

June 2017 Events Schedule

Saturday, June 3 | 3:00 PM

Salt of the Earth – Film and Discussion

Joe Bernick, Director of the Salt of the Earth Labor College

Salt of the Earth is a classic labor film, depicting the bitter 1950 strike by mostly-Chicano and Mexicano miners in New Mexico that challenged racist discrimination in the industry and male supremacy in the home. When an injunction was issued against the striking miners, their wives and sisters took up the struggle with a fury, leaving the men to care for home and children. It was banned and barely shown in commercial theaters in the US. But tens if not hundreds of millions viewed it in the Soviet Union, China and other civilized states. Salt of the Earth is often shown to students in Mexican American and Women's Studies courses. The Library of Congress now includes it on their list of the 100 greatest US films. ([Watch the trailer.](#))

The film will be introduced by Joe Bernick, the long-time director of the Salt of the Earth Labor College. Born in Minnesota, Joe spent most of his childhood in the recently-occupied Palestine, returning to Minnesota in the early 1960s to finish high school. He became active in the civil rights, peace and Palestine justice movement, and worked in Minneapolis factories, where he was active in the Iron Workers and Teamsters unions. He and his wife, Cat Stelman, moved to Tucson in 1980. He worked for a decade as a school custodian, was Vice President of his AFT local, and remains active in Jobs with Justice. He was mentored by the great Communist leaders, Lorenzo and Anita Torrez, veterans of the strike depicted in the film, and helped found the Salt of the Earth Labor College in Tucson in 1993.

Thursday, June 8 | 7:00 – 8:30 PM

BookTalk: The Black Jacobins ([Download a copy.](#))

Eddie Carson, CPUSA, CME

CLR James, author of The Black Jacobins, wrote at a time when fascism posed a global threat to democratic tendencies of the 1930s; he juxtaposed his 20th century reality to that of the Haitian Revolution. This work, through a Marxist lens, was a call for global solidarity against the oppression imposed by capitalist actors vis-à-vis imperialism. Much like the Haitian slave rebellion – this work called for a rebellion of the proletariat. There will be space for questions, and audience participation is desired.

Wednesday, June 14

Committee for International Labor Defense

Business Meeting | 6:30 PM (All are welcome.)

Educational | 7:00 – 8:00 PM

What's the role of International Labor Defense and Defending Colombian Political Prisoners?

Wadi'h Halabi, Economics Commission, CPUSA and CME

Why are so many labor organizers in Colombia from Coca Cola workers to David Ravello in prison? What role has the Colombian workers and farmers' resistance to domestic and international capitalism been? Could it be that their extraordinary response is why "Plan Colombia" has been one of the US's largest undeclared wars? These and related questions will be included in the presentation and discussion.

Thursday, June 15 | 7:00 – 8:30 PM

BookTalk: Capital

Sandeep Choubey

Capital is Karl Marx's magnum opus, and remains the best explanation of how capitalism works and why this system is prone to cycles of booms and busts. Join us for an engaging discussion of this still relevant text. We will be reading pages 116-136 of the Penguin edition.

Monday, June 19 | 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Politics of India

Basudev Nag Chowdhury, People's Brigade
Presently India is observing a significant level of inequalities, where the income of richest 10% is 10 times higher than that of the poorest 10% of the people. Its economic system has completely lost its balance of 'labour' and 'price' which is manifested as a major economic catastrophe. There are 79 recognized Communist/Socialist parties in India. 19 among them are non-parliamentary violent parties. an upsurge of the upper caste Hindu dictatorial rule in the leadership of BJP is polarizing the working people of the country based on religious communalism. The problem for the Communists and the Lefts subsists in searching for a cumulative and collective direction to take up all these issues toward an anti-capitalism battle.

Thursday, June 22 | 7:00 – 8:30 PM

China, Trump and the World

Duncan McFarland, Committee of Correspondence
The US-China relationship is one of considerable global importance on several levels. Trump in his presidential campaign adopted a very hostile anti-China tone. However, after Trump assumed power, he changed; his actions towards China have proved more moderate and he even described President Xi as "very respected." But the longer term relationship could be volatile, as underlying administration policy involving Korea, the Asia pivot, trade and other issues remains unclear, and the basic class antagonism remains between capitalist United States and socialist China. Duncan McFarland will make a presentation on US-China relations at the beginning of the Trump era, including China's perspective and foreign policy; followed by discussion.

Saturday, June 24 | 3:00 – 4:30 PM

Chernobyl and Overcoming the Culture of Exploitation

Wadi'h Halabi, Economics Commission, CPUSA and CME
What was the connection between the Chernobyl nuclear incident, the 'culture of exploitation' and the fall of the Soviet Union? The Russian Revolution broke the main strands of exploitation, such as the exploiters' 'bodies of armed men' and their system of miseducation. But finer strands remained, from idealism to inequalities such as between men and women or between intellectual and manual labor. Remaining strands of capital's 'web of exploitation' affected leaders' ability to speak the truth, and played a role in the collapse of the Soviet Union and several other states like it. Identifying the many strands of the culture of exploitation will help workers strengthen conscious expression of working class power and avoid further defeats. Based on presentations in China and dedicated to the memory of Richard Levins.

Sunday, June 25 | 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Mandella ([Watch the trailer.](#))

Richard Pendleton, CME
The remarkable life of South African revolutionary, president and world icon Nelson Mandela (Idris Elba) takes center stage. Though he had humble beginnings as a herd boy in a rural village, Mandela became involved in the anti-apartheid movement and co-founded the African National Congress Youth League. His activities eventually led to his imprisonment on Robben Island from 1964 to 1990. In 1994, Mandela became the first president of democratic South Africa.

Thursday, June 29 | 7:00 – 8:30 PM

BookTalk: Capital

Sandeep Choubey
Capital is Karl Marx's magnum opus, and remains the best explanation of how capitalism works and why this system is prone to cycles of booms and busts. Join us for an engaging discussion of this still relevant text. We will be reading pages 136-156 of the Penguin edition.