



R A D C H A T T E R

Welcome to the first edition of the SWAA Radchatter! This newsletter will come out bimonthly, as a benefit to our paid members. Please reach out to nsc@socialwelfareactionalliance.org with feedback or submissions.

Upcoming SWAA Events

Are you concerned about the rise of **regressive and oppressive** laws across the country?

Are you wondering how you can **fight back**?


Are you Interested in engaging in **collective care** and supporting one another?

➔

Then join us for SWAA's virtual
#RadChats


TOPIC: PUSHING BACK WHEN UNDER ASSAULT & KEEPING YOUR DAY JOB

Tuesday, April 2nd at 8 PM ET



#RadChats are hour-long, open-ended drop-in sessions hosted by SWAA volunteers. This month, we'll share ideas about how to push back against human rights abuses packaged as policy and discuss why mainstream social work organizations are neither vocal nor active enough in protecting and advocating for our rights.

TO LEARN MORE AND REGISTER, VISIT SOCIALWELFAREACTIONALLIANCE.ORG



Join us Tuesday, April 2nd for another rousing #RadChat!



Save the Date

THURSDAY APRIL 25TH
8 PM ET/5 PM PT

World on Fire: Integrating Environmental Justice Into Social Work

A Panel Discussion

More info coming soon

Watch for an official invite soon for our April 25th panel!

Connecticut Chapter Update

The Social Welfare Action Alliance Connecticut Chapter has been very active since its inception in 2020. Following the successful “Abolition Workshop Series” in 2022, SWAA-CT held its first “People’s Hearing in May of 2023. This event brought together representatives of grassroots community organizations, many representing or comprised of individuals with lived experience, to raise awareness of bills or issues that did not make it through the legislative process, or even get consideration, in the 2023 legislative session. The event was attended by approximately 50 community activists and allies, and one prominent state legislator, a social worker.

[Continue Reading](#)

SWASC Chapter Update

Issue-based chapter Social Workers & Allies Against Solitary Confinement (SWASC) is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. Thus far in 2024, they have unveiled a new logo (seen here!), presented at the CRISP Virtual Student Advocacy Day, and worked hard on advocating for a NY state bill that will require healthcare workers to report any instances of torture or mistreatment they witness behind bars.

To learn more about their work, visit socialworkersasc.org. To get involved or join their monthly meetings, email swasc999@gmail.com.



RECAP:

OUR POLITICS ARE LOCAL

The Threat from the Right and
Organizing in Your Community
Part I: Schools

Thursday, February 29th

8 pm EST

Free, virtual

Visit socialwelfareactionalliance.org to register

Getting involved in community organizing can seem so daunting! Join us to hear from a panel of community activists as they share analyses and action strategies they've used to create change, especially within their school systems. Q&A to follow.

Panelists include:

- Tiffany Porter (she/they) founder, Being Black in the Burbs & Accomplices; fierce warrior for social and racial justice
- Dorian Cromartie (he/him) union organizer, Southeastern & Eastern regions of North Carolina at the NC AFLCIO; chair, political action of local NAACP
- Ricardo Adams (he/him) community activist and public school advocate who served on the Rochester, NY city school board

presented by 

Thanks to those of you who joined us for our February 29th SWAA panel in which community activists shared experiences and strategies to making political change, particularly within their school systems.

NOTE: The April 2nd event is intended to be a follow-up to this panel discussion and invites participants to discuss personal examples and dilemmas of trying to fight back against oppressive systems and policies. If you missed it, we encourage you to watch the video [here](#).

From Our Members



On March 25th, National Steering Committee member Mallory Knipe was appointed to the Human Rights Commission for Brooklyn Park, MN, the second largest suburb in the Twin Cities. The Human Rights Commission assists the Minnesota Department of Human Rights in implementing state laws against discrimination and advises the City Council on long-range programs to ensure that human service needs are met. Members of the commission seek to ensure equal opportunity in employment, housing, public accommodations, public services, and education. As a member of the SWAA's NSC, and former member of the Minnesota Poor People's Campaign Coordinating Committee, Mallory is excited to now become more involved at the local level in this position.

My Hebrew School Education

**by Joel Blau, Professor Emeritus of
Social Policy at Stony Brook University
School of Social Welfare & SWAA
founding member**

On Sundays in the mid-1950s, I went to Hebrew School. It was there that I learned that Israel was the land of milk and honey. It was there that I was taught about Arthur Balfour, the British Foreign Secretary, who had declared in 1917 that Britain was favorably disposed to the creation of a Jewish state in Palestine. It was there, too, I learned that at long last, the Jewish people in Israel would be safe.

From the perspective of a young boy in the 1950s, it all made so much sense. Six million Jews had been killed in the Holocaust. Many of our parents and grandparents had narrowly escaped, and we all had relatives who had been murdered. "Next year," we said, "in Jerusalem." To send a tree to Israel, as I did at my Bar Mitzvah, was very much doing the right thing, because when the people without a land took possession of a land without people, it would be--with my tree--an even greener place.

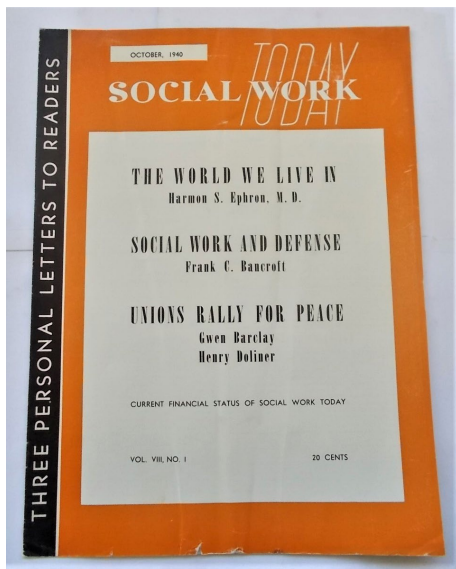
My emotional connection with Israel persisted into the 1970s...

[Continue Reading...](#)

Interested in supporting SWAA's work?

Donate Today

Things to Check Out



The Social Welfare History Group is pleased to announce that *Social Work Today*, the journal of the Rank and File movement, has been digitized. You can explore these historical issues in the [Social Welfare History Archives](#).



National Steering Committee member Tanya Burgess has been busy with a podcast. "Campaigns in the Aging Journey Podcast" (AJP) explore the strange and unusual experiences of growing up and the horror of Time in various systems. The AJP's mission is to "provide a safe space for diverse role-players to explore aging and other lived experiences, unite diverse communities, and decrease social isolation through online gameplay." Listen [here](#).



From the International Federation of Social Workers statement on World Social Work Day (March 19th, 2024) by Rory Truell, *Secretary-General of the International Federation of Social Workers*

"[To] the social workers, their families and communities that are working in situations of war and violence. We acknowledge that your role in advancing peace at the civil society level is critical to your own communities and beyond..."

Continue Reading [Here](#)

FEATURED RESOURCE

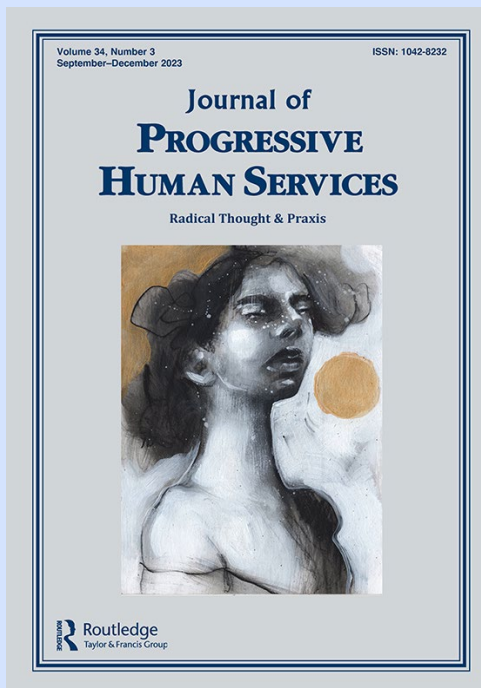
History of the Social Welfare Action Alliance

Audio Interview with Fred Newdom, ACSW, former Chair of the Social Welfare Policy sequence and Coordinator of Community Practice at the Smith College School for Social Work, and a founding member and long-time chair of the Social Welfare Action Alliance (formerly the Bertha Reynolds Society).

This recording includes highlights of Bertha Capen Reynolds' life, and why she was considered so radical. Today the Bertha Capen Reynolds Society, begun in 1985, promotes recognition of the need to focus on the roots of social work: social justice action and advocacy for all those still oppressed in today's neoliberal capitalist economy.

Listen Here

JPHS Subscription Discount for SWAA Members



The *Journal of Progressive Human Services: Radical Thought and Praxis* covers political, social, personal, and professional problems in human services from a progressive perspective and has a long-standing affiliation with the [Social Welfare Action Alliance](#) (SWAA). Members of SWAA can now purchase a discounted print/online subscription to the journal for \$30. Contact societies@tandf.co.uk and include the name of society (SWAA) to subscribe.

If you're interested in being a reviewer for the JPHS, contact Flower Noble at jphsflower@yahoo.com



Social Welfare Action Alliance

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