



Union Hall of Honor “Labor & Education” Sponsors & Highlights

ILHS Year in Review

New Pullman Status

Book Review: *American Midnight: the Great War, a Violent Peace, and Democracy’s Forgotten Crisis*

Mother Jones Monument Update

**Do You Know Your
Labor History?**

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**- A. Philip Randolph “Gentle
Warrior Awards” Gala**

**- Dr. Ericka Wills: From Illinois
Cornfields to Workers’ Struggles**

**- “Joe Hill: Alive as You and
Me” Performance**

In Memoriam

Membership Renewal Campaign

WE DID IT!

Illinois Workers Pass Workers’ Rights Amendment!



Illinois voters approved the historic Workers’ Rights Amendment on November 8, 2022.

“The Workers’ Rights Amendment guarantees every Illinois citizen their fundamental right to organize their workplace and bargain collectively for better pay and safe workplaces. It permanently outlaws any attempt to pass as so-called ‘right-to-work (for less).’ Illinois will be the fourth state to enshrine the right to collective bargaining in its constitution.”

- ED FINKELSTEIN, *Labor Tribune*

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



As I write this column, the University of Illinois-Chicago faculty successfully won a contract after a strike. Not only did the union strike for better wages and conditions, but also mental health support for students. This strike follows on the heels of the national railway workers dispute that resulted in a settlement imposed by the federal government. Unfortunately, the settlement did not include improvements in staffing or time off that the twelve unions sought.

Currently, AFSCME Council 31 is in contract negotiations for over 35,000 state employees, with a major focus on improved staffing. Over the last few years, Chicago teachers have made student support services and housing for low income families a central part of their agenda for better schools. Nurses have struck all around the country with staffing ratios as a key element of their bargaining proposals.

While the pandemic has played a major role in bringing issues of staffing, time off, and health and safety to the forefront, issues such as these have often been key components of workers' bargaining demands from the earliest days of worker organizing.

From mine safety and safer food production at the beginning of the 20th century to anti-discrimination policies and the establishment of OSHA standards in the 1960s and 1970s, quality of life issues have become an increasingly important part of the fight for workers' rights, whether through collective bargaining or social legislation. The fights for smaller classes, mental health services for students, and sustainable community schools, are current day examples of these struggles.

Corporate media portrays workers' struggles as simply about wages, ignoring the fight for better conditions. Recent organizing at Amazon and Starbucks was as much about fast-paced production and hours as it was about wages.

Since our 1969 founding, the Illinois Labor History

Society documents and preserves these struggles. Who would have thought that Upton Sinclair's, *The Jungle*, published in 1906, would still resonate today? The story of the Stockyards in the early 1900s is the story of meat packing today—a low-wage, fast-paced, and dangerous job, predominantly performed by immigrants. This, despite the fact that today's production may have moved to other midwestern states in a quest for 'cheaper pastures'.

It's never been "just about the money." Labor history to the present has always been a story of economic and social justice in the workplace and beyond. When I became a teacher out of college, the first in-service training I attended was about how to teach Black History. As a new teacher, I was fascinated to learn that civil rights issues were connected to workers' struggles such as the Pullman Porters and the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, to the "I AM A MAN" Memphis sanitation workers strike in 1968.

These above examples always lead me to the same conclusion: The story of America is the story of working people and their struggles to improve all aspects of their objective conditions. Whenever workers speak up, anti-union and anti-worker attacks follow. When the Workers' Rights Amendment to the Illinois Constitution passed this last November, corporate shills such as The Illinois Policy Institute went on a rampage, railing against it, insinuating large tax increases to the general public, and other false claims that unions were wresting away complete control over state government and the economy.

Corporate resistance to workers' rights in all aspects will be with us as long as there is any diminution of profit making and control over the workforce. But history is on our side in these fights for economic and social justice. Let's keep making history so that the Illinois Labor History Society can keep sharing it!

Larry Spivack

2022 Union Hall of Honor
THANK YOU to our SPONSORS!

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LIUNA Chicago Laborers' District Council
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Pointers, Cleaners, and Caulkers Local 21
Teamsters Local 727

2022 Union Hall of Honor Salutes Labor & Education

The Illinois Labor History Society celebrated this year's Union Hall of Honor on December 2, 2022 at the Operating Engineers Local 399 Banquet Hall. Inducted into the Union Hall of Honor were John Penn (LIUNA), Ron Peters (University of Illinois Labor Education Program), the late Bill Pelz (AFT) and the late Karen Lewis (CTU). American Federation of Teachers' President Randi Weingarten was our guest speaker. The evening's emcee was Chicago Federation of Labor Secretary-Treasurer Don Villar.

A special THANK YOU to the Unions and Organizations that SPONSORED this year's UHH!



A full house at Operating Engineers Local 399 hall.



Musicians Bucky Halker and Don Stiernberg warm up the crowd.



IFT President Dan Montgomery introduced AFT President Randi Weingarten.



American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten was the guest speaker.

"This is a great state for labor, the history of labor, top to bottom, in the trades and the public, absolutely."

— IFT President Dan Montgomery

"If Karen were still alive today, it wouldn't be me that Mike Pompeo called the 'most dangerous woman in the world', it would probably be the then Mayor of the City of Chicago Karen Lewis."

"She understood that teaching was not just teaching in her classroom, but it was teaching all of us to understand the use of the muscle of social action and social justice. Not just to talk about it, not just to believe in it, but actually how to walk it and use that muscle and share it with others. That was how we changed society."

— Randi Weingarten

Highlights

Union Hall of Honor 2022



"John has dedicated his life to the labor movement and to his community." "He's been a warrior for workers on safety."
— ULLICO CEO Edward Smith

"Educating that member is the best thing we can do."
— UHH Inductee John Penn



To be a successful labor educator requires genuinely caring about building strong relationships with workers and union leaders. Ron Peters invested in every relationship and treated the workers that took labor studies classes as partners in a grand mission to make work and life a little more just, bearable, and meaningful.
— Professor Bob Bruno



"I found my years in labor education to be very fulfilling."
— Ronald J Peters



Top Row: Left — ULLICO CEO Edward Smith inducts John F Penn into the Union Hall of Honor. Center — John F Penn accepting his induction into the ILHS Union Hall of Honor. Right — ULLICO CEO Edward Smith, inductee John F Penn, and CFL's Don Villar with Union Hall of Honor certificate. Middle Row: Left — Bob Bruno, Director of the School of Labor Relations and Employment at UIUC. Right — Union Hall of Honor Inductee Ronald J Peters. Bottom Row: ILHS President Larry Spivack, UHH Inductee Ron Peters, UIUC Labor Education Program Director Bob Bruno, and CFL Sec-Treas Don Villar.

Highlights

Union Hall of Honor 2022



“For Bill, the struggle for ideas, for internationalism, and for class consciousness was paramount. A world-renowned historian and scholar, at the same time, one of us.”

— Professor Eric Schuster

“He was an advocate of writing history from below. Which is an attempt to view history from the perspective of the common man and exploration of how the actions of common men and women influence the course of history.”

— Dr Adrienne Butler, wife of the late William A Pelz



“Karen Lewis knew better than any union leader that I have ever engaged with that our work is in the plural pronoun. That it is about ‘we’ and ‘us’. It is about the movement, not just of your wages and benefits, but it is of the movement of social justice, of economic justice, of racial justice, and of educational justice.”

“You remember her as a leader who said that you can fight for your wages and benefits, you can be a trade unionist, but you can be a representative of humanity.”

— CTU President Stacy Davis Gates



Top Row: Left — Professor Eric Schuster inducting the late William A Pelz. Right — CFL Sec-Treas Don Villar, Dr Adrienne Butler, and Professor Eric Schuster with Union Hall of Honor certificate for the late William A Pelz. Center Row: Dr Adrienne Butler accepts the Union Hall of Honor certificate on behalf of her late husband. Bottom Row: Left — CTU President Stacy Davis Gates accepts Union Hall of Honor certificate on behalf of the late Karen GJ Lewis. Right — CTU President Stacy Davis Gates and CFL Sec-Treas Don Villar with Union Hall of Honor certificate honoring the late Karen GJ Lewis.

Highlights

Union Hall of Honor 2022



Top Row: Left — ILHS members Ed Green and Julia Berkowitz behind the ILHS Book Table. Center — Inductees Ronald Peters and John Penn in conversation. Right — Musicians Renée Nanzer, Bill Brickey, Bucky Halker, and Don Stierberg. Second Row: Left — Ronald Peters Family. Center — CFL's Don Villar, Workers United's Carlos Ginard, & ILHS' & retired IEA Dave Rathke. Right — John Penn family. Third Row: Left — Illinois Secretary of State-elect Alexi Giannoulias, John Penn, Edward Smith, Peter Fosco. Center — Chicago Laborers. Right — Bloomington Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 99 Jay Logan, Jerry Kelleher, and Wade Wirick. Bottom Row: Left — ILHS members Liesl Orenic and Tom Suhrbur at the ticket table. Center — Renée Nanzer and Bill Brickey closing out the evening with Solidarity Forever. Right — University of Illinois Educators with IFT's Dan Montgomery.

All photo credits: Mike Matejka

2022 Union Hall of Honor Program Ads

The Illinois Labor History Society would like to extend a special "Thank you!" to all of those who supported the Union Hall of Honor with ads or donations.

AFGE Local 648
 AFL-CIO of Champaign County
 AFSCME Council 31
 AFSCME Local 2081
 AFSCME Local 448
 AFSCME Staff Organization
 AFT Local 604
 Allison, Slutsky & Kennedy, PC
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 American Federation of Teachers
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 IBEW Local 134
 IEA Racial & Social Justice Department
 IEA Staff Organization
 IFT - Lake County Federation of Teachers Local 504
 IFT - West Suburban Teachers Union Local 571
 Illinois AFL-CIO
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 LIUNA Great Plains Laborers District Council (GPLECT)
 Laborers International Union of North America
 LIUNA Local 1
 LIUNA Local 2
 LIUNA Local 4
 LIUNA Local 81
 LIUNA Local 152
 LIUNA Local 362
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 UA Local 99
 UFCW Local 1546
 UFCW Local 881
 ULLICO Management Company
 United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers, & Allied Workers Local 11
 West Central Illinois Building & Construction Trades Council
 Williams & Swee LTD
 Working Women's History Project

Photo Highlights

2022 Year in Review



ILHS members Larry Spivack, Ed Green, and Julia Berkowitz lead a labor history tour of Pullman

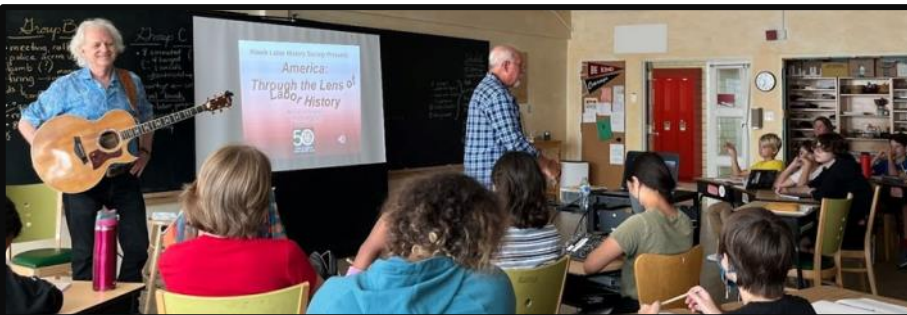
Photo Credit: Paul Klenck



Packinghouse Mural Dedication May 5, 2022



Workers Memorial Day Dedication Marseilles, IL



Urban Prairie Waldorf School Eighth Graders, in the classroom September 15 and at Haymarket Martyrs' Monument September 16, 2022



McLean County Museum of History librarian Bill Kemp and ILHS VP Mike Matejka speaking to Bloomington High School students during their Bloomington Social Justice History Walking Tour in downtown Bloomington.

Photo Highlights Continue...



Arise Chicago, the Chicago Federation of Labor, and Catholic Labor Network, along with a group of seminarians and Franciscan friars, joined the ILHS on Saturday, October 22, 2022.



Purdue University professor and students at the Stockyards Gate on October 10.



Purdue University professor and students at the UE Hall with UE General President Carl Rosen on October 10.



Bloomington Illinois Labor Day Parade Photo Credit: Mike Matejka

Pullman National Monument is now a National Historic Park!



Pullman Clocktower Photo Credit: Paul Klenc

On Thursday, January 19th, community and elected leaders gathered at the newly renamed Pullman National Historic Park to celebrate its new designation.

It was 2015 when President Obama first designated the Pullman Historic District as a National Monument. In December 2022, the Senate passed and President Biden signed the Pullman National Historic Park Act into law.

Pullman has a rich labor and civil rights history, including watershed moments such as the Pullman Strike and Boycott of 1894, and the establishment of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters in 1925.

"This is a very exciting and meaningful change for Pullman and yet another tribute to all of the Pullman neighbors and partners who have worked for decades to preserve this beautiful historic neighborhood," said Park Superintendent Teri Gage.

Book Review

WAR: AN EXCUSE TO CRUSH LABOR VOICES

American Midnight: the Great War, a Violent Peace, and Democracy's Forgotten Crisis

By Adam Hochschild

Mariner Books, New York

Dissenting during wartime is not always a popular stance; attacking, imprisoning and deporting dissenters refutes the American promise of free speech and a free press. It is also an opportunity to attack unions, labeling them as subversive enemy agents.

World War I, known as the "Great War" before conflict again erupted in 1939, is remembered today with marching soldiers in vintage newsreels and the George M. Cohen song, *Over There*. What few Americans remember is that civil liberties, free speech and union activists were jailed and suppressed.

In *American Midnight*, Adam Hochschild chillingly tells the ruthless onslaught against any negative word, particularly directed toward immigrants, union activists and the Socialist Party. Self-appointed Committees of Defense, with government-issued badges, materialized across the country, attacking supposed subversives. Federal agents monitored union and political meetings and extensive files were gathered on citizens, led by an aggressive young federal worker, J. Edgar Hoover.

The American Federation of Labor (AFL) supported the war effort, while the more radical Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) opposed it, believing the working class was being dispatched to kill fellow workers. Business leaders feared and hated the small, but vocal anti-capitalist union, and the war legitimized attacks against it. IWW union



Imprisoned for questioning World War I, Socialist Party leader Eugene V. Debs ran for President from the Atlanta federal penitentiary, polling more than 900,000 votes.

halls were plundered, government agents were sent undercover to foment illegal actions, and union activists were imprisoned. In Chicago, Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis rendered 388 guilty verdicts on 97 union members, totalling 807 years imprisonment, and \$2 million in fines.

Railroad worker and Socialist Party presidential candidate Eugene V. Debs was sentenced to a decade in jail for questioning the war. The early 20th century Socialist Party had built a formidable electoral base, promising clean government and basic sanitation. Milwaukee's elected Socialist Congressman Victor Berger was refused his U.S. House seat. Before the War, the pro-labor Socialists had elected 33 state legislators, 79 mayors and well over 10,000 city council members. After the war-time onslaught, the organization had fewer than 10,000 members nationwide.

Waterboarding and other tortures were not invented during the recent wars in the Middle East. In conquering the Philippines from 1898-1905 to make it a U.S. colony, Army personnel created the technique. It was freely used on suspects imprisoned in Army bases during the World War. Religious minorities who refused the draft, were shackled on high bars, forced to stand on their toes all day. After bombs exploded outside prominent homes, U.S. Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer launched a "Red Scare," rounding

Book Review Continued....

up immigrants and other suspects on often flimsy charges. The U.S. Postmaster Albert Burleson declared multiple African-American, Socialist, foreign language and labor publications as subversive, and refused to mail them.

As the war fever faded and exposés on big business war profiteering spread, many reconsidered the supposed fight for democracy, that not only wounded and killed U.S. military personnel by the thousands, but also shredded basic American rights. Republican Warren Harding freed Debs on Christmas Day 1921, telling an Ohio reporter, "Debs was right. We shouldn't have been in that war."

The damage was done and many pro-labor voices were squelched. Steelworkers, shipyard and packinghouse workers strikes were crushed in

1919, the workers tarnished as subversives. U.S. business embarked on the "American Plan," which meant no unions. Working class voices for change were silenced.

Hochschild has written an admirable book that is a page turner. He weaves the story from presidential politics through government agents, and the labor and dissenting voices who bore the onslaught. While President Woodrow Wilson heralded his Fourteen Points across Europe and promised democracy and freedom, American citizens languished in jail cells or in cold cemetery plots for daring to ask questions. This is a provocative and insightful book and a stark reminder in today's political climate of democracy's fragility.

- ILHS Vice-President Mike Matejka

"We Shall Rise" Mother Jones Monument Moves Towards Becoming a Reality

After four years, COVID, the certainty of political uncertainty, changes in the bureaucracy and then just changes, the dream of a monument to Mother Jones and the Labor Movement in the City of Chicago is on its way to becoming a reality.

The City of Chicago has officially named the site and put out bids for a monument to Mary Harris "Mother" Jones.

The Chicago Departments of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) and Water Management (DWM), in partnership with the Mother Jones Heritage Project (MJHP), is inviting professional artists to "submit their qualifications for a \$250,000 commission remembering Mother Jones and her continuing legacy, to be placed in Jane Byrne Park at the Historic Water Tower, 806 N. Michigan Avenue." The Deadline to Submit is Sunday March 26, 2023 at 11:59 pm CST.

In its "Request for Qualifications," honoring her contributions, the City says, "An Irish immigrant who became a pivotal Chicago-based labor organizer, Mary Harris "Mother" Jones (1837

-1930) advocated for global justice, rejected racism against African-Americans, supported the Mexican Revolution, organized women as well as men and worked for improved living conditions for working families...Important goals of the project include fostering community driven monument projects, increasing the number of monuments to historic women, and raising public awareness of Chicago's important labor history."

Three to Four finalists will tentatively be chosen the week of April 10, with a final choice made at the end of June.

This is the culmination of ongoing support from dozens of unions and other organizations, and hundreds of individuals who wrote, emailed or called the Mayor or DCASE, contributed to the Statue Fund, and in other ways, showed their support for this effort. Our organizing efforts will continue until this project is completed, but the day will come when you can tell your visiting out-of-town relatives or friends, "Yeah, meet me down at Mother Jones."

- ILHS Board Member Dave Rathke



DO YOU KNOW YOUR LABOR HISTORY?

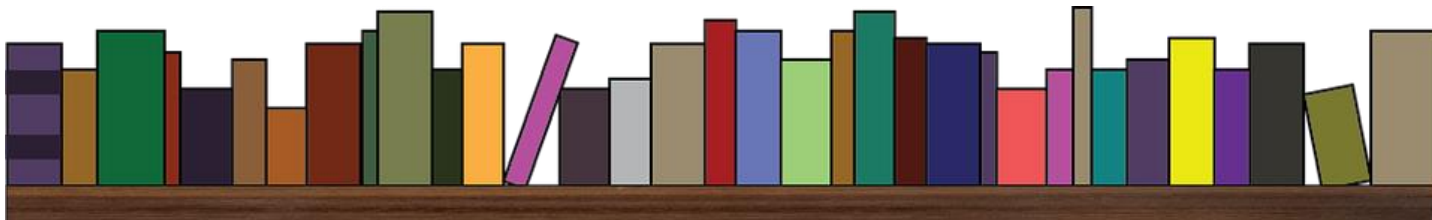
[HTTPS://LABORHISTORYIN2.PODBEAN.COM/](https://laborhistoryin2.podbean.com/)

Today in labor history, January 26, 1897, saw the charter of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters Union, formed out of the merger of seven other unions. What made the Meat Cutters unique for its time was that it included both skilled or craft labor, and unskilled or industrial workers. Organizing this complex workforce was made even more difficult, because of the diverse ethnic labor that made up the stockyards. From the Civil War until the 1920s, the stockyards on Chicago's south side were the heart of the meatpacking industry. Railways from Chicago brought the meat raised on Midwestern grazing lands and farms to east coast markets. In 1880, the Chicago stockyards processed 20 million cows and pigs. The workers who processed these animals worked in unsafe conditions for low wages. In 1904, the Amalgamated Meat Cutters Union led a major strike in the stockyards of Chicago. Upton Sinclair included the strike in his famous novel, *The Jungle*. The strike was broken, in part by management bringing in scab labor. African Americans were among that scab labor. Black workers had been largely excluded from union leadership in the yards. Black workers also were often organized into segregated locals, especially in the skilled-trades. The failure of the 1904 strike evidenced the importance of organizing workers across racial and ethnic lines. It was an example of the long-standing tactic by management to attempt to divide workers by race and ethnicity—a tactic that continues to the present day.

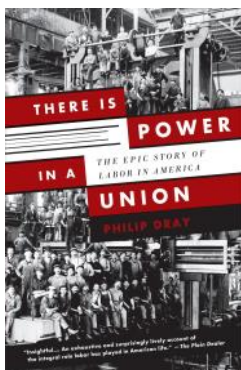
Today in labor history, February 16, 1883, was the day of the Diamond Mine Disaster in Braidwood, Illinois. 74 men and boys lost their lives. Wilmington Coal and Manufacturing Company owned the mine. It was located in a marshy, low-lying area. Melting snow and heavy rains caused a partial collapse and flood in the mine. Those trapped below could not open the ventilation doors against the heavy press of water. Two of those who died were just 13 years old. One miner, John Huber, recounted his experience, "I rushed as fast as the nature of the passage would allow to where I thought my two sons were at work, but found that they had gone. I then yelled at the top of my voice to the men near me and made as fast as I could for the airshaft, where I knew there was a ladder, and that I could get out. By this time the water was up to my armpits, and I had a hard time to get up the shaft..." When he finally escaped the mine, he learned his sons had not made it out. After the disaster, it took seven steam pumps 38 days to remove enough water to attempt to recover the bodies. Falling rocks and accumulation of gas made the recovery work very dangerous. Forty-six dead were never recovered. In 1898, the United Mine Workers of America placed a memorial at the site. The Diamond Mine Disaster was one tragic entry of many that plagued the mining industry. During the first two decades of the twentieth century, mining claimed nearly 50,000 lives in the United States.

Today in labor history, February 22, 1968, striking sanitation workers staged a sit in at the City Council meeting in Memphis, Tennessee. They were members of AFSCME Local 1733. The workers had been on strike for ten days. Their demands included union recognition, a pay increase, a grievance procedure, and end to work place discrimination. This discrimination was the major cause for the strike. White workers were allowed to take rainy days off with pay. But black sanitation workers had to work in the rain or lose a day's wages. One day, as the rain poured down, two black workers climbed into the back of their garbage truck to stay dry. They were accidentally crushed to death. The strike started soon after. At the City Council sit in, hours passed with neither side backing down. Finally, the City Council capitulated, but the Mayor of Memphis refused to recognize the union. The sanitation workers struggle garnered the attention of Civil Rights leaders, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He came to Memphis to support these workers. While on the trip, King was assassinated. As the country mourned King's death, the strike wore on. The strike lasted 65 days before the city settled, under heavy pressure from Washington D.C. Memphis officials met most of the striker's demands. During the strike, the black sanitation workers carried signs that read simply "I AM A MAN." Pickets with this simple, dignified, and powerful statement became one of the iconic images of the Civil Rights Movement. The slogan is still used at civil rights and labor marches today.





At the ILHS Online Bookstore!



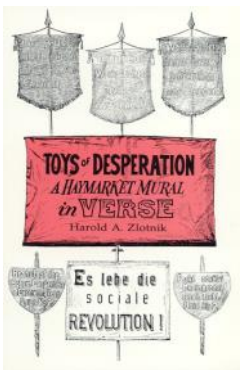
There Is Power in a Union: THE EPIC STORY OF LABOR IN AMERICA

By Philip Dray

Double Day, New York— \$19.95

From the nineteenth-century textile mills of Lowell, Massachusetts, to the triumph of unions in the twentieth century and their waning influence today, the contest between labor and capital for the American bounty has shaped our national experience.

In this stirring new history, Philip Dray shows us the vital accomplishments of organized labor and illuminates its central role in our social, political, economic, and cultural evolution. His epic, character-driven narrative not only restores to our collective memory the indelible story of American labor, it also demonstrates the importance of the fight for fairness and economic democracy, and why that effort remains so urgent today.

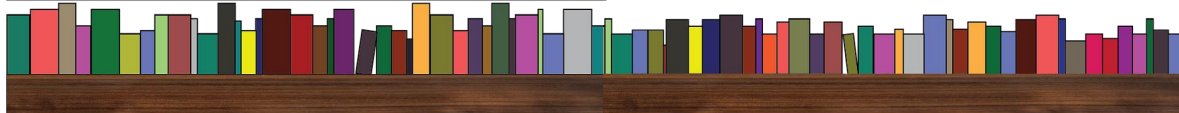


Toys of Desperation: A Haymarket Mural in Verse

By Harold A. Zlotnik

Heart of the Lakes Pub, New York—\$12.95

This amazing book, in verse, tells the Haymarket story with a poem for every character in that great drama. Well illustrated. Like nothing you have ever seen before!



Upcoming Event!



Dr. Ericka Wills – from Illinois Cornfields to Workers' Struggles

From Central Illinois cornfields to southwestern copper mines and the Warrior Met Coal strike in Alabama, Dr. Ericka Wills' life journey weaves together current labor struggles and women's roles in those efforts. Since April 2021, United Mine Workers of America members at Alabama's Warrior Met Coal are striking. Wills makes frequent trips south to support these workers and to share their story nationally, again focusing on women's critical role in this long-standing effort.

Wills will speak at Illinois State University on **Monday, February 27 at 2 p.m.** in the Multicultural Center. Her talk, *Women's Crucial Roles in Sustaining Mining Strikes and Solidarity*, is sponsored by the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department.

On **Tuesday, February 28, 6:30 p.m.**, at the McLean County Museum of History, 200 N. Main Street, downtown Bloomington, she will speak on *From the Cornfields to the Coal and Copper Mines*. This is sponsored by the Museum of History, Bloomington & Normal Trades & Labor Assembly and Not In Our Town-Bloomington-Normal.

These events are free and open to the public.

Upcoming Event!



On February 25, 2023, the National A. Philip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum (NAPRPPM) will celebrate its 28th founding Anniversary and host the 2023 A. Philip Randolph "Gentle Warrior Awards" Gala. This is their annual primary fundraiser. The event, with Master of Ceremonies ABC7's Hosea Sanders, will take place on February 25, 2023 from 5—9 pm at the IBEW Local 134 Union Hall, located at 2722 South Martin Luther King Drive, Chicago, Illinois.

This will be a fantastic celebration! The labor community will honor and celebrate two of their very own: Elizabeth H. Shuler, President of the 58 unions and 12.5 million members of the AFL-CIO; and Fredrick D. Redmond, the Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL-CIO. This year's honorees in both the A. Philip Randolph "Gentle Warrior Award" and "Change Agent", have not only invoked change, but have demanded change throughout their community, politics, and policies.

A. Philip Randolph organized the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the first Black labor union in America chartered under the American Federation of Labor (AFL). Randolph was one of America's foremost labor and civil rights leaders, who became known as the "Gentle Warrior." The Gentle Warrior Award is presented to individuals who exhibit the similar commitment, focus, and tenacity that Randolph displayed throughout his career.

The NAPRPP Museum is a 501(c)3 and cultural institution located in the Pullman National Monument that was designated by President Barack Obama in 2015. Founded in 1995, the NAPRPPM is the only museum of its kind worldwide.

The museum is a public, independently operated Black labor history museum that promotes critical lessons that cross age, class, color, and gender boundaries, carrying messages critical to our society. A successful "Gentle Warrior Awards" event will play a significant role in their operational budget and enables them to continue this vital work! The promise of the 2023 fundraising event holds significant meaning — It presents a vehicle for the labor community to demonstrate, in a substantial way, appreciation for one of its own. The funds generated by this awards event will contribute to the museum's expansion project.

There are several different Sponsorship Packages that you can purchase to support the NAPRPP Museum: Presenting Sponsor—\$20,000; Platinum Sponsor—\$10,000; Gold Sponsor—\$7,000; Silver Sponsor—\$5,000; or Bronze Sponsor—\$3,000.

There are also several Ad sizes for the program book that can be purchased: Inside Front or Back Color Cover—\$1,000; Full Page—\$500; Half Page—\$300; or 1/4 Page \$200.

For all inquiries regarding Sponsorships or Ads, please contact gentlewarriorawards@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support!

Upcoming Event!

Fermat's Last Theater Co. & Illinois Labor History Society

Present

JOE HILL

ALIVE AS YOU
AND ME



FREE ADMISSION | DONATIONS GREATLY APPRECIATED
fermatstheater.org
illinoislaborhistory.org



Saturday, April 1 at 4 PM

Irish American Heritage Center
McGinty Room (Room 309)
4626 N Knox Ave Chicago

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/joe-hill-alive-as-you-and-me-tickets-524077348457>

Please join us at the Irish American Heritage Center in the McGinty Room on Saturday, April 1 at 4 PM for an evening of entertainment with Tom Kastle who brings to life the great labor leader Joe Hill.

Tom Kastle is a singer, songwriter, actor, and tall ship sailor who has performed throughout the US, Canada, Europe, and New Zealand. He has been a regular member of the Solidarity Sing Along, in Madison, Wisconsin, where he has sung alongside activist singers like Holly Near, Peggy Seeger, Tom Morello, Jackson Browne, and Masha from Pussy Riot. Tom's most recent recording is "*Angels & Nightingales*", a collection of original songs based mostly on traditional ballads and fiddle tunes. His stage appearances include *Man of La Mancha*, *Henry IV* and *God Save Us!* with Ed Asner as well as independent films like Francisco Torres' *Delight In the Mountain*. He recently performed *Joe Hill: Alive as You and Me* in Madison, Wisconsin and at the University of Ohio in Akron, Ohio.



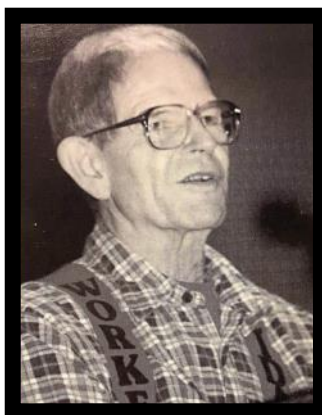
In Memoriam

Staughton Lynd

Staughton Lynd, a founding member of the Illinois Labor History Society, died on November 17 at age 92. Staughton came to Chicago in 1968 to become a community organizer after his early opposition to the Vietnam War cost him his tenure-track job as a History Professor at Yale. With his background and politics, he was a natural to fall in with Les Orear and the other Chicago activists organizing the ILHS. He and his wife Alice later attended the University of Chicago Law School, became labor attorneys and moved to Ohio in 1976. There, in addition to representing a half-dozen local unions, they became strategic players in the fight against steel-mill shutdowns and the destruction of steel communities in Youngstown.

Although my wife Rosemary Feurer and I knew Staughton for 35 years, he was well-known in left labor circles for a generation before that.

Staughton taught at Spelman with Howard Zinn and directed the Mississippi Summer Freedom Education Project in 1964. Seeing the different movements as linked, he easily moved from civil rights to anti-war organizing to labor activism.



Staughton emphasized the need for militant, democratic unionism connecting labor history to ongoing fights for the labor movement to renew itself. One Staughton argument I always enjoyed involved the labor press. Historically, the early labor press had been a forum of fierce and open debate, a place where labor could hammer out the difficult ideas it needed to move it forward. “Now we counted the pictures to guess which officers were ascendent and who was on the way out.” It had become a maintenance and reelection vehicle for whatever administration was in power. Yet at a time when unions were bleeding hundreds of thousands of members, didn’t we desperately need what few forums we had to have that difficult discussion? I knew it would never happen, but God I enjoyed listening to him talk about it.

One weekend in 1989, Staughton was our houseguest in St. Louis. He was a speaker and participant in the founding Convention of New

Directions, a rank-and-file effort to democratize and create a more militant UAW. After a long day of debate, we took our guest to dinner at a small Italian restaurant on “The Hill.” Fascinated by the gallery of photographs of shoe workers on the wall, Staughton elicited the participation of the restaurant’s owner who sat down with us and shared the story of his father’s efforts to organize his plant into the United Shoe Workers in the 1930s. Early the next morning, Staughton had us drive him the 50 miles to Mother Jones grave in Mt. Olive, reflecting on the overt tensions between John L. Lewis and Mother Jones. He then returned to another day of debate at New Directions, probably incorporating those local references.

A few years later, we had the opportunity to visit Staughton for a Labor Party conference and attended a party held by the Youngstown Workers Solidarity Club. An ongoing coffee-house, workers’ education program and activist circle, the Club’s regular meetings of local leaders, rank-and-file members and interested supporters created an ongoing community where ideas big and small were debated, activities planned and carried out and where most importantly, workers actually believed they could make change. I’d really never seen anything like it in the labor movement, then or since.

That belief in the power of ordinary workers to make change motivated Lynd throughout his life. That belief was strengthened by the lessons he drew from history. It’s hard to believe that Staughton authored, co-authored or edited 27 books after he left academia, many focused on examples of community-based independent efforts to organize in contrast to a prevalent myth of “a top-down CIO” model. Staughton would have felt very comfortable in the debate on the current upsurge in “alternative unionism,” supported by but currently independent of existing unions.

Staughton Lynd has now become part of Labor History, the thing the ILHS he helped to found preserves. Solidarity brother.

- ILHS Board Member Dave Rathke

In Memoriam**Donald “Dick” Ladzinski**

Donald ‘Dick’ Ladzinski, 66-year member of wages, and expanding access to education in the Carpenters Locals 195 and 174, passed away on December 19, 2022.

Dick was a leader in organized labor – lobbying for workers’ rights in Springfield and D.C. to create a better Illinois for future generations. During his career, Dick was secretary-treasurer of the Illinois State Council of Carpenters. He prided himself on honesty and fought for workers’ safety laws, living

In his spare-time, he enjoyed hunting, fishing, birdwatching, traveling, baseball and spending time with his family.

Dick left a lasting footprint in the fight for workers’ rights and will be deeply missed.

- Illinois AFL-CIO Newsletter 1-17-23



TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Thank you for your past support!

The Illinois Labor History Society’s mission is reaching the next generation with labor’s rich and vibrant history. You are vital as we work together to keep labor history alive, reaching students, workers, apprentices, academics, and the general public.

We’re reaching out to you for support for the continuation of our 50-plus year history of activities, outreach, and programs. Your membership helps the Illinois Labor History Society protect important sites of labor history throughout our state and to provide quality labor education programs and outreach.

Your membership can help support the Illinois Labor History Society in many ways:

- General Operations
- Preserving the Haymarket Monument and other sites of labor history
- Labor History Education for K-12 Students
- Labor History Education for Union Members
- Labor History in 2:00 Podcasts

You can renew your membership online by going to:

<http://www.illinoislaborhistory.org/become-a-member>

The different levels for membership are on the following page. Please select the level that works best for you!

Thank you – we depend on volunteers and your support to keep labor history alive!



Illinois Labor History Society



INDIVIDUALS

STANDARD MEMBERSHIP IS \$30.00 PER YEAR AND INCLUDES:

- Quarterly "Reporter" Newsletter.
- Invitations to special events throughout the year.
- Email updates about ILHS activities and programs.
- Membership card.

SILVER MEMBERSHIP IS \$60.00 PER YEAR AND INCLUDES:

- Standard membership
- Exclusive ILHS Magnet
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GOLD MEMBERSHIP IS \$100.00 PER YEAR AND INCLUDES:

- Standard and Silver membership
- Our self-walking tour package, a \$40.00 value which includes:
 - Haymarket Revisited*
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 - The Day Will Come*
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- Quarterly "Reporter" Newsletter.
- Invitations to special events throughout the year.
- Email updates about ILHS activities and programs.

SILVER MEMBERSHIP IS \$500.00 PER YEAR AND INCLUDES:

- Standard membership
- Exclusive ILHS Magnet
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GOLD MEMBERSHIP IS \$1000.00 PER YEAR AND INCLUDES:

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Our Mission Statement

It shall be the Purpose of the Illinois Labor History Society to encourage the preservation and study of labor history materials of the Illinois Region, and to arouse public interest in the profound significance of the past to the present.

#ILHLives

Upcoming Events

A. Philip Randolph “Gentle Warrior Awards” Gala — February 25, 2023

**Dr. Ericka Wills: From Illinois Cornfields to Workers’ Struggles
Illinois State University — February 27, 2023
McLean County Museum of History — February 28, 2023**

“Joe Hill: Alive as You and Me” Performance — April 1, 2023



**Illinois Labor History Society
430 S Michigan Ave, AUD 540
Chicago IL 60605**

Or Current Resident

*“The day will come when our silence will be more powerful than the voices you are throttling today.”
August Spies — 1855-1887*