

"Never turn your back on fear. It should always be in front of you, like a thing that might have to be killed." —Hunter S. Thompson



## Luigi Deserves Fair Trial

By Nikoli Weir

The iron heel of the financial oligarchy is coming down hard and fast on Luigi Mangione, the alleged killer of UnitedHealth Executive Brian Thompson. Major news outlets, social media companies, and government officials all across the country have come out and declared that Mangione is guilty, despite the fact that his trial hasn't even started. Platforms like Tiktok and Meta have acted hyper-vigilantly, scrubbing all coverage of Mangione that is not outright negative. Reddit, which loves to market itself as a bastion of free speech, has wiped Mangione's personal account off the face of its website. What was he posting that was so horrible? Health and exercise advice.

The media wants you to believe that Mangione is two things; crazy and guilty. As he was being dragged into a Pennsylvania courthouse by police, he shouted that his arrest was "completely

unjust" and "an insult to the intelligence of the American people." It is difficult to imagine a clearer and more comprehensible statement, but the media has been breaking it back to frame this remark as evidence of Mangione's supposed mental instability.

It's clear that the Commissars of Capital have already decided amongst themselves that Mangione is guilty. The trial is a mere formality, undertaken in order to keep up the appearance of a free and democratic society. There is much that points to this, but the most damning piece of evidence is that the judge handling Mangione's pre-trial hearings, Magistrate Judge Katherine H. Parker, is married to former healthcare executive Bret Parker; not only that, but she has hundreds of thousands of dollars of stock in a variety of healthcare and pharmaceutical companies.

According to independent journalist Ken Klippenstein, "Parker also holds

**TRIAL on Page Three**

# The Rev Looks Towards 2025

By Jacob Richards

Everywhere you look you see Democrats and never Trumper Republicans getting on their knees to kiss the ring of our new king.

Polis praised RFK's appointment.

ABC News just settled a lawsuit with Trump that they would have surely won.

Pelosi climbed out of her grave to block AOC's appointment to be the ranking Democrat on the House Oversight committee instead seating a geriatric with terminal cancer.

Facebook, Toyota, and other large corporations have donated millions to Trump's Inauguration.

Biden has done virtually nothing to childproof the government before Trump takes power, instead pardoning his son, carving up our spoils of war in Syria, and escalating the conflict in Ukraine.

Locally, Restore the Balance has no plan to resist the coming authoritarianism.

Step one is DON'T KISS THE RING!

Soon we will start to see local organizations preemptively fall in line and kiss the ring. Organizations will start to become less diverse, programming and positions will be self-censored.

The silence will be deafening as they come for our immigrant neighbors and our trans friends, but we must not remain silent.

We have a massively uphill battle to just keep our communities and families and selves safe, let alone make progressive change.

It is easy to feel adrift, and overwhelmed. Honestly, there are days that I

feel more like a puzzle than a human. Worry and fear are the enemies of progress but action is the cure. Let's get organized!

The good news is something is changing—bubbling up—taking form through myriads of unseen human interactions. People are meeting each other and connecting.

People are finding organizations capable of resisting and joining them.

The Rev gets emails almost daily from

people that have woken up to the reality that our capitalist politicians will not save us. The Dem's have shown us that campaigns centered on candidates, and TV ads does not make a movement, and that we must do the hard thing ourselves—we must organize and we must act. If we do the outcome is certain because when the people lead, the leaders, they have to follow.

There is a real grassroots movement in the making. Since the election we have met 100s of people.

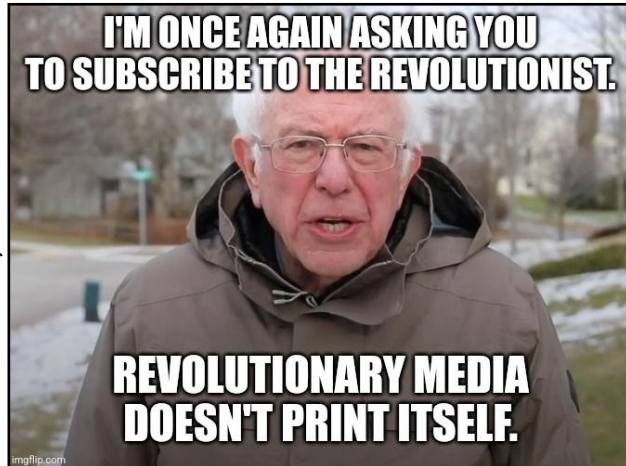
"Welcome to the revolution! It was a pleasure to meet all of you!"

Today we have an opportunity to build the very thing needed to move the needle—a movement.

I have felt it before—the ground swelling.

I felt it in the lead up to the Iraq War, people came together and organized and fought and tried to keep us from going to war. When the bombs started falling in Baghdad the movement was smashed, then slowly it rebuilt itself as the war(s) dragged on.

I felt it when protestors took over Zuccotti Park, and launched the Occupy



## Announcing the Formation of a Mesa County Democratic Socialist of America (DSA)

"The DSA is the largest socialist organization in the United States with over 92,000 members."

The local chapter is holding meetings and organizing! Committees are getting to work! Join them!

Memberships are on a sliding scale!

[www.dsausa.org](http://www.dsausa.org)

Contact the local chapter:

[mesacountydsa1@gmail.com](mailto:mesacountydsa1@gmail.com)

### Cortez Food Not Bombs

Serves a community meal every Sunday at Veterans Park. 12pm-2pm

### Falconer Workers' Society

Anti-Capitalist and Revolutionary Book Club Grand Junction. Email for an invite. [falconersworkerssociety@gmail.com](mailto:falconersworkerssociety@gmail.com)

### Be the Media! Help Edit, Write, Distro The Revolutionist

[therevolutionistgj@gmail.com](mailto:therevolutionistgj@gmail.com)

### People's March Grand Junction

January 18  
1pm-3pm

Location to be announced soon. See you in the streets!

### Mutual Aid Partners' Distro Day!

Every Tuesday!

10am to 1pm Drop Donations  
11am to 1pm Receive Donations  
262 Ute Ave, Grand Junction

### Solidarity Not Charity

Free Food for Free People  
Feeds every Saturday at 4pm at the Resource Center. Grand Jct.

### Roaring Fork Valley Comrades

Post-Election Fears? Seeking ways to strengthen our community?

**Part One:** Centering Thoughts and Feelings:  
Tuesday, January 7, 6:30pm.

**Part Two:** Resource Fair & Calls to Action  
Wednesday, January 15, 6pm

Carbondale Library Community Room  
320 Sopris Ave., Carbondale

## Support Revolutionary Media!

## Subscribe to the Revolutionist!

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Peasant/Students \$15

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## GAZA from Page Twelve

1948 during the Nakba, the great catastrophe. Gaza has been systematically leveled and destroyed, you have a population of 2.2 million people; which could easily be reduced to 2 million people. According to The Lancet estimates, the figures are 3 to 15 times more than 55,758 deaths reported, 17,712 are children, which would mean 167,274-836,370). Imagine 2 million people in a large concentration camp being displaced from one area to another. No food, no water, no hygiene, no medical treatment because all the hospitals are targeted. People are being stalked and attacked by drones. According to the UN, 70% of the casualties are women and children. All this is happening for the free world to witness while remaining powerless to do anything about it. Why powerless. The reason is because this nation, the United States of America has vetoed the UN 10 times, most recently congress vetoed a bill to halt the supply of weapons of mass destruction. We have a responsibility to what is happening because our tax payers money is being used for weapons of mass destruction by the elected people who govern us, supported by both ruling political parties, Democrat and Republican.

I have witnessed enough children without heads or brains due to explosions, or crushed or buried by rubble than I can bear to stomach, I see my own children's faces in these children. Now the war and destruction has expanded to Lebanon with a fragile ceasefire looming, following the same blueprint as Gaza breaking all the rules of warfare with little concern for innocent civilians.

What has happened and is happening is that as we watch humanity being dehu-

manized we are losing our humanity as a world because we have allowed injustice to prevail. Right now injustice, oppression and tyranny are having their moment. In time the balance will be restored and justice will prevail, when justice prevails we will have peace.

In the chapter Al-Hajj,

22:40 *[They are] those who have been evicted from their homes without right - only because they say, "Our Lord is Allāh." And were it not that Allāh checks the people, some by means of others, there would have been demolished monasteries, churches, synagogues, and mosques in which the name of Allāh is much mentioned [i.e., praised]. And Allāh will surely support those who support Him [i.e., His cause]. Indeed, Allāh is Powerful and Exalted in Might.*

22:41 *[And they are] those who, if We give them authority in the land, establish prayer and give zakāh and enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong. And to Allāh belongs the outcome of [all] matters.*

Thanksgiving is a celebration when the native people of the land helped the settlers, survive and settle in the land. History shows what a great price the natives paid.

I see too many parallels with this nation's history and the Native Americans. Now I see the direct role and partnership in destroying the Palestinian people and the Lebanese people. Native people seeking freedom are paying the price of death while being labeled as terrorists while the oppressor justifies their actions in the name of security.

This is the price the Native Americans paid and the people of Gaza are paying.

## 2025 from Page Two

Wall St movement. People wanted in on the revolution—wanted the ‘change’ that Obama promised and never delivered on—wanted to see the banksters that caused the crisis behind bars not bailed out.

I felt it in the beginning of the pandemic, as people came together in that time of fear to sew masks, shop for neighbors, share resources at the Distro. The Facebook group Grand Junction Mutual Aid went from 50 ppl to 15,000 in a matter of days.

And I felt it after the police murdered George Floyd and the world was able to watch and it shook with anger.

Today we must seize this momentum, build community and organization, and we must learn how to resist. And this time we need to build a base solid enough to not only survive the coming months and years, but to also start making progress towards a more just world.

When we launched as a regular publication in April we had goals. We quoted Abbie Hoffman, “if your scene doesn’t have a paper, you probably don’t

have a scene together.”

We laid out our goals clearly. We seek “to be [the] backbone for radical movements for change on Colorado’s western slope. Send us your news and events. Help us build a ‘scene!’”

That is happening— a scene— a couple of scenes— a whole damn vin diagram is forming.

And the far-right are scared of it.

In December the far-right, *Rocky Mountain Voice*, attacked *The Revolutionist*. “In towns like Grand Junction and Fruita, socialist ideology is finding fertile ground in the form of *The Revolutionist*,” adding “The rise of *The Revolutionist* serves as a warning to Western Colorado conservatives.” We couldn’t agree more.

It’s cliché to say that a moment in time is ‘pivotal’ but the coming weeks, months and years truly are going to be pivotal. Let’s pivot together in 2025. Let’s keep our friends safe, Let’s remain fearless, and if we must let’s become ungovernable.

Subscribing is Solidarity:

<https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/>

## TRIAL from Page One

scattered interests in pharmaceutical, biotech, and healthcare companies like Abbott Laboratories, the owner of St. Jude Medical. Abbot has drawn criticism over the years for manufacturing tainted and toxic baby formula, fraudulently billing Medicaid for glucose monitors, and selling faulty deep brain stimulation devices.”

The Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees a fair trial to all persons who have been charged with a crime. Do we really think that a judge like Katherine H. Parker, who has deep connections with the healthcare industry, is capable of being impartial and fair? It seems more than anything that the government wants a judge who will tow the line of the billionaire class and send Mangione to the execution chamber. If they are so worried about this case that they need a puppet judge to oversee the pre-trial hearings, what monster of a court magistrate will be overseeing his actual trial?

The entirety of the capitalist class is conspiring to execute Luigi Mangione. They are terrified of the outpouring of public support for a man who allegedly gunned

down one of their own in broad daylight. They know that their rule will soon come to an end, and they know that the executors of that rule will be the same people who have lived under their boot for decades and centuries. The capitalist class is trembling, and the people are for the first time in a long time aware of their trembling.

The rich rule by the decrees of their courts and the batons and guns of their police force. They rule at a distance and send others to do their dirty work for them. The people, when awakened to their potential for revolutionary power, have no use for such deception. Their court is the barricade; their decrees rip through the air like thunder and send the rich running for their lives. The people do not deliver justice to tyrants by banging a gavel and reading a verdict; they deliver justice to tyrants by casting them face first into the mud. The tyrants know this, and they know that their time is coming fast.

# Events & Orgs: Praxis in Action

## ANSWERS FROM PAGE THIRTEEN:

They are all Adam Smith quotes!

### MLK MARCH

January 20th. 3pm GJ City Hall  
to the Handy Chapel, 202 White Ave.  
Sponsored by Black Citizens and Friends

### Free Palestine Rally

10:30 am to 12:30pm @  
12th and North, GJ  
January 4 & 18

JANUARY NEWS BRIEFS

**AI Whistleblower Found Dead**  
Suchir Balaji was found dead in his apartment in San Francisco at the end of November. Balaji worked for Open AI as a researcher until he quit in August. On October 23, he posted a blog post and tweet about how generative AI does not fall under fair use and does in fact violate the Copyright Act. His death was ruled a suicide.

**Jail to Deny HIV Medicines to Inmates**  
The contractor that provides medical care to inmates in the Mesa County jail says they won't pay for abortions or HIV drugs. The Sheriff's office said there had been 58 pregnant inmates in 2024. NaphCare is an Alabama based company that specializes in Correctional Health Care. Inmate health costs locally are expected to rise from \$5.7 million per year to \$7 million per year by 2029.

**New Zine Project in the Grand Valley**  
We want to extend a hearty welcome to *The Grand Valley Zine Club*. They expect to meet monthly to compile a collaborative zine each month. Email to get more details on how to participate. [grayscalerainbowzine@gmail.com](mailto:grayscalerainbowzine@gmail.com)

**Deputy Arrested for Human Trafficking**  
Ivan Sundheim, a former El Paso County Sheriff Deputy was arrested in Texas on December 10, and charged with human trafficking which took place while he was serving as a deputy.

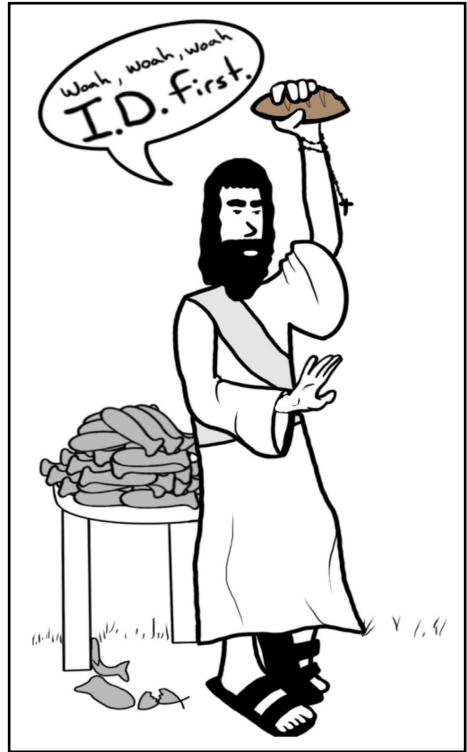
**Strike!**  
As of December 12, there have been 318 labor actions in 478 locations across America in 2024. Bus drivers in Fresno, California struck for two days on December 17. Amazon workers across the country struck just days before Christmas, with strikers arrested in New York. Starbucks' workers are on strike in nine states and dozens of locations. A month-long strike at an IKEA distribution center in Pennsylvania continues. Thousands of Hyatt, Marriott and Hilton hotel workers in San Francisco are on the picket-line. 2300 Kaiser Permanente behavioral health professionals have been on strike since October. Unions are one of

the very few organizations in America with the capacity to resist. Join a union. Stand in solidarity, never cross a picket line. We are all in this together.

**Aspen Meadows Resort Promises to Not Abuse Immigrant Workers Anymore**  
*Aspen Journalism* broke a story that is likely just the tip of the iceberg, about worker discrimination, pay discrimination, and substandard housing and worse. The for profit corporation promises they won't do it anymore.

**People's March 2024**  
The annual women's march is now a People's March and is in coordination with protests around the nation. Marches are planned in Durango, Grand Junction, and Glenwood Springs! See you in the streets on January 18th!

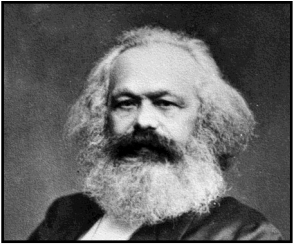
**Soup Kitchen Turns Away the Hungry**  
For the first time in the 50 year history of



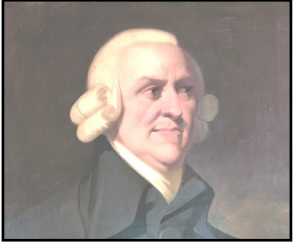
By Byn McB

Karl Marx or Adam Smith

Karl Marx, the father of capitalism vs. Adam Smith the father of free market capitalism. These two political economic philosophies that have been at odds for centuries. But can you identify which thinker said which quote?



VS



	KM	AS
"The labor of the farmer is, in this sense, the source of all wealth."	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
"The division of labor, in the progress of society, is the principal cause of the increase of the productive powers of labor."	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
"The landlord... is the person who enjoys the highest rents in a country, and often the most improper advantage over the other classes of the society."	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
"The labor of the poor, as it were, is the foundation of the wealth of the rich."	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
"The division of labor... is the principal cause of the increase of the productive powers of labor. But it has the effect of reducing the worker to a mere instrument of labor."	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
"The state is rarely concerned with the interests of the poor."	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
"The great inequality of wealth... is the natural consequence of the unequal distribution of the produce of labor."	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
"The accumulation of capital in a few hands, where it is naturally employed, increases the inequality of fortunes."	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ANSWERS on Page Fourteen



# Injustice in Gaza: A Muslim Perspective

By Che Bou-Matar

*Speech was given to the Grand Valley Interfaith Network, December 10th, at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Grand Valley.*

I am happy to see many familiar faces of friends and I want to thank Wendy for personally inviting me. I am pleased to see the proceeds are going for the children in Palestine.

Helping the victims, especially children is one of the most pressing needs and responsibilities of our times. I have so much to say in a short amount of time, may God enlighten our hearts. I

want to bring awareness of the absolute horror, pain and suffering to the people of Gaza that has occurred for more than a year, 430 days. It goes back much further. To understand how you are at this present moment you have to study and understand the sequence of historical events and moments that have led to it. Before I proceed I want to make it clear the difference between the great religion of Judaism and the Zionist movement. This doesn't make me anti-Semitic to be against Zionism, my ancestors from my fathers side are Semitic from Lebanon and my mom is American so I am in a position to discuss both sides. Given the time constraint I am going to give you key historical dates and events and I'll encourage anyone to read both points of views and decide for yourself, the Palestinian and the Israeli perspective.

The first Zionist Congress in Switzerland was in 1897. You have to go back 100 years, to the colonial rule of the British Mandate of Palestine, which required the Balfour Declaration to be put into effect to create, "national home for the Jewish people." Before the British mandate the Jewish people made up 6% of the population in Palestine. In 1948,



*Bi-monthly Free Palestine Rally hosted by Humanity and Justice Advocates of Grand Junction. 12th and North Grand Junction.*

over 76 years ago the British Mandate established the State of Israel, during this time is called the Nakba, the great catastrophe 15,000 were killed and 700,000 native Palestinians were expelled from their land that is 80% of the native people at the time. The Nakba was a land grab of 78% of historic Palestine. Approximately 25% of the people expelled sought refuge in Gaza. In response to this humanitarian disaster UNRWA (UN Relief and Works Agency) was formed in 1949 to provide relief to the Palestinian refugees. Recently in October 2024 the Israeli parliament passed a bill designating UNRWA as a terrorist group.

Gaza has been under complete blockage, under siege from Israel and Egypt since 2007 when the people of Gaza elected Hamas as an elected government. That is 17 years; Gaza has become an open air prison.

What has happened in the past year is worse and more devastating than

# Most Censored News of 2023/24

By Jacob Richards

Project Censored released its list of the most censored stories of 2023-2024 on December 3. Started in 1976 by Professor Carl Jensen at Sonoma State University, the project now includes faculty and students from around North America. The Top 25 Stories of 2023-24 have been selected from several hundred candidate stories submitted by 206 student researchers from nine US college and university campuses.

Check out the full list of the 25 most censored stories of 2023-2024 at: <https://www.projectcensored.org>

## #10 Generative AI Apps Raise Serious Security Concerns

More than just an existential threat AI apps are a threat to cybersecurity. Original reporting in

ethics and effectiveness. *Inside Higher Education* reported on the rule change that would bring institutions receiving federal funds into line with states like Colorado, which banned transcript withholding in 2022.

## #7 Military Personnel Target Gen Z Recruits with Lurid Social Media Tactics

*MintPress News* reported on the military's use of 'thirst-traps' to lure in new recruits. Sex sells, and Army Psychological Operations Specialist Hailley Lujan is one of them selling it. Lujan's TikTok has amassed over 300k followers. Her videos are sexy, suggestive and always hinting for the viewer to join up.

## #6 Global Forest Protection Goals at Risk

In 2021, the UN adopted measures to halt deforestation by 2030. A Forest Declara-



## The News That Didn't Make The News

*Infosecurity Magazine*, found that sensitive data that is input into these apps can also be extracted, making businesses, organizations and governments open to data breaches and attacks.

## #9 "Acquitted-Conduct" Challenged by US Commission

Federal judges have long been able to, in a practice known as acquitted-conduct sentencing, use charges that defendants were already acquitted of to calculate their current sentence under federal sentencing guidelines. However in April of 2024, the United States Sentencing Commission voted to end the practice. "Not Guilty means not guilty." said US District Judge Carlton W. Reeves. *Law360* and *Reason* magazine have led the way with their reporting on this issue.

## #8 New Federal Rule Limits Transcript Withholding by Colleges and Universities

Transcript withholding is a tactic used by colleges and universities to collect unpaid debts. Many have questioned the practice's

tion Assessment released in October of 2023 found that deforestation was happening at a rate 21% higher and in tropical forests 33% higher, than rates agreed upon in 2021. The story was only covered by *The Conversation* and *Common Dreams*.

## #5 Abortion Services Censored on Social Platforms Globally

According to a November 2023 report by the *Women's Media Center* online abortion services and providers are facing global censorship on social media outlets after the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* ruling that overturned *Roe v. Wade*. Platforms like Instagram, Facebook, TikTok and Google have all restricted reproductive health information. Only *Wired*, *Slate* and *The Guardian* covered this major story.

# Colo. Teachers Unions Under Threat

By Rich Evans

Line up and knock them down. The neo-liberal playbook of defunding public services entities, declaring them failures, then privatizing them can be best witnessed in public education. For the last seventy years, coinciding with the white backlash of desegregation, the fever dream of destroying the world renowned American public education system has played out. Democrats and Republicans

have all taken part; Republicans more overtly, Democrats the more covertly. Together they have undermined, discredited, and destroyed the system that will allow our nation to thrive. While public education is due massive reforms, its privatization will do much greater harm.

That harm is nearing its apex. While we might be a few generations removed from complete desolation, the wheels are turning and the first obstacles are being removed. Before public education can be destroyed, teachers unions, educators committed to each other and their students, must be removed. Taking away the voice of those with the most direct contact with our students, the most knowledge of what is needed, allows the vultures easier access to our taxpayer.

Just last month, Colorado Springs School District 11, the 12th largest state school district, refused to create a contract with the teachers' union, Colorado Springs Education Association. Their current contract will run out this year and after that their rights will meet the same end. These losses are in part thanks to the addition of lawyer Suzzane Taheri of West Group - for the small fee of \$100,000 - and a commu-

nications budget of \$18,000 - all paid with Colorado Springs tax-payers dollars (plus yours as a state tax payer) Colorado Springs Education Association is on its backfoot. While they have some room to maneuver, walkouts, strikes, etc. for all intents and purposes there is no District 11 teacher union post spring 2025.

While CSEA is the first major union to fall in recent history, other districts are testing the waters. The Woodland



Park School District recently settled with the teachers union after they had violated teachers First Amendment rights. It is illegal to require approval of bosses before being allowed to discuss working conditions with the press or on

social media. Without the union, it would have been harder to pursue holding the district accountable for breaking labor law. While this was a win, the union, and teachers are still under threat.

These school districts, and District 51 share some common threads. In 2021, after the defeat of Donald Trump, Republicans were in the tailspin. The party eventually turned back to its proven formula, racism. In the owning class backlash against the George Floyd uprising, conservatives found their footing. They turned a little known legal study, Critical Race Theory, into the issue of the time. Branding CRT as a Marxist plot to demonize white children and radicalize students into becoming anti-American, the bourgeoisie used this panic to claim victory. Astroturf groups like Mom's for Liberty pushed anti trans bigotry while proclaiming themselves protectors of children.. It was a national craze and groups like Americans for Pros-

## UNION From Page Six

perity and Turning Points USA took full advantage. Public schools were now in the hands of those who wanted to sell them off.

With this new found public support, the reactionary boards went to work. In both D11 and Woodland Park the new majorities replaced the superintendent and the legal team. D51 was an exception to this. Because of community organizing and rank and file union members, residents shuttered the conservative momentum. Mesa county residents stopped the removal of former superintendent Diana Sirko, and former assistant and now current superintendent Brian Hill. Additionally, we stopped the hiring of the Miller Law firm, the firm hired by Woodland Park School District to dismantle their union. These maneuvers have at least given District 51 teacher union, Mesa Valley Education Association (MVEA), some time.

The concern is what the union leadership is doing with that time. Last year, the school board negotiated the end of salary sharing the MVEA union presidents salary. A forty-year precedent. It is no surprise how manhandled the union was with its lack of demands and minimal strategy. You can learn more from my previous piece in issue #6 of *The Revolutionist*.

The silver lining of last year's loss was the turnout of membership. The union hasn't seen rank and file attending negotiations for years. The union would be wise to build on the energy of its people. They cannot fail again. We cannot fail again.

It is time we, as a community, step up again. We have stopped this madness before. Our district was on the brink of complete overhaul and we stopped them. While I hope the union elects new

leaders it is unlikely for that to happen in the near term. So we must lead again.

You might tell yourself "this is not my fight, as I am not a teacher." Unless you are in the owning class, this is your fight. It is proven that unions improve workplace conditions for everyone, even workers without unions. Workers want better wages and living conditions. Unions, through collective action, win those demands. Workers leave employers that do not meet those demands for shops that do. Thus, capitalists recognizing that they need to retain their labor offer those incentives.

Mesa Valley

Education Association will be negotiating its contract for the 2025-26 school year. This will be the final guaranteed contract year. If you believe in supporting labor rights and workers having a voice in their workplace, it is time to prove it. Negotiations will begin in the spring. They are open to the public. Below is a list of actions you can take to support the union.

Remember, this not

only is in your interest as a member of the working class, it is also in defense of the promise of taxpayer funded, inclusive and quality education now and for future generations.

1. Attend the negotiations.
2. Bring food and coffee for other attendees.
3. Write letter to editor or guest columns to local news outlets supporting the union.
4. Speak to your neighbors about the importance of having good public school educators.
5. Follow Mesa Valley Education Association on Facebook to keep up to date - share their posts.
6. Form your own union at your workplace.

Solidarity forever,





## BREIFS from Page Four

the Catholic Outreach Soup Kitchen is turning people away hungry for not providing a name. This crackdown is in preparation of the institution of the Clarity ID system at service providers around the city, which will under the guise of 'accountability,' will make resources harder to access for many.

### Zionist Settlers Moving into Syria

+972 Magazine provides some of the best journalism coming out of the conflict zone. They are reporting that on the tails of Israeli troops moving in and taking territory in recently 'liberated' Syria, settlers are looking to seize as much land as possible. In leaked Whatsapp messages one member of Uri Tsafon said "We have to conquer and destroy. As much as possible, and as quickly as possible." Uri Tsafon was formed earlier this year to organize Zionist settlement in southern Lebanon.

### By-Standards Step In and Stop Vigilante

Setting an example for the rest of us, by-standards jumped in when Patrick Egan assaulted a KJCT/KKCO news employee. The initial confrontation took place at 25rd and Hwy 6 & 50, where Egan demanded paperwork to prove the unnamed victim was in the US legally. Egan then followed the victim to the news station. The victim had called ahead, letting coworkers know that they were under threat. They were smart and MOVED TOWARDS WITNESSES! At the news station Egan tackled the victim and choked them until coworkers took action saving their co-worker and then PHYSICALLY RESTRAINED the man until police arrived. Egan has been charged with a hate crime, and sits in Mesa County Jail on a \$20,000 bond. Egan was driving a Sunshine Taxi at the time and has since lost his job.

### \$116 Million 'Rape Club' Settlement

The federal government has agreed to pay \$116 million dollars to over 100 former inmates and survivors of systemic sexual harassment and assault at the Women's Federal Prison in Dublin California. The facility was the scene of rampant daily, sexual harassment and violence committed by guards. "We were sentenced to prison, we were not sentenced to be assaulted and abused," Aimee Chavi told NPR.

## CENSORED from Page Five

### #4 Natural Gas Industry Hid Health and Climate Risks of Gas Stoves

Rebeca Leber, writing for Vox, detailed how the gas industry used tactics similar to big-Tobacco to avoid mounting evidence of human health and environmental ills associated with gas stoves. In November of 2023, NPR and the *Climate Investigations Center* published evidence of a widespread disinformation campaign.

### #3 Saltwater Intrusion Threatens US Freshwater Supplies

In the fall of 2023, saltwater traveled up the Mississippi River and contaminated the drinking water systems of communities across the delta. Rising sea levels have made saltwater intrusion more common and a threat across more of the nation. Holly Michael with *The Conversation* has exposed this nationwide threat where other outlets have downplayed the seriousness while covering the intrusion in the Louisiana delta in fall of 2023, as an isolated event.

### #2 A Vicious Circle of Climate and Debt Traps World's Most Vulnerable Nations

The climate crisis is having disproportionate impacts on poorer countries. Countries are trapped between debt to international lenders like the IMF, responding to increases in natural disasters and taking costly action to reduce climate impacts. "How do we pursue climate action? We are fiscally constrained," said Minister of State for Finance in Belize, Christopher Coye, in the *World Resources Institute* report issued in September of 2023.

### #1 1000s Killed or Injured at Work

Working not only sucks, it's often dangerous. Those dangers tend to disproportionately affect non-white and low income earners. Tyler Walicek reported for *Truthout* that the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries found a 5.7 percent increase in workplace deaths during the 2021-2022 census. In 2022, 6000 US workers died on the job. On average, a US worker was killed at work every 96 minutes. On average there were 3.7 workplace deaths per 100,000 full-time workers. Black workers (4.2) and Chicanx workers (4.6) had significantly higher rates of workplace deaths.

# Poetry Showcase

## people displaced by climate change are not recognized in international law as "refugees"

"We sweat and cry salt water, so we know that the ocean is really in our blood." - Teresia Teaiwa

distant mountains enshrined in fine mist,  
a foreign desert breathing easier, an island,  
somewhere, drowning, a family, somewhere,  
gathering tears, one by one, to keep the water  
at bay, to pacify the storm.

we mark our advent calendars, counting down  
to te kabuanibai, counting down the years, the days,  
the minutes, the hours, first to see the dawn of the new  
millennium, first to make a silenced exit, muffled  
under six inches of water,

meanwhile, a family is gathering tears,  
old men and women moor their roots deeper  
than the banyan trees, ready to die as one rather than live  
in the world as motherless ghosts.

were nareau to reach down with his great long legs  
and command the eel to dig out the deep, to reawaken  
the shore, perhaps, he, too, would break each limb off  
at the knee, and lift his people on stilts from the sea,  
weave their maneaba among the clouds, and let them  
weep their great weeping, so that the world might know  
the hollow terror of the rise, might drink the acid rain  
of memory as it falls from their eyes stinging

meanwhile, a family is gathering tears

—tahirih bochmann—

## Remember, Remember the 4th of December

There once was a meeting in New York  
where a hero turned a pig into pork.  
"Deny, Defend, Dispose" on casing he wrote.  
Instead of outrage the people felt hope  
Now is the time to sharpen your pitchfork

—Wat Tyler—



## Love/Insanity

“The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and science.” - Albert Einstein

I wrote my first poem when I was barely eight years old.  
America, that amorphous open horizon in my adolescent eye  
was reeling from the consequences of wanton imperialism  
3,000 killed in a terrorist attack on our own stolen soil &  
childishly oblivious to the scale of this national suffering  
I was already immobilized that first encounter with mortality.  
Two towers. Two planes. Two days prior. Grandpa died.  
What does a mere child know of meter or mourning?

My grandfather's true passion was planting peonies.  
Large hands scarred from the booms and the busts  
of the coals mines and the orchard's bashful bounty  
how precisely they tended his paramore's shy emergence.  
I would swear later - in a late night edit of that first draft  
that even the flowers in his garden plots wilted that night  
so desperate was I to impart some significance to tragedy  
in defiance of seasons and the limits of flesh worn form.

The practice of constructing eulogies from unspoken regret  
became a rhythm dictating the course of my circuitous grief  
every man pruned and parceled and placed in practical lines  
wavering will-o-wisps illuminating an unnamed longing.  
What is a scientist but an elegist before lamentations supplant  
the optimistic pursuit of creation and art worthy of eternity?  
Are we only monstrously bionic creatures but half made up  
transferring the love we have lost to loves that yet live?

Perhaps every budding poet is just a posturing homunculi  
comprised of reticent farewells and neglected forget me nots  
in equal measure. Death becomes a lucrative writing career.  
How often have I suffocated darling cabbages in soliloquies  
buried them in top soil and verse before they begin to bloom?  
Love remains a beautiful mystery despite our shortcomings  
defiantly sprouting from weather torn pallet boxes unbidden  
begging us to remember and return to dust and start anew.

Meanwhile the Milky Way persists in its curlicue insanity -  
the waning crescent plays anxious and avoidant with the seas  
the sandhill cranes sing-song from nesting grounds surrendered  
the final fruit falls and festers in unfulfilled sweet nothings  
the bats migrate from their summer caves. Like you 400 miles  
away from here still clinging to the permanence of these stanzas  
we star-crossed lover boys dancing to gravity's invincible relativity  
find each other once more and plummet in dizzying deference.

Even in death Grampa found wisdom in the ecclesiastical  
a time to plant and a time to pluck up that which is planted.  
Each of us is bound to stand amongst the ruin of foreign forces  
haphazardly stumbling through the desolation of our misfortune  
searching for signs of the departed we pray defy the inevitable.  
When I write of you now in solitude I am that eight year old

moored to my memories and eyes heaven cast in wonder pleading  
that tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow I will see you again.

—Caleb Ferganchick—

*“Love/Insanity” was written as an exercise for the Voices of the Barrio poetry slam team. Voices of the Barrio will compete in the Chicharra Poetry Slam Festival in Albuquerque, New Mexico in March, 2025.*

## DEFEND THE TRUTH

It's spring meadow-marching weather, so Capt. Barefoot is out & about  
listening to meadowlarks on fenceposts & chasing tiger swallowtails  
Heshe's got flowerbeds to tend so shehe's out pulling weeds as well  
tugging the elfin stalks of cheatgrass with their dopey nodding heads  
& whitetop – snowy amanita outcrops in a landslide of green, edible  
but invasive too. Having to sort through what will live in hisher

landscape & what needs to be gone

Sets herhim thinking. Perhaps “falsifying business records” done in defense of  
liberty might pass ethical muster at some of our college campuses – Ah Liberty!

Fickle dame of freedom for all (except you & you

& you). And perhaps “falsifying business records” for personal gain may indeed  
be “typical business practices” as underlined in red in loyalist lawyer Todd

Blanche's bedside business bible  
But as the Log Hill recluse Budada Jack Mueller

would often intone

in circumstances like this: “I don't think so!”  
Damn right no, snarls Capt. B.

Mouthpieces blanched & flushed & beyond make-up  
Don't need be no Catholic to count lying among life's mortal sins

Call it a catastrophic rupturing of trust

But then “falsifying business records” are crimes of white-collar intent  
not passion. Cold, calculating, ruthless. Planned out beforehand not wildly  
chosen on the run. Measured in quid pro quos if not outright bribes  
Bad intentions like invasive plants can corrupt an economic landscape  
which is why we look to our laws, our government to protect us from  
the excesses of mercenary capitalism. But, as empires break apart,  
sneers Capt. B, it's hard to trust anyone upholding undeniable truths

in a haves & have-nots system of winners take all

Juries may convict  
weeds may get picked  
but crime it seems still pays

—Art Goodtimes—

