary King. Amadou Diallo.**

**The banality of murder for the Structures of Racialization**

This talk by Steve Martinot will examine a number of killings of black men by white men with guns at a number of levels. First, there will be an examination of the tacit approbation, almost a stamp of legitimacy, given each by the white power structure, implying a "collective hand" on the gun. This runs as a unifying thread through these

instances. Second, a sense of intentional focus of the killer in each case can be described through comparison of the structure of each killing, as revealed by that common thread. Third, the relation between the act of killing and that common background reveals a cultural structure, that of whiteness and a process of social racialization. Fourth, there is a grammar of race that is revealed by this, which underlies white supremacy and white racialized identity. Between white identity and these acts of murder lies a cultural structure which we have to begin to see, and in which the prosaic aspects of the US racial situation, such as white racism, prejudice, discrimination, segregation, institutional racism, etc. have to be placed, as effects.

In short, if race is a social construct, a description of the structure constructed is necessary, first, in order to understand the irresolvability of the issue by addressing its prosaic aspects (which has a long history), and second, to be able to become proactive against it, instead of simply reacting to it.

**Sun, May 27, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**The June Primary Election: What Would Marx Do?**

On the one hand, the worst economic crisis in 70 years, on the other, Occupy! Does anyone care about the coming election? Join us for a discussion of the important question: What Would Marx Do? Invited speakers include representatives of various left groups. Hosted by Bob Patenaude and Gene Ruyle.

**Sun, Jun 3, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**The Landless Peasants Movement (MST) in Brazil**

Rebecca Tarlau will discuss the educational initiatives of the Brazilian Landless Workers Movement (MST), the largest agrarian social movement in Latin America. Based on 17 months of field research living and working with the MST over the past two years, Tarlau will first go over the origin of the movement and how the MST's political organizing has evolved over the past thirty years. Although the MST is famous around the world for its success forcing the Brazilian government to redistribute land, less well known is the movement's simultaneous fight for access to education in all areas of agrarian reform. Part of this fight is for the movement's right to develop its own educational pedagogies and curriculum in public schools. Over the past three decades members of the movement have drawn on a variety of theorists to develop these educational practices, from Paulo Freire to Soviet pedagogues. Tarlau will briefly talk about the the two Soviet theorists the movement draws on—Moisey Pistrak and Anton Makarenko—and how these theorists arrived in Brazil and the ways in which members of the movement have adapted these theories to their contemporary context. Tarlau will end by reflecting on how the MST's conscious use of Soviet pedagogies, as well as Freirean educational practices, is part of the movement's overarching goal of creating socialist economic alternatives in the Brazilian countryside through collective organic farming. Co-sponsored by the Task Force on the Americas.

**Sun, Jun 3, 2012 - 12:30 pm to 1 pm.** The Planning Committee meets following the talk on the first Sunday of every month. This is an open meeting. Everyone is welcome to help plan our future sessions.

**Sun, Jun 10, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Revisiting Marcuse's One Dimensional Man**

Herbert Marcuse's One Dimensional Man had an impact on the radical youth of the 1960's when it appeared in 1968. Are issues raised in this work relevant to today's struggles? Bob Patenaude and Ron Kelch will present different perspectives on this question.

**EVENING SESSION**

**Sun, Jun 10, 2012 - 6:30 pm**

**Occupy and the West Coast Port Shutdown**

December 12th 2011 west coast shutdown was Occupy's most ambitious political event. It polarized the media, ILWU, the Occupy movement itself, anarchists and social movement unions.

In February 2012 ILWU local 21 accepted a terrible contract after a protracted struggle in Longview, WA, and support from Occupy. Why was this the case? What lessons should we learn from it?

Javier of Advance the Struggle will present the dynamics of the movement, its different competing political tendencies, and an analysis why it lost.

Sponsored by ICSS and the News and Letters Committees

**Sun, Jun 17, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**African-American Veterans and the Civil Rights Movement:**

**Lecture, Film, Discussion**

Within the Black community it has been observed that a relatively large number of military veterans of World War II and Korea were prominent in the civil rights movement, such as Medger Evers (Army, World War II), James Forman (Air Force, Korean War) and Floyd McKissick (Army, World War II). However, less noted are the large numbers of African-American veterans who were rank-and-file activists in the struggle. There is now solid evidence that veterans were not only a disproportionate number of participants, but they were also largely motivated to action by their experience in the military. This presentation will indicate the historical context in which this happened, as well as the empirical data showing the disposition of military service to civil rights involvement. Following this introduction, the documentary film, "Negroes With Guns," will be screened to give an example of one such person--Robert F. Williams, Army and Marine Corps veteran, North Carolina NAACP leader and founder of the Black Armed Guard which fought the Klan in the late 1950s. Presentations by Al Sargis and Gary Hicks. Co-sponsored by the Friedrich Engels Institute of Marxist War and Military Analysis

**Sun, Jun 24, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**BREAD RIOTS Along Global Supply Chains: From Cairo to Longview**

The world's most bountiful wheat harvest ever was in 2008 yet bread riots broke out in 33 countries — adding that year another 250 million to those without enough to eat everyday and pushing the world's "food insecure" to over 1 billion. Food as a percentage of total household consumption costs has reached 73% in Nigeria, 63% in Morocco, and 61% in the Ukraine. Bread riots in Egypt were preceded by the April 6, 2008 general

strike of textile workers who demanded higher wages to cope with wheat prices that had risen 130% (rice also went up 74%).

Egypt is the world's leading wheat importer; the U.S. is the world's top wheat exporter. The Goldman Sachs Commodity Index of 18 foodstuffs was created in 1991 to allow speculators to invest in financialized futures on ingredients like hard red spring wheat, the world's most popular high-protein ingredient in bread. After the 2008 food bubble collapsed, 200 million bushels of wheat were sold for animal feed while hundreds of millions went hungry. As Asian countries become more affluent, they eat less rice and more meat and bread. EGT Corporation in Longview, Washington has built a portside just-in-time delivery system to allow speculators to move wheat, corn and other grains for food and animal feed down global supply chains to growing markets in Asia. Japan is the world's #1 corn importer; the U.S. is #1 exporter. EGT is doing what Wal-Mart does, but in reverse. Multinational food giants like EGT monopolize commodities from the farms of North America to food consumers across the planet. This multimedia presentation of recent struggles will be followed by an open discussion of ways we can contribute to the decommodification of not only food, but our lives and society as well. Co-presented by the INSANE DIALECTICAL POSSE & the Institute for the Critical Study of Society

Suggested readings:

"The Food Bubble: How Wall Street starved millions and got away with it" by Frederick Kaufman (available here: <http://frederickkaufman.typepad.com/files/the-food-bubble-pdf.pdf>)

"It's the baladi, stupid" by Wendell Seavenson (available here:

<http://www.prospectmagazine.co.uk/magazine/wendell-steavenson-egypt-cairo/>)

**Sun, Jul 1, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**What is this Thing called Left Activism? A. P. Shukla on India**

For us Leftists the 11th Thesis (ref: Theses on Feuerbach by Karl Marx 1845) is a precious legacy, and an essential part of our survival kit; the choice of my title is an expression of this emphasis. With this in mind, I'll first present a brief history of 40 years of punctuated evolution of Left activism in IIT, Kanpur, a 50 year old elite educational institute, established with US collaboration, and cultural dominance and control. Based on this, I'll express my views on the problems of Left activism in the form of a few questions, to initiate a participatory discussion. With the wide civilizational divide between India and US, I hope this to be an interesting exchange which I'll share with friends on my return to India.

**Sun, Jul 1, 2012 - 12:30 - 1 pm**

**Planning Collective Meeting**

The Planning Collective meets following the talk on the first Sunday of every month. This is an open meeting. Everyone is welcome to help plan our future sessions.

**Sun, Jul 8, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Lew Finzel on The Planet Red**

Albion's Angel stood beside the Stone of the Night, and saw the terror like a comet, or more like THE PLANET RED. This is a talk on science fiction and the radical

imagination, inspired by *Archaeologies of the Future: the Desire Called Utopia, and Other Science Fictions* by Fredrick Jameson.

**Sun, Jul 15, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Group Discussion on the Class Struggle in Oakland and Worldwide**

We are having a group session on the ongoing class struggle in the Bay Area and worldwide. Suggested topics may include the Lakeview Sit-in and the occupation of the Gill Tract Farm in Albany. Everyone will be invited to share their views. We will also consider our schedule for the rest of the summer, so bring concrete suggestions.

**Sun, Jul 22, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**They Make Us Dangerous: Bolivia 1964-1980**

Frances R. Payne, PhD will discuss her new book *They Make Us Dangerous: (Bolivia 1964-1980)*. There will be about an hour of question & answer after her presentation. This is a personal account of events in Bolivia from 1964 to 1980. She tells of a political struggle that was and is, of a people who refused to be crushed under the boot of military dictators who too often have been financed, coached and manipulated by the government of the United States. It is the story of a people who pledge in their national anthem to, "Die rather than live as slaves." What follows describes one of the most convulsive periods in their history and how Frances Payne saw it unfold.

**Sun, Jul 29, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Keynes and Crisis Revisited**

From the start of the present crisis in 2008 Keynesians like Paul Krugman have prescribed more government expenditure to stop the impending depression and now "controlled depression." Recently, Krugman, along with Richard Layard of the London School of Economics, issued a Keynesian "Manifesto" (Financial Times, June 28) because ideas "rejected by nearly all economists after the disasters of the 1930s...have again taken root." Why are Keynesians making so little headway against the prevailing economists? What was Marx's response to Keynesian type of thinking of his day as well as the economists they oppose? Raj Sahai and Ron Kelch will revisit their ongoing discussion of Marx vs. Keynes in light of today's crisis.

Sun, Jul 29, 2012 - 12:30 to 1 pm

**Planning Collective Meeting**

Normally, the Planning Collective meets following the talk on the first Sunday of every month, but we have a number of unconfirmed talks over the next few weeks, and some of us will be away on the weekend of Aug 5, so I'm asking those who can stay for a brief meeting to do so and help firm up our schedule. This is an open meeting. Everyone is welcome to help plan our future sessions.

**Sun, Aug 5, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Carol Smith on "Occupy in the 30s"**

Organized by Steve Jacobson who writes: Carol Smith is a retired faculty member from the City College of New York (CCNY) and curator of the traveling exhibit "The struggle For Free Speech at CCNY from 1931-1942". This should be required attending by any of

us involved in the Occupy Movement. This presentation on activism in the 1930s is so professional I can't say enough about Carol. She's really done her homework. Please tell your friends. See you on Sunday Morning at the Marxist Library.

**Sun, Aug 12, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Cruise Missile Socialists: when justifying imperialist intervention in Libya and Syria goes wrong"**

Some liberals, progressives and even some self-proclaimed socialists and anti-imperialists argue that imperialist interventions in Libya and Syria are justified because they are demanded by revolutionary forces. Our speaker, Mazda Majidi from the Party for Socialism and Liberation, responds that when imperialist countries intervene in the affairs of oppressed countries, the justifications do not only emanate from the U.S. government and the corporate media. In each instance, various forces and individuals with liberal and progressive credentials succumb to the imperialist propaganda campaign and put forth pro-intervention arguments, albeit using progressive-sounding analyses and using liberal/left language. Mazda reasons that proponents of "humanitarian" intervention clearly do not suffer from a lack of analytical ability. What they lack is revolutionary resolve to stand up to an imperialist demonization campaign that all sectors of the ruling class support. For background, see:

<http://www.pslweb.org/liberationnews/news/justifying-imperialist-interventionint.html>

**Sun, Aug 12, 2012 - 12:30 to 1 pm**

**Planning Collective Meeting**

Normally, the Planning Collective meets following the talk on the first Sunday of every month, but some of us will be away on the weekend of Aug 5, so we've rescheduled our meeting this month in order to firm up our schedule and discuss some ICSS organizational issues. This is an open meeting. Everyone is welcome to help plan our future sessions.

**Sun, Aug 19, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Lakeview Sit-in and People's School for Public Education**

This will be a panel discussion organized by Jack Gerson, a retired teacher and Oakland Education Association activist, and one of the founders of the Occupy Oakland Education Committee. On June 15th, 2012, parents, students and teachers Occupied the Lakeview Elementary School in Oakland, California and reopened it as The People's School for Public Education. 18 days later, on July 3, OUSD, OPD, CHP, and Housing Authority cops raided the occupation, clearing all occupants and arresting two. For 18 days, the sit-in and People's School was a symbol of hope and resistance to austerity as applied to public education: to the politicians and administrators who use budget deficits as an excuse to carry out the program of billionaires like Bill Gates, Eli Broad, and the Walton (Wal-Mart) family: school closures, program cuts, downsizing, privatizing, gross over-testing, and drill 'n' kill teach-to-the test to implant obedience and stomp on curiosity and creativity.

Lakeview was 1 of 5 schools closed by Supt. Tony Smith and the school board -- all serving mainly black and brown students. Smith and the board also engaged in vicious union-busting against OEA. Now they're moving administrative offices onto the

Lakeview site. What has been the response of the community? Of labor? What's next for the group that organized the sit-in and People's School?

More info is available at [saveoaklandschools.org](http://saveoaklandschools.org), especially:

<http://saveoaklandschools.org/2012/06/23/open-letter-labor-leaders-support-the-lakeview-sit-in-and-peoples-school/>.

See also Jack's article: "Oakland Lakeview Elementary Sit-in Sold Down The River by Local Labor Leaders Including Leaders Of Alameda CLC," at:

<http://weknowwhatsup.blogspot.com/2012/08/lakeview-sit-in-sold-down-river-by.html>

**Sun, Aug 26, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**In commemoration of Black August: prisoners' fight for a better society for all**

Ibrahim Moss will review Michelle Alexander's *New Jim Crow*, which raises the question of "societal permits" that allow slavery to persist in the US to these times. These "permits" are played out on defenseless populations: the poor and politically weak minorities. They may also manifest themselves in a broader context of economic exploitation, racism, sexism, and other things.

Urszula Wislanka, supporter of last year's Pelican Bay Hunger Strike among prisoners which drew attention to solitary confinement in California, will speak on the prisoner's fight to hold onto their humanity in the midst of the most inhuman environment yet designed.

**Sun, Sep 2, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Cuba: The Socialist Project in a Capitalist World.**

The Cuban revolution of 1959 made great strides in its first 30 years, enjoying the international socialist solidarity of the USSR and its allies, despite the crippling hostility of the US and its virtual blockade of the fledgling socialist state. In the 1990s, after the collapse of the USSR and cut off of trade from the former Comecon countries, Cuba entered the "Special Period." Cuba successfully averted economic collapse but at the price of distorting some of the socialist standards. The new millennium brought new challenges and the deepening consensus for economic and social adjustments. Our panel will discuss the pressures and rationales for structural socio-economic change and the impact on the relations of production and the forces of production. We explore the economic reforms started and proposed, along with the practice of socialist democracy, which has deeply engaged the entire population in collectively contributing to the understanding of the problems and their solutions.

Our panelists – Sharat Lin, David Oberweiser, and Roger Harris with Kathleen Densmore moderating – will report back from their visits to Cuba. Sharat is active in the San Jose Peace and Justice Center and is an international journalist. David is a trade union activist who has had a long-term project visiting Cuba to research agricultural workers. Roger is active in the Task Force on the Americas. Kathleen worked in the education ministry in Havana for a semester during the Special Period. In June, David, Kathleen, and Roger attended an international conference in Havana on *The Socialist Renewal and Capitalist Crisis*, while Sharat was also in Cuba at the same time independently researching the ongoing economic changes. Sponsored by the Task Force on the Americas and The Institute for Critical Study of Society (ICSS) at the Niebyl-Proctor Marxist Library.

Download flyer at: <http://www.csulb.edu/~eruyle/Flyer-Cuba.pdf>

**Sun, Sep 2, 2012 - 12:30 to 1 pm**

**Planning Collective Meeting**

The Planning Collective meets following the talk on the first Sunday of every month. This is an open meeting. Everyone is welcome to help plan our future sessions.

**Sun, Sep 9, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Class Struggle, Global and Local: Open discussion**

Time to get together and talk about our role in global and local class struggles. Come prepared to present and defend your views! This is also a good time to talk about the future of ICSS, discuss our mission, and plan the schedule for our Sunday Morning Forums at the Marxist Library. Please come with suggestions and concrete plans. Newcomers and Old Timers welcome.

**Sun, Sep 16, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Current Issues in Dialectical Materialism**

As the world outlook of the Marxist-Leninist Party, dialectical materialism has generated both criticism and confusion. Bob Patenaude and Gene Ruyle will lead our discussion on the relevance of dialectical materialism for the Twenty First Century. For background, re-read Stalin Dialectical and Historical Materialism, and/or Trotsky, The ABC of Materialist Dialectics. Both online, google'em.

**Sun, Sep 23, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Jack Rasmus on Crisis Theory, Bourgeois and Marxist**

Jack's theme is that those who focus on FRP as the primary driver of cycles and crises only understand half of Marx. Will also offer some ideas that expand upon Sweezy and Baran's 'economic surplus'--heading in the right direction but incomplete to understand finance capital. The talk will be about expanding Marxist analysis to better account for finance capital in the 21st century, which cannot be reduced simply to 'fictitious capital' or understood with just the production of value approaches based upon Marx's initial conceptual triad of rate of surplus value, organic composition, and FRP tendency. The presentation is not a refutation of value theory or even the TFRP, but a further development focusing on the circulation and realization of value (and the role of finance) as the other half of the crisis picture that Marx began to talk about in Vol. III but did not develop, partly due to time and partly due to remaining too immersed in classical economics' categories.

**Sun, Sep 30, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Occupy the Farm and the City**

A group of East Bay activists will discuss urban farming and agricultural justice movements in the Bay Area, including but not limited to the theory and practice that inspired occupation and continuing struggle around the Gill Tract in Albany. Confirmed speakers include Josh Cadji (graduate student in Community Development at UC Davis, a collective member of Phat Beets Produce, a racial and food justice organizer in Oakland and a radical urban gardener), Anya Kamenskaya (an Occupy the Farm

organizer and a local food justice activist), Ashoka Finley (an urban agriculture teacher for Urban Tilth and an activist based in Richmond, CA), and Marcelo Felipe Garzo Montalvo (an activist, educator and cultural worker in social movements for food, ecological and healing justice). Discussion will be moderated by Rebecca Tarlau (PhD student in Education at UC Berkeley and an Occupy the Farm activist. She has spent extensive time working with the Brazilian Landless Workers Movement).

**Sun, Oct 7, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Class Struggle in South Africa**

In the wake of the Marikana massacre, renewed attention has focused on the class struggle in South Africa and its international significance. What does opposition to post-colonial capitalism look like in South Africa today? How has the anti-apartheid labor militancy of the 1980s translated into anti-capitalist struggle since the transition? Gerald Smith and Charles Rachlis will give us their views on this important topic, with discussion moderated by Bob Patenaude.

**Sun, Oct 7, 2012 - 12:30 to 1 pm**

**Planning Collective Meeting**

The Planning Collective meets following the talk on the first Sunday of every month. This is an open meeting. Everyone is welcome to help plan our future sessions.

**Sun, Oct 14, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**The Bee Hive Collective: Cross-pollinating the Grassroots with Art-Based Activism and Education**

The Bee-Hive Collective creates picture-lectures and workshops to be understood by anyone - not just the experts and political analysts! Join Zeph Fishlyn to de-construct the complex and overwhelming issues that are shaping our world, using bio-regionally accurate depictions of animals and insects as metaphors to link cultural and ecological diversity. For more info, go to [www.beehivecollective.org](http://www.beehivecollective.org)

**Special Saturday Session, Oct 20, 2012, at 2:30 pm.**

**Alternatives to the Prison System: Panel Discussion**

You are invited to a panel discussion on Alternatives to the Prison System. If prison, as a form of violence, provides a role model for violence, then it promulgates what it pretends to oppose. Alternatives are needed. This panel will discuss § Prisoner's call for an end to hostilities, inside and in the communities a critique of power's criminality as revealed in the existence of prisons § real alternatives to the criminality of punishment. Panelists will include: § Steve Martinot – author of *The Need to Abolish the Prison System: an Ethical Indictment* § Joileen Richards – Campaign to End Mass Incarceration § Urszula Wislanka – Pelican Bay Hunger Strike Support Committee, and News and Letters § Melvin Dickson – The Commemorator: Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party § Dorsey Nunn – All of Us or None. Refreshments will be served Place: Niebyl-Proctor Library, 6501 Telegraph Ave., Oakland

**Sun, Oct 21, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**The Sunday Morning Karl Marx Monster Mash**

Lew Finzel will provide us a discussion inspired by the book, “Monsters of the Market: Zombies, Vampires, and Global Capitalism,” by David McNally. Here are two quotes worth pondering: “Capital is dead labour which, vampire-like, lives only by sucking living labour” (Karl Marx). “The investment bank Goldman Sachs is a great vampire squid wrapped around the face of humanity, relentlessly jamming its blood funnel into anything that smells like money” (Rolling Stone Reporter Matt Taibbi).

**Sun, Oct 21, 2012 - 12:30 to 1 pm**

**Planning Collective Meeting**

The Planning Collective normally meets following the talk on the first Sunday of every month, but this is a special session to deal with next year’s schedule and other issues. This is an open meeting. Everyone is welcome to help plan our future sessions.

**Sun, Oct 28, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Bitter Seeds, a film by Micha Peled, with discussion.**

Biotechnology is changing the way farming is done all over the world. Advocates believe that GMOs are the only way to provide sufficient food for the world's growing population while opponents raise concerns and fear that promoting GMOs cultivation is only about short-term profit, that long-range it is unsustainable. Bitter Seeds explores the controversy — from a village in India that uses genetically modified seeds to U.S. government agencies that promote them.

**Special Saturday Session, Nov 3, 2012, 2 – 4:30 pm.**

**The Criminal Injustice System: The role of prisons in capitalist society and perspectives on change**

Some of our ICSS panelists have been invited to discuss this topic at the monthly “Suds, Snacks, and Socialism at the Starry Plough” forum, hosted by the Peace and Freedom Party. This will be held at the Starry Plough Pub, 3101 Shattuck Avenue at Prince Street, 2 blocks from Ashby BART in Berkeley. Speakers include: • Steve Martinot, author of *The Need to Abolish the Prison System: an Ethical Indictment*, • Urszula Wislanka, Pelican Bay Hunger Strike Support Committee, and News and Letters • Tommy Escarcega, prisoner rights activist. Presentations will be followed by open discussion. **At the Starry Plough Pub, 3101 Shattuck Avenue at Prince Street, 4 blocks from NPML.**

**Sun, Nov 4, 2012 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Socialism and the 2012 Elections**

Cindy Sheehan, noted Peace Mom turned Socialist Revolutionary, will discuss her views on war and peace, socialism, the electoral process, and more. Discussion will follow. Cindy will have copies of her latest book, *Revolution: A Love Story*, available for sale and signing.

**Sun, Nov 4, 2012 - 12:30 to 1 pm**

**Planning Collective Meeting**

The Planning Collective meets following the talk on the first Sunday of every month. This is an open meeting. Everyone is welcome to help plan our future sessions.

## **PROGRAMS COMPLETED IN 2013**

**Sunday January 6th, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

### **Class Struggle in 2013 and Beyond**

Time to get together, talk about the future of ICSS, discuss our mission, and plan the schedule for our Sunday Morning at the Marxist Library forums. Please come with suggestions and concrete plans. Newcomers and Old Timers welcome.

**Sunday January 13th, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

### **The corporate structure and today's (as opposed to yesterday's) corporate state.**

A talk by Steve Martinot. To think of the contemporary capitalist economy as having been "financialized" is misleading. The rise to absolute predominance over capitalist operations by the corporate structure ("corporativization") has done more than that. It has divided the economy into two separate sectors and markets -- a productive economy composed of productive assets, workers, and commodity markets, and a financial economy, composed of securities, derivatives, and securities markets. This division represents a radical separation (evolved, not created) between ownership and production, with a commodification of ownership. The financial is the economy to which the government pays attention (bailouts, corporate welfare, etc., with lip-service to people's needs) because it dominates the productive economy. Financial operations determine the value of assets in the productive economy (in and through its speculative character). This structure engenders changes in political economy (revealed by the latest crisis), and a dialectic between the corporations and the state that goes beyond that examined by Lenin in "Imperialism". What has emerged is a community of corporations and government bodies, for which the traditional language of capitalist critique loses relevance (e.g. the traditional notion of "capitalist class" has little meaning under the commodification of ownership itself). The essentials of political economy shift away from the human to a political structure for which corporate entities are the constituency. Thus the locus and focus of class struggle, which was different in the 1920s than mid-19th century, and different after World War II in its anti-colonialism, has shifted again through a global generalization of that anti-colonialism. This talk will seek to give insight into the political and class ramifications of these recent differences, and its social machinery (its relation to war, for instance). Three topics will be integrated into this description of the political economy of corporations: the commodification of both ownership and class, the racialization of policing, and the juridicality of corporate personhood.

**Sunday January 20th, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

### **Hegel's Absolute Method after 200 Years**

A talk by Ron Kelch.

2012 was the 200th anniversary of Hegel's absolute method. First laid out in his Science of Logic, it has served as both a pole of attraction and repulsion for generations of philosophers and revolutionary theorists. It was also the 50th anniversary of Thomas Kuhn's ground breaking Structure of Scientific Revolutions in which absolute method

can be seen reflected in today's philosophies of science. Marx had many critiques of Hegel and in each absolute method was both transcended and preserved, beginning from his 1841 doctoral dissertation on Epicurus. Epicurus' philosophy has gained new attention from Stephen Greenblatt's *The Swerve* about the birth of the modern world reflected in the 15th century rediscovery of Epicurus by Renaissance humanists. What is even more relevant to today is the way Marx re-created absolute method by drawing on Epicurus to work out the concept of freely associated labor as the opposite of the fetishism of commodities and capitalism's cultish myth of the isolated individual.

**Sunday January 27th, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Alienation, Ideology and Everyday Life**

A talk by Richard Lichtman

Marx's theory of social organization contains an indispensable account of the mystification of social life. This phenomenon is contained in these theories of alienation, fetishism of commodities, and ideology. The considerations help to explain why individuals and groups often act against their own best interests or do not act at all. The tendency of human activity to appear as laws of nature precludes any meaningful action. I will refer briefly at the conclusion of my talk to the use made of Lukács, and others, of what came to be known as "reification," literally, the semblance of human relations as "things." Relations among human beings appear as things, laws of nature, and it makes no sense to attempt to change laws of nature. So, reification, a total view of alienation and ideology, appear unalterable, and thereby minimize or destroy completely the tendency to revolutionary change.

**Sunday Feb 3rd, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Mondragon Spain - One Giant Step Beyond Capitalism**

A talk by Gus diZerega.

At a time when unemployment is at 24-5% in Spain, the 80,000 worker-owners of the Mondragon Co-operatives have an unemployment rate of 0%. At a time when American CEOs' income rises as much as 400 to 500 times the income of average workers at their companies, Mondragon's managers-owners make 6 times what the lowest paid worker-owners make. At a time when the middle class is disappearing in the US and some studies say income inequality here is akin to that of Czarist Russia, the Mondragon region of Spain lacks slums or gated communities. It is middle class. What does all this mean and what can it teach us?

**Sunday Feb 3rd, 2013 - 12:30 to 1 pm**

**Planning Collective Meeting**

The Planning Collective meets following the talk on the first Sunday of every month. This is an open meeting. Everyone is welcome to help plan our future sessions.

**Sunday Feb 10th, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**People's Victory in HONDURAS**

**The Popular Resistance Breaks the Two-Party Monopoly**

In the aftermath of the US-backed coup of June 2009, a massive popular resistance has arisen in Honduras. The National Popular Resistance Front has successfully united

peasants, urban labor especially teachers, feminists, militant youth, LBGT and indigenous people, and environmentalists. Thousands mobilized daily in the streets. Most recently they organized an electoral wing, the Libre Party, which broke the two-party electoral monopoly in the national primary elections.

Meanwhile since the coup, Honduras has become the murder capital of the world. Repression has intensified with human rights abuses amounting to crimes against humanity. Peasants, labor, women, journalists, and human rights activists have been targeted. The repressive regime in Honduras is funded, trained, and to an extent directed by the US government under the aegis of the so-called war on drugs.

Come hear our Honduras Solidarity Network delegation report-back on what we learned from and were inspired by the Honduran Resistance. We'll be organizing international delegations to observe the November 2013 national elections at the request of the Honduran Resistance.

Sponsored by the Bay Area Latin America Solidarity Coalition, the Task Force on the Americas, and the Institute for Critical Study of Society (ICSS)

### **Sunday Feb 17th, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

#### **Forum on South Africa**

The forum on South Africa will be constructed as follows: Part One by Elazar Friedman will focus on the Analysis of three or four strike actions beginning with the Mercedes Benz strike of 1991-92. The goal is to elucidate the repressive role towards the working class and the township poor that members of a capitalist state play even if their origin is from a workers movement, such as COSATU and the SACP. I will attempt to explain what were the proximal causes of the Marikana massacre by the capitalist police, and the earlier attacks on the Platinum miner and especially the rock-drillers. Now that we know that many workers were shot in the back trying to flee and even hunted down and executed far from the strike scene and many have been are still being tortured by the police. Part Two will be by Charles Rachlis, with a power point presentation analyzing the Marikana massacre itself and the titanic resistance of the workers and the spread of the work actions to other mines and other industries. The victory of the workers winning concessions from the Lonmin mining bosses despite the hideous murder of the workers can be an example to the proletariat to persist in their class battles rather than to be simply embroiled in arbitration with the capitalist state preferred by the bureaucrats of COSATU or NUM.

### **Sunday Feb 24th, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

#### **Strike Debt Bay Area**

Join members of Strike Debt Bay Area on Sunday, February 24th to talk about debt, contemporary capitalism, and emerging tactics of resistance and solidarity.

As individuals, families, and communities, most of us are drowning in debt for the basic things we need to live, including housing, education, and health care. Even those of us who do not have personal debt are affected by predatory lending and the effects of speculative Wall Street gambling. Our essential public services are cut because our cities and towns are held hostage by the same big banks that have been bailed out by our government. All of us are outraged that big banks don't have to pay their debts, but we do.

Strike Debt is building a movement to challenge this system while creating alternatives and supporting each other. Debt resistance is just the beginning. Join us as we imagine and create a new world based on the common good, not Wall Street profits.

ORGANIZATION INFO: Strike Debt Bay Area is the local chapter of Strike Debt, an international movement working to build popular resistance to all forms of unjust debt. Strike Debt has organized the Rolling Jubilee, the Debt Resisters Operations Manual, and local debtors' assemblies. Strike Debt supports the creation of just and sustainable economies, based on mutual aid, common goods, and public affluence. We owe the financial institutions nothing. It is to our friends, families and community that we owe everything.

Strike Debt – Principles of Solidarity

Strike Debt is building a debt resistance movement. We believe that most individual debt is illegitimate and unjust. Most of us fall into debt because we are increasingly deprived of the means to acquire the basic necessities of life: health care, education, and housing. Because we are forced to go into debt simply in order to live, we think it is right and moral to resist it.

We also oppose debt because it is an instrument of exploitation and political domination. Debt is used to discipline us, deepen existing inequalities, and reinforce racial, gendered, and other social

hierarchies. Every Strike Debt action is designed to weaken the institutions that seek to divide us and benefit from our division. As an alternative to this predatory system, Strike Debt advocates a just and sustainable economy, based on mutual aid, common goods, and public affluence.

Strike Debt holds that we are all debtors, whether or not we have personal loan agreements. Through the manipulation of sovereign and municipal debt, the costs of speculator-driven crises are passed on to all of us. Though different kinds of debt can affect the same household, they are all interconnected, and so all household debtors have a common interest in resisting.

Strike Debt engages in public education about the debt-system to counteract the self-serving myth that finance is too complicated for laypersons to understand. In particular, it urges direct action as a way of stopping the damage caused by the creditor class and their enablers among elected government officials. Direct action empowers those who participate in challenging the debt-system.

Strike Debt holds that we owe the financial institutions nothing, whereas, to our friends, families and communities, we owe everything. In pursuing a long-term strategy for national organizing around this principle, we pledge international solidarity with the growing global movement against debt and austerity.

**Sunday Mar 3rd, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Celebrating International Women's Day, 2013 - A Program on the Arab Spring**

With events in Egypt bringing to the world's attention once more the unfinished and unfolding nature of the Arab Spring, we want to commemorate this year's International Women's Day by hearing from an Egyptian activist, participant and organizer of the Arab Spring.

From the beginnings in the textile strikes, through their participation in Tahrir Square in 2011, to being the first to challenge Morsi's limitations to full freedom for all Egyptians,

women have been demonstrating that the revolution's success brings about fundamental changes in every-day human relations. They have most powerfully demonstrated how freedom cannot be limited to neither political (elections) nor economic (jobs) "sphere," but must restructure the whole of society from the bottom up.

Ahmed Salah, formerly a co-founder and strategist until end of 2010 of the April 6th Movement, former leader of Youth For Change, and current leader of the coalition of the committees for the defense of the revolution, will present the recent developments in the Middle East up to the current unrest, which is much more fundamental than opposition to Morsi's Constitution. Sponsored by the Institute for the Critical Study of Society

**Sunday Mar 3rd, 2013 - 12:30 to 1 pm**

**Planning Collective Meeting**

The Planning Collective meets following the talk on the first Sunday of every month. This is an open meeting. Everyone is welcome to help plan our future sessions.

**Sunday Mar 10th, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm \*\*\*SPRING FORWARD FOR DST\*\*\***

**A History of Dialecticks: The Case of Magick or Occultism: Friend or Foe?**

Alelsten Crowley claims that 'Magick is for All.' Slavoj Zizek says that magic should be consigned to the dustbin of history. Other voices will include Frank Zappa and William Blake. Presentation by Lew Finzel.

**Sunday Mar 17th, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**HUGO CHÁVEZ, PRESENTE! The Legacy of Hugo Chavez**

Join us for reflections and analysis on the legacy of a world historical figure, President Hugo Chávez of Venezuela, who died on March 5th, mourned by the poor and progressive worldwide while the rich and reactionary celebrated and denigrated his name.

Our guest is Martin Sanchez, former Consul General of Venezuela. Martin is an alternative media activist and co-founder of both Aporrea.org and Venezuelanalysis.com (check them out), leading voices of left analysis on Venezuela. Martin is in daily contact with events in Venezuela and will brief us on the current situation in Venezuela and the future for the Bolivarian movement in Venezuela and internationally.

Sponsored by Task Force on the Americas and Institute for Critical Study of Society (ICSS)

**Sunday Mar 24th, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Memory of Forgotten War**

**Film (37 min) and Discussion on the Korean War**

The Korean War of 1950-53 devastated the Korean people while it enriched the capitalists of America and Japan. The war also established the military-industrial complex as a central institution of American life. This year marks the sixtieth anniversary of the official end of a war that in reality has never ended. We have a rare opportunity to view a 2013 film whose World Premier at the SF International Asian Film Festival on March 18 is already sold out.

"Memory of a Forgotten War" introduces Americans to the lived experience and legacies of a war that forged a lasting, complex relationship between Korea and the United States. The Korean War opened the door to a complex economic, military, and cultural relationship to Korea that continues to play a central role in U.S. policy in Asia. As painfully evident today, the status of the Korean War as unfinished, stalemated in an armistice agreement, challenges us to prevent a renewal of the conflict and to reconcile our differences. The voices of Korean American survivors express the urgency of these objectives, deepen our collective memory of the "Forgotten War," and humanize the costs of military conflict. The film's Co-Director/Producer, Deann Borshay Liem, will join our discussion. The program will be introduced by Gene Ruyle of the ICSS and an activist with Veterans for Peace.

**Sunday Mar 31st, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Left Views of the Economic Crisis**

Nearly three years after the official end of the Great Recession, the world capitalist economy is mired in seemingly endless crisis. Recession, debt defaults, and record unemployment plague the capitalist world, accompanied by austerity, massive cuts in social programs, skyrocketing poverty, increasing homelessness -- and at the very same time -- record corporate profits. One bottom line indicator of how bad things are: there are now fifty million "food insecure" people in the US alone (up from thirty six million in 2007), seventeen million of which are children. Despite the "happy talk" coming out of Washington, the US (and world) is in the midst of a profound, long-term social, political, and economic crisis, not seen since the days of the Great Depression. What is going on? What's causing the ongoing crisis? What and where is it leading to? You won't want to miss this important Sunday Morning session at the Marxist Library to hear a presentation on Left Views of the Economic Crisis. A survey of the left views on these questions will be presented, along with a critical analysis, and some ideas about the future. Discussion will follow. NPML's Crisis Committee member Allan Miller will be presenting.

**Sunday April 7th, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Everyday Life in Late Capitalism**

"What is consumed is not the object itself, but the system of objects." - Charles Levin  
In this session we will undertake some "theoretical production" by investigating the post-Marx developments generally referred to as "consumerism". We will discuss how 'everyday life' in advanced capitalist countries is distorted by the capitalist market creating a modern (or post-modern) regime of social domination. A good introductory reading would be Charles Levin's introduction to Jean Baudrillard's "For a critique of the Political Economy of the sign." (1981 Telos Press ltd.) Discussion will follow presentation by NPML's Bob Patenaude.

**Sunday April 7, 2013 - 12:30 to 1 pm**

**Planning Collective Meeting**

The Planning Collective meets following the talk on the first Sunday of every month. This is an open meeting. Everyone is welcome to help plan our future sessions.

**Sunday April 14th, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Report on a Book in Progress: The Council on Foreign Relations Creates an Imperialist and Neoliberal Era 1976-2013**

A little over a year ago, Larry Shoup signed a contract with Monthly Review Press to produce a new book on the premier capitalist ruling class organization in the U.S. and the world, the CFR. Although the book is not yet completed, after a year of research and writing, Larry feels that it is time to begin report backs on his findings and conclusions so far. The talk will begin with a portrait of the CFR, its capitalist class basis, recent organizational history, and national and international networks. The Council's neoliberal and imperialist geopolitical and geoeconomic worldview will then be covered, including a case study of its central role in the war on and occupation of Iraq.

**Sunday April 21st, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**EARTH DAY 2013**

**Barking Up the Wrong Tree: The Climate Solutions Debate**

The climate solutions debate has been hijacked by the energy corporations who profit from their concessions, the politicians who serve the corporations, and the major environmental organizations who legitimize the whole show. The debate is framed by the corporate interests to be a debate about alternative technologies - which portion of their portfolio will receive the latest and greatest public subsidies. Should we have more "green energy" or should we invest in "clean coal." Is wind better than solar? Can nuclear be made safe? How long will it take and how much of a "commitment" (read - public paying private capitalists to make a profit) will it take to bring new technologies on line?

It is all very good (and hopefully true) that eventually socialism will be the answer, but progressives need to promote an intermediate program now to (1) raise conservation as the key and immediate demand in regards to climate change, and let the energy corporations duke it out among themselves over who gets the biggest public subsidies; (2) raise the environmental consequences of the US imperialist wars of aggression as a climate change issue; (3) forget about arguing with the Neanderthals about climate realities, but focus on holding the politicians' feet to the fire on getting them to enact real climate solutions; and (4) work to unite rather than counter pose the jobs vs. environment conundrum.

Join Roger Harris, a conservation biologist who works for an employee-owned environmental consulting firm, for this Earth Day 2013 discussion.

**Saturday Evening April 27th, 2013 - 7 pm**

**Ecosocialist Action on the Horizon**

A report and presentation about the work of Ecosocialist Horizons, featuring Quincy Saul

and Theresa Shoatz.

Ecosocialist Horizons is an organization founded in 2011, which has been very active over the past year in organizing and educating around ecosocialist principles and ideas. This report on ecosocialist praxis will illustrate what this group has been doing, and describe the theoretical and strategic foundations for its activities. Quincy Saul, co-founder of Ecosocialist Horizons and senior editor of the ecosocialist journal *Capitalism Nature Socialism*, will explain the practical work and political vision of this organization, framed as an invitation to the people of Oakland and the Bay Area to join this movement. Theresa Shoatz, associate of Ecosocialist Horizons and co-chair of the International Campaign to Free Russell Maroon Shoatz, will provide a perspective of ecosocialism as seen from black urban communities suffering from the prison industrial complex, the capitalist food system, and the possibilities of revolutionary community organizing. After a period of inactivity, we want to renew our efforts to build an ecosocialist current here in the Bay Area.

NOTE: This will be held upstairs in the back room.

### **Sunday April 28th, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

#### **Maroon the Implacable**

A presentation on the life and work of US political prisoner Russell Maroon Shoatz, by his daughter, Theresa Shoatz and Quincy Saul, the co-editor of the forthcoming book: *Maroon the Implacable*. This event will explain the story of Maroon, once active as a leader in the Black Liberation Movement in Philadelphia, the conditions of his cruel confinement, and the campaign to free him. It will also explore the ways in which his case and this campaign relate to the prison industrial complex and building a movement to overcome mass incarceration.

It will also investigate his writings, compiled for the first time in *Maroon the Implacable*, which Chuck D calls "a high document of true freedom for the masses." and has received high praise from other prominent intellectuals around the world including Joel Kovel, Silvia Federici, and Hakim Bey, and other former political prisoners including Hugo Blanco. His work is innovative and revolutionary on multiple levels:

- His self-critical and fresh retelling of the Black liberation struggle in the U.S. includes many practical and theoretical insights;
- His analysis of the prison system, particularly in relation to capitalism, imperialism, and the drug war, takes us far beyond the recently popular analysis of the Prison Industrial Complex, contained in books such as *The New Jim Crow*;
- His historical research and writings on Maroon communities throughout the Americas, His sharp and profound understanding of the current historical moment, with clear proposals for how to move forward embracing new political concepts and practices (including but not limited to eco-socialism, matriarchy and eco-feminism, food security, prefiguration and the Occupy Wall Street movement) provide cutting-edge challenges for today's movements for social change. Linking history and future, we will connect the dots between Maroon's scholarship and the growing movement to free Maroon and all political prisoners.

### **Wednesday, May 1, 2013 7:00 PM**

#### **Special Event in Honor of the 195th Birthday of Karl Marx**

## **BREAD RIOTS Along Global Supply Chains: From Cairo to Longview**

The world's most bountiful wheat harvest ever was in 2008 yet bread riots broke out in 33 countries — adding that year another 250 million to those without enough to eat everyday and pushing the world's "food insecure" to over 1 billion. Food as a percentage of total household consumption costs has reached 73% in Nigeria, 63% in Morocco, and 61% in the Ukraine. Bread riots in Egypt were preceded by the April 6, 2008 general strike of textile workers who demanded higher wages to cope with wheat prices that had risen 130% (rice also went up 74%). Egypt is the world's leading wheat importer; the U.S. is the world's top wheat exporter. The Goldman Sachs Commodity Index of 18 foodstuffs was created in 1991 to allow speculators to invest in financialized futures on ingredients like hard red spring wheat, the world's most popular high-protein ingredient in bread. After the 2008 food bubble collapsed, 200 million bushels of wheat were sold for animal feed while hundreds of millions went hungry. As Asian countries become more affluent, they eat less rice and more meat and bread. EGT Corporation in Longview, Washington has built a portside just-in-time delivery system to allow speculators to move wheat, corn and other grains for food and animal feed down global supply chains to growing markets in Asia. Japan is the world's #1 corn importer; the U.S. is #1 exporter. EGT is doing what Wal-Mart does, but in reverse. Multinational food giants like EGT monopolize commodities from the farms of North America to food consumers across the planet. This multimedia presentation of recent struggles will be followed by an open discussion of ways we can contribute to the decommodification of not only food, but our lives and society as well.

Co-presented by the INSANE DIALECTICAL POSSE & the Institute for the Critical Study of Society

Suggested readings:

"The Food Bubble: How Wall Street starved millions and got away with it" by Frederick Kaufman (available here:

<http://frederickkaufman.typepad.com/files/the-food-bubble-pdf.pdf>)

"It's the baladi, stupid" by Wendell Seavenson (available here:

<http://www.prospectmagazine.co.uk/magazine/wendell-steavenson-egypt-cairo/>)

A Fundraiser for The Niebyl-Proctor Marxist Library

Sliding scale \$5.00 - \$20.00 No one turned away for lack of funds

**Thursday May 2, 2013 7 pm**

**Panel & Discussion - Racism & Immigration:**

**What are the larger questions around global immigration?**

Get beyond CNN and the U.S. mass media's self-serving reporting. Hear about the real issues and the real people struggling within collapsing global capitalism.

Nunu Kidane is from Eritrea; she's lived and worked in the San Francisco Bay Area for over two decades. Since graduating from UC Berkeley, she's worked and written extensively on Africa policy developments topics related to HIV/AIDS, debt cancellation, migration, resource extraction, land rights/human rights and racial justice. Nunu is founder and director of Priority Africa Network (PAN), an organization providing advocacy on Africa and working directly with diverse grassroots African communities in the Bay Area and beyond.

Phil Hutchings is a veteran of the Southern Freedom Movement of the 1960s, having worked with the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee. He is currently senior organizer with the Black Alliance for Just Immigration, based in Oakland, Calif.

**Friday May 3, 2013 8 pm -11 pm**

**Red Square Dance**

It's Spring! Celebrate May Day at the First Friday Old Time Dance Party! At the fabulous (and intimate) Niebyl-Proctor Marxist Library. 6501 Telegraph Ave (off of Alcatraz). \$10-5 sliding scale. Music: Squirrelly Stringband. Caller: Jordan Ruyle. Info: [www.squirrellystringband.com](http://www.squirrellystringband.com)

**Saturday, May 4, 2013 10 am - 5 pm**

**Special Event in Honor of the 195th Birthday of Karl Marx**

**Theatre of the Oppressed Workshop**

Facilitated by Kairos Theater Ensemble

*"Theater is a weapon, and it is the people who should wield it."*

*-Augusto Boal*

Developed by Augusto Boal from the work of Paulo Freire, Theater of the Oppressed (TO) is a collection of games, techniques and exercises that use art and theater as a vehicle for personal and political change. Theater of the Oppressed is "dialectics on its feet": a way of using embodied critical thinking and creative collective action to analyze power dynamics, transform oppression, and find community-building solutions to problems of inequality, conflict and injustice.

Born out of a revolutionary context in Brazil, and refined for half a century by activists, educators, and artists worldwide, Theater of the Oppressed comprises a large set of tools for dialogue, consciousness-raising, analysis, problem-solving, empowerment, solidarity, and messaging. This is an introductory workshop for anyone wishing to learn more about Theater of the Oppressed, especially students, activists, educators, social workers, scholars, and individuals who are looking for ways to take their passion and energy for justice into more effective, radical, and creative ways to transform our world and our social relations.

No prior theater experience necessary. Please dress to move.

Cost: This workshop is a fundraiser for the NPML library. We request donations of \$10-\$60. No one will be turned away for lack of funds. Space is limited; please register.

When: Saturday, May 4th, 10am-5pm.

Where: Niebyl Proctor Library.

6501 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, CA 94609

Info & Registration: 510-595-7417

*"Theater of the Oppressed is a way of building the future, rather than waiting for it."*

Kairos Theater Ensemble is a professional Theater company dedicated to addressing and challenging structural violence and systemic oppression, through liberatory education and cultural activism. Kairos Theater Ensemble has engaged in education, advocacy, capacity & alliance-building on sweatshop labor, organ trafficking, narco-terrorism, environmental racism, colonization

**Sunday May 5th, 2013 - 10:30 am to 4 pm**

### **Open Discussion & Potluck to Honor the 195th Birthday of Karl Marx**

Come celebrate Marx's 195th birthday with us. Bring your favorite quote from Marx and/or a pot luck dish to share. We'll print out the quotes (send them to us ahead of time, or bring yours printed already). We'll post them around the Library and have a good time sharing their significance for today from the various view-points as we're enjoying the pot-luck. Bring your checkbook. We're not the British Museum so we need to rely on the generosity of the community.

**Sunday May 12th, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

#### **The German Ideology**

After a brief introduction we will open the floor for a discussion of the ideas expressed in the early chapters of Marx's "The German Ideology". (pp 3 to 96 in the Marx/Engels Collected Works.) We will put emphasis on the value of, or lack of value that these ideas represent for the current movement. Introduced by Bob Patenaude.

**Sunday May 19th, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

#### **Korea and the Global Struggle for Socialism**

When Che Guevara visited North Korea in the 1960s, he considered it to be an inspiration for Cuba and revolutionaries everywhere. Since the overthrow of the Soviet Union, North Korea has experienced not only the death of Kim Il Sung, but a series of natural disasters which left it impoverished and struggling to feed its people. Critics label it an Orwellian-Stalinist-Oriental nightmare. Do we dare call it socialist? The answer to this question reveals much about how we view socialism and the struggle to build a communist future for humanity. Open discussion will follow a presentation by Gene Ruyle, Emeritus Professor of Anthropology and Asian Studies, CSU, Long Beach. For background, see Ruyle's paper of the same title at <http://www.csulb.edu/~eruyle/Korea-socialism-LATEST.pdf>

**Wednesday May 22nd, 2013 – 7 pm**

#### **Holding the FBI Responsible**

##### **Who Bombed Judi Bari? Documentary**

A Judi Bari Week event! Join film maker Darryl Cherney and Earth First! Co-Founder Mike Roselle for a screening and intimate Q&A afterward

Learn about upcoming actions on Who Bombed Judi Day--May 24, the anniversary of the car-bombing that almost killed the two Earth First! organizers in 1990. They were bombed and almost framed by the FBI and OPD but sued them and won \$4 million. An inspiring story we can all learn from. Plus it's got tons of music and humor, too. Optional donations support the film and continuing the investigation.

Light snacks & beverages.

Watch trailer at: <http://whobombedjudibari.com/>

**Sunday May 26th, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm (Memorial Day on Monday)**

#### **Veterans Speak Out on Memorial Day**

##### **Honor the Dead, Heal the Wounded, Stop the Wars**

The first Memorial Day was on May 1, 1865. "African Americans invented Memorial Day in Charleston, South Carolina. What you have there is black Americans recently

freed from slavery announcing to the world with their flowers, their feet, and their songs what the War had been about. What they basically were creating was the Independence Day of a Second American Revolution.” Over the years, Memorial has come to be remembered on the last Monday of May, a time to honor the more than one million men and women who gave their lives in the wars of the United States. Local members of Veterans for Peace will speak out on the meaning that Memorial Day holds for them.

**Saturday Morning June 1st, 2013 – 10 am to 2 pm**

**Big Commie Book Sale**

We have received dozens of boxes of recent book donations. Also Posters, Pamphlets, Buttons and who knows what else. Come early for best selection

**When:** June 1, 2013 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM **Where:** Niebyl-Proctor Marxist Library , 6501 Telegraph Ave (Between 66th and Alcatraz) Oakland CA 94609

**Saturday afternoon June 1st, 2013 – 2 pm to 4:30 pm**

**The Legacy of Stalin**

Few figures in the history of socialism have generated more controversy than Joseph Stalin, so we are sure that this month’s topic will generate a lively discussion. Our discussion will begin with different perspectives from our confirmed speakers, including: **Alan Benjamin**, Labor activist, Editor, The Organizer newspaper; and **Eugene Ruyle**, of the ICSS at the Niebyl Proctor Marxist Library. Presentations will represent the views of speakers. Organizations are listed for identification purposes only. Open discussion will follow.

Note: This forum will not be at the Niebyl Proctor Marxist Library. Instead, it will be at the Starry Plough Pub, 3101 Shattuck Avenue at Prince Street in Berkeley, a short walk about 5 blocks NE of the NPML.

**Sunday June 2nd, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**E.P. Thompson: Muggletonian Marxist**

A discussion of the Great British Historian, Blake Scholar, and William Morris Biographer. Presentation by Lew Finzel.

**Sunday June 2, 2013 - 12:30 to 1 pm**

**Planning Collective Meeting**

The Planning Collective meets following the talk on the first Sunday of every month. This is an open meeting. Everyone is welcome to help plan our future sessions.

**Sunday June 9th, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Why Revolutionary Activism Might Be A Bad Thing**

An exploration of the critique of the activist group, from Sam Moss to Wilhelm Reich, the Situationist International, Jacques Camatte and beyond. Does real revolutionary activity begin with a critique of both capitalism and its ostensible opposition? Red and Aaron will speak and lead our discussion on this important topic.

**Friday June 14th, 2013 - 7 PM**

**Capitalism Is Killing The Planet: The Case For Ecosocialism**

Profit driven economic growth and its reliance on fossil fuels places it at odds with both people and our planet's life giving ecosystems. The ecosocialist project wants to build a new, socially just, sustainable society based on grassroots democracy and within ecological limits by building a mass movement against climate change and environmental disasters. We want to create a society which focuses on ecological restoration and use value to meet human needs, not exchange value and ecological destruction to maximize profits for the capitalist ruling class.

Niebyl Proctor Marxist Library, 6501 Telegraph, Oakland 94609

Sponsored by Bay Area EcoSocialists - <http://bayecosocialists.wordpress.com/>

### **Sunday June 16th, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

#### **Politics and Class Struggle in Turkey**

On May 31 suddenly, with no warning at all, Turkey erupted.

On May 27, government brought the machinery and the contractor to uproot some trees in a popular park to build a shopping mall. First the environmentalists opposed the destruction of one of the last piece of green space left in urban Istanbul. Police attacked them. Next day the resistors became 300. Police attacked again. This time more than 3,000 people came to the park to defend the trees. When police attacked again, the whole country stood up on May 31. From that point on it was not the trees any more. Years of oppression exploded like compressed gas with this little spark against the pro-US, Islamic government of Erdogan and his ruling party JDP. More than 50 cities simultaneously and spontaneously erupted with protests against the ruling JDP's fascism. For the first time in recent history, women, students, workers, artists, youth, Kurds, Artists, Turks, gays-lesbians, Alevites, doctors, small merchants, environmentalists, unions and progressive associations rose up together to say "Enough is enough" to the brutal regime. All the government could do was to set its brutal police with their US-EU supplied tanks, water cannons, batons and tons of pepper gas against the peaceful demonstrators. But something was different this time. This time the people resisted instead of pulling back.

**Mehmet Bayram**, a long time journalist and Bay Area activist from Turkey will report on the developments that led to the events and the aftermath. A discussion of politics and class struggle in Turkey will be presented followed by a discussion and QA session.

### **Sunday June 23rd, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

#### **Capitalism and the disaster of hydraulic fracturing ("Fracking")**

Flames coming out of the water faucet? Drinking water smelling of chemicals or turned brown? Cancer clusters? Increased birth defects? Air and noise pollution? These are just some of the effects of hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") and horizontal drilling of shale deposits to get at the natural gas or oil these deposits contain. As the easiest to reach oil deposits dry up, fracking is spreading all around the world, and the results threaten to be disastrous. Far from lessening the emissions of greenhouse gas (due to substituting burning of natural gas for coal), it is increasing these emissions. The process of fracking has stirred up communities from Pennsylvania to Colorado, and now it's headed for California in a big way. The presenter, having recently returned from a visit to "fractivists" in Colorado, and having read widely on the issue, will dispel the industry myths on the subject. We will also discuss how this issue and those surrounding it are a

direct manifestation of the crisis of capitalism itself as well as discussing how socialists can involve themselves in the environmental movement. **John Reimann** will speak and lead our discussion of this important topic.

For those wishing to do a little research in advance, here is an article on fracking written by the speaker: <http://oaklandsocialist.com/2013/05/20/us-energy-independence-and-hydraulic-fracturing/>

Also, this online video by the extremely thoughtful scientist Theo Colborn is very worthwhile watching:

<http://www.endocrinedisruption.org/chemicals.video.php>

**Sunday June 30th, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

### **Korean Cinema and the Politics of Struggle**

*"Among the points of fracture in artistic formations, film is one of the most dramatic. We may truly say that with film a new realm of consciousness comes into being."--Walter Benjamin*

*"The logic of the principle of expression implies the moment of its negation, a negative form of truth that changes love into an inflexible power of protest."--Theodor Adorno*

Korean Cinema and the Korean Culture Industry has exploded in the last two decades to create some of the most interesting, provocative, and powerful imagery in mass consciousness.

Films such as Oldboy, Peppermint Candy, Save the Green Planet, Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter & Spring, Oasis, have intrigued, puzzled, and astonished audiences and critics around the world. with the passion and audacity of their cinematic conception, language and execution.

At the same time, the "Korean Wave"—television, music, performance, art—has transformed the existing cultural topography in Asia, challenging established centers and practices of cultural hegemony and production. This presentation will offer tools for understanding and deciphering Korean Cinema and its rise to prominence, while analyzing the politics of struggle behind this cultural wave: the traumas of colonization, fascism, and hyper-militarized capitalism, the interstitial struggles for subaltern representation in history and culture, and the contestation and recuperation of ideological space & artistic vision inside the country's brutal and nightmarish transition to Capitalist modernity.

**Sunday July 7th, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

### **Marx's philosophy of revolution for today vs. the pull of constitutionalism**

Radical Marxists may soberly confront the dismal facts of today's economic and human crises, but none more so than Al Gore, now a self-described recovering politician, for whom the hijacked U.S. constitutional democracy has humanity on a course of total devastation of increasing poverty, permanent unemployment and destruction of the life sustaining capacity of the planet. Further, Gore's book, The Future, is about how today's bleak trajectory has its roots all the way back to the way capitalist elites in the U.S. reacted to the 1871 Paris Commune. Gore quotes Karl Marx's prediction that the Commune would be "forever celebrated as the glorious harbinger of the new society." What gets short shrift is how Marx's prediction came out of a critique of constitutionalism as a very limited freedom which would become the handmaiden of

capitalism. Against constitutionalism Marx saw a new and deeper concept of freedom in the Abolitionist movement and the emergent struggle for the eight-hour day that ensued after the victory over slavery in the U.S. Civil War. Today's global Occupy movement and especially Arab Spring face the challenge of constitutionalism even as they attempt to deepen their stifled new beginnings in freedom. How can Marx's practice of his philosophy of revolution in permanence help us now? **Ron Kelch** will present a talk and lead our discussion.

**Sunday July 7th, 2013 - 12:30 to 1 pm**

**Planning Collective Meeting**

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**Saturday July 13th, 2013 – 11 am to 2 pm**

**The Murder of Sergei Kirov**

**History, Scholarship and the Anti-Stalin Paradigm**

**Grover Furr** is scheduled to be at the Niebyl-Proctor Library on July 13 from 11 AM to 2 PM for a presentation of his book about Kirov's assassination. Everyone is invited to attend. This is an opportunity to challenge the ideas of a serious Soviet-archive researcher and to learn what the archives tell us about the Stalin era. I hope people on the list take advantage of this opportunity. For a critical assessment of Furr's work, see: <http://mltoday.com/subject-areas/books-arts-and-literature/khrushchev-lied-but-what-is-the-truth-1246.html>

**Sunday July 14th, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**The Legacy of Stalin**

Few figures in the history of socialism have generated more controversy than Joseph Stalin, so we are sure that this month's topic will generate a lively discussion. Our discussion will begin with a 30 minute presentation by **Gary Hicks**, Communist Party, USA, on Soviet international and military policy, 1933-51. **Gene Ruyle** will also discuss the topic. These presentations will be followed by an open discussion, with all views represented.

**Sunday July 21th, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Brazil: the Left in Power in a Capitalist State**

How has a country comparable in size to the United States performed under the leadership of the Workers' Party (Partido dos Trabalhadores)? Join Sharat G. Lin and Sestilio Testa, both of whom have recently been in Brazil.

- \* Capitalist development in the periphery
- \* An immigrant nation: the true melting pot
- \* The legacy of military rule
- \* A BRIC country: size matters
- \* Energy self-sufficiency
- \* Reducing inequality in the face of neoliberalism: the unfinished task
- \* The politics of compromise and vote banks
- \* The Workers' Party in a capitalist state

**Sharat G. Lin** is a research fellow at the San José Peace and Justice Center. He writes on global political economy, labor migration, the Middle East and South Asia, and public health. He has also travelled widely in Latin America to connect with popular movements and understand how the region has fared in resisting U.S. domination and the neoliberal agenda.

**Sestilio Testa**, having lived in Brazil for many years, has become a keen historian, political observer, and activist on the Americas through a long process of self-education. Disillusioned with much of the Left, in recent years he has focused his energies on understanding and supporting alternative people's movements in Brazil, the Philippines, and the U.S., looking for avenues for more radical action.

**Sunday July 28th, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**William Blake in the 1790's**

A look at the response of the London-based radical poet to the French Revolution. **Lew Finzel** will lead our discussion.

**Sunday Aug 4th, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Class Struggle in the Bay Area and Beyond**

What are the prospects for left renewal in the Bay Area and beyond? And what role can our Institute and Library play in supporting the struggles of the international working class for a better world, for Socialism? After brief opening remarks by selected speakers, we will have an open discussion. Come prepared to participate. Newcomers and Old Timers welcome.

**Sunday Aug 4, 2013 - 12:30 to 1 pm**

**Planning Collective Meeting**

The Planning Collective meets following the talk on the first Sunday of every month. This is an open meeting. Everyone is welcome to help plan our future sessions.

**Sunday Aug 11th, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Prospects for Socialism in the 21st Century**

**Achievements and Challenges of Venezuela's Bolivarian Revolution**

The 20<sup>th</sup> century was characterized by fierce inter-imperialist rivalries leading to two world wars and a series of socialist revolutions including the Russian and Chinese. World historical events such as these are not on the horizon in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, where a single imperialist superpower rules triumphant while the popular classes bear the brunt of the crisis of capitalism with increased austerity and a "war without end" in the peripheries.

Yet Hugo Chavez, during 14 years as president of Venezuela, led a social movement that reduced poverty by half, eradicated illiteracy, empowered the grassroots, and posited 21<sup>st</sup> socialism as an alternative to the existing world order. For these accomplishments, Chavez was relentlessly attacked by the US before his death and more vociferously demonized since.

Join **Roger Harris**, who will present a PowerPoint on the Task Force on the Americas delegation that observed the election of Chavez's chosen candidate and the ongoing efforts by the US to destabilize the new government and bury the legacy of the movement that continues in his name.

**Martin Sanchez**, former Consul General of Venezuela in San Francisco and a social media activist, will update us on the latest developments in Venezuela. We will explore first hand how the social movements are advancing under the new leadership of President Maduro, who has not only inherited the Chavista mantle but some deep challenges requiring solutions including shortages, inefficiencies, inflation, and crime.

Sponsored by the Task Force on the Americas and the Institute for Critical Study of Society (ICSS)

**Sunday Aug 18th, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**HONDURAS: Struggles since the US-Backed Coup**

Local author **Tanya Kerksen** will present her new book describing the powerful Resistance Movement that has emerged in Honduras since the 2009 US-backed coup against democratically-elected President Manuel Zelaya.

An important pillar of this broad-based movement for democratization is the peasant movement which is profiled in her book.

A small handful of elite businessmen used the global crisis and militarized conditions created by the 2009 coup to wage a war on peasants in the Aguán Valley and to expand their massive oil palm plantations.

The book also shows how the power of these elites is bolstered by international aid, "green" capitalism, a corrupt media, and US-funded militarization in the name of a tragic War on Drugs.

The Popular Resistance is well organized, strong, and hopeful. They have successfully united peasants, urban labor especially teachers, feminists, militant youth, LBGT and indigenous people, and environmentalists. Their new Libre Party is poised to challenge the US-backed government and has invited internationals to observe the Honduras presidential election in November.

Tanya Kerksen is a researcher at Food First, where she analyzes the root causes of hunger and works to amplify the voices of social movements fighting to transform the global food system. She writes and teaches on the political economy of food, agriculture, and peasant resistance with a focus on Latin America and is engaged in solidarity work in support of Honduran land and democracy movements.

This coming November 17-26, Tanya will be leading an election observation delegation to Honduras. To find out more about what is happening in Honduras, how you can join in solidarity with the social justice struggles there, and about the upcoming delegation, come

**Sunday Aug 25th, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**From Vorkuta 1953 to Pelican Bay 2013: prisoners' challenge to their regimes**

July/August is the 60th anniversary of the revolt at Russia's infamous Vorkuta slave labor camp, 100 miles above the arctic circle. The mass strike was inspired by the June 17, 1953 East German uprising. It spread among the over 50,000 internees including children of old Bolsheviks murdered in Stalin's purges. These revolts shook the post-WWII world's assumption that under totalitarian control and mass "brainwashing" no revolt was possible. When reports of the revolt got out they were met in the west with profound skepticism. (see "Russia is more than ever full of revolutionaries..." at

<http://www.newsandletters.org>) Prison risings are still the major force and reason of the

resistance to injustices of governments all over the world. See, for example, the California prisoners' hunger strike, now in its second month. Urszula Wislanka will lead our discussion of prisoners' revolt and prisoners' challenge to capitalism's ideology.

**Sunday Sep 1st, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm (Labor Day Weekend)**

**Don't Piss On Me & Tell Me It's Raining! Workers Speak Out.**

With the BART strike looming, ATU 192 AC Transit workers voted down by more than two to one with a vote of 576 no to 257 yes, saying that was concessionary and a threat to their health and safety. We are inviting Bay Area workers to join was to discuss the prospects for a renewed labor movement. See:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mINWlu-NMeU&feature=youtu.be>

As an added treat, ICSS's **Gene Ruyle** will briefly discuss the historical significance of Labor Day. Curiously, Labor Day was started by members of the Socialist Labor Party in 1882, but the SLP was denouncing it as a bourgeois plot by the end of the 19th Century. Conversely, May Day was started in 1886 by the precursor of the American Federation of Labor, but the AFL was denouncing it as a communist plot by the end of the 19th Century. As Yale historian David Montgomery notes, "Little is gained by calling one holiday real and the other phony. We need to know what both have meant to workers." Labor Day, like the weekend, was brought to us by the union movement. Ruyle's talk will be based on his paper, available at: <http://www.csulb.edu/~eruyle/labor-day-hist-sig.pdf>

**Sunday Sep 8th, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Lettuce Wars: California Farm Workers of the 1970s: A Story Told from the Fields**

**Bruce Neuburger**, former farmworker, longtime radical political activist, GI organizer, movement newspaper writer and editor, cab driver, and, for the past twenty-five years, adult school and community college teacher, will discuss his new book *Lettuce Wars* (Monthly Review press, 2013).

**Sunday Sep 15th, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Eco-Socialism or "System Change not Climate Change"**

**With Glenn Turner and other Eco-Socialists**

We all know the depth of the environmental disasters brought on by the need for continual increase in profit making for the rich - Fukushima, the BP spill, the methane release from the Arctic meltdown. The endless need for profits before people has caused a huge waste of our world resources and may ultimately cause a tipping point for global warming to the point of species extinction, including ours.

<http://globalwarmingactionplan.blogspot.com/2013/07/action-plan.html>

While we organize as many people as possible, there are a few positive things we can do, for example biochar production to alleviate wildfire destruction and carbon release.

<http://biochareconomy.blogspot.com/>

Any who wish to add their thoughts and data, please come prepared to add your information to our discussion.

Recent meetings of a new Eco-Socialist coalition have focused on the current actions around Fracking, the politics behind it, and what can be done to stop it. We are inviting

other Bay Area members of the Eco-Socialist alliance to join us to discuss these issues of environmental disaster and degradation caused by capitalism.

More info: <http://systemchangenotclimatechange.org/>

**Sunday Sep 22nd, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Resisting Empire on Jeju Island**

On a small island on the Southern tip of the Korean Peninsula, for the past 7 years, a small group of villagers have been waging one of the most disciplined, dedicated, creative non-violent movements in the world.

Survivors of one of the most horrific genocides of the postwar era, they are struggling to prevent the Island, a UN designated biosphere reserve, from becoming a deep water military base that will uproot the traditional matrifocal culture, destroy a global ecological treasure, and destabilize the entire pacific region.

This Naval base, functioning as the lynchpin of the US Pacific pivot, will host US aircraft carriers, Aegis missile destroyers, nuclear submarines, and 8-10,000 troops, and turn the Island into a hair trigger for global confrontation.

This presentation, by activists working in solidarity with Jeju Island, will screen excerpts from "The Ghosts of Jeju", chronicling the genocidal US intervention in Jeju Island in 1948, and the subsequent history of influence and manipulation. There will also be recent eye witness testimonies from the ground, to give a synoptic, historical view of the crucial local, cultural, ecological and geopolitical issues at stake.

For a good background summary, see:

<http://www.counterpunch.org/2013/08/23/why-oliver-stone-came-to-jeju-korea/>

Trailer of the Ghosts of Jeju

<http://www.theghostsofjeju.net>

Also:

<http://www.kpfa.org/archive/id/94598>

or

<https://soundcloud.com/flashpoints/flashpoints-news-magazine-2013>.

**Sunday Sep 29th, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Gravity's Rainbow and the Impossible History of WWII, plus Against the Day: Balloon Boys Versus the International Anarchist Uprising.**

A discussion of the novels of the radical American writer Thomas Pynchon, led by **Lew Finzel**.

**Saturday Special, Oct 5, 2013 2pm to 4:30 pm**

**At the Starry Plough Pub, not the Marxist Library**

**You Are Not A Loan: Strike Debt Bay Area**

If you missed the presentation by Strike Debt at the Marxist Library on Feb 24, you have another chance. Members of Strike Debt Bay Area will talk about debt, contemporary capitalism, and emerging tactics of resistance and solidarity at the Suds, Snacks, and Socialism forum at the nearby Starry Plough Pub, 3101 Shattuck Avenue at Prince Street, 2 blocks from Ashby BART in Berkeley. More info on the Indybay Calendar at: <http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2013/09/23/18743671.php>

**Sunday Oct 6, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**What Is To Be Done? 1903 & 2013**

“Denied was the possibility of putting socialism on a scientific basis and of demonstrating its necessity and inevitability from the point of view of the materialist conception of history. Denied was the fact of growing impoverishment, the process of proletarianisation, and the intensification of capitalist contradictions; the very concept, “ultimate aim”, was declared to be unsound, and the idea of the dictatorship of the proletariat was completely rejected. Denied was the antithesis in principle between liberalism and socialism.” -- Is this the US in 2013? No, this is Europe in 1890s, as described by Lenin in 'What Is To Be Done'? What did it mean for the events to follow and the culmination of the great struggle that overthrew not only the Tsar but capitalism in Russia and gave birth to the first great Socialist State?

Is this relevant in our times after the fall of the 20th century socialism?

We are living in a world where capitalism has brought us to near ecological instability, along with social, economic and political instability, as 90% of this planet's inhabitants experience it, whether or not they express it in so many words. They know something is not right. The 1% who are wrecking this world of the 99% have in their hands all the levers of power, so it seems today

What is to be done about this situation?.

Raj Sahai will lead our discussion, let us see what we can learn from each other.

**Sunday Oct 6, 2013 - 12:30 to 1 pm**

**Planning Collective Meeting**

The Planning Collective meets following the talk on the first Sunday of every month.

This is an open meeting. Everyone is welcome to help plan our future sessions.

**Sunday Oct 13, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Julian Assange, Sexual Slander, and the Defense of Whistleblowers**

**Elazar Friedman** will discuss the pattern of FBI and US intelligence to employ the use of sexual slander against social justice activists to undermine a united front defense by fear of complicity with these scary smears. Why it is vital not to let these obvious imperialist intrigues against Assange divert us from united front defense of Chelsea Manning, Julian Assange, Edward Snowden and all whistleblowers exposing the crimes of imperialism including most of all US imperialism. Discussion will follow Elazar's presentation. For a preview of Elazar's talk, see:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/xnkxkgqe3eoz5f5/The%20Hue%20and%20cry%20about%20Wikileaks%20by%20Elazar%20Friedman.doc>

**Sunday Oct 20 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**The Lessons of Seattle**

For many, the protests that shut down the Seattle meetings of the WTO in November 1999 marked the beginning of the Twenty First Century. New organizations, new alliances, and new forms of struggle emerged which continue to characterize the global class struggle. After viewing a 35 minute video, “Shutdown in Seattle,” **Gene Ruyle** will share his experiences in Seattle to open our discussion of the significance of this historic uprising.

**Sunday Oct 27 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**The Transnational Capitalist Class and Working Class Struggle**

A number of today's Marxist theorists, among them William I. Robinson, have argued that we are now into a new epoch in the development of capitalism, the rapidly emerging transnational capitalist era. With the spread of neoliberal globalization worldwide, production chains are now more and more global, as is direct investment and the circulation of capital. Standing at the top of the emerging global system is an increasingly powerful and mobil transnational capitalist class which meets and develops as a community and as a class for itself within transnational corporations and transnational forums like the Trilateral Commission and the World Economic Forum. The apparent power of the transnational capitalist class should not blind us to the historic mission of the working class, now a global working class three billion strong. As Lenin observed, imperialism is the eve of proletarian revolution. As imperialism has changed, the forms of working class struggle must change. It is imperative that we understand the new forms of struggle and new structures of resistance that are emerging throughout the oppressed world, from streets of Seattle and the Naxalites in the forests of India to the World Social Forum.

We have asked two ICSS members, **Larry Shoup** and **Gene Ruyle**, to present their divergent views on these issues as a way of stimulating further discussion and exploration.

**Sunday Nov 3 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm (DST-Fall Back)**

**The Russian Revolution of 1917**

November 7 of this year is the 96th anniversary of the October/November Russian Revolution. While there has been much discussion about the subsequent results of that event, there hasn't been a lot of discussion concerning the 8 months [February/March-October/November 1917] of social upheaval, alignment and re-alignment of forces, the various polities, and how all of this came together/apart to make the revolutionary moment. This presentation will be an exercise in putting these puzzle-pieces together, using such important sources as Trotsky, Lenin, and others. **Gary Hicks** will deliver a presentation of 30-45 minutes, followed by discussion.

**Sunday Feb 3rd, 2013 - 12:30 to 1 pm**

**Planning Collective Meeting**

The Planning Collective meets following the talk on the first Sunday of every month. This is an open meeting. Everyone is welcome to help plan our future sessions. Gene will be out of town, but others can discuss the situation and let me know if you come up with anything for Sunday, Nov 10, when I will also be out of town..

**Sunday Nov 10, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**NO MEETING THIS SUNDAY**

Gene will be in Modesto for the Peace and Freedom Party State Central Committee Meeting, and no one has come forward to organize a forum. BUT: Folks might be interested in the following:

## **Theater of the Oppressed**

**Time:** 11am-4:30pm Sunday, Nov 10th

**Venue:** Fireside room, Starr King School for the Ministry (Graduate Theological Union), 2441 Le Conte Ave. Berkeley, Ca 94709

Theater of the Oppressed is a collection of games, techniques and exercises for using theater as a vehicle for personal and social transformation. It uses the dynamized human body and the charged theatrical space as a laboratories for exploring power, transforming oppression, and finding solutions to the fundamental problems of conflict, inequality, injustice and human suffering.

This class is open to anyone interested in exploring art & theater as method for engaging with the issue of oppression, while developing creativity, insight, and critical intelligence in dealing with this core issue.

No acting experience is necessary.

**Cost:** This workshop is offered free. We consider this work to be part of our shared social, artistic, activist commons. We also consider the propagation and dissemination of this work important for meaningful social change. However, we appreciate donations which will allow us to increase access to future participants.

**Notes for the Workshop:** Please dress comfortably (in layers, if necessary) to move. Feel free to bring water, comfortable shoes/socks, a notepad & a snack/lunch if you need.

We will break for lunch for about an hour, around 1pm. We suggest you pack a lunch to eat or get something from the many reasonably price cafes and restaurants in the neighborhood, and bring it back to the space, where we will eat together while continuing our discussion and reflection. We also encourage the sharing of food during these workshops, so feel free to bring extra to share if you feel so inclined. There is a kitchen on the premises, with a microwave and refrigerator available for storing/heating food.

Bathrooms on site are wheelchair accessible.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

Directions from **BART**: Take the Richmond line north or south and exit at the **Downtown Berkeley station**. Walk one block east toward the University of California campus. Turn left on Oxford Avenue. Continue north to Hearst Avenue and turn right. In about 1/4-mile, take a left onto Le Conte Avenue, which angles up the hill. Starr King School is located at 2441 Le Conte Ave., at the top of the hill, on the left side of the street. (This is a 15 minute vigorous walk uphill).

**AC Transit Buses:** Starr King is served by several bus routes – F, 51, 52, 65 and 67.

**Parking:** There is all day street parking, but you may have to look for it.

## **Sunday Nov 17, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

### **Kashmir and the National Question**

Kashmir region lies between India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and China. It is divided between India and Pakistan. The portion of Kashmir that is at present part of Pakistan has a population of 4.5 Million and the portion that is presently part of India known as the state of Jammu & Kashmir, has a population of 12.5 Million. The issue of Kashmir has been the cause of several wars between India and Pakistan since the formation of these two countries out of the British Colony of India in 1947. Both India and Pakistan are now nuclear armed countries.

Why is this issue so contentious? There has been a movement for a separate independent country of Kashmir. Should Kashmir be a separate country? How is the issue of Kashmir related to imperialism and liberation? **Raj Sahai** will present the historical background to this issue and provide his interpretation of how socialists should look at this thorny issue. Discussion will follow his presentation.

**Sunday Nov 17, 2013 - 12:30 to 1 pm**

**Planning Collective Meeting**

The Planning Collective normally meets following the talk on the first Sunday of every month so this is off-schedule, but we need to discuss the rest of the year. This is an open meeting. Everyone is welcome to help plan our future sessions.

**Sunday Nov 24, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**State and Revolution in Egypt: Stalled Transition and Future Prospects**

From *de facto* military rule to elections to Islamism to military rule, has the Egyptian Revolution come full circle? After three years of upheaval and revelations, it is now possible to assemble a more complete picture of the geopolitics and power struggles behind the scenes. What now are the prospects for political activism, democracy, news coverage, system change, and U.S. policy?

Dr. Sharat G. Lin writes on global political economy, the Middle East, South Asia, labor migration, and public health. He is a contributing author to the book *Studies in Inequality and Social Justice*. He spent two months in Tahrir Square during 2009-2012, including during the initial uprising that overthrew President Mubarak. He is a research fellow at the San José Peace and Justice Center.

**Sunday Dec 1 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**THANKSGIVING BREAK: NO MEETING**

Time to take a break and prepare for the coming weeks of ideological class struggle.

**Saturday afternoon, December 7, 2013 – 2 pm to 4:30 pm**

**Socialist Perspectives on the United States' Role in World War II**

In remembrance of Pearl Harbor Day, we are inviting two veterans of WWII to share their thoughts. **Harry Siitonen** is a retired union printer and a member of the IWW and Veterans for Peace, as well as the Peace and Freedom Party. **Howard Keylor** is a retired longshoreman and a supporter of the International Bolshevik Tendency.. Topics will include profiteering in U.S. weapons production, unnecessary endangerment of troops as well as the slaughter of civilians, and the use of the atomic bomb. After Harry and Howard share their views, we will have open discussion.

**NOTE:** This forum will not be at the Niebyl Proctor Marxist Library. Instead, it will be at the Starry Plough Pub, 3101 Shattuck Avenue at Prince Street in Berkeley, a short walk about 5 blocks NE of the NPML.

**Sunday Dec 8, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**After Pearl Harbor: Marxist Perspectives on World War II**

This will follow Saturday's Suds, Snacks, and Socialism at the Starry Plough forum on World War II, where veterans of WWII will speak. We are planning to do a follow-up on

this forum, with an open discussion of this important topic. Invited speakers include **Gary Hicks**, researcher at the Niebyl Proctor Marxist Library, and **Eugene Ruyle**, Emeritus Professor of Anthropology, CSULB. Anyone else who wants to prepare a 5-10 minute statement should get in touch with Gene ASAP. Otherwise, everyone will have their usual 3 minutes to express their views.

**Sunday Dec 15, 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**State, Class, Alienation, and Geopolitics in the Arab Spring**

The Arab Spring was rooted in more than just popular aspirations for democracy, prosperity, and respect. It was also driven by cleavages in class and state, and, in particular, divisions within the bourgeoisie, differential social alienation, and the rise of identity politics. As more regimes feel threatened by instability around them, covert cross-border interventions have played an increasing role. Geopolitical manoeuvres reveal not merely perceived interests, but the tactical projection of those interests across borders and through arrays of surrogates, and real interests.

**Dr. Sharat G. Lin** writes on global political economy, the Middle East, South Asia, labor migration, and public health. He is a contributing author to the book *Studies in Inequality and Social Justice*. He spent two months in Tahrir Square during 2009-2012, including during the initial uprising that overthrew President Mubarak. He is a research fellow at the San José Peace and Justice Center.

**Sunday Dec 22 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**HOLIDAY BREAK: NO MEETING THIS SUNDAY**

Time to take a break and prepare for another year of ideological class struggle.

**Sunday Dec 29 2013 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**HOLIDAY BREAK: NO MEETING THIS SUNDAY**

Time to take a break and prepare for another year of ideological class struggle.

## **PROGRAMS COMPLETED IN 2014**

**Sunday, January 5, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Class Struggle in 2014 and Beyond**

Time to get together, talk about the future of ICSS, discuss our mission, and plan the schedule for our Sunday Morning at the Marxist Library forums. Please come with suggestions and concrete plans. Newcomers and Old Timers welcome.

**Sunday, January 5, 2013 - 12:30 to 1 pm**

**Planning Collective Meeting**

The Planning Collective meets following the talk on the first Sunday of every month. This is an open meeting. Everyone is welcome to help plan our future sessions.

**Sunday, January 12, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**What Do We Mean, Socialism?**

We have invited three panelists to introduce this important topic: **Charles Andrews**, author of *From Capitalism to Equality* and *No Rich, No Poor*. **Gary Hicks**, researcher at the Niebyl Proctor Marxist Library, and **Eugene Ruyle**, Emeritus Professor of Anthropology, CSULB. We will have an open discussion following their presentations.

**Sunday, January 19, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Reclaiming Finance: How Time is Stolen and can be Taken Back**

In *The Thief of Time* Terry Pratchett imagines time as a substance that can be moved from place to place. In his novel monks guard giant jars of time and make sure it flows just how it is supposed to. Though intended as humor Terry Pratchett's novel mirrors the reality of banking. In the current global capitalist order central banks and large financial institutions direct the flow of time through currencies and credit in order to reserve it for governments and global conglomerates. **Dante Popple**, a senior at Bard College at Simon's Rock studying Politics and Philosophy, will discuss the mechanisms by which banks and governments steal time and how they can be undone, and what a socialist form of finance might look like.

**Sunday, January 26, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Syria, Iran, Iraq, WMDs, and U.S. Imperialism**

WMDs in Syria and Iran today, and formerly in Iraq, have been pretexts for U.S. military intervention, not the motivation for intervention. Uranium enrichment has thresholds that play into those pretexts. The seemingly implacable opposition between the U.S. versus Syria and Iran, and formerly Libya as well, is not the result of any fundamental anti-imperialism in these Middle Eastern states, but rather the U.S. policy obsession for financial and military compliance. Were it not for this U.S. obsession, the rulers of Syria and Iran would welcome foreign investment with open arms, though with protective limits, while they obliterate opposition of the left or right. Nevertheless, U.S.-led military intervention must be unconditionally opposed, while support is given towards building a secular democratic socialist alternative in presently authoritarian states.

**Dr. Sharat G. Lin** writes on global political economy, the Middle East, South Asia, labor migration, and public health. He is a contributing author to the book *Studies in Inequality and Social Justice*. He spent two months in Tahrir Square during 2009-2012, including during the initial uprising that overthrew President Mubarak. He is a research fellow at the San José Peace and Justice Center.

**Sunday, February 2, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**What is Happening to City College of San Francisco?**

Public institutions and unionized workers are under attack. Anti-union neo-liberals have been advocating their privatization and transformation to better serve the needs of business to enable the wealthy to accumulate more wealth.

A leading example of a public college being targeted is California's largest community college, City College of San Francisco (CCSF). In addition to facing the current attacks on public education, the CCSF community has been brought under tremendous pressure by an out of control and abusive private accrediting agency that is threatening the college with closure. This agency's demands for "reform" are being carried out by a state

imposed special trustee who has been granted dictatorial power to run the college. The changes enacted represent an assault on both the many working class and disadvantaged students the college serves, and its faculty and staff. CCSF has been significantly downsized.

We will be joined by two faculty members at CCSF: **Deborah Goldsmith** (Economics) and **Rick Baum** (Political Science). They will provide an overview of what has been happening and answer questions.

**Sunday, February 2, 2013 - 12:30 to 1 pm**

**Planning Collective Meeting**

The Planning Collective meets following the talk on the first Sunday of every month. This is an open meeting. Everyone is welcome to help plan our future sessions.

**Sunday, February 9, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**The Battle of Moscow**

The Germany led multiple country massive invasion of the Soviet Union that began on June 21, 1941 was stopped at the outskirts of Moscow. We will show the film. "Battle of Moscow: The End of the Road." Afterwards discussion will be lead by John Murcko and Raj Sahai on strategy and tactics of the military battle, the protection of the motherland, mobilization of the troops, the workers of Moscow and the party resulting in the first defeat of German General Guderian and the Nazi army. Come and learn about the revolutionary military-industrial-political strategy used by the communist party of the USSR to defeat the Third Reich.

**Sunday, February 16, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**The Making of Global Capitalism**

John and Robbie will discuss Leo Panitch and Sam Gindin's magnum opus, *The Making of Global Capitalism: The Political Economy of American Empire*. For background, see the Jacobin Book Club discussion at: <https://www.jacobinmag.com/2013/07/jacobin-book-club-the-making-of-global-capitalism/s>

NOTE: This week's forum will be held in the upstairs room in back.

**Sunday, February 23, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Part One of A Three Part Series Revisiting Lenin:**

**From 1902 'What is to be done?' to the 1907 Fifth Congress of the RSDLP**

This series, led by Ron Kelch, a non-Leninist Marxist-Humanist, aims to overcome some of the caricatures of Lenin coming in different ways from both Marxists and anarchists. Part one will take up the modifications of Lenin's theoretical views under the impact of the 1905 Revolution in Russia. Lenin's development was reflected in his participation and discussions with Trotsky and Luxemburg at the 1907 Congress of the Russian Social-Democratic Labor Party.

**Sunday, March 2, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Walter Benjamin meets the Angel of History**

or

**DIALECTICS AT A STANDSTILL**

This talk will focus on Benjamin's last writing sometimes entitled ON THE CONCEPT OF HISTORY, sometimes THESES ON THE PHILOSOPHY OF HISTORY. Bert Brecht will be mentioned, and Surrealism as well... Lew Finzel will lead our discussion.

**Sunday, March 2, 2013 - 12:30 to 1 pm**

**Planning Collective Meeting**

The Planning Collective meets following the talk on the first Sunday of every month. This is an open meeting. Everyone is welcome to help plan our future sessions.

**Sunday, March 9, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Ukraine: What's happening? Historical Background & Western Influence**

After a short video, **John Murcko**, of Ukrainian heritage, will discuss the Polish-Ukraine war and occupation of west Ukraine by Polish landlords from 1919 to 1939; territory returned to Ukraine in 1939 as Ukraine joined with Red Army to expel Nazi invasion; United States interference from 1970 to present including use of neo-Nazi thugs in 2013 and plotting coup on intercepted telephone conversions. Discussion to follow.

**Sunday, March 16, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Anonymous Internet Communication (The People vs. NSA, et al.)**

It's no secret that the NSA was and is secretly spying on people here at home and around the globe. The justification given for this activity is that it can prevent terrorism and crime. There are challenges to NSA surveillance pending in the courts and in congress, based on the First and Fourth Amendments.

While we wait for Congress or the courts to do something, we can right now actively protect our individual privacy, using freely available technical tools and best practices. Mr. **Keith Davis**, a recently retired software engineer specializing in business security software, will discuss these tools and how to use them. He will provide specific strategies, including technical details about Message Encryption, Virtual Private Networks (VPN), The Onion Ring (TOR), Firewalls, UseNet, Bitcoin, Bitmessage and others. For a preview of the presentation:

<http://www.winkdav.com/20121211/InternetAnonymity.pdf>

Mr. Davis will discuss the motivations for Internet Anonymity and the different levels of privacy that can be obtained (with corresponding effort and/or technical expertise). He also will provide caveats and warnings associated with the use of privacy tools and practices. There will be a Q&A and discussion period following the presentation.

**Sunday, March 23, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Dialectics on your Feet: Theater of the Oppressed**

*"Theater is a weapon, and it is the people who must wield it"--Augusto Boal*

The revolutionary crucible of Latin American politics gave birth to a form of radical cultural resistance called Theater of the Oppressed (TO), now practiced worldwide by millions of educators, artists, organizers, and activists.

Based on Paulo Freire's Pedagogy of the Oppressed, TO is a collection of games, techniques and exercises for using theater and art as a vehicle for personal and political transformation. It uses the dynamized human body and the charged theatrical space as a laboratories for exploring power, transforming oppression, and finding collective

solutions to the fundamental problems of conflict, inequality, injustice and human suffering. Kairos Theater Ensemble will present an overview of the history, theory of TO, and share tools for dialogue, community building, solidarity and critical thinking. This workshop should be useful for activists, organizers, educators, cultural workers, and anyone else interested in transforming relations of power through creativity and critical intelligence while reclaiming our fundamental sociality and relatedness.

**Sunday, March 30, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Revolution and Bob Avakian's new synthesis of communism**

**Larry Everest** will discuss Bob Avakian's new synthesis of communism and the need, possibility and urgency of preparing for revolution.

Background: "You Don't Know What You Think You "Know" About...The Communist Revolution and the REAL Path to Emancipation: Its History and Our Future"

<<http://revcom.us/a/323/you-dont-know-what-you-think-you-know-en.html>> and other material on the Revolutionary Communist Party website.

**Larry Everest** writes for Revolution newspaper (revcom.us), the voice of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA. He's reported from Iran, Iraq, Palestine and India and is the author of *Oil, Power & Empire: Iraq and the U.S. Global Agenda* and *Behind the Poison Cloud: Union Carbide's Bhopal Massacre*.

**Sunday, April 6, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Revisiting Lenin: Part Two of a Three Part Series**

**Lenin's 1914 return to Hegel and the 1917 Russian Revolution**

This series, led by a non-Leninist Marxist-Humanist, **Ron Kelch**, aims to overcome some of the caricatures of Lenin coming in different ways from both Marxists and anarchists. Part two will take up Lenin's engagement in the Bern Library with Hegel's Science of Logic as Lenin's world fell apart with the outbreak of World War One and the collapse of Second International along with the betrayal of its leaders. Up to then Lenin considered one such leader Karl Kautsky to be his political and theoretical guide. What was the relation of Lenin's philosophic reorganization to his past views? How did Lenin's philosophic reorganization impact on his revolutionary practice in the 1917 Russian Revolution?

**Sunday, April 6, 2013 - 12:30 to 1 pm**

**Planning Collective Meeting**

The Planning Collective meets following the talk on the first Sunday of every month. This is an open meeting. Everyone is welcome to help plan our future sessions.

**Sunday, April 13, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Leninism for the Twenty First Century**

Marx was right in the 19th Century. Lenin was right in the 20th Century. Our task, in the 21st Century, is to do for Leninism what Lenin did for Marxism: go back to the roots and re-construct it in a manner appropriate to current global reality. Gene Ruyle will lead our discussion on this vital topic. (Lenin was born April 22, 1870.)

**Sunday, April 20, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

### **Class Struggles of the Portuguese Revolution: A View Through Graphic Art**

On the 40th anniversary of the Carnation Revolution, **Sharat G. Lin** takes a look at the explosion of political activism and party formation triggered by overthrow of the dictatorship of Marcelo Caetano on April 25, 1974 by disaffected mid-level army officers. The nonviolent mutiny not only opened the way for free elections and ended Portuguese colonialism in Africa and Timor, but at its peak actually effected the nationalization, land reforms, collectivization, and worker takeovers of as much as 80 per cent of the productive capacity of the country. This period of epic upheaval and gradual undoing is viewed through the graphic art of the Processo Revolucionário Em Curso (PREC) or Ongoing Revolutionary Process.

**Dr. Sharat G. Lin** writes on global political economy, the Middle East, South Asia, labor migration, and public health. He is a contributing author to the book *Studies in Inequality and Social Justice*. He spent two months in Tahrir Square during 2009-2012, including during the initial uprising that overthrew President Mubarak. He is a research fellow at the San José Peace and Justice Center.

**Sunday, April 27, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

#### **The Struggle for Prisoners' Rights**

The hunger strikes by prisoners in the Pelican Bay SHU and elsewhere have highlighted the human rights nightmare inside America's prisons. **Urszula Wislanka**, supporter of the Pelican Bay Hunger Strike, will speak on the prisoner's fight to hold onto their humanity in the midst of the most inhuman environment yet designed. **Glenn Turner**, a Spiritual Advisor to California prisoners, will add her perspective on how prisoners respond to the abusive treatment inside.

**Sunday, May 4, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

#### **Part three of a Three Part Series Revisiting Lenin:: "What happens after the revolution: from the 1920-21 Trade Union Debate to Lenin's death in 1924".**

This series, led by a non-Leninist Marxist-Humanist, Ron Kelch, aims to challenge some of the caricatures of Lenin coming in different ways from both Marxists and anarchists. The first session covered Lenin's stark reorganization under the impact of the 1905 revolution in Russia. The second how his break with his philosophic past, after the outbreak of World War One and the collapse of the Second International, impacted his participation in the 1917 Revolution. Part three examines what we can learn from Lenin's struggles and limitations after the revolution.

**Sunday, May 4, 2014 - 12:30 to 1 pm**

#### **Planning Meeting**

The Planning Group meets following the talk on the first Sunday of every month. This is an open meeting. Everyone is welcome to help plan our future sessions.

**Sunday, May 11, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

#### **Happy Birthday Karl!**

Join your comrades to celebrate the 196th birthday of Karl Marx (May 5, 1818 – March 14, 1883). We have some birthday cake and talk about what old Karl has to say to us

today. Everyone is urged to bring their favorite Marx quote—and their ideas about what would Marx do in the current situation.

**Sunday, May 18, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Consensus and Conflict: Iraq and Ukraine as Examples of Capitalist Class Neoliberal Geopolitical Grand Strategy**

Much of U.S. foreign policy is based upon two grand strategic conceptions developed behind the scenes by key capitalist class institutions, especially Wall Street's think tank, the Council on Foreign Relations. These two conceptions are free market capitalist fundamentalism, often called "neoliberalism" and geopolitics, global power politics. This talk will focus on how the capitalist class and its professional class allies have applied these two concepts to their foreign policy toward Iraq in 2003 and Ukraine in 2014. The differences and similarities between these two examples will help deepen our understanding of how and why U.S. foreign policy is what it is today. Speaker will be **Dr. Laurence H. Shoup**, author of the forthcoming book from Monthly Review Press: *Wall Street's Think Tank: The Council on Foreign Relations and the Empire of Neoliberal Geopolitics 1976-2014*

**Sunday, May 25, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND: NO MEETING**

**Memorial Day: Honor the Dead, Heal the Wounded, Stop the Wars**

The first Memorial Day was on May 1, 1865. "African Americans invented Memorial Day in Charleston, South Carolina. What you have there is black Americans recently freed from slavery announcing to the world with their flowers, their feet, and their songs what the War had been about. What they basically were creating was the Independence Day of a Second American Revolution." Over the years, Memorial has come to be remembered on the last Monday of May, a time to honor the more than one million men and women who gave their lives in the wars of the United States.

**Sunday, June 1, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Ukraine and the Rise of Fascism in Europe**

Since the economic crash of 2008, unemployment has soared in Europe. The unemployment rate in Greece went from 8% in 2008 to 26% in 2014. Youth unemployment is the highest. The same is true all over Europe. The media is putting the blame on the immigrants. In Greece they blame Arabs from Libya, in Germany they blame the Turks, in France it is the Algerians. As a result the proto-fascist parties in France, Greece, Germany, and the Netherlands are growing. The unions are being attacked. In Germany in the 1930s, after the advent of fascism and the attacks on unions and workers parties, wages decreased forty percent. Is it time for the united front from below? Presentation by **John Murcko** and **Raj Sahai**.

**Sunday, June 8, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Piketty's *Capital in the Twenty-first Century*: The Good, the Bad, and the Awful**

Paul Krugman called it "the most important economics book of the year—and maybe of the decade," but some of us at the Marxist Library have different views. Join us for a discussion of the merits, flaws, and political purpose of Thomas Piketty's best seller.

**Gene Ruyle** and **Charles Andrews** will lead the discussion. For a preview, take a look at the review by Charles Andrews:

<<http://mrzine.monthlyreview.org/2014/andrews220314.html>> or

<[https://www.dropbox.com/s/hgwhwa5y1trelx6/Piketty\\_Andrews\\_review.pdf](https://www.dropbox.com/s/hgwhwa5y1trelx6/Piketty_Andrews_review.pdf)>

**Sunday, June 8, 2014 - 12:30 to 1 pm**

**Planning Meeting**

The Planning Group normally meets following the talk on the first Sunday of every month, but Gene will be out of town so we're rescheduling for June. This is an open meeting. Everyone is welcome to help plan our future sessions.

**Sunday, June 15, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Report-Back on China**

**Al Sargis** just returned from his 8th trip to China where he attended two conferences and had meetings with high-level Chinese officials and scholars. He gave a paper on the demise of the Soviet military at these venues. Additionally, he spoke with many others about the situation in China. Al has agreed to give us a report back on his impressions. **Al Sargis** is the founder of the **Friedrich Engels Institute of Marxist War and Military Analysis** here at the NPML

**Sunday, June 22, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**The History of Dialectics: Guy DeBord and the SITS**

**Lew Finzel** will continue his discussion of the history of dialectics.

**Sunday, June 29, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Syria: Eyewitness Report**

What's behind the conflict, what is the current status, what are the prospects, why it should matter to any progressive anywhere. A talk by **Rick Sterling**, who just returned from a two week visit to Syria as part of a peace and reconciliation delegation.

**Sunday, July 6, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Advocacy for Health Rights in Public and Private Health Services**

**The experience in Maharashtra, India**

This talk will briefly report and analyze efforts made during last some years by health activists in Maharashtra, India for fostering civil society action for promoting health rights in both Public and Private Health Service.

The talk will share the work is being done through 'Community Based Monitoring of Public Health Services' an innovative project which galvanizes the villagers' feedback and monitoring of the Public Health Services in about 1000 selected villages and how this process culminates in a yearly Public Accountability meetings at many places in which the performance of the concerned Public Health Facility is systematically analyzed in a Public Meeting; critical questions are asked and promises for specific improvements are sought. This process of a kind of democratization of health services has resulted in greater assertion by villagers, better dialogue between doctors and staff of the concerned Public Health Facilities and has also led to improvements in these services.

The talk will then share how in case of private health care services Civil Society action has focused on the demand for enactment of the Clinical Establishment Act to regulate the private health services; demand for a role for civil society organizations in the formulation of the Bill as well as in the implementation of this Act; inclusion of the Standard Charter of Patients' Rights in this proposed Act.

Lastly, the talk will share the move to form a broader coalition of Left and democratic organizations in Maharashtra to demand Right to Social Services (including health care) and Social Security.

**Dr. Anant R. Phadke** is associated with a number of organizations in the Health and Science Movement in India and is Senior Advisor of SATHI-CEHAT, a leading NGO in the Peoples' Health Movement in India. Has contributed over 250 articles in English and Marathi and a few books on People's Science and Health movement issues.

### **Sunday, July 6, 2014 - 12:30 to 1 pm**

#### **Planning Meeting**

The Planning Group meets following the talk on the first Sunday of every month. This is an open meeting. Everyone is welcome to help plan our future sessions.

### **Sunday, July 13, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

#### **The Landless Workers Movement in Brazil**

***Movimento Sem Terra* and the international struggle for land, food and our own labor.**

In February a delegation of 15 representatives from U.S. social movements traveled to Brazil to attend the National Congress of the Landless Workers Movement (*Movimento dos Trabalhadores Sem Terra*, or MST). The Congress was a celebration of the MST's thirty-years of struggle, and a debate about its future.

We will have a report back by Bay Area Delegates: **Effie Rawlings** of **Occupy the Farm**, **Shango Abiola** of **The Black Riders Liberation Party**, and **Rebecca Tarlau** of **Friends of the MST**, with insights into the MST's structure and strategy, and examples of how they're changing relations to land and labor.

### **Sunday, July 20, 2014 - 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm NOTE TIME CHANGE**

#### **Exposing The Anti-Stalin Myths Of Cold War –"Blood Lies" By Grover Furr**

We are canceling our usual morning session, since Grover Furr will be speaking in the early afternoon, from 12:30-3:30.

Grover Furr will speak about his latest book, "Blood Lies: The Evidence that Every Accusation against Joseph Stalin and the Soviet Union in Timothy Snyder's 'Bloodlands' Is False." (Red Star Press, 2014)

Timothy Snyder, a full professor of Eastern European history at Yale, has written two dozen articles for leading intellectual journals such as the NY Review of Books. He recently published "Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin" (N.Y: Basic Books, 2010). This book is by far the most widespread attempt to date to equate Stalin with Hitler, and the Soviet Union with Nazi Germany. It has garnered rave reviews in literally dozens of newspapers and journals; received prizes for historiography; and has been translated into more than 25 languages.

Professor Tim Snyder has little to say about the Nazis. His main target is Stalin, Soviet policy, and communists generally. His broader claim is that the Soviets killed 6 to 9 million innocent civilians while the Nazis were killing about 14 million. Snyder finds parallels between Soviet and

Nazi crimes at every turn.

Professor Grover Furr has spent two years methodically checking every single footnote, every reference to anything that could be construed as a crime by Stalin, the USSR, or pro-Soviet communists. Snyder's main sources are in Polish and Ukrainian, in hard-to-find books and articles. Furr's conclusion: Every single allegation of Soviet / Stalin "crimes" is false! Soviet History of the Stalin period must be completely rewritten!

He will also share his research on what really happened in: The Famine of 1932-33; the "Polish Operation"; the "Great Terror"; the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact; the "Soviet invasion of Poland"; the "Katyn Massacre"; the Warsaw Uprising; and "Stalin's Anti-Semitism."

Professor Furr will sell and sign copies of his new book and his previous books "Khrushchev Lied" and "The Murder of Sergei Kirov."

Grover Furr's Home Page, with many articles, is at <http://www.tinyurl.com/grover-furr-research>

**Sunday, July 27, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Rise of the Right Wing in India**

**Raj Sahai** will provide an analysis of the changes in the economic and social conditions since India's independence from the status of a British Colony in 1947 that has led to the rise of the Right Wing power in India headed by a unique personality in Narendra Modi.

**Sunday, August 3, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**The History of Dialectics: Considerations on Franz Fanon**

THE HISTORY OF DIALECTICS presents: "The open door of every consciousness." Considerations on Frantz Fanon. **Lew Finzel**, **Ibrahim Moss**, and **Ron Kelch** will lead off the discussion of this important revolutionary thinker.

**Sunday, August 3, 2014 - 12:30 to 1 pm**

**Planning Meeting**

The Planning Group meets following the talk on the first Sunday of every month. This is an open meeting. Everyone is welcome to help plan our future sessions.

**Sunday, August 10, 2014 – SUNDAY MORNING FORUM CANCELLED**

**Saturday and Sunday, August 9 & 10, 2014**

**PEACE AND FREEDOM STATE CONVENTION AT NPML**

The Peace and Freedom Party, born from the civil rights and anti-war movements of the 1960s, is committed to socialism, democracy, ecology, feminism, racial equality, and internationalism.

<http://www.peaceandfreedom.org/home/calendar/scc-meeting>

**Sunday, August 17, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Some Economic, Political and Military Factors to Consider in the Collapse of the Soviet Military**

Presentation by **Al L. Sargis**, Friedrich Engels Institute of Marxist War and Military Analysis. This presentation was originally given in Beijing in May 2014 at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and Chinese Academy of Military Science. Preparation for war and the military played a central role in Soviet society since at least the late 1920s and profoundly influenced its economic, political, ideological and social development. It

is within this context that the Soviet military failed to act against counter-revolution in 1991 and subsequently collapsed. This presentation examines the Soviet military's response to the August 1991 crisis in light of Perestroika (economic restructuring), New Thinking (foreign policy and military doctrine) and the accumulation of unresolved problems within the Soviet armed forces. It indicates how these three dialectically interrelated factors played out, as well as the central role of the military in both initiating Gorbachev's economic restructuring and subverting it.

**Saturday August 17 to Wednesday August 20, 2014**

**Israeli Cargo Ship Blocked From Unloading in Oakland For Four Straight Days**

Comrades: I was proud to see so many Library regulars at the blockade last Saturday and in the continuing picket line which prevented the ship from unloading. (After leaving port, the ship snuck back in and did unload some cargo, I hear, but this remains a historic victory for the Bay Area left community.) That's what I call combining theory and practice. -- Gene

As a reward, check out this short video about this week's 5-day community blockade of the Israeli cargo ship Zim Piraeus at the Port of Oakland in California, featuring retired longshoreman Howard Keylor, author of the motion that resulted in the 11 day boycott of South African cargo by ILWU Local 10 in 1984:

### **Picketlines Past and Present**

SFChronicle Published on Aug 21, 2014

A recap of the historic blocking of an Israeli ship in the port of Oakland in light of the role the Bay Area has played in the anti-apartheid movement.

PS: I just received the following email from Dave E:

This morning, my brother Raymond was among the picketers at the Long Beach Port, trying to stop the unloading of the same Israeli vessel that was in Oakland. The ILWU refused to cross their picket line. The ship has retreated to an off-shore anchorage and is now awaiting developments. Dave E

NOTE: Actually, the ship at LA is another Zim Lines' ship "Ever Loading". This is scheduled to arrive in Oakland on Tuesday, 8/26.

**Sunday, August 24, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**LATE SUMMER BREAK • NO MEETING**

**Sunday, August 31, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**LABOR DAY WEEKEND • NO MEETING**

Comrades, Since we are not meeting this Sunday, you might want to read my latest article, "Labor Day and May Day: Two Workers' Holidays," which begins:

*As we enter the Labor Day weekend, many on the left will repeat the myth that Labor Day has no historical significance and is simply a "gift" from capitalist politicians to break up the international solidarity of American workers by providing an alternative to May Day. For many years, I accepted this myth, even while marching with my union comrades in the annual Labor Day Parades in Wilmington, California. Then I learned that the first Labor Day was in 1882, four years BEFORE Haymarket and eight years*

*BEFORE the first international May Day in 1890. How, then, could it have originated as an alternative to May Day? A little historical research revealed a much different, and more complex, story.*

Read the entire article online on the Peace and Freedom Party web page, or click on the following link:

<http://www.peaceandfreedom.org/home/articles/general/1180-labor-day-and-may-day-two-workers-holidays>

**Sunday, September 7, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Class Struggle in 2014 and Beyond**

Time to get together, talk about the future of ICSS, discuss our mission, and plan the schedule for our Sunday Morning at the Marxist Library forums as well consider study groups and other activities. Please come with suggestions and concrete plans.

Newcomers and Old Timers Welcome.

**Sunday, September 14, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Massacre in Gaza**

We have invited **Richard Becker**, of the ANSWER Coalition and author of *Palestine, Israel and the U.S. Empire*, to provide an introduction to key events in the history underlying today's current events and lead our discussion of the latest developments in the ongoing crisis.

**Sunday, September 14, 2014 - 12:30 to 1 pm**

**Planning Collective Meeting**

The Planning Collective meets following the talk on the first Sunday of every month, but we are having a special meeting off schedule to deal with pressing issues. This is an open meeting. Everyone is welcome to help plan our future sessions.

**Sunday, September 21, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**A Marxist Analysis of the RPA**

We have invited **Charles Smith**, Richmond Resident and AFSCME 444 Delegate To Alameda Labor Council, to speak on the Richmond Progressive Alliance and class struggle in Richmond. He will be joined by **Albert Dragstedt**, **Eugene Ruyle**, and possibly other speakers.

**Sunday, September 28, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Vietnam: Worker Shared Challenges**

Group discussion of the shared interests of USA and Vietnamese labor unions & educators will include: industrialization and economic development - labor organizing and structure - leader and member development - political education - labor law and the role of the state. Discussion will be led by **Leanna Noble** and **Hollis Stewart**, long-time unionists who spent more than half a year in Vietnam, where they taught at a labor university. Following a brief slide show and description of their Vietnam teaching experience, they will lead a free-flowing discussion based on participants' questions/interests.

**Sunday, October 5, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**A VISIT TO COMMUNIST ZIZEKISTAN**

This talk will cover 3 inter-related topics: Is the Slovenian philosopher Slavoy Zizek leading a Hegel revival? Is Zizek leading a Lenin revival? Plus-The inner truth and greatness of Stalinism! **Lew Finzel** will speak.

**Wednesday, October 8, 2014 – 7 pm to 8:30 pm**

**WHAT'S IN YOUR WALLET? AN ORGANIZING MEETING FOR A MARX, CAPITAL 1 READING-DISCUSSION GROUP.**

We want to have a meeting to organize a reading-discussion group on Karl Marx's Capital, Volume 1. Gene Ruyle and Gary Hicks will act as co-facilitators.

The book is more than important...it's central to understanding what's going on in this world of globalized capitalism, and in those countries in resistance to capitalism and trying, with varying degrees of success, to build socialism.

The book is best read in small study groups. It's a difficult but not an insurmountable read. It is also a book best understood when participants in a reading-discussion group take both individual and collective responsibility to do presentations on the reading.

This will be a TEXTUAL reading and discussion focused on the book. It will NOT be a reading and discussion based upon what this, that, or the other writer said or thinks about the book. This will be a reading and discussion based upon what you think about what the book actually says.

The meeting we want to have on October 8 will be about how many groups we will have. In our opinion, ten persons in a group is the best arrangement. If we have 11 or 12 people, it's comfortable. Beyond that we should have more than one group. Gene and I will be co-facilitators for a group of 8 to 10 people. Beyond 12 people, one of us will have to be the facilitator for each group, and have someone else in the group act as co-facilitator....or maybe some arrangement at turn-taking.

Above all, participants need to be ready to discuss the reading and their thoughts on same. The only "dumb" or "politically incorrect" views, questions, etc. ARE THE ONES KEPT TO YOURSELF. See you on October 8!!

In peace and solidarity, -Gene Ruyle, 510-428-1578 & Gary Hicks, 510- 847-5497

**Sunday, October 12, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Socialism: Scientific and Utopian**

In his classic, *Socialism: Utopian and Scientific*, Engels describes how the utopian vision of socialism was transformed into a science by linking it to a scientific understanding of social development and by identifying the working class as the agency that would build socialism. This scientific socialism of Marx and Engels inspired the world historic revolutions of the twentieth century. Since the overthrow of the Soviet Union, however, advocates of socialism typically repudiate both scientific socialism and the twentieth century attempts to build socialism. The result, too frequently, is a return to utopianism. This workshop will explore the need to rediscover the science of socialism. Background Reading: Engels, "*Socialism: Utopian and Scientific.*" (available online at the Marx & Engels Internet Archive. Discussion will be led by **Eugene E Ruyle**, Emeritus Professor of Anthropology, CSU, Long Beach, and a member of the ICSS Collective.

**Sunday, October 19, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**School Is the Opposite of Education**

School reform is written and talked about very frequently in the media. People are supposed to think satisfactory alternatives to the zombie reforms – reforms that were worthless, that died, as it were, after being punched to death, those deceptive, ineffectual modes – not different actually, from the previous mode; being done again and again, repeatedly, over and over, called by different names, Common Core, for one –that those are alternatives; that those – any of them – will at all repair the damage that is school. As workers on the Left can we describe the study teach learn process/es that are good for us, that do not reinstate our oppressors' structure as we try to release ourselves from THEIR confinement of us? Our discussion of education will be led by **Norma Harrison**, a candidate for the Berkeley Board of Education and a member of the State Central Committee of the Peace and Freedom Party

**Wednesday, October 22, 2014 – 7 to 9 pm “Miners Shot Down” (Film on South Africa 2014 – 85 minutes)**

In August 2012, mineworkers in one of South Africa's biggest platinum mines began a wildcat strike for better wages. Six days later, the police used live ammunition to brutally suppress the strike, killing 34 and injuring many more. Methodically and soberly, *Miners Shot Down* follows the strike from day one, chronicling the courageous but isolated fight waged by a group of low- paid workers against the combined forces of the mining company, Lonmin, the ANC government, and their allies in the National Union of Mineworkers. *Miners Shot Down* is undoubtedly one of the most important and damning documentaries to emerge in post-apartheid South Africa. 2014 85 minutes .52**Sharat G. Lin**, a research fellow at the San José Peace and Justice Center who just returned from South Africa, will lead discussion.

**Sunday, October 26, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**South Africa: 20 Years Post Apartheid**

Twenty years after the first election of a black majority government, neoliberalism continues to reproduce the apartheid legacy that makes South Africa the most economically unequal country in the world. Meanwhile, unprecedented strikes and new militancy in the labor movement begin to challenge the Tripartite government.

**Dr. Sharat G. Lin** is a research fellow at the San José Peace and Justice Center. He writes on global political economy and labor migration. He just returned from a fact-finding trip to South Africa. To provide background, he showed the film during, “*Miners Shot Down*,” the week before his talk.

**Sunday, October 26, 2014 - 12:30 to 1 pm**

**Planning Collective Meeting**

The Planning Collective meets following the talk on the first Sunday of every month, but we are having a special meeting off schedule to deal with pressing issues. This is an open meeting. Everyone is welcome to help plan our future sessions.

**Sunday, November 2, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Class Struggle in Capitalist Society**

Time to get together, talk about the future of ICSS, discuss our mission, and plan the schedule for our Sunday Morning at the Marxist Library forums as well consider study groups and other activities. Please come with suggestions and concrete plans.

Newcomers and Old Timers Welcome.

**Sunday, November 9, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**South African versus Israeli Apartheid: Shattering the Myths**

Apart from enforcing separate and unequal spaces and rights for different peoples, how do South African and Israeli apartheid compare in terms of historical development, ideology, implementation, and resistance?

**Sharat G. Lin** is a research fellow at the San José Peace and Justice Center. He has been involved on the ground in Israel-Palestine since 1973, and just returned from South Africa. He is an originator of the Cairo Declaration on global BDS led by South Africans.

**Wednesday, November 12, 2014 – 7 to 9 pm**

**Capital Reading Group**

The ICSS is forming a Reading Group on Marx's Capital. We are meeting about every two weeks on Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons. Our next meeting will be on Wed, Nov 12, from 7-9 PM, when we will discuss Section 2 of Chapter 1 of Capital. We decided that it would be best if everyone read the same edition of Capital so we're all on the same page, literally if not ideologically. We decided on the Penguin edition translated by Ben Fowkes, available from Amazon.com for \$11.30.

**Sunday, November 16, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Labor and Human Social Metabolism: An Anthropological Perspective**

Our global ecological crisis has created an increasing interest in Marx's theory of metabolic rift as a crucial aspect of capitalism. To appreciate fully how capitalism creates this rift, it is important to examine the human metabolic relation with nature in general and theoretical terms. ICSS member **Gene Ruyle** will explore the implications of Marx's insight that labor is "the universal condition for the metabolic interaction between man and nature, the everlasting nature-imposed condition of human existence, and it is therefore independent of every form of that existence, or rather it is common to all forms of society in which human beings live." (*Capital*, Vol I, p. 291) Gene's talk is based on two recent papers, which can be downloaded at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/3oe0oi2orn0hvj/Labor-Metabolism.pdf?dl=0>

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/g9oblgs2ibgh3c/Exploitation-Class.pdf?dl=0>

**Sunday, November 23, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**At the Bleeding Edge of History:**

A talk on the Speculative Thought of Cultural Historian and Visionary William Irwin Thompson by ICSS member Lew Finzel.

**Sunday, November 30, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**THANKSGIVING WEEKEND.** No meeting is planned. While some may celebrate in the traditional manner, others will mark the holiday as a National Day of Mourning and Atonement for our shameful treatment of the First Americans. Here's some reading:

*Robert Jensen: How I Stopped Hating Thanksgiving*

<http://warisacrime.org/node/47990>

*Thanksgiving: A Native American View*

[http://www.alternet.org/story/4391/thanksgiving%3A\\_a\\_native\\_american\\_view](http://www.alternet.org/story/4391/thanksgiving%3A_a_native_american_view)

*American Indian Perspectives on Thanksgiving*

[http://nmai.si.edu/sites/1/files/pdf/education/thanksgiving\\_poster.pdf](http://nmai.si.edu/sites/1/files/pdf/education/thanksgiving_poster.pdf)

*An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* (2014) by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

(At your local Library.)

**Sunday, December 7, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**War on ISIS, Or Shadow Boxing in the Middle East?**

In the aftermath of the implosion of the Arab Spring, institutional collapse in Libya, Syria, and Iraq, the Islamic State is the biggest emerging threat in the Middle East. What are the real origins of ISIS and the role of the U.S.?

Sharat G. Lin is a research fellow at the Peace and Justice Center, A writer on global political economy, and the Middle East, he recently visited Kurdish areas at the heart of the battle against ISIS.

**Sunday, December 14, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Marxism & South African tragedy of Marikana 2012**

Violence claimed 44 lives in less than one week, August 11- 16 period. 10 were killed by the workers themselves, which included 2 policemen, 2 security guards, and 6 mine workers & 34 workers were killed and 70 injured by South African Police Services (SAPS) personnel at the site surrounding the British owned Lonmin Platinum mine located in Marikana, 78 km west of Pretoria.

Following this incident, President Jacob Zuma ordered an independent commission of inquiry headed by a retired Supreme Court Judge, Ian Farlam. After two years of publicly held testimony with all who were in any way connected to the incident, final arguments by the attorneys representing stake holders in this incident.

A section of US Left has charged the government of South Africa itself to be the culprit.

**Raj Sakai**, a member of ICSS, will attempt to provide a dispassionate analysis keeping in mind Lenin's admonition to all those given to emotions, oversimplifications and shortcuts, repeatedly reminding them that a concrete analysis that employees all relevant concrete facts is needed in such cases.

**Sunday, December 21, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**HOLIDAY BREAK**

**Sunday, December 28, 2014 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**HOLIDAY BREAK**

## **COMPLETED PROGRAMS IN 2015**

**Sunday, January 4, 2015 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

### **What Is To Be Done in 2015**

Time to get together, talk about the future of ICSS, discuss our mission, and plan the schedule for our Sunday Morning at the Marxist Library forums. Please come with suggestions and concrete plans. Newcomers and Old Timers welcome.

**Sunday, January 11, 2015 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

### **Understanding China and its unions; with a report from meetings and discussions with some of China's leaders**

This basic presentation provides analysis that can help working class activists better understand China and its unions, and the nature of the profound US antagonism to China. The speakers meetings, proposals and discussions in China since 2000 are partly used to test the analysis.

**Wadi'h Halabi** recently returned from meetings and discussions in China -- his fifteenth visit there in fifteen years, all by invitation. His main focus has been on changes in the world political economy, and, especially, identifying and addressing weaknesses that led to the collapse of the Soviet Union. He believes scientific, Marxist clarity on factors in the Soviet collapse is essential for rebuilding unity of the workers of the world and complete humanity's transition to socialism. Halabi serves on the Economics Commission of the CPUSA.

**NOTE:** Sat., January 10, 2015, 1 – 3 pm Wadi'h Halabi will speak on “**The Material Basis for Revolutionary Optimism Today**” sponsored by The Political Affairs Readers Group of the Communist Party, USA (Elizabeth Gurley Flynn Club). Wadi'h Halabi is a member of the Economics Commission of the Communist Party, U.S.A. He is a long-time participant/observer with various organizations in the People's Republic of China. This will be at the Niebyl-Proctor Marxist Library for Social Research, 6501 Telegraph Ave., Oakland (bet. Alcatraz and 66th), Website: [www.marxistlibr.org](http://www.marxistlibr.org) Wheelchair Accessible

**Sunday, January 18, 2015 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm — MLK Day on Monday**  
**From Oscar Grant to Ferguson: Racism and Police Repression in America**

The Oscar Grant Committee Against Police Brutality & State Repression (OGC) is a grassroots democratic organization that was formed as a conscious united front for justice against police brutality. The OGC is involved in the struggle for police accountability and is committed to stopping police brutality. In alliance with the International Longshore & Warehouse Union (ILWU) we organized the October 23, 2010 labor and community rally for Justice for Oscar Grant. On that day the ILWU shut down the Bay Area ports in solidarity. “Our mission is to educate, organize and mobilize people against police and state repression.” Members of the OGC will lead our discussion of racism and police repression in America.

**Sunday, January 25, 2015 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**"Dialog on the Dialectic": Spinoza (Lew Finzel and Ron Kelch series)**

There is a multi-faceted revival of interest in the 17th century philosopher Benedict de Spinoza from theologians in Iran's Green Movement, personified by the controversial philosopher/theologian Abdolkarim Soroush, out to separate "mosque and state", to the Spinozist philosophic ground of the post-modern "Marxist" work Empire by Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri. This installment of an ongoing series, "Dialog on the Dialectic", will present an overview of Spinoza and engage his appeal to a contemporary audience as well as his relation to the Hegelian/Marxist dialectic. Hegel gave a whole new meaning to a Spinozist formulation, found in a letter, namely, "all determination is negation." In Capital, this Spinozist formulation is precisely what Marx cites when he asserts that Hegel's dialectic is the "source of all dialectic" (p. 744). Does this speak to today's search for a way out of capitalism's total crises of permanent economic malaise, impending ecological disaster, and permanent war and terror?

**NOTE:**

Last week's talk on "Spinoza and the Hegelian/Marxian Dialectic" by Ron Kelch has been posted at: <https://ronkelch.wordpress.com>.

**Sunday, February 1, 2015 - 12:30 to 1 pm**

**The Battle of Stalingrad**

In what proved to be the turning point of WWII, at Stalingrad the Red Army "tore the guts out of the Nazi war machine," as Winston Churchill put it. **John Murcko** and **Raj Sahai** will present a video of the historic battle of Stalingrad commencing with three attacks against the city by the Sixth army of the Third Reich, the defense of the city by the 64th Soviet army headed by Chuikov from September to November 1942, the counter attack by Zhuckov and Rokossovsky on November 19 that encircled and trapped the Sixth army and the destruction of the Sixth army and surrender on February 3 1943

**Sunday, February 1, 2015 - 12:30 to 1 pm**

**Planning Group Meeting**

The Planning Group meets following the talk on the first Sunday of every month. This is an open meeting. Everyone is welcome to help plan our future sessions.

**Sunday, February 8, 2015 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**How the Corporate Structure Differs from Capitalism, and rules the world**

The corporate structure (meaning both that of individual corporations and the global corporate system), in its present globalized form, has not divided the world into competing sectors or empires, but rather has divided the global economy into a dual stratified system composed of a dominant financial economy and a dependent productive economy. The financial economy has the power to determine or condition the fate of the productive, and to materially determine what happens in electoral offices at any level of government (not via contributions or lobbying). In addition, since the financial economy is not productive, but parasitic on the productive economy, and on capitalism itself, the power of the working class is displaced. Only a few nations have taken preliminary steps

(incompletely in each case) to offset the power of direct corporate control – these include Cuba, Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador, and China. But the degree of globalization of the corporate structure, its power over production, nations, and cultures, and its destructiveness and despoliations toward all of these, including the planet, are not the result of a “ruling elite’s” avaricious desires, sadism, or greed. They are all the logical extensions of inherent structural processes within the corporate structure itself. This talk will examine some of those structural drives and needs, and how they have displaced and even rendered irrelevant human concerns. And it will discuss some of the weak points in this structure, beyond those of class. **Steve Martinot** will present and lead our discussion of this important topic.

**Sunday, February 15, 2015 - MEETING CANCELLED**

Another group, Speak Out, has rented the Library for the weekend, so we not meet.

**Sunday, February 22, 2015 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**The doctor will see you now. First, your copay."**

A review of the Affordable Care Act, weighing the appropriate political stance toward it. **Charles Andrews** places Obamacare within a historical-economic analysis of developments in health care and the movement to get Medicare for All (single payer universal health coverage). He draws on insights from his forthcoming book, *The Hollow Colossus* ([www.hollowcolossus.com](http://www.hollowcolossus.com)).

**Sunday, March 1, 2015 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Cuba and Obama: A New Beginning?**

In December 2014, Obama announced the most significant shift in U.S. policy toward Cuba in half a century, calling for a normalization of relations between the two countries. What does this mean for Cuba and for Americans? We have invited Earl Gilman to lead our discussion on this important question.

**Sunday, March 1, 2015 - 12:30 to 1 pm**

**Planning Group Meeting**

The Planning Group meets following the talk on the first Sunday of every month. This is an open meeting. Everyone is welcome to help plan our future sessions.

**Sunday, March 8, 2015 - 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY – RUSSIAN REVOLUTION BEGINS**

The first Woman’s Day was organized by the Socialist Party in New York in 1909, in remembrance of the 1908 strike of International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. It was made an annual celebration the following year by the Socialist Second International. On March 8, 1917, the women of Petrograd went on strike with the demand “Bread and Peace.” Within weeks, Tsar Nicholas II was imprisoned. The Russian Revolution had begun. To celebrate, we will gather at our usual time, aided by Norma Harrison. We'll look at the women's movement of the 1970s, the successful attempt to empty it of any roots in majestic struggle; to make it an effort to compel the slave labor of women into the 9-5 offices as a success story, removing further the opportunity for us all to share the work to maintain us and to advance our struggles. Consciousness raising

stunned us, thrilled us, surprised us, and was snatched from us by the owning class using, again, Their media, schools, churches, jobs.

Our work is still to take, to re-take our struggle.

Children, men, women, join us to sing our song again, together.

Note: Gene will be out of town and will not be providing donuts and coffee.

**Sun, Mar 15, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**Essentials of Scientific Socialism: Part One of a Series**

“Clarity about the aims and problems of socialism is of greatest significance in our age of transition.” Einstein’s comment remains true in our Century, when the growing interest in socialism is matched by a growing confusion about socialism. This workshop, led by Gene Ruyle of the ICSS, will be the first in a series seeking to overcome this confusion through study and discussion, focusing on the classics of scientific socialism: *The Communist Manifesto*, by Marx and Engels, *Socialism: Utopian and Scientific*, by Engels, *Critique of the Gotha Program*, by Marx, and *Fundamentals of Leninism*, by Stalin. This session will focus on the *Communist Manifesto*. In preparation, participants are urged to read, or re-read, this important document.

**Sun, Mar 22, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**School is the opposite of education, a study to release us from our confinement**

In this time of trying to grasp disintegrating vestiges of our commons, it’s difficult to formulate the calls for structures for our benefit without resorting to lapsing into requesting our Owners to let us have what we’ve been taught is our commons. So we call for jobs, schools. The fact is our jobs are all about profiting our Owners, and school is about getting us all in line to do that.

The last session we did on this subject subsided into consciousness raising, school having been so harmful to us, so painful, that we sought relief, relinquishing the challenge to delve into positing how we want to learn, teach, study. This time let’s try that instead; try finding the other way - not home school, not the many reformations of school, but how to not school.... Suggestion: read/print out

<https://njfhar.wordpress.com/2014/12/10/structural-objective/> for discussion. Our discussion will be led by **Norma Harrison**, a former candidate for the Berkeley Board of Education and a member of the State Central Committee of the Peace and Freedom Party. Info at: <https://njfhar.wordpress.com/2014/12/10/table-of-contents>

**Sun, Mar 29, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**The Dreyfus Affair**

In a scandal that divided France from 1894 to 1906, Captain Alfred Dreyfus was convicted of treason based on falsified evidence and blatant anti-Semitism and spent five years on Devil’s Island before being completely exonerated. **Elazar Friedman**, a member of ICSS, will discuss this case and its continuing significance, including: 1.) A synopsis of the case and frame up of Dreyfus, 2.) The role of antisemitism in the army, society at large, 3.) The direct linkage to the League of Human rights on the one hand and to Accion Francaise and the Vichy regime. 4.) How the Dreyfus Affair split French Society and set the intelligentsia at each others throats. 5.) The role of Emil Zola and other important Dramatis Persona and conspiratorial aspects of the case. 6.) The role

of the left and the workers movement. Rosa Luxembourgh essay on Dreyfus and the need for the left to intervene.

**Sun, Apr 5, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**China's Migrant Workers: History and Challenges**

Over the past 30 years, around 300 million men and women have moved from China's farms to its factories, industrial plants and construction sites, in one of the largest and most rapid migrations in human history. Luo Xiaoping, a daughter of farmers, graduated from the Academy of Marxism of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. Her presentation will review this migration, some of the extraordinary challenges that have accompanied it, and efforts to address them. Luo Xiaoping is an assistant professor at Zhejiang Ocean University and a visiting scholar at Boston University this year.

**Sun, Apr 12, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**Battle of Kursk - Largest Battle of WWII**

This will be the third and the last in the series of videos screened at NPML with a Marxist analysis provided by John Murcko & Raj Sahai.

The Battle of Kursk was the largest battle of World War II. It resulted in the decisive victory of the Soviet Army and the Soviet productive forces developed under socialist construction launched in 1928 collectivization of agriculture and in 1929 industrialization drive to modernize USSR economy.

“Do you want our socialist fatherland to be beaten and to lose its independence?” Stalin asked in a famous February, 1931 speech. “If you do not want this you must put an end to its (USSR's) backwardness in the shortest possible time and develop genuine bolshevik tempo in building up the socialist system of the economy [...] We are fifty or a hundred years behind the advanced countries. We must make good this difference in ten years. Either we do it, or we shall be crushed”.

Germany attacked on June 22, 1941 with a highly mechanized army consisting of 3.5 million men, confirming Stalin's foresight and estimate of the time frame almost precisely.

The battle of Kursk involved over two million soldiers, 6,000 tanks and 4,000 airplanes. The offensive of Kursk launched by Germany on July 4, 1943; was stopped in 9 days and the Soviet counter offense drove the Germans back to the starting point. Kursk battle saw the destruction of the best Panzer divisions and gave the initiative in the war to the Soviets.

Discussion and Q.A. session to follow the presentation.

**Sun, Apr 19, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**Imperialism in the 21st Century: Updating Lenin's Theory a Century Later**

We have invited Richard Becker from the Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL) to discuss their new book: *Imperialism in the 21st Century: Updating Lenin's Theory a Century Later*. The book includes chapters from the PSL on imperialism as well as Lenin's original pamphlet, *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism*. PSL's new publication is intended to make a significant contribution to the ideological development of revolutionaries today and to the Marxist movement and struggle. Copies of the 210 page book will be available for purchase (\$14.95)

**Sun, Apr 26, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**How the Socialist Alternative candidate Kshama Sawant won 96,000 votes in Seattle**

Speakers from **Socialist Alternative** will tell us how councilor **Kshama Sawant** was popularly elected to the Seattle City Council in November 2013. This was the first time in a hundred years that a socialist had won a mass election in Seattle. We used this victory to promote the movement for the \$15/hr minimum wage. Seattle's April 2014 law established the highest minimum wage in the US at the time and legitimized \$15 as a winnable demand. The fight for 15 and a union is gaining strength.

We believe that capitalism needs to be challenged on the street, in the workplace and at the ballot box, and that after a couple of decades of retreat, the ideas of marxism and socialism are once again being embraced by young people.

**Sunday, Apr 26, 2015 - 12:30 to 1 pm**

**Planning Meeting for USSF,SJ**

The Institute for the Critical Study of Society will hold a special meeting to plan our participation in the U.S. Social Forum in San Jose, CA June 24-28, 2015. Proposal due: May 1. Info at: <https://www.ussocialforum.net>

**Sun, May 3, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**Essentials of Scientific Socialism: Part of an Ongoing Series**

“Clarity about the aims and problems of socialism is of greatest significance in our age of transition.” Einstein’s comment remains true in our Century, when the growing interest in socialism is matched by a growing confusion about socialism. This workshop, led by Gene Ruyle of the ICSS, will be the second in a series seeking to overcome this confusion through study and discussion, focusing on the classics of scientific socialism: *The Communist Manifesto*, by Marx and Engels, *Socialism: Utopian and Scientific*, by Engels, *Critique of the Gotha Program*, by Marx, and *Fundamentals of Leninism*, by Stalin. This session will focus on a close reading of the *Communist Manifesto*. In preparation, participants are urged to read, or re-read, this important document.

**Sunday, May 3, 2015 - 12:30 to 1 pm**

**Planning Group Meeting**

The Planning Group meets following the talk on the first Sunday of every month. This is an open meeting. Everyone is welcome to help plan our future sessions.

**Sun, May 10, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**Essentials of Scientific Socialism: Part of an Ongoing Series**

“Clarity about the aims and problems of socialism is of greatest significance in our age of transition.” Einstein’s comment remains true in our Century, when the growing interest in socialism is matched by a growing confusion about socialism. This workshop, led by Gene Ruyle of the ICSS, will be part of an ongoing series seeking to overcome this confusion through study and discussion, focusing on the classics of scientific socialism: *The Communist Manifesto*, by Marx and Engels, *Socialism: Utopian and Scientific*, by Engels, *Critique of the Gotha Program*, by Marx, and *Fundamentals of Leninism*, by

Stalin. This session will continue our close reading of the *Communist Manifesto*. In preparation, participants are urged to read, or re-read, this important document.

**Sun, May 17, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**Malcolm X and Black Liberation**

In honor of the 90th birthday of Malcolm X (May 19, 1925 – February 21, 1965), we have invited **Gerald Smith**, of the Oscar Grant Committee, to speak on the life and death of Malcolm X and his continuing relevance for the Black Liberation struggle.

**Sun, May 24, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**

**Essentials of Scientific Socialism: Part of an Ongoing Series**

“Clarity about the aims and problems of socialism is of greatest significance in our age of transition.” Einstein’s comment remains true in our Century, when the growing interest in socialism is matched by a growing confusion about socialism. This workshop, led by Gene Ruyle of the ICSS, will be part of an ongoing series seeking to overcome this confusion through study and discussion, focusing on the classics of scientific socialism. This session will continue our close reading of the *Communist Manifesto*. In preparation, participants are urged to read, or re-read, this important document and bring a copy along with them.

**Sun, May 31, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**Essentials of Scientific Socialism: Part of an Ongoing Series**

“Clarity about the aims and problems of socialism is of greatest significance in our age of transition.” Einstein’s comment remains true in our Century, when the growing interest in socialism is matched by a growing confusion about socialism. This workshop, led by Gene Ruyle of the ICSS, will be part of an ongoing series seeking to overcome this confusion through study and discussion, focusing on the classics of scientific socialism. This session will continue our close reading of the *Communist Manifesto*. In preparation, participants are urged to read, or re-read, this important document and bring a copy along with them.

**Sun, Jun 7, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**Essentials of Scientific Socialism: Part of an Ongoing Series**

“Clarity about the aims and problems of socialism is of greatest significance in our age of transition.” Einstein’s comment remains true in our Century, when the growing interest in socialism is matched by a growing confusion about socialism. This workshop, led by Gene Ruyle of the ICSS, will be part of an ongoing series seeking to overcome this confusion through study and discussion, focusing on the classics of scientific socialism. This session will continue our close reading of the *Communist Manifesto*. In preparation, participants are urged to read, or re-read, this important document and bring a copy along with them.

**Sunday, Jun 7, 2015 - 12:30 to 1 pm**

**Planning Group Meeting**

The Planning Group meets following the talk on the first Sunday of every month. This is an open meeting. Everyone is welcome to help plan our future sessions.

**Sun, Jun 14, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**Apocalypse Now and Again: A Feminist Guide to the End of the World**

Fan-Boy speaks on the work of Catherine Keller and her Process Theology. **Lew Finzel** of ICSS shares thoughts on the matter.

**Sun, Jun 21, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**Essentials of Scientific Socialism: Part of an Ongoing Series**

“Clarity about the aims and problems of socialism is of greatest significance in our age of transition.” Einstein’s comment remains true in our Century, when the growing interest in socialism is matched by a growing confusion about socialism. This workshop, led by Gene Ruyle of the ICSS, will be part of an ongoing series seeking to overcome this confusion through study and discussion, focusing on the classics of scientific socialism. This session will continue our close reading of the *Communist Manifesto*. In preparation, participants are urged to read, or re-read, this important document and bring a copy along with them.

**Thursday, June 25, 2015 1-2:30 pm**

**US Social Forum in San Jose**

**Invitation to the Study of Marx**

“Clarity about the aims and problems of socialism is of greatest significance in our age of transition.” Einstein’s comment remains true in our Century, when the growing interest in socialism is matched by a growing confusion about the potential of socialism to address the real- life concerns of our species. This workshop will encourage activists to begin a serious study of Marx, who founded the science of socialism, through a close reading of his classic work, *The Communist Manifesto*, led by **Gene Ruyle** and other members of the Institute for the Critical Study of Society at the Niebyl-Proctor Marxist Library in Oakland. Short Description: Through a close reading of the Communist Manifesto, this workshop will encourage activists to begin a serious study of Marxist science. **NOTE:** The USSF Program is still tentative, but we are scheduled for the Oxford Room, St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, 405 S. 10th St. San Jose, CA 95112. Be sure to confirm with actual program.

**Sun, Jun 28, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm U.S. SOCIAL FORUM IN SAN JOSE**

**Essentials of Scientific Socialism: Part of an Ongoing Series**

“Clarity about the aims and problems of socialism is of greatest significance in our age of transition.” Einstein’s comment remains true in our Century, when the growing interest in socialism is matched by a growing confusion about socialism. This workshop, led by Gene Ruyle of the ICSS, will be part of an ongoing series seeking to overcome this confusion through study and discussion, focusing on the classics of scientific socialism. This session will continue our close reading of the *Communist Manifesto*. In preparation, participants are urged to read, or re-read, this important document and bring a copy along with them.

**Sun, Jul 5, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm (JULY 4TH WEEKEND)**

**Essentials of Scientific Socialism: Part of an Ongoing Series**

“Clarity about the aims and problems of socialism is of greatest significance in our age of transition.” Einstein’s comment remains true in our Century, when the growing interest in socialism is matched by a growing confusion about socialism. This workshop, led by Gene Ruyle of the ICSS, will be part of an ongoing series seeking to overcome this confusion through study and discussion, focusing on the classics of scientific socialism. This session will begin our close reading of the *Critique of the Gotha Program (1875)*. In preparation, participants are urged to read, or re-read, this important document and bring a copy along with them. (It’s online at the Marx Engels Archive <[www.marxists.org](http://www.marxists.org)>, and I will also have in on my computer to project it on the screen.)

**Sun, Jul 12, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**Martin Luther King meets Alfred North Whitehead: the praxis of Realist social philosophy**

If you could prune half of capitalist demagoguery, leaving the other half for 2050's young socialists to whittle at, would you take the job? Land rent communist **David Giesen** speaks this morning about the plausibility of engaging 40% of the US population in a conversation about disengaging land values from private ownership. With a modest dollop of historical review (1776-yesterday) of land speculation in America, a sliced banana's worth of "their own scripture's injunction" theological talking points for the faith community, and a heaping helping of predictable results economic logic challenge for Republicans and Tea Party folk, Giesen will serve up a credible conversational dessert that Marxists can offer the other 99% of the population. And if 40% bite, a big hunk of capitalism is going down, baby!

**NOTE CHANGED TIME. LATER, BUT STILL SUNDAY MORNING**

**Sun, Jul 19, 2015 -11:30 am – 2:00 pm**

**You’re Not Going to Believe This, but it’s true: Leon Trotsky collaborated with the Japanese. How do we know this is true? A discussion of historical methodology.**

In the book “*Khrushchev Lied*,” author Professor **Grover Furr** courageously removed the Dead Dogs which obscured the Truth about Stalin era USSR History. The book has been translated in many languages, including Tamil and will soon be available in Hindi, two major languages of India. Khrushchev's 1956 “secret” speech started the USSR on the revisionist road, which led to its eventual overthrow by black market capitalists in collaboration with Yeltsin in 1991 and gave the enemies of socialism a huge propaganda victory, and crushing poverty to the soviet working classes, and it disintegrated the USSR. It created an all encompassing Anti-Stalin paradigm in the Soviet Studies in the US and European Academic circles and the news media. The socialist movement has suffered grievous harm from this falsification of history.

Professor Furr is nearing completion of his research exploring the political life of Leon Trotsky during 1930s in exile. The book on Trotsky is expected to be published by the end of this year. It will raise important issues about historical materialism methodology and why even the Left has come to accept certain views as truth. Discussion will follow Professor Furr’s presentation

**Sat & Sun, Jul 25 & 26, 2015 – all weekend**

**PEACE AND FREEDOM PARTY STATE MEETING AT NPML**

**Sat, Jul 25, 2015 -11 am – 5:30 pm Political Discussion and Business Meeting**

**Sat, Jul 25, 2015 – 7 – 9 pm Forum: Race, Class, and Police Violence**

**Sun, Jul 26, 2015 -9:30 am – 3:00 pm Political Discussion and Business Meeting**

The Peace and Freedom Party, born from the civil rights and anti-war movements of the 1960s, is an open, multi-tendency, movement-oriented, ballot-qualified, socialist party. We are united in our common commitment to socialism, democracy, ecology, feminism, racial equality, and internationalism, and in our common opposition to capitalism, imperialism, racism, sexism, and elitism. We represent the working class, those without capital in a capitalist society. We organize toward a world where cooperation replaces competition, a world where all people are well fed, clothed and housed; where all women and men have equal status; where all individuals may freely endeavor to fulfill their own talents and desires; a world of freedom and peace where every community retains its cultural integrity and lives with all others in harmony. Our goals cannot be achieved by electoral means alone. We support mass organization, direct action, a militant labor movement, and establishment of alternative institutions in neighborhoods, workplaces, unions, schools, and the armed forces everywhere.

For more information, go [www.peaceandfreedom.org](http://www.peaceandfreedom.org)

**Sat, Jul 25, 2015 - 7-9 pm**

**Race, Class, and Police Violence**

The **Peace and Freedom Party** in cooperation with The **Oscar Grant Committee** invite you to a forum on Race, Class, and Police Violence. This forum will begin with stories from families whose lives have been forever changed by police violence. After this practical introduction, we will explain why the Oscar Grant Committee insists on linking “Black Lives Matter” with “All Lives Matter,” and then turn to broader social and political issues. Discussion will follow our presentation.

At the Niebyl-Proctor Marxist Library, 6501 Telegraph Ave, Oakland (just North of Alcatraz). Saturday, July 25, 2015 • 7-9 pm.

**Sun, Aug 2, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**Essentials of Scientific Socialism: Part of an Ongoing Series**

“Clarity about the aims and problems of socialism is of greatest significance in our age of transition.” Einstein’s comment remains true in our Century, when the growing interest in socialism is matched by a growing confusion about socialism. This workshop, led by Gene Ruyle of the ICSS, will be part of an ongoing series seeking to overcome this confusion through study and discussion, focusing on the classics of scientific socialism. This session will focus on a close reading of selected portions of Stalin’s *Foundations of Leninism (1924)*. In preparation, participants are urged to read, or re-read, this important document and bring a copy along with them. (It is online in various places, google it. I will also have in on my computer to project it on the screen.)

**Sunday, Aug 2, 2015 - 12:30 to 1 pm**

**Planning Group Meeting**

The Planning Group meets following the talk on the first Sunday of every month. This is an open meeting. Everyone is welcome to help plan our future sessions.

**Sun, Aug 9, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**“Dangerous Circumstances:” The CFR Proposes a New Grand Strategy Towards China**

“...preserving U.S. primacy in the global system ought to remain the central objective of U.S. grand strategy in the twenty-first century.”<sup>1</sup>

**Background: The CFR and its Grand Strategy China Report:** The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) is the think tank of monopoly-finance capital, Wall Street’s think tank. It is also a membership organization: the ultimate networking, socializing, strategic planning and consensus forming institution of the dominant sector of the U.S. capitalist class. The CFR’s activities help unite the capitalist class to become not just a class in itself, but also a class for itself. It is the world’s most powerful private organization, the “high command” body of the American plutocracy. The Council has an almost century long history of forming study groups to plan America’s overall “grand” strategic policies. It sets the agenda for debate, builds consensus among both the powerful and attentive publics, then inserts its own network of people into public office to implement its favored doctrines in the real world.<sup>2</sup> One of its latest efforts, a study group on U.S. grand strategy toward China, completed its work and issued a report--approved by the CFR board of directors--entitled Revising U.S. Grand Strategy Toward China, in March of 2015. This report used the term “dangerous circumstances” to describe the growing tensions between the world’s most powerful two nations.<sup>3</sup>

**Laurence H. Shoup** will outline the CFR's worldview, their critique of current U.S. policy toward China, their view of China's grand strategy, what they think U.S. grand strategy should be, a critique of this CFR report, and the eco-socialist revolution that we now need.

Laurence H. Shoup is author of Wall Street’s Think Tank: The Council on Foreign Relations and the Empire of Neoliberal Geopolitics 1976-2014 (forthcoming, New York: Monthly Review Press, 2015).

**Sun, Aug 16, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**Teamsters at the Crossroads: The 2016 Election**

Teamsters are organizing for new leadership and a new direction in the labor movement. Next year, 1.3 million Teamsters will vote in a one-member, one-vote election. At stake is five more years of Hoffa or a new, progressive direction in one of North America’s most important unions. We have invited two members of Teamsters for a Democratic Union, Roger Wilkins and Frank Runninghorse, to discuss the upcoming Teamsters election and its significance for the labor movement and for the working class, NOTE: Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 22. Join TDU National Organizer Ken Paff and labor and progressive activists in the Bay Area for a BBQ to raise funds for the grassroots movement that arms rank-and-file activists with the tools they need to organize for change. Saturday, Aug 22, 2:00 PM-6:00 PM, at the home of Steve Early and Suzanne Gordon, 747 Lobos Avenue Richmond, CA. 94801 (corner of Lobos and Western Ave.) Co-hosts: Mike Parker and Margaret Jordan. Contributions of beer, wine, and food welcome but not required. RSVP: Email ken@tdu.org, Call 510-260-0636 for

directions and more information. WEB:

<http://www.pointrichmond.com/2015/AugBayArea.pdf>

**Sun, Aug 23, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**LET'S GIVE LORD BUCKLEY A LISTEN: A LANGUAGE LESSON FOR THE HEGELIAN LEFT**

Lord Buckley was a Jazz Poet and StandUp Philosopher famous for translating Poe and Shakespeare into Beatnik Jive. Friends, Romans, Countrymen, lend me your ears? Hipsters, Flipsters, and Finger-Poppin' Daddies, knock me your lobes! Plus, a brief look at Buckley's fabulous political philosophy best described as Anarcho-Monarchism, when we all treat each other as royalty...but we've got to knock-out the Greed-Heads! **Lew Finzel** will give a presentation and lead our discussion.

**Sun, Aug 30, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**Revolution Manifesto: Understanding Marx and Lenin's Theory of Revolution.**

This will be a discussion of the new book by **The Party for Socialism and Liberation**, led by **Richard Becker**. Along the lines of their last book, "Imperialism in the 21st Century," this one includes Lenin's "The State and Revolution" in its entirety, and several chapters discussing different aspects of the state. The chapter Becker wrote is titled, The Soviet Union: Why the workers state could not wither away. Other chapters include: What is the State; How the Ideas of "The State and Revolution" changed history; Living and cooperating without a state; Studying pre-class society; The U.S. state and the U.S. revolution; Cuba's state in revolution.

**ON SATURDAY, NOT SUNDAY**

**At Starry Plough Pub, NOT NPML**

**Sat, Sep 5, 2015 -2:00-4:30 pm**

For Your Labor Day Weekend, The Peace and Freedom Party presents

**Labor at the Crossroads: The 2016 Teamsters Election**

Teamsters are organizing for new leadership and a new direction in the labor movement. Next year, 1.3 million Teamsters will vote in a one-member, one-vote election. At stake is five more years of Hoffa or a new, progressive direction in one of North America's most important unions. We inviting former and current Teamster activists to discuss the upcoming Teamsters election and its significance for the labor movement and for the working class,

Suds, Snacks, & Socialism at the Starry Plough

At the Starry Plough Pub, 3101 Shattuck Ave, at Prince St in Berkeley

2 blocks from Ashby BART in Berkeley

FREE! (But please buy food & drink at the Pub.) FREE!

This is part of our on-going Socialist Forum Series on the first Saturday of every month.

Doors open at 2 pm and the program will start promptly at 2:30 pm. The forum will end by 4:30 pm, but folks can stay and talk as long as you like.

For information, contact: 510-332-3865

**Sun, Sep 6, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**FOR YOUR LABOR DAY WEEKEND**

**Essentials of Scientific Socialism: Part of an Ongoing Series**

“Clarity about the aims and problems of socialism is of greatest significance in our age of transition.” Einstein’s comment remains true in our Century, when the growing interest in socialism is matched by a growing confusion about socialism. This workshop, led by Gene Ruyle of the ICSS, will be part of an ongoing series seeking to overcome this confusion through study and discussion, focusing on the classics of scientific socialism. This session will continue our close reading of the *Critique of the Gotha Program* (1875). In preparation, participants are urged to read, or re-read, this important document and bring a copy along with them. (It is online in various places, google it. I will also have in on my computer to project it on the screen.)

We will also honor the working class struggles which gave us Labor Day with a discussion of “Labor Day and May Day: Two Workers’ Holidays,” By Eugene E Ruyle. (Available online at: <http://www.peaceandfreedom.org/home/articles/general/1180-labor-day-and-may-day-two-workers-holidays>.)

### **ON SATURDAY, NOT SUNDAY**

**Sat, Sep 12, 2015 -12:00 noon – 2:00 pm**

**If Black Lives Don't Matter, Whose Do?**

**Class Struggle and the Fight Against White Supremacy**

The Political Affairs Discussion Group sponsored by the Communist Party (Oakland/Berkeley) invites you to a discussion of: If Black Lives Don't Matter, Whose Do? Class Struggle and the Fight Against White Supremacy. Background readings: Jarvis Tyner, 'Black Lives Matter! The Struggle Against Police Murders, Brutality and Abuse

<http://www.politicalaffairs.net/black-lives-matter-the-struggle-against-police-murders-brutality-and-abuse/>

Jake Halpern, 'The Cop' New Yorker Profile of Darren Wilson

<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/08/10/the-cop>

Location Details: Niebyl-Proctor Marxist Library for Social Research  
6501 Telegraph Ave., Oakland (bet. Alcatraz and 66th)

**Sun, Sep 13, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**Book Release Party for *Wall Street's Think Tank***

*Wall Street's Think Tank: the Council on Foreign Relations and the Empire of Neoliberal Geopolitics 1976-2014* is now out. It represents a milestone and has been many decades in the making. Larry Shoup began collecting data for this book soon after his book *Imperial Brain Trust: the Council on Foreign Relations and U.S. Foreign Policy* (co-authored with William Minter), was completed in 1976. Work on the book moved from data collection to organizing and writing once a contract was signed with Monthly Review Press in late 2011, and the book was completed in early 2015.

The book covers in detail the nature, worldview, and policies of the most powerful private organization in the world, a complex story with many facets. Understanding the CFR begins with a class analysis of its internal power structure, outlined in Chapter 1, which locates the Council firmly within the dominant sector of the U.S. capitalist class, with help from its professional class allies. Chapter 2 covers the CFR as an organization, and the next two chapters cover the Council’s domestic and international networks. Chapter 5 is an overview of the CFR’s worldview, summed up as neoliberal geopolitics,

which, not accidentally--since the CFR is a powerful force within the U.S. state--is the basis of U.S. foreign policy. Chapter 6 is a case study of the U.S.A.'s criminal war on Iraq, illustrating how Council's neoliberal geopolitical worldview was applied in this case, and how CFR personnel, in and out of government, were responsible for these crimes. Chapter 7 covers a range of smaller case studies, showing that the Council is influential in setting policy in many issue areas. Chapter 8 recounts the story of the CFR's (inadequate and bankrupt) plans to deal with the threat to humanity posed by climate change, and Chapter 9 offers a set of ideas for both a transition program and a potential long term solution for humanity: an ecosocialist civilization.

Larry will make a presentation of the central facts and findings of the book, answer questions and comments, and sign copies for those interested in reading it.

The book will be available at a special donation price at this event, the idea (despite the ever present reality of the capitalist world we try to survive in) is follow Marx and not to make this work into a mere commodity, with an exchange value only. This book, like all of Marx's many works, has use value, and this is what will be stressed at this event. The average donation price will be discussed and settled upon by the participants at the event.

**Sun, Sep 20, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**"Walter Benjamin today: New Engagements by Anarchists and advocates of Marx's humanism," taking off from Benjamin's "Theses on the Philosophy of History."**

Walter Benjamin's "Theses on the Philosophy of History" continues to be a pole of attraction in today's search for a way out of our total crisis. Anarchist **Lew Finzel** calls it "Insurrectionary Angelology -or- Walter Benjamin Declares Social War." Mohammed Elnaiem's "'We all can't breathe': Reflections on Marx's Humanism and Fanon" saw in Benjamin's imperative "to blast open the continuum of history" a break with the post-Marx-Marxist myth of "progress" and a way to return to Marx's original humanism. **Ron Kelch** contrasts Benjamin's blasting open the prevailing view of time with Marx's positive view of time as "the space human development" as well as the specific content of "human development" that first shaped Marx's humanism in 1844.

**Sun, Sep 27, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**The Comintern and the Formation of the CPUSA**

In his recent book, *The Communist International and US Communism, 1919-1929* (Haymarket Books, Chicago, 2015), author Jacob A Zumoff, "presents a nuanced, granular analysis of the relationship between the CPUSA and the Comintern, detailing the central role played by the International in the creation of the party (and) in ensuring that the party placed work among black workers at the heart of its programme. . . . In short, without the Communist International, there would have been no Communist Party in the US." (review by Tony Collins in *Marx and Philosophy*). All this paved the way for the great CPUSA achievements on the struggle for black liberation in the 1930's. Our ICSS comrade, **Elazar Freidman**, will share his thoughts on the role of the CPUSA in the black liberation struggle and lead our discussion of the entire topic.

**ON SATURDAY, NOT SUNDAY**

**At NPML**

**Sat, Oct 3, 2015 -12:00 noon – 2:00 pm**

## **Class and Climate**

### **Without Socialist Revolution There Is No Survival !**

The Communist Party, USA (Oakland/Berkeley) invites you to a discussion on: Class and Climate: Without Socialist Revolution There Is No Survival! Saturday, October 3, 2015, Noon – 2 pm Suggested Readings: Juan Lopez, “Californians Battle for Far Reaching Climate Legislation” <http://peoplesworld.org/californians-battle-for-far-reaching-climate-legislation/> Thomas J. Adams, “A tale of two Katrinas” <http://www.politicalaffairs.net/a-tale-of-two-katrin/> For more information, including the articles as Word documents, contact: [pareadersgrp@yahoo.com](mailto:pareadersgrp@yahoo.com)

The Political Affairs Discussion Group sponsored by the Communist Party (Oakland/Berkeley)

The Political Affairs Readers Group usually gathers the first Saturday of each month, from noon to 2:00 p.m.

Niebyl-Proctor Marxist Library for Social Research  
6501 Telegraph Ave., Oakland (bet. Alcatraz and 66th)  
Website: [www.marxistlibr.org](http://www.marxistlibr.org) Wheelchair Accessible

## **ON SATURDAY, NOT SUNDAY**

**At Starry Plough Pub, NOT NPML**

**Sat, Oct 3, 2015 -2:00-4:30 pm**

**Bernie and Beyond**

### **Socialist Perspectives on the Sanders Campaign**

The Presidential Campaign of Bernie Sanders has drawn record crowds and electrified many left/progressives, but we need to ask the hard questions. Is it enough to “Feel the Bern?” Or do we need to build a movement that will last beyond 2016 and transform America and our Mother Earth? Our Suds, Snacks, and Socialism forum is inviting speakers from different political perspectives to join us in discussing these and other important questions.

At the Starry Plough Pub, 3101 Shattuck Ave, at Prince St in Berkeley  
FREE! (Please buy food & drink at the Pub.) FREE!

This is part of our on-going Socialist Forum Series on the first Saturday of every month. Doors open at 2 pm and the program will start promptly at 2:30 pm. The forum will end by 4:30 pm, but folks can stay and talk as long as you like.

For information, contact: 510-332-3865.

**Sun, Oct 4, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

### **Essentials of Scientific Socialism: Part of an Ongoing Series**

“Clarity about the aims and problems of socialism is of greatest significance in our age of transition.” Einstein’s comment remains true in our Century, when the growing interest in socialism is matched by a growing confusion about socialism. This workshop, led by Gene Ruyle of the ICSS, will be part of an ongoing series seeking to overcome this confusion through study and discussion, focusing on the classics of scientific socialism. In this session, we hope to conclude our close reading of the *Critique of the Gotha Program (1875)*. Time permitting, we will move on to the classic work by Engels, *Socialism: Utopian and Scientific*. In preparation, participants are urged to read, or re-

read, these important documents and bring copies along with them. (They are online at the Marx & Engels Internet Archive. I will also have them on my computer to project on the screen.)

**Sun, Oct 11, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**Essentials of Scientific Socialism: Part of an Ongoing Series**

“Clarity about the aims and problems of socialism is of greatest significance in our age of transition.” Einstein’s comment remains true in our Century, when the growing interest in socialism is matched by a growing confusion about socialism. This workshop, led by Gene Ruyle of the ICSS, will be part of an ongoing series seeking to overcome this confusion through study and discussion, focusing on the classics of scientific socialism. In this session, we plan to continue our close reading of the classic work by Engels, *Socialism: Utopian and Scientific*. In preparation, participants are urged to read, or re-read, this important document and bring a copy along with them. (It is online at the Marx & Engels Internet Archive. I will also have it on my computer to project on the screen.)

**Sun, Oct 11, 2015 - 4:45-6:30 pm**

**Green Sunday: The 2016 Presidential Campaign: Business as Usual or Revolt of the Masses? Presentation by Larry Shoup, Green Party**

The normal pattern for presidential campaigns is that each of the two main political parties have at least one candidate backed by plutocratic wealth, as measured by their campaign funding, advisers from the Council on Foreign Relations and coverage from the most powerful media. Given their advantages, the plutocratic supported candidates usually soon outdistance their competition, then one of them wins the November election and implements policies which increase the wealth and power of the already too wealthy and too powerful capitalists against the interests of the larger population.

The 2016 presidential campaign has elements of the normal pattern in the persons of Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush, both well connected to the plutocracy. But the presence in the mainstream party race and level of support given to non-plutocratic candidates like Trump and Sanders indicates that this time something different is going on, a kind of revolt of the masses. At this Green Sunday we will explore this developing situation and assess the prospects for a Green Party breakthrough in 2016.

<https://acgreens.wordpress.com/green-sundays/>

Niebyl-Proctor Marxist Library, Oakland

**Sun, Oct 11, 2015 – 7-? pm**

**Speak Out Now: Elections 2016: A New Opening or Business as Usual?**

Two opposing voices have emerged based on the disgust that most people feel about politics today. Donald Trump, the billionaire Republican plays on people’s fears and blames the victims of the crisis for the problems people are facing. Bernie Sanders, the independent turned Democrat addresses hopes for a better life and proposes what seem like positive solutions to many current problems. Both criticize the failure of the government to meet people’s needs. Both want us to believe that elections can change our future.

What is the role of elections in the political life of the working class? What is the role of the Democratic Party? Will the interest in the Sanders campaign go beyond the elections and lead to real organizing for social change?

Join us for a presentation and discussion  
Sunday, October 11, 7:00pm Doors open at 6:30pm  
Niebyl Proctor Library, 6501 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland, (Near Ashby BART)  
www.SpeakOut-Now.org • mail@speakout-now.org • 510.343.9105  
Niebyl-Proctor Marxist Library, Oakland

**Tuesday, Oct 13, 2015 6 pm**

**NOT AT THE MARXIST LIBRARY**

Various Debate Watching Parties sponsored by Sanders supporters  
CNN Democratic Primary Debate. Location: Wynn Las Vegas. Sponsors: CNN, Nevada Democratic Party. Candidates: Clinton, Sanders, O'Malley, Webb, Chafee  
Find one near you on the Bernie Sanders website:  
[https://secure.berniesanders.com/page/event/search\\_simple?source=homepage\\_organize](https://secure.berniesanders.com/page/event/search_simple?source=homepage_organize)

**ON SATURDAY, NOT SUNDAY At NPML**

**Sat, Oct 17, 2015 -7:00 pm**

**Stop the Medical Execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal**

The Mobilization to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal and other organizations are sponsors of three events in the Bay Area on October 16 and 17 to publicize and protest the denial of needed medical care to political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal. Speakers include Pam Africa, Ramona Africa, Angela Davis, and Jeff Mackler. Donation \$20, no one turned away for lack of funds.

There will be two other events on Friday, Oct 16: at 4 pm in San Jose (TBA), and in San Francisco at 7 pm: Freedom Archives Hall, 518 Valencia St, San Francisco near 15th St. BART

Info: Jeff Mackler <jmackler@lmi.net>

The Oakland event will be on Saturday, October 17 at 7:00pm, at the Niebyl Proctor Library, 6501 Telegraph Ave. near 65th St., Oakland (MAP)

**Sun, Oct 18, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**The 2016 Presidential Debates: Alternative Parties**

The Republicans and Democrats have had their televised debates, but what about alternative parties? We are inviting speakers from the two left parties on the ballot in California: the Peace and Freedom Party and the Green Party. **Gloria La Riva** will speak from the perspective of the **Peace and Freedom Party**. Gloria is also a member of the Party for Socialism and Liberation and is the only declared candidate for the PFP presidential nomination. **Laura Wells** will speak from the perspective of the **Green Party**, which has five declared candidates for its presidential nomination. Laura was the Green Party candidate for Governor in 2010, when she was arrested for trying to attend a gubernatorial debate in San Rafael.

**Sun, Oct 25, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**Essentials of Scientific Socialism: Part of an Ongoing Series**

“Clarity about the aims and problems of socialism is of greatest significance in our age of transition.” Einstein’s comment remains true in our Century, when the growing interest in socialism is matched by a growing confusion about socialism. This workshop, led by

Gene Ruyle of the ICSS, will be part of an ongoing series seeking to overcome this confusion through study and discussion, focusing on the classics of scientific socialism. In this session, we plan to continue our examination of the classic work by Engels, *Socialism: Utopian and Scientific*. In preparation, participants are urged to read, or re-read, this important document and bring a copy along with them. (It is online at the Marx & Engels Internet Archive. I will also have it on my computer to project on the screen.)

**Sun, Nov 1, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**FALL BACK – DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS**

**As Turkey nears a civil war: Kurds, Turks, and the crisis in the Middle East.**

There will be video presentation showing the latest events in Turkey as Kurds, Turks, Alewis, Syrians, ISIL and the Turkish government prepare to fight in a civil war in Turkey, followed by a presentation and discussion.

The attacks by the Turkish government that started with the June 7 elections is nothing new. After a period of relative peace, national elections triggered an all-out assault of the Turkish government against the Kurds while allowing the jihadist terrorists do the dirty job the Turkish state used to do previously. Kurdish towns are under siege as Turkish military, police and “special forces” attack civilians with US supplied weaponry, heavy artillery, war planes and helicopters. Kurds are trying to de-escalate the tension by calling for peace in every turn adapting the slogan “Peace at any cost!” for the elections. Mass bombings that the government is involved in are becoming a normal day-to-day operation as hundreds of leftists and Kurds are killed senselessly by the cooperation of the state and ISIL jihadist terrorists.

Illegal AKP government is playing with fire by opening fronts again the Kurds as well as trying to make inroads into Syria to protect the ISIS jihadists while at the same time pretending to fight against ISIS as a show for world consumption. Presented by Mehmet Bayram

**Sun, Nov 1, 2015 - 12:30 to 1 pm**

**Planning Group Meeting**

The Planning Group meets following the talk on the first Sunday of every month. This is an open meeting. Everyone is welcome to help plan our future sessions.

**ON SATURDAY, NOT SUNDAY**

**At NPML**

**Sat, Nov 7, 2015 – noon to 2:00 PM**

**Capitalism and Climate**

The Communist Party USA (Oakland/Berkeley) invites you to a discussion of Capitalism and Climate. Suggested Readings:

Naomi Klein, “Capitalism vs. the Climate”

<http://www.thenation.com/article/capitalism-vs-climate/>

Xiaochen Zhang, David Wei “Climate Creates Chances across Pacific”

<http://en.people.cn/n/2015/0929/c90000-8957130.html>

For more information, including the articles as Word documents, contact: [pareadersgrp@yahoo.com](mailto:pareadersgrp@yahoo.com) or call 510-527-5943

Niebyl-Proctor Marxist Library, 6501 Telegraph Ave., Oakland (bet. Alcatraz and 66th)  
Wheelchair Accessible  
Website: [www.marxistlibr.org](http://www.marxistlibr.org) Wheelchair Accessible

**ON SATURDAY, NOT SUNDAY**

**At Starry Plough Pub, NOT NPML**

**Sat, Nov 7, 2015 -2:00-4:30 pm**

**Race, Class, and Police Violence**

This forum will begin with stories from families whose lives have been forever changed by police violence. After this practical introduction, we will explain why the Oscar Grant Committee insists on linking “Black Lives Matter” with “All Lives Matter,” and then turn to broader social and political issues. Discussion will follow our presentation.

Invited speakers include **Marcel Jones** (Berkeley Copwatch, formerly a leader in the UC Berkeley Black Student Union), **Antoinette Gaggero** (Open Circle), **Gerald Smith** (Oscar Grant Committee), **Rick Perez** (Father of “Pedie” Perez, murdered by Richmond Police officer Wallace Jensen on Sept 14, 2014), and others. Discussion will follow our presentation.

At the Starry Plough Pub, 3101 Shattuck Ave, at Prince St in Berkeley

FREE! (Please buy food & drink at the Pub.) FREE!

This is part of our on-going Socialist Forum Series on the first Saturday of every month. Doors open at 2 pm and the program will start promptly at 2:30 pm. The forum will end by 4:30 pm, but folks can stay and talk as long as you like.

For information, contact: 510-332-3865.

**Sun, Nov 8, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**Cuba. The rhyme rhythm and reasoning of revolution (DATE TENTATIVE)**

**Jack Hirschman**, born in The Bronx in the 1930s, was a recent Poet Laureate of San Francisco and still upholds at age 80 the title of SF oldest newsie, by virtue of his tireless sales of the People's Tribune. His poetry has been politically present for at least four decades, as has been his mentorship of countless poets and other cultural workers.

**Dottie Payne** is a teacher and a cultural worker. Until recently her Artistes Internationale was warm and welcoming to poets, musicians, cultural presentations ... until her landlord dropped on her that drone of class warfare called the rent increase. One suspects, however, that that cultural center will be back with geometrically added strength. Dottie's first book of poems is BIRTHMARKS published this year

Dottie and Jack are both founders and members of the SF Revolutionary Poets Brigade. They recently attended the annual conference of the World Poetry Movement, held in Cuba in May. They will be sharing their journey, what transpired at this event, and its significance to our efforts to fuse our cultural work with both the weapon of criticism and ... criticism of the weapon.

**Sun, Nov 15, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**Process, Habit, and Memory**

Mechanistic models predominate in modern science. Under modern mechanism, universal forces alone move material particles, constantly rearranging them in different configurations. Whitehead referred to this as simply a ‘rearrangement of the parts,’ and rightly saw it as ruling out free will and genuine evolution. Marx also argued against

such a bourgeois interpretation of matter precisely because it 'excludes history and its process.'

In his recent book, *Being Alive: New Science that Recognizes and Attempts to Account for Life and Mind*, author **Philip Tryon** shows how history and process can be reintroduced into the sciences in order to account for inclinations as well as non-random, purposeful activities of organisms. He will describe to us an emerging model of organicism that recognizes the agency, attempting to show how history and process may come into play.

Briefly, all organic entities in the universe embody processes that are repeating: A spider spins a web in a way that is similar to its predecessors and to its own past self. Every seed and fetus goes through a process of growth and development that is representative of the species. Roses bloom over and over again. Every individual protein molecule (of a given type) has one particular way of folding up (except for prions). If the universe and its organisms have a habit forming tendency, then this may provide a way of explaining memory in the most general sense, showing how and why history, in the form of past occasions, can be an influence on the present.

**Sun, Nov 22, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm**  
**SUNDAY MORNING FORUM CANCELLED**  
**But see next item.**

**Sun, Nov 22, 2015 -2 pm - ???**  
**Going Away Gathering for Elazar and Stacy.**

Our comrades, Elazar Friedman and Stacy Means are moving out of the Bay Area (Elazar to Idaho, Stacy to Florida). We'll bid them farewell on Sunday, November 22, starting at 2 pm, at the home of Frank Runninghorse, 5134 Red Oak Dr, Concord CA 94521. Potluck, bring a dish to share. Please RSVP to <gsmith1917@gmail.com> so we'll know how many to expect.

**Sun, Nov 29, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm**  
**Cancelled, due to holiday festivities.**

**ON SATURDAY, NOT SUNDAY**  
**Sat, Dec 5, 2015 -12 Noon – 2:00 pm**  
**Greece – Two Communist Views**

The Communist Party USA (Oakland/Berkeley) invites you to a discussion: Greece – Two Communist Views. Suggested Readings: These articles raise important issues for the working class in all developed countries. Sam Webb, 'Thoughts on Greece, Syriza and its left critics', Parts 1 & 2: <http://www.peoplesworld.org/thoughts-on-greek-crisis-and-in-defense-of-syriza/>  
<http://peoplesworld.org/thoughts-on-greece-syriza-and-its-left-critics-part/>  
George Marinos, CP of Greece, 'On The Situation in Greece and the Anti-People Role of Syriza'  
<http://inter.kke.gr/en/articles/ON-THE-SITUATION-IN-GREECE-AND-THE-ANTI-PEOPLE-ROLE-OF-SYRIZA/>

For more information, including the articles as Word documents, contact:  
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Website: www.marxistlibr.org Wheelchair Accessible

**ON SATURDAY, NOT SUNDAY**

**At Starry Plough Pub, NOT NPML**

**Sat, Dec 5, 2015 -2:00-4:30 pm**

**Yes, Climate Change is here:**

**Yes, there are solutions (but we must act fast)**

When the weather grabs the headlines the world focuses its attention on the climate crisis, but what happens after the hurricane goes away? Are conferences and climate walks making a difference? Are these coming up with solutions? What are the impacts?

Invited speakers include: Laura Wells, Green Party, Russell Kilday-Hicks, writer, author, union activist (SEIU), Derrick Muhammad, ILWU Local 10, led union opposition to coal shipments through port of Oakland, Marsha Feinland, Peace and Freedom Party, Jack Lucero Fleck, 350.org.

This is part of the on-going Socialist Forum Series presented by the Peace and Freedom Party on the first Saturday of every month. Doors open at 2 pm and the program will start promptly at 2:30 pm. The forum will end by 4:30 pm, but folks can stay and talk as long as you like.

For information, contact: 510-332-3865.

At the Starry Plough Pub, 3101 Shattuck Ave, at Prince St in Berkeley  
FREE! (Please buy food & drink at the Pub.) FREE!

**Sun, Dec 6, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**NEGATIVE DIALECTICS from ADORNO to ZAPPA**

This presentation by **Lew Finzel** will pair the Critical theory of the Mandarin-Marxist THEODOR ADORNO with the vulgar anarchistic attack-music of FRANK ZAPPA...A match made in Hell? Perhaps... Thanks to the British Radical Ben Watson for his book THE NEGATIVE DIALECTICS of POODLE PLAY

By the way, Ben Watson has a Posse!

**Sun, Dec 13, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**Essentials of Scientific Socialism: Part of an Ongoing Series**

“Clarity about the aims and problems of socialism is of greatest significance in our age of transition.” Einstein’s comment remains true in our century, when the growing interest in socialism is matched by a growing confusion about socialism. This workshop, led by Gene Ruyle of the ICSS, will be part of an ongoing series seeking to overcome this confusion through study and discussion, focusing on the classics of scientific socialism. In this session, we plan to continue our examination of the classic work by Engels, *Socialism: Utopian and Scientific*. In preparation, participants are urged to read, or re-read, this important document and bring a copy along with them. (It is online at the Marx & Engels Internet Archive. I will also have it on my computer to project on the screen.)

**Sun, Dec 20, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

## **HOLIDAY BREAK**

**Open – TBA**

**Sun, Dec 27, 2015 -10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

## **HOLIDAY BREAK**

**Open – TBA**

## **COMPLETED PROGRAMS IN 2016**

**Sun, Jan 3, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

### **What Is To Be Done in 2016**

Time to get together, talk about the future of ICSS, discuss our mission, and plan the schedule for our Sunday Morning at the Marxist Library forums. Please come with suggestions and concrete plans. Newcomers and Old Timers welcome.

**Sun, Jan 10, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

### **The North Korea You've Never Seen**

Despite unparalleled demonization, military threats, and sanctions the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) opens an unprecedented window into life in cities and countryside alike, the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) where the Cold War lives on, and how the country took a hitherto little-known path towards socialism.

**Gloria La Riva** is a lifelong social activist and organizer with the ANSWER Coalition and the Party for Socialism and Liberation. She visited North Korea in 1989 and 2015.

**Sharat G. Lin**, PhD writes on global political economy, labor migration, and public health. He is a research fellow and former president of the San José Peace and Justice Center.

**Sun, Jan 17, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

### **What is Happening in Venezuela?**

#### **Presentation & Eye Witness Report by Rick Sterling**

For the past two years Venezuela has experienced deteriorating economy, shortages and skyrocketing inflation. On Dec 6 Venezuelans voted the opposition coalition to become a strong majority in the new National Assembly. With Chavista Socialist Nicolas Maduro continuing his term as President, it is bound to be a tumultuous and challenging period ahead.

What is the legacy of 17 years of Chavista government in Venezuela? What has led to this electoral defeat for the socialists and what may happen now? Join us to hear the analysis and observations of Rick Sterling of Task Force on the Americas.

**Sun, Jan 24, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Report Back From the Rojava Revolution**

Paul Simons, writing under the pen name, El Errante, is the author of a series of recent dispatches from the liberated territories of Kurdistan in Syria. Currently on a tour across the Bay Area, Simons has just returned from a region besieged by war yet is also in the middle of one of the most far reaching social experiments of the 21st Century: the 'Rojava Revolution.' The liberated territories of Kurdistan are a thriving example of stateless democracy and of a people who are overturning traditional institutions such as patriarchy and social hierarchies.

Simons discusses not only the day to day life of the people living within the evolving revolution, but also the various grassroots organizations and militias that they have created while waging an exhausting fight against both ISIS and the Turkish State. Weaving together ideals of anti-authoritarianism, feminism, ecology, and a rejection of Statism, Paul Simons' report on the the Rojava Revolution is not to be missed by anyone working for sweeping social transformation in the current age.

**Sun, Jan 31, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Syria: Eyewitness Report**

The Western/Saudi/Israeli demand for "regime change" in Syria is leading to ever more bloodshed and risking potential world war. What is the conflict really about? How has Western propaganda distorted the conflict? What has been the impact of the Russian air support? What should be the demand of the anti-war Left? Rick Sterling will talk about his recent trip (Oct-Nov 2015).

**Sun, Feb 7, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**NOTHINGNESS, BUT IN WHAT SENSE?-**

**The dialectic of autonomous negation in Slavoj Zizek's LESS THAN NOTHING**

This talk will explore the intersection of Lacanian psychoanalysis and the Marxist-Hegelian dialectic through the lens of Zizek's recent writings. At issue is the basic procedure of the dialectical process: what is its essential formula? Our presenter will be **Nathan Bjorge**.

**Sun, Feb 7, 2016 - 12:30 to 1 pm**

**Planning Group Meeting**

The Planning Group meets following the talk on the first Sunday of every month. This is an open meeting. Everyone is welcome to help plan our future sessions.

**Sun, Feb 14, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Fascism: What it is, and how to fight it. Part I**

Before a serious reactionary trend can be successfully eliminated it is necessary to understand the phenomenon: its origins, its essence, its mutations. This workshop, led by **Gerald Smith**, will deal with early forms of fascism, the rise of Mussolini and Hitler, and Fascism today. In two parts.

**Sun, Feb 21, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Fascism: What it is, and how to fight it. Part II**

Before a serious reactionary trend can be successfully eliminated it is necessary to understand the phenomenon: its origins, its essence, its mutations. This workshop, led by **Gerald Smith**, will deal with early forms of fascism, the rise of Mussolini and Hitler, and Fascism today. In two parts.

**Sun, Feb 28, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**SOMETHING NEW UNDER THE SUN!**

**An Organized Working Class Takes the Field:**

**THE CHARTISTS 1838-1848**

A talk on this mid-19th century British Radical Movement, with reference to George Julian Harney and his alliance with Marx and Engels, and Helen Macfarlane, the first English translator of The Communist Manifesto: A HOBGOBLIN IS HAUNTING EUROPE: THE HOBGOBLIN OF COMMUNISM! **Lew Finzel** and **Ron Kelch** presenting.

**Sun, Mar 6, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**After Super Tuesday: Evaluating the Sanders Candidacy**

If Iowa and New Hampshire have shaken the political establishment, how will things look after Super Tuesday, March 1? We are inviting speakers from different political perspectives (including Tom Gallagher, Progressive Democrats of America, Gerald Smith, Peace and Freedom Party, a speaker from Socialist Alternative, and a student Students for Sanders) to share their views about Super Tuesday 2016 and listen to ours.

**Sun, Mar 6, 2016: 1 pm to 12 pm**

## **Bernie Socialism Workshop**

We will have a short, one-hour planning meeting to discuss how to implement some of the suggestions made at our Feb 21 meeting and our program this morning. All are welcome.

**Sun, Mar 13, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

### **Turkey, Syria, and the Kurds**

Conditions in Turkey are moving very rapidly with Syria next door and Turkey's repression of its Kurdish minority. We have asked our comrade, **Mehmet Bayram**, to make another presentation on Turkey.

NOTE: Our program this week will be upstairs, since Speak Out will be holding their 2016 Revolutionary University downstairs the entire weekend. For their program, go to: <http://speakout-now.org>

**Sun, Mar 20, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

### **Essentials of Socialism: Part of a Continuing Series**

As Albert Einstein commented in 1949, "Clarity about the aims and problems of socialism is of greatest significance in our age of transition." Einstein's comment remains true in 2016 as the Bernie Sanders campaign is calling for democratic socialism and a political revolution against the billionaire class. This workshop, led by Gene Ruyle of the ICSS, will be part of a series seeking to gain clarity about socialism through study and discussion of the classics, including *The Communist Manifesto*, by Marx and Engels), *Socialism: Utopian and Scientific*, by Engels), and other works to be selected.

**Sun, Mar 27, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

### **Fascism Knocking at the Door - Fight Against Donald Trump and his Racist Populism.**

The Trump campaign has dredged up and mobilized the worst elements of this country's history — white supremacy, immigrant-bashing and mob violence. What he calls making America "great again" is understood by all oppressed people, and people of conscience, as a return to that ugly past, in fact may be worse. Trump, himself in past a television entertainer, has been given a television exposure not even granted to the President or any other candidate is now very close to winning Republican Party's nomination. The Party establishment belatedly is trying to block him. Democratic Party, the other major Political Party is ready to anoint Hillary Clinton as the Presidential candidate, who is funded and supported by the Wall Street Financiers. In this situation it is up to people at the grass root level to deny

Trump's Fascism. Richard Becker of the Party of Socialism & Liberation will be our discussant.

**ON SATURDAY, NOT SUNDAY  
AT NPML. WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE**

**Sat, Apr 2, 2016 • 12-2 PM**

**Everybody is talking about SOCIALISM, but what is it?**

The Communist Party USA (Oakland/Berkeley) invites you to a discussion:

Everybody is talking about SOCIALISM, but what is it? Suggested Readings: Bill Fletcher, Jr, 'Socialism is a process, a recognition of possibility' <http://www.peoplesworld.org/socialism-is-a-process-a-recognition-of-possibility/> Susan Webb, 'Everybody is talking about socialism, but what is it' <http://peoplesworld.org/everyone-s-talking-about-socialism-but-what-is-it/> Pat Fry, 'What is socialism? Lets get specific' <http://peoplesworld.org/what-is-socialism-let-s-get-specific/>

For more information contact: [pareadersgrp@yahoo.com](mailto:pareadersgrp@yahoo.com) or call Richard at 510-527-5943

**NPML, 6501 Telegraph Ave., Oakland (bet. Alcatraz and 66th)**

**ON SATURDAY, NOT SUNDAY  
AT STARRY PLOUGH PUB, NOT NPML**

**Sat, Apr 2, 2016 • 2-5 PM**

**U.S. Imperialism: Hands Off the World**

The Peace and Freedom Party presents U.S. Imperialism: Hands Off the World

From the Peace and Freedom Party Platform: "The drive for greater profits by multi-national corporations which direct U.S. foreign policy is a major cause of war. We stand for peace between nations and the right of all peoples to self-determination. We support an ongoing socialist transformation everywhere." We are inviting speakers to address issues of war, imperialism, revolution, and socialism in different regions of the world.

**Starry Plough Pub, 3101 Shattuck Ave, at Prince St in Berkeley**

**Sun, Apr 3, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**SPRING BREAK - NO FORUM THIS WEEK**

Gene has family visiting and no one else volunteered to organize a forum, so we'll take a one-week break.

**Sun, Apr 10, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

## **Towards A New Ecology of Justice: Intergenerational Trauma and the Social Nervous System**

Talk of trauma is becoming increasingly prevalent, especially with the ongoing and shocking rise of violence in the US and globally. While western scientific knowledge has historically been produced and used to maintain hegemonic social control, a new synthesis in the biological sciences is emerging. This emergent synthesis counters and de-naturalizes the central myth of capitalism, that competition and hierarchy are the primary motors of evolution, while offering new explanatory models and empirical evidence of how oppression and discrimination harm us down to the cellular level and is passed intergenerationally.

The material impacts of injustice on the individual body and across generations can no longer be plausibly denied nor can humanity's radical connectivity with one another, our social world, and our histories. Bringing together the social theories of Gramsci and Foucault with an overview of pertinent findings in neuroscience and epigenetics, this talk will explore how we can understand the dynamic processes of social transformation and critique the liberatory potential of science in light of this compelling paradigm shift. Our speaker will be **Mordecai Cohen Ettinger, MA**

**Sun, Apr 10, 2016 - 12:30 to 1 pm**

### **Planning Group Meeting**

The Planning Group normally meets following the talk on the first Sunday of every month, but since we haven't meet for awhile and there are issues to discuss, we'll meet on the second Sunday this month. This is an open meeting. Everyone is welcome to help plan our future sessions.

**Sun, Apr 17, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

### **NO NUKES! U.S. Imperialism and the Continuing Threat of Nuclear Annihilation**

The threat of nuclear annihilation has receded in the public consciousness, but not in the real world, as U.S. imperialism continues to push against nuclear powers in Ukraine and the South China Sea. In this session, **Eugene Ruyle**, Emeritus Professor of Anthropology at Cal State Long Beach, will review how, for U.S. imperialists, atomic diplomacy began even before the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and continues to occupy a central place in U.S. military planning. For background reading, see Ruyle's essay, "On The Nuclear Disaster At Fukushima" (August 2011) at [NoNukesNow.net](http://NoNukesNow.net).

**Saturday, April 16, 2016 2-4 PM**

**Bernie Socialist Workshop**

**Community Meeting Room, South Branch Berkeley Public Library**

**1901 Russell St., Berkeley, CA 94703**

**(one block North of Ashby BART, on MLK)**

As a democratic socialist, Bernie Sanders is leading a political revolution to transform a political system run by the billionaire class into one that represents working and middle class Americans and creates more opportunity for everyone. To be effective as Bernie advocates, we must understand his democratic socialism and how it is related to other forms of socialism. The workshop, led by Eugene Ruyle, Emeritus Professor of Anthropology, Cal State, Long Beach, will be a continuing exploration of various issues raised by the Sanders campaign.

**For info, call Gene 510-332-3865 or email: [cuyleruyle@mac.com](mailto:cuyleruyle@mac.com)**

**Saturday, April 16, 2016 2-4 PM**

**A Socialist Action public forum**

**Donald TRUMP and Co.**

**Incipient facism in the U.S. today?**

**Racism, Islamophobia, misogyny, xenophobia, climate denial & war**

**Building movement alternatives today**

Hear:

Michael Parenti, activist, author of 24 books including, *The Face of Imperialism*; *The Culture Struggle*; *Superpatriotism*; & *Blackshirts & Reds*  
Rabab Ibrahim Abdulhadi, Associate Professor of Race and Resistance Studies; Senior Scholar, Arab and Muslim Ethnicities and Diasporas Studies; College of Ethnic Studies, SF State University

Jeff Mackler, National Secretary, Socialist Action; Director, Mobilization to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal; Administrative Comm. United National Antiwar Coalition; author, *Capitalism Damns the Environment*

Sabrina Jacobs, Host/Producer - "A Rude Awakening" (Mondays at 3:30 pm) and "The 420 Report" (alternate Fridays at 9:30 pm) Pacifica Radio – KPFA 94.1 FM; newly elected Local Station Board Member, KPFA

Peter Phillips, Professor of Political Sociology, Sonoma State University; President Media Freedom Foundation/Project Censored; author, *Private Military Companies in Service to the Transnational Capitalist Class*; *Law Enforcement Related Deaths in the US: "Justified Homicides" and the Impacts on Families*

Saturday, April 16, 2016, 7-9:30 pm

Admission: \$10 - \$5 sliding scale (No one turned away for lack of funds)

Sponsor: Socialist Action 510-268-9429 socialistaction@lmi.net  
socialistaction.org Labor donated

**Niebyl Proctor Marxist Library, 6501 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, CA  
(near 65th Street)**

**Saturday, April 23, 2016 • 2:00 - 4:30 pm**

**Democratic Socialists of America East Bay presents:**

**Beer, Burgers and Bernie at the Starry Plough Pub in Berkeley**

**3101 Shattuck Ave at Prince St - 2 blocks from Ashby BART**

**Bernie's Plan: Free Public College Tuition**

Find out how we can pay for public higher education - Put an end student debt and invest in youth Voice your concerns, hopes, and opinions!

**For info, contact Karl, 510 384-5780**

**or peopleforbernie.sfba@gmail.com**

**Sun, Apr 24, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**The good, the bad and the ugly: updates from the Prisoners' Hunger Strike Solidarity.**

As a result of the 2011 and 2013 hunger strikes in California prisons the use of indefinite solitary confinement by California Department of Corrections has come to an end. That is the good news. Of course, there struggle by prisoners does not end with this victory.

**Carol Strickman**, one of the lawyers in the case that was won, will give an update on the state of the victory—reduction in prisoners placed in the Security Housing—as well as the state of the current conditions as well as the ugly torture newly practiced on all prisoners in isolation: sleep deprivation.

**Urszula Wislanka** will focus on the new forms the struggle of the prisoners is now taking: "Prisoners' Human Rights Movement Blueprint."

**Sun, May 1, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**The world was turned upside-down, if only for a quick minute, IN 1968**

A look at a turbulent year, with an emphasis on the glorious month of May in Paris (and the Big Fizzle) later in June...But also: the state does murder in Mexico City, cops go berserk in Chicago at the Democratic Party Convention, word from Warsaw...and Prague will not be forgotten...

**Sun, May 1, 2016: MAY DAY**

**May Day 2016 – San Francisco**

May 1, 2016 @ 11:00 am – 2:00 pm  
ILWU Local 10, 400 North Point St  
San Francisco, CA 94133

There will be a WORK STOPPAGE AND PORT SHUT DOWN TO STOP POLICE TERROR throughout the Bay Area on this date.

Rally at 11 AM, March begins at Noon, along the Embarcadero to Harry Bridges Plaza (opposite Ferry Building)

[https://occupyoakland.org/event/may-day-2016-san-francisco/?instance\\_id=302621](https://occupyoakland.org/event/may-day-2016-san-francisco/?instance_id=302621)

### **International Workers Day: Sin Fronteras — Oakland**

May 1, 2016 @ 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm  
Fruitvale Plaza, 3401 E 12th St  
Oakland, CA 94601

[https://occupyoakland.org/event/international-workers-day-sin-fronteras/?instance\\_id=302699](https://occupyoakland.org/event/international-workers-day-sin-fronteras/?instance_id=302699)

### **May Day | Primero de Mayo | International Workers Day — San Jose**

Sunday May 01, 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Gather for pre-march rally at: Target shopping center, Story and King Roads, San Jose 95122 Post-march rally at: San Jose City Hall, Santa Clara and 5th Streets, San Jose 95112

130th Anniversary of International Workers Day

10th Anniversary of the Great Immigration Rights Marches

Dignity and justice for workers around the world! End the roots of forced migration!

Rally at Story and King Roads (Target shopping center) beginning at 2 pm

March at 3:50-4:00 pm

<https://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2016/04/28/18785706.php>

### **May Day Bike Strike!**

Sunday May 01, 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM

1 Market Street, San Francisco, CA

Bring your bike to the may day bikestrike!!!

On Sunday May 1st 5PM at Justin Herman Plaza in SF the Bay Area IWW Couriers Union will be hosting a Bike Strike rolling picket line against courier companies that are exploiting their workers such as Postmates who illegally is misclassifying their workers as independent contractors to pay them often below minimum wage and deny bike couriers workers compensation and Sprig inc. who's bike couriers recently went union with

the IWW were illegally laid off in mass in retaliation for organizing. Bring your bike!!! We will have music and different speakers who will talk about different exploitive delivery companies and how to fight back against your boss to build union power in the Bay Area and beyond.

It is every worker's legal right to participate in union events and engage in union activity at work

<http://www.facebook.com/events/1557650347861708/>

Read Article: <http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2016/04/29/18785763.php>

<https://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2016/04/29/18785764.php>

**Sun, May 8, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Battle of Minsk: the biggest defeat to Hitler and Third Reich**

Battle of Minsk. a film and verbal presentation of Soviet (one million soldiers and 800 tanks) attack on German forces in the Belorus Soviet Republic in June 1944 resulting in the biggest defeat to Germany in world war II resulting in one half million German casualties. The Soviet victory based on concept of deep battle and maskirova. By **John M** and **Raj S**.

**Sun, May 15, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Resistible Rise of Fascism in India**

A presentation by **Abhinav Sinha**, a labor activist and writer in New Delhi, who will discuss labor and politics in India. He is editor of a workers' newspaper in Hindi and member of a M-L group. He is also a scholar of History, presently working for his doctorate in History at Delhi University. He will be introduced by **Raj Sahai**

**Sat, May 7, 2016 • Noon-2PM**

The Communist Party USA (Oakland/Berkeley) invites you to a discussion:  
Police Militarization

Suggested Readings:

Ana Conner & Tara Tabassi, 'Ending Police Militarization, One City at a Time'

<http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/33001-ending-police-militarization-one-city-at-a-tim>

Stephen Graham, Cities Under Seige, The New Military Urbanism

[http://libcom.org/files/Graham,%20Stephen%20-%20Cities%20Under%20Siege.%20The%20New%20Military%20Urbanism\\_0.pdf](http://libcom.org/files/Graham,%20Stephen%20-%20Cities%20Under%20Siege.%20The%20New%20Military%20Urbanism_0.pdf)

This is a book length piece - worth reading introduction and skimming the rest

For more information contact: [pareadersgrp@yahoo.com](mailto:pareadersgrp@yahoo.com)  
**Niebyl-Proctor Marxist Library for Social Research**

**Sat, May 7, 2016 • 2:00PM-4:30PM**

**The Peace and Freedom Party presents**

**Suds, Snacks, & Socialism at the Starry Plough**

**U.S. Imperialism II Hands Off the Americas**

From the Peace and Freedom Party Platform: “The drive for greater profits by multi-national corporations which direct U.S. foreign policy is a major cause of war. We stand for peace between nations and the right of all peoples to self-determination. We support an ongoing socialist transformation everywhere.” We are inviting speakers to address issues of war, imperialism, revolution, and socialism in selected areas of the Americas.

For information, contact Gene Ruyle: 510-332-3865.

**At the Starry Plough Pub, 3101 Shattuck Ave, at Prince St in Berkeley**

**Sun, May 22, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Saudi Arabia and its global role**

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, a sacred pillar of U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East, has played an ambiguous role in the conflicts unleashed by the Arab Spring, most notably in Bahrain, Yemen, Syria, and in the rise of ISIS. Saudi Arabia's global role is rooted in the unique juxtaposition of ultra authoritarian rule, oil wealth, and exceptionalism of being home to Makkah.

**Sharat G. Lin**, PhD writes on global political economy, the Middle East, and labor migration. He is a research fellow at the San José Peace and Justice Center. He has lived in Saudi Arabia.

**Sun, May 29, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Essentials of Scientific Socialism: Part of a Continuing Series**

“Clarity about the aims and problems of socialism is of greatest significance in our age of transition.” Einstein’s comment remains true in our times, when the growing interest in socialism is matched by a growing confusion about socialism. This workshop, led by **Gene Ruyle** of the ICSS, will be one of a continuing a series seeking to overcome this confusion through study and discussion, focusing on the classics of scientific socialism. This session will focus on the *Communist Manifesto*. In preparation, participants are urged to read, or re-read, this important document.

**Monday, May 23 is the last day to register to vote in the June 7, 2016 Presidential Primary Election. MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT!**

Hundreds of thousands of Americans, in New York, Arizona, and elsewhere, have been denied their right to vote, either by design or accident. Follow these steps to make sure you can vote for the candidate of your choice.

First of all, CHECK YOUR PARTY REGISTRATION STATUS.

Instructions vary by county. All counties are listed at:

<http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/registration-status/>

If you are not registered, or not registered the way youi want, you will need to re-register by May 23, which you can do online at:

<http://registertovote.ca.gov>.

**BEWARE:** Some voters who think they are registered independent, and therefore eligible to make a choice between Clinton and Sanders, actually aren't. They may be one of the nearly half a million Californians registered in the American Independent Party, a minor party founded by the infamous segregationist, then-Alabama Gov. George Wallace in his 1968 run for the presidency. A Los Angeles Times poll of a sample of those registered in the American Independent Party found three out of four thought they were registered as independents, not members of the party founded by the infamous segregationist. Among those who said they were fooled were celebrities Sugar Ray Leonard, Demi Moore and Emma Stone. Unless they change their registration, they will be able to cast a primary ballot only for an American Independent Party nominee.

For more information on How to Vote for Bernie Sanders, go to [ru4peace.wordpress.com](http://ru4peace.wordpress.com)

**Saturday, May 21: 2-4:30 pm. Beer, Burgers, and Bernie at the Starry Plough.** The Democratic Socialists of America presents: "Bernie's Plan - Save, improve, & Expand Social Security." Starry Plough Pub, 3101 Shattuck Ave at Prince St 2 blocks from Ashby BART. FREE - all ages welcome, please buy food & drink at the Pub. For info, contact DSA, 510 684-6286 or [peopleforbernie.sfba@gmail.com](mailto:peopleforbernie.sfba@gmail.com)

**Saturday, May 28: 2-4:00 pm. Bernie Socialist Workshop.** The Campaign for Peace and Socialism presents: "The History of Socialism in America from Robert Owens' utopian experiment in 1824 to Bernie's political revolution of 2016." A slide presentation by Eugene Ruyle, Emeritus Professor of Anthropology, Cal State, Long Beach. South Branch Berkeley Public Library, 1901 Russell St., Berkeley, CA 94703 (one block North of Ashby BART on MLK). For info, call Gene 510-332-3865 or email: [cuyleruyle@mac.com](mailto:cuyleruyle@mac.com)

**Sun, Jun 5, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**The History of Socialism in America from Robert Owens' utopian experiment in 1825 to Bernie's political revolution of 2016.**

As a democratic socialist, Bernie Sanders is leading a political revolution to transform a political system run by the billionaire class into one that represents working and middle class Americans and creates more opportunity for everyone. This workshop will take a closer look at Bernie's socialism by placing it within the global context of two centuries of struggle against the capitalist system. This will allow a better understanding of how Bernie has adapted socialism to the United States in the Twenty First Century. Eugene Ruyle, Emeritus Professor of Anthropology, Cal

**Sun, Jun 12, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**The Clinton Dynasty and the Shadow Government.**

**Larry Shoup**, author of *Wall Street's Think Tank*, will discuss his recent article with this title in Z Magazine (February 26, 2016)

<https://zcomm.org/zmagazine/the-clinton-dynasty-and-the-shadow-government/>

**Sun, Jun 19, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Early Summer Break**

Gene will be out of town, so no forum unless someone else wants to assume responsibility.

**Sun, Jun 26, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Puerto Rico: The Fight Against Colonialism, Capitalism, and Imperialism.**

We are inviting three Bay Area Puerto Rican activists to discuss the the history and current situation of the deepening crisis and the fight against colonialism, capitalism, and imperialism. Confirmed speakers include: **Katherine Adames Rodríguez** is a pro-independence socialist from Puerto Rico who moved to the Bay Area last year. She has been a member of the Organización Socialista Internacional, the Puerto Rico Network of Solidarity with Palestine, and the Committee Against Homophobia and Discrimination. As a militant teacher, she was very active in the Puerto Rico Federation of Teachers, whose organizing efforts she supported and with which she mobilized against the government's attack on public education and its neoliberal policies.

**Roberto Pastrana Pagés** is a nonprofit worker and a member of SEIU Local 1021. In 2014, he moved from Puerto Rico, where he had been a

member of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) organizations on the islands, such as Puerto Rico para Tod@s, and the Committee against Homophobia and Discrimination at the University of Puerto Rico. A militant pro-independence socialist, Roberto was part of the Movimiento al Socialismo (MAS) and the Federación Universitaria Pro Independencia (FUPI). He was part of the push for LGBT rights and worked for visibility and solidarity within the working class.

**Ricardo Ortiz** is a past and former member of the Frente Socialista of Puerto Rico. He has been part of the student, worker, and community struggles both in the island and participated in the 1990 general strike in Puerto Rico as well as other struggles. Currently he lives in the Bay Area and is active in social struggles for revolution.

**Sun, Jul 3, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Essentials of Scientific Socialism: Part of a Continuing Series**

“Clarity about the aims and problems of socialism is of greatest significance in our age of transition.” Einstein’s comment remains true in our times, when the growing interest in socialism is matched by a growing confusion about socialism. This workshop, led by **Gene Ruyle** of the ICSS, will be one of a continuing a series seeking to overcome this confusion through study and discussion, focusing on the classics of scientific socialism. This session will continue our reading of the *Communist Manifesto*. In preparation, participants are urged to read, or re-read, this important document.

**Sat, July 2, 2016 • 2:00 PM-4:30 PM: Deadly Connections: Challenging Nuclear Weapons, Nuclear Power, and Climate Change.**

In an age of endless war, economic crisis, and global warming, the provocative actions of the United States against nuclear armed Russia and China raise again the threat of nuclear annihilation. Our discussion of this important topic features two confirmed speakers from the Western States Legal Foundation, which has provided legal representation to antinuclear activists since 1982: Andrew Lichterman, Senior Research Analyst, and Phyllis Olin, Board President. Eugene Ruyle, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology, CSU, Long Beach, will also speak.

The Peace and Freedom Party presents

This is part of our on-going Socialist Forum Series on the first Saturday of every month. Doors open at 2 pm and the program will start promptly at 2:30 pm. The forum will end by 4:30 pm, but folks can stay and talk as long as you like.

FREE! Please buy food & drink at the Pub. All ages welcome! FREE!

Suds, Snacks, & Socialism at the Starry Plough

3101 Shattuck Avenue at Prince Street

2 blocks from Ashby BART in Berkeley

For information, contact Gene Ruyle: 510-332-3865.

Not at NPML, at the Starry Plough Pub, 3101 Shattuck Ave, at Prince St in Berkeley

Sat, July 2, 2016 • 2:00 PM-4:30 PM

The Peace and Freedom Party, born from the civil rights and anti-war movements of the 1960s, is committed to socialism, democracy, ecology, feminism, racial equality, and internationalism.

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

**Sun, Jul 10, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Deadly Connections: Challenging Nuclear Weapons, Nuclear Power, and Climate Change.**

In an age of endless war, economic crisis, and global warming, the provocative actions of the United States against nuclear armed Russia and China raise again the threat of nuclear annihilation. **Andrew Lichterman**, Senior Research Analyst at the Western States Legal Foundation, which has provided legal representation to antinuclear activists since 1982, has agreed to discuss this important topic with us.

**Sun, Jul 17, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Sacramento protest: Victory over fascism**

On June 26, fascists were chased off of their intended rally site by hundreds of anti-fascist protesters at the California State Capitol building. People from the Sacramento community and anti-racist protesters from around northern California started to assemble in the morning to prevent the white supremacists from entering the capitol grounds and holding their hate rally. Militarized police cornered the protesters on the street to allow space for fascists to assemble, but to their surprise the protesters heroically challenged them and took over the steps of the capitol building before the fascists could assemble. We are inviting anti-fascist participants to discuss this event. For background, see the reports on Indybay.

**Sun, Jul 24, 2016: 11:00 am to 2:30 pm**

**Grover Furr on Trotsky's 'Amalgams.'**

The Harvard Trotsky Archive was opened to researchers in 1980. In it, researchers found evidence that Leon Trotsky deliberately lied many times

and about many people and events. Other evidence of Trotsky's lies comes from his own writings and in documents from former Soviet archives. Drawing upon primary sources from the Harvard Trotsky Archive and from former Soviet archives Grover Furr subjects the testimony of Moscow Trials defendants to a source-critical check and verification. His conclusion: their testimony is genuine, reflecting what the defendants chose to say. The same primary sources, plus Trotsky's own writings, demonstrate that Trotsky lied about virtually everything concerning the Soviet Union in his writings about the three Moscow Trials of 1936, 1937 and 1938, his writings on the assassination of Sergei Kirov, and in his testimony to the Dewey Commission in 1937. This book will revolutionize the understanding of the Moscow Trials. Trotsky's writings and activities during the 1930s must be seen in an entirely new light. The results of this research reveal much about Trotsky's conspiracies in the 1930s. Grover writes that he will have some copies of all 4 of his books for sale at the talk at the special price of \$20 for each book.

**Sun, Jul 31, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Election 2016 and After - What Is the Socialist Path?**

After the two major bourgeois parties have had their national conventions and selected their candidates, what are the prospects for socialism? The Institute for the Critical Study of Society is sponsoring a forum to explore this issue. The panel includes: **Gene Ruyle**, author of "Rethinking Marxist Anthropology;" a speaker from the **Party for Socialism and Liberation**, which is running **Gloria La Riva** for president; and **Charles Andrews**, author of **The Hollow Colossus**.

**Sun, Aug 7, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**The Metamorphoses of Doris Lessing**

Lessing was a prolific author who went through many phases like a serpent shedding its skin: anti-colonialism and C.P. membership in Southern Africa, a move to London and cutting-edge feminism, to Sufi Mysticism and Gnostic Science fiction ... **Lew Finzel** will lead our discussion on this fascinating history

**Sun, Aug 14, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Coup in Turkey**

A mysterious but an expected coup attempt took place in Turkey on a Friday evening in Turkey. The revolution was televised. The important thing everybody who had experienced numerous coups in Turkey was the total stupidity of the whole thing. The military sent tanks to hold only some of the lanes in the most congested bridge in the country, and the tanks were stuck in traffic by people going out to drink. The most central park was held by 30 soldiers. And the government TVs, internet, Mosques and the entire media was allowed to broadcast governments calls for the people (jihadists) to rise up against the coup. In the end, the government and the small time dictator Erdogan obtained a much needed and cheap victory. Even before the coup attempt fizzled Erdogan's oppression started. The list of high ranking officers and judiciary who had not knelt down before Erdogan, apparently already at hand for many years, were immediately either fired or arrested. By the end of the next day 6,000 officers and judiciary were arrested, to be replaced by Erdogan's worshiper. Did this theatrical coup strengthen Erdogan, or is this the beginning of the end? What forces clashed, what international issues, what class contradictions, what historical developments brought about a need for this fake, show uprising? Is the next step of imperialism to divide Turkey now that Iraq, Libya and Syria are de facto divided? How does this coup play into the "Greater Middle East Project (The Project for a New Middle East)" drawn by the US and Israel? Is this coup the final nail in the Kemalist ideology's coffin? Journalist **Mehmet Bayram** will address some of these questions and many more on the structure of the state, class struggle and the rapid movement of Turkey into Open Fascism.

**Sun, Aug 21, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Late Summer Break**

Gene will be out of town, and no one else assumed responsibility to organize a forum.

**Sun, Aug 28, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Essentials of Scientific Socialism: Part of a Continuing Series**

“Clarity about the aims and problems of socialism is of greatest significance in our age of transition.” Einstein’s comment remains true in our times, when the growing interest in socialism is matched by a growing confusion about socialism. This workshop, led by **Gene Ruyle** of the ICSS, will be one of a continuing a series seeking to overcome this confusion through study and discussion, focusing on the classics of scientific socialism. This session

will focus on the *Communist Manifesto*. In preparation, participants are urged to read, or re-read, this important document.

**Sun, Sep 4, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm (Labor Day Weekend)**

**Forum Cancelled for the International Meeting of the IWW**

The Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) will hold their annual international meeting in Oakland this year, at the Niebyl-Proctor Marxist Library. This is for IWW members only. However, the IWW will host a welcoming BBQ at their union hall in Berkeley on Friday evening. Scroll down for info.

Here's an excerpt from the 1094 Preamble to the Constitution of the Industrial Workers of the World:

*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 the working people while 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 Earth and the machinery of production, and abolish the wage system. (1905)*

**Sun, Sep 11, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Inside U.S. Imperialist Policy Today: Syria, Libya, Egypt, Iran, Iraq and Beyond**

Speaker, **Jeff Mackler**, National Secretary, Socialist Action and Socialist Action's 2016 candidate for President; Author, *Revolution and Counterrevolution in Egypt*; *The Tragedy of Libya*; *Syria 2014*; *Marx Was Right: The Capitalist Crisis Today* and *Capitalism Damns the Environment*; Director, Mobilization to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal

**Sun, Sep 18, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Turkey's Invasion of Syria**

Does Turkey's Invasion of Syria lay the groundwork for a Broader Middle East War led by U.S.-NATO imperialism?

Journalist **Mehmet Bayram** will address this and other questions about recent developments in the Middle East.

**Sun, Sep 25, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**China National Day, 2016:**

**Chinese Multilateral Peaceful Rising Meets US Interesting Times**

We will focus upon the central international dynamics of what our two presenters opine is the opening period of a resumed Cold War.....

**Gary Hicks** will talk about the current role of the Communist Party of China in developing the next phase of their economic development. Included will be an introduction to the new phase of international trade..... One Belt, One Road.

**Al Sargis** will present a politico-military analysis of the Chinese response to increasing US aggression in the periphery surrounding south and east China, as well as China's extending international interests.

**Sun, Oct 2, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Massive General Strike in India, September 2, 2016.**

Our man in India, Raj Sahai, will discuss this largest strike in world history, when over 150 million workers went on strike. NOTE: We will meet upstairs since the Speak Out Now Conference will be held downstairs all weekend. (Scroll down for info.)

**Sun, Oct 9, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**The History of Socialism in America:  
from Robert Owens' utopian experiment in 1825  
to Bernie's political revolution of 2016.**

As a democratic socialist, Bernie Sanders began a political revolution to transform a political system run by the billionaire class into one that represents working and middle class Americans and creates more opportunity for everyone. This workshop will take a closer look at Bernie's socialism by placing it within the global context of two centuries of working class struggle against capitalist rule. This will allow a better understanding of how Bernie has adapted socialism to the United States in the Twenty First Century and how to improve our struggles for a better world for all humanity. Now that Bernie is no longer a candidate, it's up to us to continue the struggle.

Gene Ruyle, Emeritus Professor of Anthropology at Cal State Long Beach, is author of "Rethinking Marxist Anthropology," and other essays. He is active with the Oscar Grant Committee, Veterans for Peace, and the Peace and Freedom Party.

**Sun, Oct 16, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**PART TWO; SINCE WWI**

**The History of Socialism in America:  
from Robert Owens' utopian experiment in 1825**

## **to Bernie's political revolution of 2016.**

As a democratic socialist, Bernie Sanders began a political revolution to transform a political system run by the billionaire class into one that represents working and middle class Americans and creates more opportunity for everyone. This workshop will take a closer look at Bernie's socialism by placing it within the global context of two centuries of working class struggle against capitalist rule. This will allow a better understanding of how Bernie has adapted socialism to the United States in the Twenty First Century and how to improve our struggles for a better world for all humanity. Now that Bernie is no longer a candidate, it's up to us to continue the struggle.

Gene Ruyle, Emeritus Professor of Anthropology at Cal State Long Beach, is author of "Rethinking Marxist Anthropology," and other essays. He is active with the Oscar Grant Committee, Veterans for Peace, and the Peace and Freedom Party.

**Sun, Oct 23, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**  
**Halloween Break**

**Sun, Oct 30, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**  
**Halloween Break**

## **DON'T FORGET DST, FALL BACK**

We get an extra hour Sunday, Nov. 6, at 2 a.m. as we turn back the hands of time for one more glorious hour of sleep.

**Sun, Nov 6, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

### ***Oh, Canada: our home and native land...***

Just before our American election we turn our attention north, to Canada. Our speaker will be Brenda Zeman who teaches anthropology at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. She will speak on various aspects of Canadian politics, including the August shooting death of Colten Boushie of Red Pheasant First Nation which took place on a farm in Saskatchewan; the Fort McMurray fires and the Husky oil spill into the North Saskatchewan River; Truth and Reconciliation in Canada and South Africa; the new national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women; the 2015 election of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the arrival and settling of 25,000 Syrians; Tommy Douglas and challenges to universal healthcare; the September assisted suicide of W.P. "Bill" Kinsella in Hope, B.C.; the changing lyrics to Canada's national anthem; and what it all means.

Brenda Zeman is a former elite athlete, dancer, author, storyteller, traveller, lecturer and activist. She earned her MA in Anthropology at Cal State Long Beach, where her advisor was Gene Ruyle. A descendent of Slovak homesteaders and Shetlandic/Scots immigrants, she lives in her hometown, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan which sits on Treaty 6 land. Her husband Tommy Lee, grew up in Dynamite Hill in Birmingham, Alabama, will join in the discussion.

**Sun, Nov 13, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**We Do Not Consent.**

Our **Declaration of Independence** clearly states, in part, that Governments are created to serve our rights, “deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.” We are inviting several speakers to address these words in the light of the recent election. Confirmed speakers include: **Yvette Felarca**, By Any Means Necessary; **Tom Gallagher**, Progressive Democrats of America; **Frank Runninghorse**, Oscar Grant Committee; **Daniel Sankey**, Party for Socialism and Liberation, and **Richard Hobbs**, Move To Amend. We will have time for comments and questions from the audience.

**Sun, Nov 20, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Alchemy and Social Change**

A new attitude towards the material world emerged in late antiquity through the strange theories and practices of the alchemists. Did their attempts of achieve the elixir of life, the philosophers stone, and the transmutation of metals help give birth to science and the modern world? Our ICSS member, Lew Finzel, argues for the proposition that Alchemy Lives! Implications for: Ecology, Psychology, Literature, Sex, Drugs. . . .

**Sun, Nov 27, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Thanksgiving Weekend No Forum**

Gene will be out of town, so unless someone else organizes a forum, we will take a break.

**Sun, Dec 4, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**The New Path to Mumia’s Freedom**

A precedent-setting ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court provides the basis for a new legal action filed by **Mumia Abu-Jamal**, providing a path for the courts to overturn Mumia’s conviction and win his freedom. But we we can never forget the continuing importance of mass action to support Mumia’s

legal case. **Gerald Smith** will discuss Mumia's case to date, and **Mary McIlroy** will discuss the latest in the effort to free **Leonard Peltier**.

**Sun, Dec 11, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Triumph of Trump: Continuity and Change in US Politics**

WTF happened? The script was clear: with backing from the old-guard political leadership of both major parties, most corporate CEOs, Citizens United PACs, the mainstream media, celebrities, and high-ranking national security and military leaders, Hillary Clinton was headed towards what looked to be a historic landslide victory. Yet the Democratic Party is in shambles, and Donald Trump is headed to the White House in January.

**Roger Harris** with the Peace and Freedom Party will discuss the threat of fascism with the election of Trump. Is fascism a personality disorder or are there deeper political antecedents? Are they now present with a Trump presidency? How does a left narrative differ from a liberal one on the current potential for fascism and the threat posed by Trump?

Economist **Allan Miller** will discuss the election in the context of the ongoing capitalist economic crisis and neoliberalism. To what extent will the Clinton-Bush-Obama (and Hillary's "big tent") neoliberal trajectory continue under Donald Trump, and to what extent are we witnessing a watershed moment in American history? With a major world-wide recession, if not depression, looming, how will it play out after the weak, jobless "recovery" of the last recession?

**Sun, Dec 18, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

**Political economy of globalization, financialization, labor migration, and majoritarian alienation**

Globalization maximizes free trade and capital flows, while continuing to resist labor migration caused by it. Globalization is facilitated by the dominance of finance capital, and the untethering of transnational corporations from a national base. But while colonialism caused the internal disarticulation of the periphery, globalization brings about the internal disarticulation of the metropolitan center. This plus multifaceted demographic transitions are at the root of the social marginalization of less educated majoritarian communities, creating preconditions for the rise of fascism.

**Sharat G. Lin** is a research fellow at the San José Peace and Justice Center. He writes and lectures on global political economy, labor migration, the Middle East and South Asia, and public health.

**Sun, Dec 25, 2016: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**  
**Sun, Jan 1, 2017: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**  
**HOLIDAY BREAK. NO FORUM SCHEDULED**

WWW [www](http://www)

**FOR OUR FULL SCHEDULE FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, FOLLOW THE LINK**

**AT:**

[icssmarx.org](http://icssmarx.org)

**FOR INFO ON SUNDAY MORNING, OR IF YOU HAVE A PROPOSAL FOR A  
WORKSHOP,**

contact Gene Ruyle: 510-428-1578 or email: [cuyleruyle@mac.com](mailto:cuyleruyle@mac.com)