



# ***SOCIALIST ACTIVIST***

June 2010 \* NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF NEW JERSEY (SPUSA)

## **35K Stand Up Against Budget Cuts**

*by Riad Azar*

On Saturday, May 22nd 2010, an estimated 35,000 community members, organizers and activists, union members, students, teachers, and concerned citizens marched on Trenton in solidarity to oppose the horrific and irresponsible budget proposed by Governor Chris Christie. The rally titled "Stand Up New Jersey" was said to be the largest Trenton rally in the history of New Jersey. This comes as no surprise; Christie's proposed budget threatens to destroy the public sector, limit essential services to poor and working families, privatize our valued public institutions, and "Reaganize" our state (aka use the term shared sacrifice to justify giving the rich an enormous tax cut allowing the free market to create an overbearing oligarchy...but at least we got rid of those damned "socialized" institutions, right?) Chris Christie has declared a class war on the citizens of New Jersey, and the citizens of New Jersey are beginning to fight back.

The publicity leading up to the event had mixed rallying cries stemming from: "Tax the Millionaires", "Save our Schools", and "Protest the Budget". Although these are all honorable ideas and slogans, it seemed that every group was trying to endorse in a different way, leaving many to worry that the rally would be lacking a unified message. Luckily, the 35,000 in attendance at the rally united under a clear message; Pass the Millionaire's Tax and Restore the Cuts. This move added New Jersey to the list of states whose citizens are choosing more progressive alternatives to solve their budget shortfalls instead of sliding back to the right, as in so common in American history.

The rally was not only targeted at Christie, but also at the Democrats who hold a majority in both the State Senate and General Assembly. As a direct attack on the politicians who are letting this budget go by, vice president of CWA Chris Shelton said, "If you want our support, you have to earn it." Members of the Socialist Party and the Take Back Trenton Coalition were also there to push the message of pressuring all politicians. The SP/TBTC table received considerable traffic, and many cheers of support. Mike McCabe, co-Chair of the Take Back Trenton Coalition, stated in his address to the crowd, "We need to create a political climate where the politicians are forced to put our needs before the needs of a few privileged individuals." There is a long and strenuous struggle that awaits all New Jersey's citizens if we are going to fix this budget, and as the multiple rallies in Trenton this month signify...the struggle has just begun and the working people of New Jersey are organizing.

*Riad Azar is a member of the Socialist Party of New Jersey, Co-Chair of the Take Back Trenton Coalition and active in the Young Democratic Socialist chapter at William Paterson University*

## **Is the Fight for Healthcare for All Over?**

*By Greg Pason*

Months after "national healthcare reform" was signed into law, the fight for national healthcare and the abolition of for profit health insurance continues. Insurance companies are already strategizing on how to find loopholes in the law and salivating over millions of new customers they will be receiving as the government starts to enforce the laws that mandate the purchase of over-priced healthcare plans that only partially cover healthcare needs.

On Saturday June 12<sup>th</sup>, New Jersey One Plan- One Nation will be holding a state-wide healthcare strategy conference. The conference will be an opportunity for healthcare activists to get to know each other and get an update on important healthcare actions and organizing going on now.

While we strategize we need to learn from the single-payer movements past mistakes. During the past twenty years (and long before) the Socialist Party has been active in pushing for a truly socialized healthcare system. We endorsed a single-payer system as a step towards that goal. We will continue to push for a national healthcare system that is publicly funded through progressive taxation and controlled by democratically elected assemblies of health care workers and patients. We remain committed to that goal while supporting coalitions continuing the fight for single-payer/ Medicare for all. Let's hope the June 12<sup>th</sup> conference is a spark to break with past failures and retreats and continue the struggle for the abolition of for-profit healthcare and for healthcare for all.

## **Statewide Strategy Conference**



### **What reform?**

Are you dissatisfied with the health care "reform" that was just passed in Washington, DC? So are we! 23 million Americans will still lack coverage, costs will still be unrestrained, and we still can't pick our own doctor and hospital.

We have a better idea: expand and improve Medicare to cover everyone.

### **So what do we do now?**

*Come to our statewide strategy conference on  
**Saturday, June 12 from 12:00 to 5:30 PM**  
at the UAW union hall, 56 Vineyard Road, Edison, NJ.*

Registration \$20- includes lunch \* [www.njoneplan.org](http://www.njoneplan.org)

*Socialist Activist is the newsletter of the Socialist Party of New Jersey, the New Jersey state organization of the Socialist Party USA. Check us out on line at [www.njsocialistparty.org](http://www.njsocialistparty.org) or mail us at SPNJ PO Box 3056 Upper Montclair NJ 07043*

# PROTEST THE IDF ATTACK ON THE GAZA AID FLOTILLA



**Statement of the SPUSA Co-Chairs - May 31, 2010**

As co-chair's of the Socialist Party USA we condemn the attack by the Israeli Defense Forces on the unarmed humanitarian aid boat The Spirit of Humanity. The boat was carrying desperately needed aid supplies meant to break the inhuman Israeli blockade of Gaza. The death of at least 10 people, the injuring of dozens and the arrest of 20 stands as one of the

egregious attacks on humanitarian workers ever.

We join the activist group Viva Palestina in calling for the immediate release of those arrested so that they may continue their mission. We join the international community, including the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, in calling for an immediate end the blockade of Gaza. Finally, as Americans, we demand an immediate end to all military aid provided by the US government to Israel.

Andrea Pason and Billy Wharton  
Co-Chairs, Socialist Party USA

## Northern New Jersey Local New

**Join us at the following on-going vigils:**

**Wednesdays:** 4:30 – 6:00 pm National Guard Armory.  
Teaneck Rd and Liberty Rd. Teaneck, NJ

**Fridays:** 4:30 – 6:00 pm on the corner of Church St. and  
Bloomfield Ave. Montclair, NJ

**Next Northern New Jersey Meeting: Sunday June 27<sup>th</sup>**  
12:30 pm @ Montclair Public Library 50 South Fullerton Ave.  
Montclair, NJ. Join us for a report back from the US Social  
Forum, info on the SPNJ summer skill share, SPUSA  
National Organizing Conference and more.

## WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SOCIALIST PARTY USA?

Send me more info on the Socialist Party of New Jersey/  
Socialist Party USA.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel#: \_\_\_\_\_

Socialist Party of NJ POB 3056 Upper Montclair, NJ 07043

# Northern New Jersey Local Votes to Support the Boycott of BP and its Subsidiaries



The Northern New Jersey Local voted to support the boycott of BP and all its subsidiaries at its May 30<sup>th</sup> general membership meeting.

Please help us in our campaign to target BP and also call for the ending off-shore drilling and for massive government investment in alternative energy.

**We support a full boycott of these products:**



## CELEBRATE LGBTQ PRIDE MONTH WITH The SOCIALIST PARTY!

*From the Socialist Party USA Platform.....*

The Socialist Party recognizes the human and civil rights of all, without regard to sexual orientation.

1. We call for the end of all anti-gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBTQ) restrictions in law and the work place, the repeal of all sodomy laws, and the legalization of same-sex marriage.
2. We call on all schools to adopt policies and procedures to address and prevent student violence and to ban discrimination against GLBTQ people throughout the educational system.
3. We call for a federal ban on all forms of job discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.
4. We are committed to confronting the heterosexism that provides the fertile ground for homophobic violence, and support all efforts toward fostering understanding and cooperation among persons and groups of differing sexual orientations.

### JUNE PRIDE EVENTS:

**June 6<sup>th</sup>: Jersey Pride LGBTQI Festival-** Festival grounds located at 5th & Ocean Aves in Asbury Park, NJ

### June 7 – 13<sup>th</sup>: Newark/Essex Pride Events

Events will be held all week. A listing of Monday through Saturday events listed at: [www.newarkessexpride.org](http://www.newarkessexpride.org)  
Join us in Newark on Sunday June 13<sup>th</sup> for the **Pride Jam in the Park**. 12 noon at Washington Park, Newark

### **Socialist Activist**

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