



THE REPORTER

Summer Issue
430 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60605

Illinois Labor History Society

March 2018
www.IllinoisLaborHistory.org

LABOR DAY 2018

Labor Day at the Florence
Hotel in Pullman **Page 8 & 9**

DOES LABOR HISTORY MATTER?

By Tom Suhrbur, IEA
organizer (retired)

Page 6 & 7

PULLMAN & HIS WORKERS

A brief history of
Pullman **Page 10**

SAVE THE DATE

Union Hall of Honor
Dinner **Page 11**

HONORING EDWARD SADLOWSKI & LARRY DUNCAN

The loss of 2 labor activists.

Page 14 & 15

100 YEARS YOUNG

Bea Lumpkin's 100th Birthday
Celebration

Page 17



LABOR DAY 2018

Mark your calendar to celebrate Labor Day in historic
Pullman on the grounds of the Florence Hotel.



Printing by **Baxter Printing**, 3837 Ridge Road, Highland IN 46322.
(219) 923-1999, <http://www.baxterprint.com/>

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT Larry Spivack



Larry Spivack



DO YOU KNOW YOUR LABOR HISTORY?

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

JULY 26, 1877

On this day in labor history, the year was 1877. That was the day striking railroad workers in Chicago clashed with police in the “Battle of the Halsted Street Viaduct.” The Great Railroad Strike had reached the nation’s railroad hub, and began there three days earlier. Switchmen from the Michigan Central traveled to freight shops in yards across the city, calling workers out to strike. Soon lumbershovers, butchers and industrial workers joined the strike. By the time the Battle began, police had already clashed with unarmed strikers twice. Historian Richard Schneirov describes the scene leading up to the Battle: “The city was now preparing itself for a full-scale insurrection, even though violent confrontations were rooted in police attacks on non-violent crowds.” Previous confrontations centered in the railroad yards. Now, strikers’ actions spilled over into the neighborhood of Pilsen, where they lived. Thousands gathered along Halsted Street between 12th and 16th streets. The police arrived, attempting to disperse the crowd. They

chased strikers south and as Schneirov describes, “emptied their revolvers into the masses of humanity.” The crowd pelted the police with stones in defense and chased them over the viaduct. As word spread of the pitched battle, stockyard workers from nearby Bridgeport walked off the job. They marched along Halsted Street, with butcher knives in hand, to support the strikers under attack. The crowd on Halsted swelled to more than 10,000 as workers continued to battle police. By evening, 30 workers had been shot dead, hundreds more were seriously wounded. But the strike continued to spread more fiercely. Streetcar stockmen, stonecutters, gas workers, glasscutters and others joined the strike. The city was shut down for another week until railroad bosses finally rescinded wage cuts.

AUGUST 10, 1922

On this day in labor history, the year was 1922. That was the day 1300 workers from the four railroad brotherhoods walked off the job in Joliet, near Chicago. The walkout threatened to paralyze freight

service for steel mills in nearby Gary and other regional industries. Four hundred thousand railroad shopmen had been on strike across the country for nearly seven weeks. Newspaper headlines that day warned a general strike of two million trainmen loomed on the horizon. Brotherhood leaders promised sympathy strikes in response to threats made against their members by troops on duty at railroad centers and yards. There were also real concerns about the health and safety of trainmen, given rolling stock was no longer being maintained. In Joliet, workers stayed away under threats from troops. Additionally, Illinois Central trainmen faced threats from striking miners throughout Kentucky and Illinois, who warned: “Stop transporting non-union coal or suffer the consequences.” Resentment had been building against state guard troops stationed in Illinois yards. Earlier in the week, striking shopmen had engaged in a fatal confrontation with Joliet sheriffs that left a striker and railroad detective dead and scores injured. Riot orders (continued on page 7)

(continued from page 6)

were called when authorities sought to arrest striking shopmen who had stormed the home of a scab. Brotherhood workers refused to return to work unless troops were removed. Warren Stone, president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers stated: "We are not going to have our men shot up or beaten up or threatened by armed guards at railroad shops and yards. When the men cannot go to work without having irresponsible armed guards endangering their lives, they may go home and stay there. There will be 100 more cases soon if conditions are not changed."

SEPTEMBER 1, 1893

On this day in Labor History the year was 1893. That was the day that the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers and Iron Ship Makers of America was founded in Chicago.

This joined two earlier boilermaker unions into one. They decided to establish their headquarters in Kansas City, Kansas. Two years later, the Boilermakers affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. The union represents members of 250 lodges in the United States and Canada. At the turn of the twentieth century, the

Boilermakers had about 8,500

members. But the membership expanded, especially during World War II, as shipbuilding grew for the war. By 1944, there were more than 350,000 Boilermakers.

In 1954, they merged with the International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths, Drop Forgers and Helpers, and expanded their name to include these groups of workers.

But what exactly is a boilermaker? According to the union's website the term can have many meanings. It might refer to a Purdue University student or alumni, whose football team started going by the name of the boilermakers in 1891. Or boilermaker might refer to dropping a shot of whiskey into a draft of beer, and drinking it all at once. But for the labor movement a boilermaker is someone that constructs and repairs boilers, and the other workers who are part of the union.

These might include "blacksmiths, forgers, ship builders, cement workers, stove workers, metal polishers, or numerous other job descriptions."

The boilermaker's union logo reflects these workers. It includes images of a ship, a worker working on a boiler, and a blacksmith's anvil. Below the images are found the words "Unity, Progress and Protection" declaring the mission of the union and its members.

OCTOBER 3, 1943

On this day in labor history, the year was 1943. That was the day the United Packinghouse Workers of America was chartered under the CIO. The new union was the result of the CIO's Packinghouse Workers Organizing Committee. Started in 1937 the Organizing Committee was an effort to build a union that broke down barriers between races and crafts in the meatpacking industry. Chicago

was at the heart of this effort. Workers in the meatpacking industry faced grueling, often unsafe working conditions. The stockyards in Chicago had seen the failure of two major strikes. The first was in 1904, the second in 1921. Racial and ethnic divisions had plagued both of those strikes. The Organizing Committee made inclusion the heart of its efforts. It also reached out into the communities. This broad approach to organizing that has come to be known as "social unionism." This approach recognizes that workers face issues that go beyond the shop floor. The efforts paid off with the founding of the new union, with its headquarters in Chicago. They won a major strike in 1946. The union became one of the most progressive in the nation. The UPWA also was one of the earliest unions to back the fledgling Civil Rights Movement. Union leaders supported Dr. Martin Luther King and the Montgomery Bus Boycott. In 1956 they invited Dr. King to Chicago to share what was happening in Alabama. One of the organizers of the UPWA was a man named Les Orear. Les went on to live to be 103 years old. He was one of the founders of the Illinois Labor History Society, which helps bring you these Labor History in 2 podcasts every day.

#ILHLives

Show your support by using
the ILHS frame on your
Facebook profile picture!



Illinois Labor
History Society

www.illinoislaborhistory.org

Does Labor History Matter?

By Tom Suhrbur, IEA organizer (retired)

“The teaching of history shall also include a study of the role of labor unions...”

Illinois School Code

I regularly conduct labor education programs for teachers, union members and others about labor history, organizing and the role of unions in society. It has become very clear to me that most Americans, including many union members, know very little about labor history; much of what they have learned has been distorted to discredit unions. One of the first exercises that I often begin with at my education program is to ask the participants to tell me something about Andrew Carnegie, John D. Rockefeller, J.P. Morgan, Bill Gates and other prominent businessmen. Usually most of the participants, whether they are college faculty members or union apprentices just out of high school, can tell me something about these people. Next, when I ask them to identify A. Phillip Randolph, Eugene Debs, Samuel Gompers, Richard Trumka, George Meany, Cesar Chavez and others, most of them are stumped except for one famous union leader. Everyone seems to know Jimmy Hoffa - not the current president of the Teamsters Union but his father. The senior Hoffa is not remembered for the great contract settlements that he bargained for truckers but rather for the years he spent in prison and his disappearance in an apparent mob murder. Obviously unions need to get their story out to the public and to their own members.

Why do apprentices let alone college faculty union members know so little about labor history? While stories about the corporate elite and powerful are regularly covered in school textbooks and the press, unions are usually treated as a mere footnote in history. In general, the media depicts unions in a negative light. Union leaders are typically referred to as “bosses” in the press (About ten years ago, there was an obituary in the Chicago Tribune that actually referred to a deceased union president as a “leader” I was shocked.) Movies often depict unions as being controlled by gangsters. Strikes, “riots” and

corruption get the most attention.

The labor movement has been under a relentless assault by our determined and well-financed political enemies. There is a whole industry backed by the National Manufacturing Association, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, wealthy businessmen such as the Koch brothers and others promoting the anti-union agenda. They have financed conservative groups Americans For Prosperity, America Crossroads, the National Right To Work Committee, American Legislative Exchange Council, dozens of right wing think tanks and others to carry out their campaign against unions. Most Americans have very little direct contact with labor unions. Less than 12% of the labor force belongs to unions today. If union members know so little about the past, what does the public think in light of the onslaught of anti-union propaganda?

History shapes how people think about the present and public opinion is very important for any group seeking political influence. If unions are going to survive and thrive they need to tell their story. Unions have a great story to tell!

Unions have always been successful in improving the economic needs of their members. Employment in a union shop means higher pay and better benefits than similar work in a non-union shop. Most Americans realize this fact. What many Americans do not understand is that many of the successes of unions have also benefited them.

Unions have been instrumental in many of the economic gains enjoyed by working class and lower middle class Americans today. Unions successfully fought for Social Security, Medicare, unemployment compensation, workers’ compensation, minimum wage, 40-hour week, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), child labor laws, universal free public education and numerous other programs that have benefited all Americans. (continued on page 9)



Donate today! Login on to illinoislaborhistory.org



(continued from page 8) Unions have always played a key role in the struggle for social justice. Prior to the Civil War, the emerging labor movement was inspired by two great ideas—abolitionism and social democracy. Many working class immigrants fleeing oppression following the demise of the 1848 Revolutions in Europe were ardent unionists. Trade union activists were outspoken in their opposition to slavery. Slavery was evil but so was “wage slavery.” The labor movement supported the creation of a free, universal education system including laws against child labor and mandatory school attendance. After the war, the National Labor Union and later the Knights of Labor welcomed African-American into their ranks. In 1869, the National Labor Union (NLU) adopted a resolution urging “our colored fellow members to form organizations in all legitimate ways, and send delegates from every state in the union to the next congress.” While some unions had practiced racial discrimination in the past, many others especially the industrial unions included all workers regardless of race. In the early twentieth century, Industrial Workers of the World and other radical unions actively recruited all races. So did the Congress of Industrial Organization (CIO) signing up tens of thousands of African-Americans during the Great Depression. In 1941, A. Phillip Randolph, President of the Brotherhood Sleeping Car Porters’ Union, was instrumental in planning a mass protest in Washington D.C. to protest job discrimination in war industries and segregation in the armed forces. The protest was cancelled when President Roosevelt issued an Executive Order banning discrimination in hiring for the war industries but not in the armed forces. In 1963, Randolph played an instrumental role in organizing the massive March on Washington for civil rights. Keep in mind that until the 1960’s, union halls were one of the few places where working class whites and African-Americans could meet together as equals. In the fight against Jim Crow segregation, United Auto Workers, AFSCME, and other unions marched with Martin Luther King. King was assassinated in Memphis while supporting the sanitation workers strike. Equal rights also meant women’s rights. Throughout the history of both unions, the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers have played a major role in fighting for women’s rights. Not only did the AFL-CIO support the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) but also many of its national unions such as AFSCME, SEIU and others worked tirelessly to pass it. Even though the ERA eventually failed to get enough states to ratify it, the principles behind the Amendment has been widely accepted in public discourse and through legislation. While improvement in pay and benefits has drawn workers to unions, other factors are equally important in union organizing. Whenever I do labor history programs, I always get into a discussion about core union values such as solidarity, equality, fairness, democratic decision-making and social justice. History is full of examples of how these values have guided the labor movement. Deeply held values are what motivates people to support and even sacrifice for a cause. Values inspire people to join the military, political parties, churches and unions. These core values of the labor movement are part of the American democratic tradition going back to 1776. In light of the growing economic inequality in the U.S., now more than ever, the labor movement should educate the public about its contributions to democracy and social justice. Labor history should be taught in our schools and in union halls. There is an ongoing struggle in this nation to make this a “more perfect union” – a just and democratic society. Unions have played a central role in this struggle. If “we, the people” are to have a better future, we must have a strong union movement. The alternative is a society in which an aristocratic elite will own most of the wealth, control the government and dominate all aspect of American society.

Grand Opening: Working for a Living

The public is invited to a grand opening program to unveil the Museum’s fourth permanent exhibit, Challenges, Choices, and Change: Working for a Living. The celebration will begin with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 1:00 p.m. followed by a program with exhibit curator Mike Matejka in the Museum’s second floor courtroom at 2:00 p.m. Light refreshments including a build-your-own cookie bar will begin at 1:00 p.m. until supplies run out.

In addition, a Labor and Work Street Fair will be held on the Main Street and Jefferson Streets sides of the Museum. From 1:30 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. the public is invited to participate in hands-on activities offered by area businesses, local unions, trades people, skilled workers, and artisans. Street Fair activities will include the following:

Brandt Consolidated- Agricultural Farm Equipment on display and employment information

Illinois Laborers and Contractors JATP- GPS & surveying, virtual reality goggles, traffic control and laborers work simulation

Bloomington/Normal Electrical JATC- conduit bending and other electrical activities

Altorfer Inc.- tractor display and other information

Sheet Metal Workers Local 1- making tool trays

R Way Trucking- Semi with dump trailer and coloring for kids

Carpenter’s Local Union 237- building tool boxes

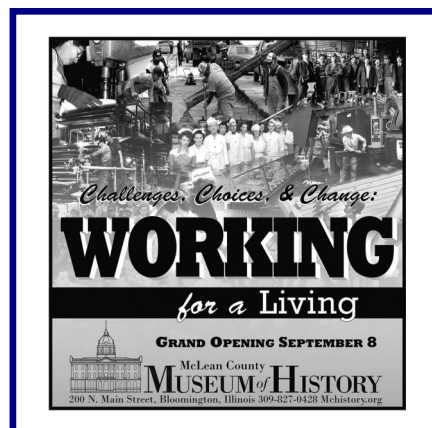
Heritage Schoolhouse Press with Storyteller Mike Lockett-storytelling and musical performances

Connect Transit- Community Bus with information about Connect Transit has evolved.

Plumbers & Pipefitters Union Local 99 will have an exhibit about how plumbing works.

Meltdown Creative Works will be doing Live Screen Printing.

Free parking will be available at the Lincoln Parking Deck located on Front Street. For more information about this free public program, please contact the Museum’s Education Department at education@mchistory.org or 309-827-0428.



CELEBRATE LABOR DAY IN PULLMAN

THE PLACE THAT SPARKED OUR NATIONAL HOLIDAY

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD, 2018

2 TO 5 P.M.

HISTORIC HOTEL FLORENCE GROUNDS - 111TH ST. AND S. COTTAGE GROVE AVE.



Free Family Fun
Navy Band - Great Lakes "Protocol Combo"
Historic Labor Leader actors
Tour of the Pullman Factory Complex
A peek inside the Hotel Florence
Celebrate Illinois's Bicentennial



For more information go to www.nps.gov/pull, or 773-264-7431

Labor Day 2018 in Pullman

List of Events

2:00 to 5:00 pm



- "Little Obie" will be making an appearance at Pullman Labor Day 2018. Take a short "train" ride in the monument, and learn what you can do to be a safe pedestrian and driver around Illinois' many rail lines and crossings.
- Cast of historical characters performing skits throughout the day and mingling with the crowd. Featuring Governor Altgeld, a Pullman Porter, Eugene Debs, and the wife of a Pullman worker
- National Park Service information table
- Illinois Labor History Society information table
- Food for purchase at the Greenstone Church



2:00 to 3:00 pm

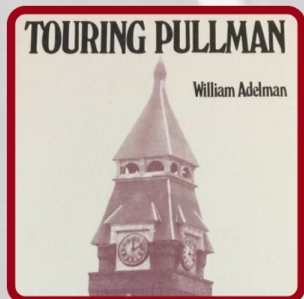
Bucky Halker will be playing music on the porch of the historic Florence Hotel

3:00 to 4:00 pm

The Navy "Protocol Band" will be playing on the porch of the Florence Hotel

3:30 to 4:30 pm

Join ILHS on a walking tour through Pullman. Meet at the front steps of the historic Florence Hotel.



4:00 to 5:00 pm

"The Music of Pullman" recordings of music from the era. Some samples can be found at <http://pullman-museum.org/theCompany/pullmanMusic.html>

PULLMAN & HIS WORKERS

George Pullman was a famous Chicago business leader who built a nationally renowned industry---but his name is also linked to some historic labor contests. What was going on between Pullman and his workers?

In 1859, Chicago entrepreneur George Pullman (1831-1897) developed a railroad sleeping car. After the Civil War, Pullman's new sleeping and dining cars spread across the nation. Pullman was basically running two businesses---a rail car building factory and a mobile hotel chain.

To build his sleeping cars, plus railroad freight cars, trolleys and other rail vehicles, in 1880 Pullman bought a huge tract of land on Chicago's southside. He incorporated this as his own city---Pullman, Illinois. Here Pullman built his factory to manufacture rail cars. He also built workers' homes, churches, schools and parks. These homes and facilities were superior to what many workers enjoyed at the time.

In 1894 the county was in an economic downturn. Pullman cut wages but refused to lower rents in his company homes. When his workers approached him to ask for help, they were fired. The workers then called a strike.

The newly organized American Railway Union supported the Pullman workers by calling a boycott of Pullman cars, refusing to move trains containing them. The railroads added Pullman cars to mail trains and then the government intervened against the workers, claiming they were stopping federal mail. The Pullman Strike was broken and its leaders jailed.

In the post Civil War era, George Pullman recruited African-American former slaves for his new sleeping cars. The porter was the rolling hotel chain's public face, making beds, shining shoes and ensuring passenger comfort. Although a Pullman Porter was considered a decent job, the workers still faced racial discrimination, long hours and low pay.

By the 1920's, most rail workers had a craft union, except the porters. The Pullman Company had a "company union," but the workers wanted their own organization.

Realizing they needed a leader, Pullman could not fire, the Porters turned to a New York City socialist, small magazine publisher, A. Phillip Randolph (1889-1979). The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Ports (BSCP) was founded on August 25, 1925 at the Elk's Lodge in Harlem.

Reaching out to railroad centers---Boston, Washington D.C., St. Louis, Kansas City, Oakland, and most especially Chicago, porters quickly joined the BSCP, but Pullman refused recognition to the new union. Chicago's Milton Webster became Randolph's close ally and supporter.

During Franklin Roosevelt's Administration (1933-1945), the Railway Labor Act was amended, outlawing company unions and establishing representation election. The BSCP easily won a 1935 vote for union rights. Exactly twelve years from their founding, August 25, 1937 they signed their first contract with Pullman, raising pay and decreasing hours.

The Porter' impact went beyond job conditions. Proving African-Americans could organize, the BSCP and Randolph were key civil rights organizers through the 1960s. The famous 1963 "March on Washington" was organized by Randolph and Bayard Rustin.

Today the Amtrak Service Workers Council represents sleeping, cafe and dining car attendants, but the Porters' valiant struggle for not only better working conditions, but human equality, is memorialized in film and numerous books.

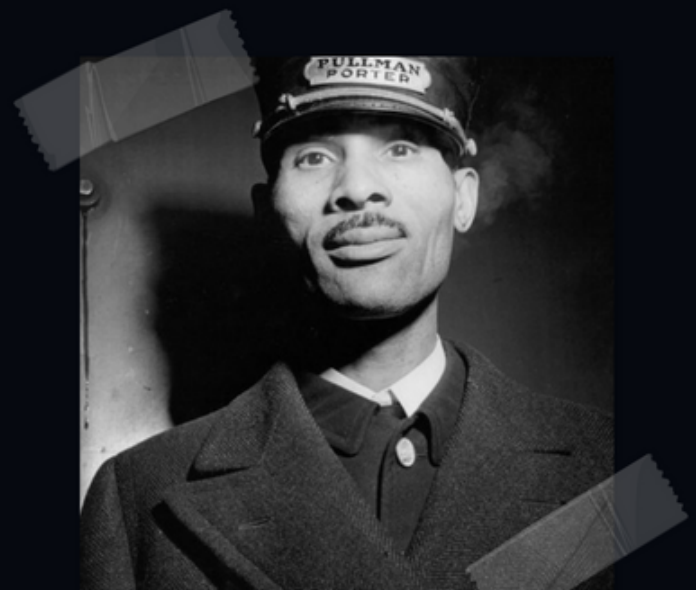


Photo courtesy of Rising from the Rails: the Pullman Porters & The Black Middle Class by Larry Tye.

Available for purchase at www.IllinoisLaborHistory.org for \$15.00 plus shipping and handling.



**Illinois Labor
History Society**

430 S Michigan Ave,
Chicago, IL 60605
ilaborhistorys@gmail.com



• COME ONE, COME Y'ALL! •

Union Hall of Honor

THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
INCENDIARY YEAR, 1968

Friday November 30, 2018

**OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL 399
2260 S GROVE ST, CHICAGO, IL 60616**

*** 5:30 Cash Bar * 6:00 Dinner**

*** 6:30 Program**

**INDUCTING PAUL BOOTH AND
KATIE JORDAN**

Welcome New Board Members

Right to Left: Elijah Edwards, Edward Green, and David A. Peterson, Jr.



Elijah Edwards

Current Vice President AFSCME Council 31, Local 2858
Elected as the AFL-CIO Next Up Chicago Young Workers Secretary-Treasurer

Edward Green

Edward L.W. Green, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice in the Government, Law, and Justice department of Roosevelt University in Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Green focuses on the sociology of punishment, criminological theory, and corrections. He is actively engaged in qualitative prison research and the study of both the social and human consequences of mass incarceration.

Ed has recently been shadowing President Larry Spivack during various labor tours including bringing his guitar to play a few labor songs.

Ed originally hails from Eastern Kentucky.

David A. Peterson, Jr.

David was appointed as president of the National A. Philip Randolph Pullman

Porter Museum in 2009, the World's first and only Black Labor History Museum. A Chicago native born and raised on the southeast side, Peterson attended the University of Chicago's Laboratory school, William H. Ray Elementary, and Kenwood Academy High school.

After studying the works of A. Philip Randolph as a youth and fine tuning that story under the leadership and Mentorship of Dr. Lyn Hughes founder of the Museum, Peterson decided to take his influence even further in 2015 by founding Randolph's Dream Community Development Corporation to Foster the use of Cultural Economic Development in Pullman National Monument to be used as a model for Blacks Globally.

He also is a product and success story of the Chicago Housing Authority/ Central Advisory Council entrepreneurship pilot program which gave him the foundation to start and Co found Eat II Live Restaurant Group, LLC.

100 Years Young

On August 3, the very anniversary of her birth, hundreds of friends, family, and fellow activists gathered to celebrate 100 remarkable years with Bea Lumpkin. It was beautiful to see a hint of the number and range of people affected and inspired by Bea – all ages, genders and races. Some party-goers turned out in the jeans of the working class while others celebrated in sequins. Bea herself was best-dressed of the evening in a red and black ensemble featuring leather pants!

It is difficult to briefly summarize Bea's long life fighting for justice. Born in New York City and participating in the social and political struggles of the working class during the 1930s, Bea's activism was ignited at an early age. As a member of the Communist Party, she went on to organize laundry workers, most of whom were African American women, into the newly-formed Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO). In the 1950s and '60s, Bea and her beloved husband Frank, living in Gary, IN and Chicago, fought many battles for racial justice, against Jim Crow segregation and state-sanctioned violence. At the age of 47, Bea became a Chicago Public School teacher, pioneering curriculum highlighting the multicultural roots of mathematics and science. She participated in the formation of the Coalition of Labor Union Women in 1974. Beginning in 1980, Bea fought for 17 years alongside Frank and thousands of his co-workers who lost their jobs, benefits and pensions when Wisconsin Steel closed its plant without notice. Just as vibrant and passionate today, she continues to mentor young workers and participate in demonstrations, strikes, and rallies for justice.

During dinner, several distinguished speakers told personal stories further illuminating Bea's passion, perseverance, and life-

long dedication to workers' empowerment, racial justice, and gender equality. Among them were Emcee Alderwoman Susan Sadlowski Garza, Chicago Federation of Labor President and ILHS Trustee Bob Reiter, Chicago Coalition of Labor Union Women President and ILHS Trustee Katie Jordan, Chicago Teacher's Union Vice-President Jesse Sharkey, Congressman-Elect Jesus "Chuy" Garcia, and District 7 Director Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees Scott Marshall. Lakesia Collins, a Co-Founder of the INTERGEN Coalition, spoke about Bea's recent work focusing on the common issues and priorities of workers and activists across generations. Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky gave Bea several gifts befitting her life and legacy, including recognition of Bea's contributions entered into the Congressional Record. Two of her sons led the crowd in a personalized version of a favorite song – "Oh, you can't scare Bea/ She's stickin' to the union!/ She's sticking to the union 'til the day she dies." A warm letter thanking Bea for her years of commitment to the movement from former President Barack Obama was read. Finally, Bea herself spoke briefly, admonishing us all to remember the lessons of the past as we work for justice in the present. And then she commanded us to dance, dance, dance!

The theme of the centennial celebration was taken from the title of Bea's memoir, *Joy in the Struggle*. I have no doubt that every person in attendance left with a renewed sense of that joy and inspiration to carry on.

—Sarah Joy Liles, ILHS Board Member



Top: Katie Jordan, Beatrice Lumpkin and Don Villar Bottom Right: Katie Jordan giving her rousing speech celebrating her friend Bea. Bottom Right: Beatrice Lumpkin listening to the speeches in her honor. Bottom Left: Beatrice Lumpkin with President Bob Reiter of the Chicago Federation of Labor with a proclamation in honor of her birthday. Bottom Left: Emcee 10th Ward Alderman Susan Sadlowski Garza.

EDWARD EUGENE "OILCAN" SADLOWSKI (SEPTEMBER 10, 1938 - JUNE 10, 2018)

"Oilcan" passed away today, after a hard struggle with Lewy body dementia. He was born in Chicago, IL, on September 10, 1938, across the street from the Steel Workers Organizing Committee (S.W. O.C) Union Hall. He was the son of Edward and Mildred (Sanders) Sadlowski.

A great labor leader, educator, mentor, a true "Pal," the best kind of friend - an instant champion of your cause. Knowledge is power. Ed Sadlowski spent his lifetime fulfilling his calling that everyone "Know the score," or "Who is screwing who." He never gave anyone a "Bum steer" when advice was sought, or more commonly when his counsel was passionately proffered.

His people were forged and tapped from hard living in and around the coal mines of Southern Illinois, and from the intense heat of the steel making furnaces which lined Lake Michigan's Southern shoreline. His father "Load", worked the ore bridges at Inland Steel in East Chicago, Indiana. "Load" was a militant, a true believer. The Congress of Industrial organizations was his thing. He was a Steel Worker Organizing Committee activist, a founding member of USW Local 1010. With a culture of direct action by workers on the shop floor, the local union cultivated loyalty of the membership and the active participation of the rank and file in the day to day functions of the union. Clean, democratic trade unionism has become the hallmark of the Sadlowski family heritage.

"Oilcan" always made it his business to ensure the elder generations spent time with the younger crowd. Life's hard lessons have been handed down.

In 1956, Ed Sadlowski landed a job as an Oiler in the machine shop at United States Steel South Works, locate

d on Chicago's Southeast Side. His identity was quickly shaped by his work environment. Like many in the mills, like his father before him, he picked up a handle along the way -- "Oilcan Eddie." Eddie and Marlene (McDillon), were high school sweethearts from the proverbial different side of two mill gate community tracks. A river also ran through it. He, a South Chicago working class kid. She hailed from the neighborhood farthest east in the city. Somehow it is a perceived "step up" across the Calumet River, known as the "East Side." Ed and Marlene Sadlowski were married on January 31, 1959. In 1964, at the age of 26, Eddie led a diverse coalition of rank and file workers to victory, upsetting an entrenched incumbent to become President of United Steel Workers Local 65. With her calm wisdom, deep compassion, and profound love for others, Marlene has not been the woman behind the man, but she remained standing by his side. In the early days, Marlene was active in the Women's Auxiliary, which meant social gatherings, political rallies, parades, and countless meetings at the Local 65 Hilding Anderson Union Hall. Eddie and Marlene began taking on responsibility for the good and welfare of 14,000 steelworkers, and at the same time, a growing family of children, Susan Sadlowski Garza Patty, Edward, and Diane Sadlowski-Agelson.

In 1975, Ed Sadlowski beat the hand picked successor of the "USW official family" by a 2 to 1 margin to become Director of USW District 31. This was steelworker insurgency --

"Steel Workers Fight Back". District 31 was the largest district in the USW. The victory followed an earlier election

for the directorship wrought with charges of fraud against the "official family" of the union. The U.S. Department of Labor rerun is considered the most supervised election in labor history.

In 1976, Steel Workers Fight Back slated Ed Sadlowski to head a racially diverse ticket challenging the International Executive Board of the union. During the campaign leading up to the 1977 election, steelworker Ben Corum was shot in the neck handing out Steel Workers Fight Back literature at the Hughes Tool Plant located in Houston, Texas. "Fight Back" was organizing delegates to the USW International Convention demanding the right of union members to vote on their own contracts, regain their right to strike, and to have a say about their union dues. These hard won democratic rights are taken for granted by many in the labor movement today. Without question, the Steel Workers Fight Back insurgent movement has changed the culture of the USW, and the labor movement for the better.

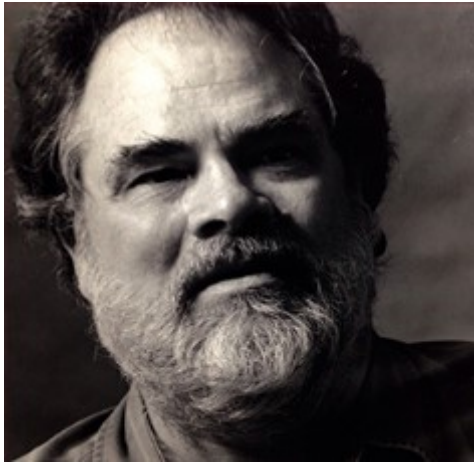
Ed Sadlowski is survived by his loving wife Marlene; four children, Susan (Raul) Garza, Patricia Hoyt, Edward (Emilie), Diane (Chris) Agelson, grandchildren, David (Angie) Agelson, Ryan Garza, Kate Garza, Tyler Garza, Deanna Hoyt, Adrienne Hoyt, Faith Sadlowski, Evelyn Sadlowski, Ed Sadlowski II, Angela Agelson, Hallee Agelson, two great grandchildren Aria and Sofia Garza, many nieces, nephews, and untold Sisters and Brothers in the labor movement.

He was preceded in death by his parents; siblings, the late Arleda (Leonard) Kasbohm, Patricia (Jack) Ferguson, and Linda Sadlowski (wife of Patrick J. Reynolds).



I guess maybe I am a romantic, but I look at the American labor movement as a holy crusade, which should be the dominant force in this country to fight for working people and the underdog and make this a more just society." -

Eddie "Oilcan" Sadlowski



Labor Beat & Labor Express Statement About the Passing of Larry Duncan, 1945-2018.

CHICAGO - One of the unsung heroes of labor journalism in the US, our co-founder and chief producer Larry Duncan, has died at age 72. We at the Committee for Labor Access

(CLA), the producers of Labor Express radio and Labor Beat TV are heartbroken to share the news of Larry's passing. He spent his life documenting the struggles, defeats, and victories of ordinary working people, a class he believed held great untapped strength in our world. He will always be remembered for directing his wit and sardonic humor at those in power. Larry Duncan was born Sept. 14, 1945. Like many of his generation, his politics took shape in the turbulent 1960s anti-war movement. During this time, he was a member of the Revolutionary Workers League, organizing at United Auto Worker- and Teamster-affiliated workplaces in the St. Louis area. He was later an active supporter of Socialist Organizer. For a time, he lived in San Francisco. Larry eventually settled in Chicago and made his living in the trade of publishing, becoming a member of Communication Workers of America local 14408. But Larry's life was better defined by what happened off the clock. He saw the growing attacks on organized labor in the 1970s and 1980s as a wakeup call.

From studying labor history, he came to understand that the newspapers, TV, and radio held by big business would never accurately cover working people's issues without the inherent venom of the wealthy interests owning those media. Larry came to understand that everyday people needed to get their hands on those media to tell their own stories.

The 1980s saw the spread of cable TV and the growth of community "public access" TV channels with training available. In 1984, Larry worked with a core of dedicated labor and media activists, co-founding Committee for Labor Access to push for a TV channel or regular television series to convey the untold stories of working class challenges. In 1986, Labor Beat began production and cablecasting at what is today Chicago Access Network (CAN-TV).

From vibrant protests to guest speakers from around the world, contract campaigns and radical union reform efforts, Larry had a hand in creating content for hundreds of episodes. Events like the Central Illinois "War Zone" union battles of the mid-1990s and the 1997 UPS strike became defining points in the history of his organization. When cameras evolved into smaller forms, he was often the sole videographer and editor on many episodes. Because of its independence, Labor Beat was not immediately popular with old-guard union bureaucracies. In the 1990s, Larry affiliated with Labor Party Advocates to try to form a viable political party for working class demands as an alternative to the Democratic Party.

As the 21st century took shape, Larry pivoted with the changing times. He mentored new voices in radio and television.

Maintaining cablecasts for the show in multiple cities, Larry migrated Labor Beat to a YouTube channel, which currently has over 350 videos. In this era of the immediate, unedited video upload, he was opposed to "hot takes." Larry instead preferred a reasoned analysis after the fact. Significantly, he rarely used voice-over narration for his videos, since promoting the voices of the rank-and-file was core to his identity.

Larry became especially adept at finding the smaller union struggles that did not grab headlines: Railroad workers struggling to unite their unions against logistics companies; public transit unions standing up for riders and drivers alike; and small workplaces that had won their first union contract. He was more documentarian than newsman, forming working relationships with union militants and leaders. Geography limited what he could cover, but never apathy.

His final month of life typified the whole. Larry recently engaged in efforts to re-ignite the anti-war movement. He hosted several of the organizing meetings of the recently formed Chicago Anti-War Coalition, coming early to set up the UE Hall. According to coalition organizers, Larry's thoughtful participation could always be counted on to bring calm to heated discussions, without ego or sectarianism.

One of Larry's final projects was a document illustrating tech companies' move to censor content on social media. He concluded that workers creating their own media were more important now than ever before. His final shoots and edits were to videos about railroad workers and about immigrant working women facing sexual harassment on the job. To his great joy and excitement, he lived to witness the historic multi-state strike wave by teachers that began in West Virginia earlier this year.

Perhaps only the late Studs Terkel had a wider impact in the endeavor of portraying the "salt of the earth" though their hopes, actions, courage, and contradictions. Larry Duncan's importance to labor media in general, and the Chicago labor left in particular, can never be understated.

Family and close friends will hold a private memorial. A larger, public "Celebration of Life" for Larry Duncan will be planned and announced soon. Larry will be missed by hundreds of friends and comrades across the nation and world, many who quietly regarded him a working class hero for his contribution to the common struggle of everyday people.

####

Andrew Friend wrote this memorial, with contributions from Wayne Heimbach, Jerry Mead-Lucero, Joleen Kirschenman, Erik Slater, and Alan Benjamin.

There is also a go fund me page to raise money for the memorial. It is at <https://www.gofundme.com/larryduncanmemorial>.



ILHS Tours

Top Left: ILHS President Larry Spivack and Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) President at Haymarket Martyrs' Monument

Bottom Left: The KMU leadership tour. KMU is an independent and democratic labor center promoting genuine, militant and anti-imperialist trade unionism.

Top Right: A bus tour for the Region 4 UAW retiree's.

Bottom Right: A walking tour for Critical Management Studies Division of the Academy of Management to Millennium Park led by Larry Spivack and Julia Berkowitz with music provided by Ed Green.



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



Above: UE Western Region President Carl Rosen gave the ILHS annual meeting a nice presentation of their union hall mural. Photo courtesy of Julia Berkowitz.

On Monday July 23, 2018 ILHS held its Annual Membership meeting at the UE Hall on Ashland Ave in Chicago.

President Larry Spivack opened the meeting talking about the accomplishments of ILHS in the past year. Goals were set for next year. We were honored to have two students projects presented (see story page 19) including watching a documentary on the Women of Haymarket. We also got to listen to Eric Coleman who is directing a new film about Lucy Parsons (see page 18).

At the end of the meeting, our host, Carl Rosen, UE Western Region President, gave a talk about the history of the UE building and was gracious enough to give all those in attendance a tour of the murals up the staircase.

NEW BENCH AT THE CEMETERY

Due to the hard work and vision of ILHS member Mark Rogovin, a new bench was dedicated on May 1, 2018 at the Haymarket Martyrs' Monument . “Sit and hear the voices for peace, justice and freedom” is carved into the granite and was dedicated by Ted and Kathy Pearson.



BLOODY HAYMARKET: SWEAT AND TEARS

When a mother visits her dying son, old wounds from childhood are unearthed; wounds that can't easily be healed. The mother is Lucy Parsons, fierce lifelong defender of the working class. The son is Albert Parsons Jr., whose father was the face of the 1880s Chicago labor movement and was hanged for it, spends his final days in a tuberculosis sanitarium outside Chicago. Through young Albert's eyes we witness the grizzly events unfold that was to become known as the Haymarket Square Riot.



Hi family, friends and fans, thanks for coming to our page! Our team has been passionately working on this project, and we are now in the last push of preproduction where we need your help to get this film finished and submitted to festivals.

A little about what we are setting out to make: On May 4, 1886, Chicago was rocked by the first dynamite bomb thrown in America, America's first red scare, and the first time people were tried for conspiracy to commit murder without ever having caught the bomb thrower.

The Haymarket Throttling is written and directed by Eric Coleman, David McGrath and Wayne Kupferer with the help of Jenny Miller, Executive Producer.

This epic short film deals with the struggle for the eight hour workday, the plight of the immigrant, interracial marriage, a corrupt justice system, police brutality, the origin of May Day, the concentration of wealth in a few hands, and the utter disregard of the Constitution of this land.

Rounding out the cast is the illustrious Tonya Simmons as Lucy Parsons, the powerful Eric K. Roberts as Albert Parsons Jr., and the sensational Peter Murray as Albert Parsons Sr.

Joining us on this project is the brilliant sound designer James Scalfani, and the timeless George Hambach as comic relief among other things. Along with Joe Vecchio.

The following items are needed to make this project come to fruition: props, shooting permits, makeup and visual effects, lighting and sound equipment, costumes of the era, film festival submission fees and other costly things I'm certainly forgetting.

I am so thankful and eager for you to join us as we relive this part of Chicago history all should know. With a generous donation of \$20 you will receive a DVD copy of the film, \$50 gets you a DVD and t-shirt and \$100 gets you a DVD, t-shirt, and a mention in the credits.

Thank you for helping us bring their throttled voices back to life! You can support this project by going to their go fund me page at <https://www.gofundme.com/the-haymarket-sweat-and-tears> and you can follow them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/BloodyHaymarketAuditions/> for all their latest updates.



HAK-IŞ PLAQUE

UNVEILING

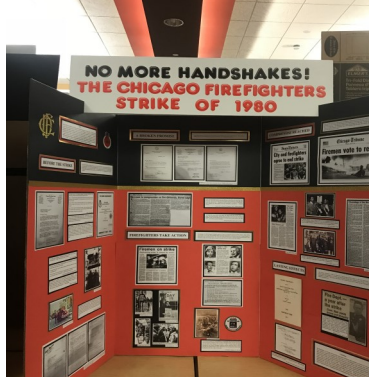
HAYMARKET SQUARE
RANDOLPH AND DES PLAINES
CHICAGO

Saturday, September 8, 2018 | Noon





Top Right: ILHS winners in the Breese Journal. Bottom Right: Rowan Reynolds' Exhibit Top Left: A Centralia Mine Accident by Bennett Lamers and Spencer Tebbe Bottom Left: Rowan Reynolds, Vice President Michael Matejka, President Larry Spivack, and Katie Myerholtz at the ILHS Annual Membership Meeting.



History Day in Springfield

THE 2018 ILLINOIS LABOR HISTORY SOCIETY AWARD WINNERS ARE.....

Exhibit

A Centralia Coal Mine Accident
Bennett Lamers and Spencer Tebbe
Breese Elementary District 12, Mentor
Mrs. Schumacher

Exhibit

Marisa Rabe
Payson Seymour Middle School,
Mentor Cindy Mena
**2018 Les Orear Memorial Award for
Labor History**

Exhibit

No More Handshakes: The Chicago
Firefighters Strike of 1980
Rowan Reynolds
Keller Regional Gifted Center, Mentor
Kelly Walsh

Documentary

The Haymarket Affair: The Riot That
Continues to Influence Labor Rights
Samuel Stade and Sebastian Valerio
East Aurora High School, Mentor Mr.
Elkins

Documentary

The Women of the Haymarket Riot
(click red title to see documentary)
Katie Myerholtz and Luke Peebler
Science and Arts Academy, Mentor
Miss Siegel

This year's theme was CONFLICT
AND COMPROMISE IN
HISTORY. Vice President Michael
Matejka, ILHS Board member Lisa
Oppenheim, and Director Stefanee
Asche spent the day in Springfield
looking at projects from all across the
state. Congratulations to Rowan
Reynolds from Keller Regional Gifted
Center and Landon Humphrey, Zane

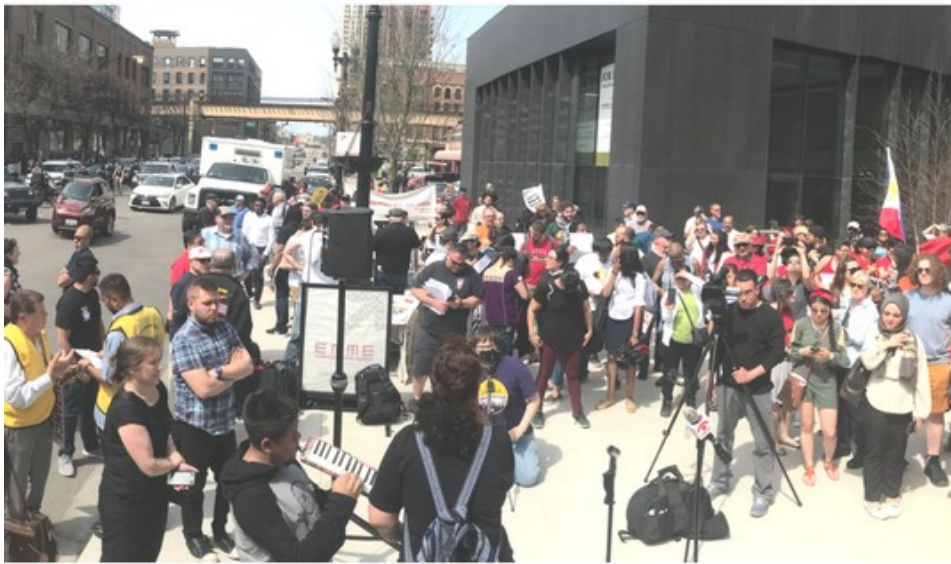
Documentary

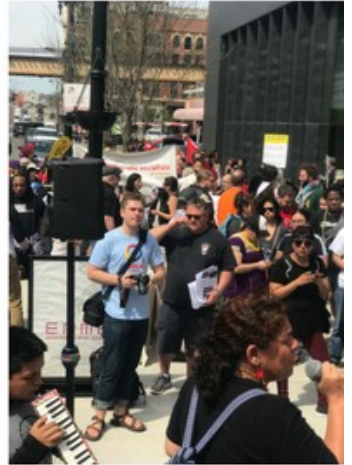
Conflicts Surrounding the Boxcar
Communities
Landon Humphrey, Zane Fesler, and

Fesler, and Marisa Rabe from Payson
Seymour Middle School who were
National History Day Qualifiers in
College Park, Maryland.

“Every year National History Day®
frames students’ research within a
historical theme. The theme is chosen
for the broad application to world,
national, or state history and its
relevance to ancient history or to the
more recent past. The 2018-2019
theme is Triumph & Tragedy in
History. The intentional selection of
the theme for NHD is to provide an
opportunity for students to push past
the antiquated view of history as mere
facts and dates and drill down into
historical content to develop
perspective and understanding.” from
the National History Day® website
which can be found at [https://
www.nhd.org](https://www.nhd.org)

May Day 2018 Back at Haymarket Square!







Prisoner
in 1919



McHenry County Sheriff
George Eckert

VILLAINS ~OR~ HEROES?



PULLMAN 1894 DEBS

The 1894 Pullman Strike and boycott of Pullman railcars led by the American Railway Union involved 250,000 workers in 27 states and paralyzed much of the nation's rail system. The labor crisis directly led to the establishment in that year of a national Labor Day. The strike also brought civil charges against American Railway Union leaders for violating a court injunction against the strike. Their attorneys, including Clarence Darrow and Lyman Trumbull, coauthor of the Thirteenth Amendment, defended them before the United States Supreme Court. On 27 May 1895, the Supreme Court unanimously upheld court injunctions against labor strikes. The decision in the Pullman Case, "In re Debs," sent Debs to a six-month stay in Woodstock's McHenry County Jail. - Kathleen Spalzo

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3

- 7:00 am - 12:00 midnight
COCKTAILS OF THE 1890s
Serving popular drinks of the period.
Location: Ethereal Confections
113 South Benton Street
- 10:00 am - 12:00 noon
THE GILDED AGE
A documentary film about 1880-1896.
Location: Woodstock Public Library
414 West Judd Street
- 11:00 am - 5:00 pm
DEBS EXHIBIT
Materials lent by the Debs Foundation.
Location: The Old Courthouse
101 North Johnson Street
- 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
PULLMAN EXHIBIT
Courtesy of The Illinois Railway Museum.
Location: Woodstock Public Library
414 West Judd Street

- 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm
DEBS FOUNDATION and ILLINOIS LABOR HISTORY SOCIETY
Book sales and information
Location: Stage Left Cafe
125 West Van Buren Street
- 2:00 pm - 2:30 pm
STEVE AAVANG
Presenting as Sheriff George Eckert.
Location: Stage Left Cafe
125 West Van Buren Street
- 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm
C.J. MARTELLO
A one-man show as George Pullman.
Location: Stage Left Cafe
125 West Van Buren Street
- 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
GUNNAR GITLIN
ERNEST FREEBERG
Discussing the 1895 Supreme Court decision that sent Debs to serve six months in the Old McHenry County Jail.
Location: Stage Left Cafe
125 West Van Buren Street

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4

- Note: Clocks fall back one hour
- 7:00 am - 10:00 pm
COCKTAILS OF THE 1890s
Serving popular drinks of the period
Location: Ethereal Confections
113 South Benton Street
- 11:00 am - 5:00 pm
DEBS EXHIBIT
Materials lent by the Debs Foundation
Location: The Old Courthouse
101 North Johnson Street



Steve Aavang



C.J. Martello



Gunnar Gitlin



Ernest Freeberg

- 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
WALKING TOUR OF DEBS SITES
Led by Steve Aavang, as Sheriff Eckert.
Location: Begins at Old Courthouse
101 North Johnson Street
- 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
PULLMAN EXHIBIT
Courtesy of The Illinois Railway Museum
Location: Woodstock Public Library
414 West Judd Street
- 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm
DEBS FOUNDATION and ILLINOIS LABOR HISTORY SOCIETY
Book sales and information
Location: Stage Left Cafe
125 West Van Buren Street
- 2:00 pm - 2:30 pm
STEVE AAVANG
Presenting as Sheriff George Eckert.
Location: Stage Left Cafe
125 West Van Buren Street
- 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm
ERNEST FREEBERG
Discusses the 1919 Supreme Court decision sending Debs to prison in Moundsville, West Virginia, later to Atlanta, Georgia.
Location: Stage Left Cafe
125 West Van Buren Street
- 4:00 - 5:00
BOOK SIGNING
Ernest Freeberg's "Democracy's Prisoner"
Location: Read Between the Lines
111 East Van Buren Street

All events are free to the public, who are encouraged to donate for the specific purpose of renovating the Old McHenry County Jail.
Make checks payable to Woodstock Celebrates, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization.

Poster concepts & design: Chris Zerle Graphic Design; Laura A. Wozniak www.omezeonline.com



Illinois Labor History Society

Membership Form



Renew your membership in the Illinois Labor History Society. The **Standard ILHS membership** (\$30 annually) includes: quarterly "Reporter" newsletter, invitations to special events throughout the year and email updates about ILHS activities and programs. Your **Silver ILHS membership** includes: standard membership, an exclusive ILHS Magnet and an exclusive ILHS car decal. Your **Gold ILHS membership** includes: standard and silver membership packages plus a book of your choice from the bookstore.

To join as an individual or to affiliate your local union, complete this form and send it with a check to our office, or renew online at www.illinoislaborhistory.org.

To support ILHS, I want to:

_____ Renew my membership Standard Silver Gold (please check one)

_____ Become an individual standard member (\$30 annually)

_____ Become an individual silver member (\$60 annually)

_____ Become a an individual gold member (\$100 annually)

_____ Book Title Choice

_____ Affiliate my union (\$250 annually)

Your Name _____ Name of Union Local _____

Address: _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____@_____

Payment (please check one):

- Check is enclosed
 Will make payment online at illinoislaborhistory.org

Please contact me with more information about

- Scheduling a Labor History program for my union/organization
 Scheduling a Labor History Tour
 Volunteering with ILHS

Return this Form To:

430 South Michigan Ave. Room WB 1806, Chicago, IL 60605

Also available for purchase at our bookstore online at www.illinoislaborhistory.org

Follow Us on Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/ilaborhistorys>



Since 1969



Illinois Labor
History Society

www.IllinoisLaborHistory.org

430 S. Michigan Ave. WB 1806,

Chicago, IL 60605

(312) 341-2247

ILaborHistoryS@gmail.com

#ILHLives

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.



ILLINOIS LABOR HISTORY SOCIETY
430 S. MICHIGAN AVE., WB 1806
CHICAGO, IL 60605

Or Current Resident

The day will come when our silence will be more powerful than the voice you are throttling today."
August Spies, 1855-1887