

Stop the Checkpoints

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) recently reported that much of the country (including all of Massachusetts) had been turned into a “Constitution-Free Zone” by the Border Patrol. Claiming special powers at any point within 100 miles of any coast or border, the Border Patrol has begun setting up checkpoints far inland, halting, interrogating, and searching travellers at will.

Members of the Socialist Party's Tom Mooney local, currently living in Washington state, have taken action to challenge this attack on our civil rights. They have helped found a “Stop The Checkpoints Committee” and organized petitions and demonstrations demanding an end to the Border Patrol's interior checkpoints, as part of a broader campaign for human rights around the world.

March on Wall Street – 4 April

United for Peace and Justice (UfPJ) has announced a campaign challenging both imperialism abroad and economic injustice at home. In actions throughout the spring, we will highlight the connections between militarism, racism, and poverty.

UfPJ's “Yes We Can” campaign will culminate with a march on Wall Street on 4 April, the anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s famous “Beyond Vietnam” speech, as well as his assassination exactly one year later. Details of the campaign are still being worked out by the diverse organizations involved.

The Socialist Party of Massachusetts is the Massachusetts chapter of the Socialist Party USA, a democratic socialist, feminist, anti-racist party, that strives to establish a radical democracy that places people's lives under their own control.

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International Women's Day – 8 March

March 8 is International Women's Day, our opportunity to come together to speak out for a world where democratic socialist feminist values and programs enable us to live our lives in ways we will never be able to under capitalism and patriarchy.

IWD 2009 will mark the 100th anniversary of the first national day of protest called by the Woman's National Committee of the Socialist Party in 1909. In the century since, the holiday has grown into a worldwide celebration and affirmation of women's struggle, resistance and empowerment.

The Tom Mooney (western Mass) local of the Socialist Party traditionally cosponsors an International Women's Day rally and speak-out on the Greenfield town common, while the Socialist Party of Boston is working to put together a film festival to celebrate the holiday.

Keep an eye on spboston.org and socialistparty-usa.org/mass in the coming month for updates on International Women's Day events. Contact us to get involved and help organize them!

March on the Pentagon – 21 March

March 2009 will mark six years of war and occupation in Iraq. As the new administration puts into motion its plans to escalate the war in Afghanistan, and possibly expand it further into Pakistan, the antiwar movement will march on the Pentagon to demand that all the troops be brought home now.

More than 1,000 organizations and individuals have already joined together to start forming a March 21 National Coalition that will bring people from all walks of life and from all cities across the United States to take part in the demonstration.

Find more information at www.PentagonMarch.org or contact local organizers through www.newenglandunited.org.

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Massachusetts State Convention – 15 Feb.

The **2009 State Convention** of the Socialist Party of Massachusetts (SPMA) will be held in **Cambridge** on **Sunday, 15 February**, beginning at **1 pm**. Our annual state conventions are the highest decision-making body of the SPMA, with the power to charter new locals, initiate statewide projects and campaigns, amend our constitution, and elect a State Executive Committee to manage the day-to-day operations.

This year's convention comes at an exciting time, as the end of the Bush regime and the new administration present Socialists with both new challenges and new opportunities. The ongoing economic collapse makes it all the more urgent for us to build momentum behind socialist solutions to our current problems, introduce democratic socialism to new constituencies, and re-energize our movement for a more just and equitable society.

The convention will take place in the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) building in Cambridge. The AFSC building is wheelchair accessible and is located at **2161 Massachusetts Ave.**, between the Davis Square and Porter Square T stations on the Red Line. There is plenty of on-street parking nearby.

We will get underway at 1 pm, with some time for refreshments and socializing beforehand. The meeting will bring together socialists from across the state, including our two organized locals in the Boston area and in the Pioneer Valley, to work on statewide projects, campaigns, and organization.

The convention will focus special attention on organizing new locals, and helping those in unorganized regions get more actively involved in the Socialist Party. You can help develop the schedule and agenda at the Socialist Party of Boston's interactive Web site, www.spboston.org.

Please contact us for information about carpools, or with any questions about logistics or other issues.

SP Massachusetts Bulletin

Break up with Bank of America – 14 Feb.

This Valentine's Day, Saturday, 14 February, the Socialist Party will join Rising Tide and City Life/Vida Urbana in demanding that Bank of America clean up its act.

Through a day of coordinated account closures in multiple locations in Boston and across the country, we will challenge Bank of America's environmental record, as well as its unjust foreclosures and evictions of working families. Bank of America is a major funder of the coal industry, in particular mountaintop removal coal mining, the most destructive extraction process in a famously dirty and deadly industry.

Evictions, climate change, war... Closing your account with Bank of America is an important step in bringing closure to this unhealthy relationship. We encourage everyone who does business with Bank of America to take time this Valentine's Day to tell them "it's over between us."

Rising Tide is a grassroots network of groups and individuals who take direct action to confront the roots causes of climate change. City Life/Vida Urbana is a radical community organization which has been mobilizing tenants and residents of Boston's Jamaica Plain neighborhood since 1973. For more information about breaking up with Bank of America, visit www.RisingTideBoston.org.

Western Mass. Local Meetings

The meetings of the Tom Mooney (western Massachusetts) Local of the Socialist Party are our highest decision-making bodies, and also provide opportunities for socialists to get together, catch up, and discuss current news and events.

We have held regular local meetings throughout the Pioneer Valley region. Visit www.socialistparty-usa.org/mass or contact us for more information about upcoming meetings and events.