



ILLINOIS LABOR HISTORY SOCIETY

REPORTER



From Our President:

Dear ILHS Members,

There are a number of reasons I look forward to May Day each year. Perhaps the most exciting aspect for me is the opportunity to meet international guests we host each year. This year we welcome Fulya Pinar Ozcan from Turkey. Since the statue was dedicated in 2004 at Haymarket Square the ILHS has organized the celebration of International Labor Day. Since then the ILHS has received plaques from a visiting labor organization for installation on the statue. From Canada to Colombia, Japan to Greece, Iraq to Mexico, our AFL-CIO and the Chicago Federation of Labor, France and Sweden, Germany and the ILHS have all provided words of inspiration regarding one of

the world's most celebrated holidays with origins here in Chicago as a result of the Haymarket Affair.

The purpose, of course, is to remind ourselves that peace and prosperity for the world's workers will only be realized when we embrace each other's common bonds. As crazy as this may seem, I believe we are living in a time when the world has shrunk to such a degree that despite the divisions workers sometimes experience by class, gender, racial, religious and ethnic distinctions, we are all practically working in the same place now and the potential for genuine solidarity among the world's workers is within our grasp. We just need further encouragement. In the words of Albert Parsons--- "Let the

Voice of the People Be Heard!"

Until I see you at Noon on May 1 at Union Park where the statue is temporarily located ---SOLIDARITY

FOREVER!

Larry Spivack

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THOMAS SUHRBUR
Vice President

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Vice President

DEBORAH POPE
Recording Secretary

NICK CHRISTEN
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Excerpts from the CENTRALIA MINE DISASTER

By Patricia Lofthouse

When the sirens blew at 3:26 pm on Tuesday, March 25th, 1947, the women of Centralia, Illinois, knew. They grabbed their babies and ran through the cold March wind to the gate of the Centralia Coal Company. Smoke was billowing out of Mine #5 and the onlookers were ordered to stand back by the officials. Reality set in as bodies, body parts and personal effects were lifted out of the mass grave from 540 feet below. It began to rain, then snow.

By evening, the silent crowd had grown to 500, clustered into groups of families and friends. Some waited at the gate; others sat on the benches in the washhouse where the men changed into their work clothes every morning. One by one, the clean outfits that were hung on the chain that morning slowly disappeared with a tug on the pulley. There were 111 outfits remaining.

As the minutes turned into hours, the watchers kept glancing to the corner of the washhouse where an Inspection Notice from Illinois Mine Inspector Driscoll Scanlan was posted. On several occasions he had warned his superiors that the mine had an excessive build-up of coal dust that could explode unless the dust

was cleared. His warnings were ignored by everyone, including the parent company, Bell and Zoller. On March 3, 1946, four of the miners even wrote a letter to Illinois' Governor Dwight Green, begging him to "Please Save Our Lives." Three would soon be dead. Scanlan's last warning was dated March 18th, exactly one week be-

fore the blast.

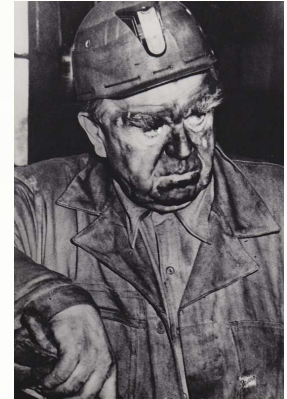
United Mine Workers Association President John L. Lewis came down during that holiday week of Easter and engaged the union's right to demand 6 memorial days to grieve and bury the dead.

There were now 99 widows and 78 children who now had no fathers. The mayor of Centralia started a fund and \$20,000 was raised that was divided among the families with enough only to cover the funerals. The union's new welfare fund that had just passed after a strike the previous year did not have enough money in it yet to provide anything.

A \$1,000 fine was levied against the parent company. The victims' families saw none of it. It sold the Centralia Coal Company to the Peabody Coal Company. Peabody closed the mine a year later blaming "the high cost of mining coal in an old mine." Governor Green lost his bid for reelection.

No charges against the company ever stood and no new federal laws about mine safety were enacted. An explosion 4 ½ years later in West Frankfort, Illinois, killed 119 miners. That tragedy finally prompted the passing of the Federal Mine Safety Act on July 6, 1952. The Act mandated yearly inspections, ventilation systems and thorough cleaning of the coal dust. Union President Lewis, who had spoken so eloquently to the Congress about the failure of Secretary of the Interior Julius Krug to inspect the mines, stood by as President Truman officially signed the bill into law.

Please feel free to log onto
www.illinoislaborhistory.org
to read the entire article



3/25/1947 Centralia Rescuers
Carrying Victim on Stretcher



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ILHS ON THE ROAD WITH STORIES AND SONGS

By Peter Pero



President Larry Spivack speaking to AFSCME Subchapter 60 Retirees group.

“You need to pass on your heritage”, said Mary Jones, President of the AFSCME Subchapter 60 Retirees group. She gathered about 20 of the union’s retired workers on February 28th to conduct a business meeting and information session. Larry Spivack, ILHS presi-

dent, was available to reprise the mission and purpose of the Illinois Labor History Society, which is nearly 50 years old since its creation in Chicago. Spivack took the members on a quick “word walk “ through Haymarket, Pullman, Waldheim Cemetery and other notable locations in labor history. A few retired AFSCME seniors asked how to find these labor landmarks. “We offer tours to any group that can fill a bus” Larry challenged . The senior

group took action and donated a check to ILHS in order to become an affiliated organizational member.

Local folk musician, Bucky Halker sang “Union Maids” to teach and entertain the AFSCME crowd. Halker won an NEA

grant to perform and teach labor songs at public libraries, schools and in various Chicago neighborhoods for 2017. “I guess that makes him a ‘Labor Lieder’ as the Germans say”, remarked author Peter Pero, an ILHS supporter since 1976.

The AFSCME retirees meet at their 205 S. Michigan Avenue headquarters monthly. Retired members can join the group by contacting Jenices48@yahoo.com

“You need to pass on your heritage”, said Mary Jones, President of the AFSCME Subchapter 60 Retirees group.

New Director on Board

Stefanee Asche is a graduate from Purdue University Calumet in Hammond, Indiana with a BA in History and a former organizer and member of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 142 in Gary, Indiana. She recently married to her husband Rick, who is also a Teamster with Local 142 on the construction side, and has two children, Julia and John. Julia is currently attending Indiana University majoring in accounting and John is currently a member of UFCW Local 881. She currently resides in Griffith, Indiana where she is a precinct committeeman for the Lake County Democratic Party. She built her career in a variety of roles and industries, mostly in small companies where she was not just the go-to-girl but also gatekeeper, technology whiz, book-

keeper and marketing guru. She is not only used to wearing many hats, she sincerely enjoys it; she thrives in an environment where no two work days are exactly the same. In her spare time she attends rallies for labor and social justice, spends time with her family including two dogs Sophie and Mayhem, and watches her favorite teams the Chicago Blackhawks and the Chicago Cubs.



Stefanee Asche, the new director of ILHS

WCI Co-hosts Lecture on Eugene Debs Author to speak on Debs and fight for free speech in WWI

Eugene Debs left Woodstock in November 1895, after his release from the McHenry County Jail, but his legacy and fight for free speech has not been forgotten.

On Tuesday, April 25, Woodstock Celebrates, Inc., the McHenry County Historical Society and the Illinois Labor History Society will co-host a program exploring Debs' fight for civil liberties during World War I. The program, beginning at 7 p.m. at the McHenry County Historical Society in Union, will feature author Ernest Freeberg, a distinguished professor of humanities at the University of Tennessee.

"Debs was a part of Woodstock's history, and his fight for free speech still echoes throughout America and the world," said Woodstock Celebrates Program Chair Kathleen Spaltro. "It's important not to lose this connection to history, especially when Debs' right to protest is very much in tune with current times concerns."

Debs was president of the American Railway Union in



Ernest Freeberg grew up in New England, attended Middlebury College, and worked as a reporter for Maine Public Radio

1895 when he was imprisoned in the McHenry County Jail in Woodstock for six months for contempt of disobeying a court injunction following his efforts in leading railroad workers on strike against Pullman cars pulled on passenger trains. While in Woodstock, Debs grew increasingly cynical of about

capitalism and came to embrace the labor movement as class warfare. He would become the leader of American Socialism, and he was sentenced to a 10-year prison term for speaking against the U.S. decision to join the fighting in Europe during World War I. Freeberg will explore the fight for civil liberties by those who worked to free Debs from prison and the fundamental questions it raised about the balance between individual liberty and national security. Free-



McHenry County Historical Society & Museum 6422 Main St, Union, IL 60180

berg's lecture is drawn from his award-winning book, *Democracy's Prisoner: Eugene V. Debs, The Great War, and the Right to Dissent*.

The author is also scheduled to speak at the Illinois State Historical Society in Springfield on April 20, at the Debs Museum at Indiana State University on April 21, and at Northern Illinois University on April 24.

Admission to the program at the McHenry County Historical Society is \$10. For information, contact MCHS at 815/923-2267.

ILHS Annual Meeting

ILHS Annual Meeting Monday June 5, 2017

Chicago Women in the Trades

2444 w. 16th Street, Suite 3E.

Chicago IL 60608

Refreshments at 5:30 pm with the annual meeting beginning promptly at 6:00pm.

A short talk about the History of Women in the Trades will be given by ILHS Board member Sara Joy Liles followed by the meeting and the yearly election.



Donate today! Login on to illinoislaborhistory.org



For the past 20 years, members Dave Rathke and Tom Suhrbur have taught labor history to apprentices at Chicago Roofers Local 11 at their training class for Illinois Labor History Society and the Mother Jones Museum.



Over 1000 apprentices to date have seen Mother Jones, America's Most Dangerous Woman and learned about Illinois labor history. The most recent group pictured above sang "Solidarity Forever" led by David.

Congratulations to Mike Matejka TWICE!



It is our pleasure to announce that ILHS Vice President Mike was the recipient of the "5-Star Community" award for outstanding community service by the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Bloomington-Normal

Chapter on March 25, 2017 and on April 24, 2017 he will be the 2017 Grabill-Homan Community Peace Prize recipient. There will be a reception to follow at Illinois State University.

SATURDAY, APRIL 29 • 10 AM - 2 PM

- 10: WREATH LAYING AT GRAVESITE • 10 - 2: TOURS OF MUSEUM
- 12: BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION • MUSIC • ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

GET OFF YOUR KNEES! EAT SOME UNION CAKE.

A Celebration for Agitators
Mother Jones Museum
OBSERVE MOTHER'S 180TH BIRTHDAY

BIRTHDAY PARTY!



2ND ANNUAL MAY DAY CELEBRATION

10 A.M., APRIL 29, 2017
See Website for More Details



Board Member Bucky Halker helping at the ILHS book table for the IEA/NEA Convention in Chicago.



Stephanie Fortado talking about Mother Jones to Illinois Teachers during the Women in Labor History event in Champaign.



New to the Bookstore

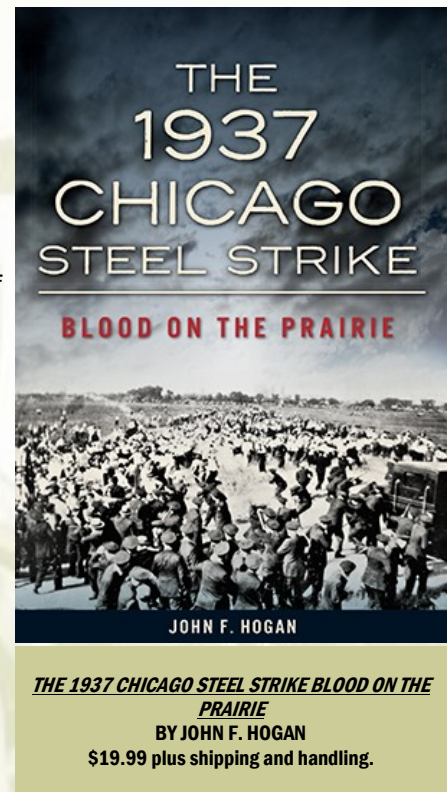
**10% off
Bookstore Order
Use Code:
Spring2017
(ends 5/8/2017)**

Have you checked out our Bookstore lately at Illinois-LaborHistory.org? We are currently updating inventory and adding new books. Our latest addition is *The 1937 Chicago Steel Strike Blood on the Prairie* by John F. Hogan.

It is about "A violent period of American labor history reached its bloody apex in 1937 when rattled Chicago police shot, clubbed

and gassed a group of men, women and children attempting to picket Republic Steel's South Chicago plant. Ten died and over one hundred were wounded in what became known as the Memorial Day Massacre. A newsreel camera captured about eight minutes of the confrontation, yet local and congressional investigations amazingly reached opposite conclusions about what happened and why. In the first book on the subject, John Hogan sifts through the conflicting reports of all those entangled in that fateful day, including union leaders, news reporters and an undercover National Guard observer revealed after seventy-six years.."

It is currently available for \$19.99 plus shipping and handling.



Did you also know we carry children's books on different labor topics? We are proud to introduce the graphic novel *Mother Jones Labor Leader* for \$8.10. Great for children's summer reading programs!

Do you have any suggestions on what books you would like to see in our Bookstore? Feel free to email suggestions to:

ILaborHistoryS@gmail.com



***Mother
Jones
Labor
Leader,***
**a graphic
novel for
\$8.10.**

Preview of A Great Vision A Militant Family's Journey through the 20th Century

by Richard March

Richard March comes from a family of three generations of committed activists. His parents Herb and Jane March were key figures in Chicago's labor and community organizing movements from the 1930s to the 1950s. They and other family members had an uncanny bent to be on hand in the right time and place to participate in and shape important events. This multi-generational memoir offers an informal and personal saga presenting history from the point of view of those who were living it—not only in the communities of Chicago's Packingtown, but also on a contested island in the Adriatic, in a Brooklyn Jewish neighborhood that was a hotbed of radicalism, on a commune in the Soviet Union, in California's 1960s youth rebellion and in the civil rights struggle in Mississippi's Delta country.

Before being forced to emigrate, March's Croatian grandparents led resistance against Italian fascists. His father Herb March, absorbed the ethos of his militant community in Brooklyn to become a committed labor organizer and a founder of the CIO union in Chicago's packinghouses. His mother, Jane March barely survived starvation in her native village during World War 1, lived an immigrant's experience on Chicago's South Side and became a community organizer

in the Back-of-the-Yards. After losing their assets in a 1930s bank failure, three uncles left the US to join an American commune in the

Soviet Union ultimately meeting sad fates. And the author himself, as a young teen plunged into activism in the civil rights, peace, anti-war and farm workers' movements.

Herb March's vivid words about surviving beatings and assassination attempts, about gruesome working conditions and violent strikes bring this history to life.

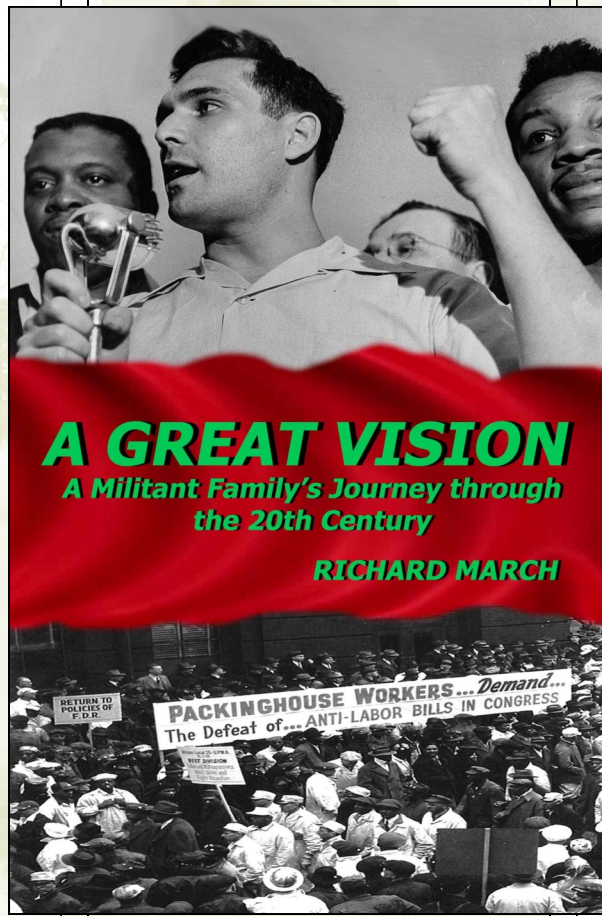
Jane March described her village childhood in troubled times, her immigration and becoming a fighter against injustices she saw during the Great Depression.

Letters and photographs sent from Russia by the uncles poignantly reveal the tragedy that befell them.

The author offers his own recollections of helping organize farm workers, working for civil rights, and helping found an anti-war street theatre group in Berkeley.

This book is a chronicle of one family's story, their participation in historical events. In a manner seldom included in standard histories, the book conveys the human face of events, and the flavor of lives lived in communities of impassioned seekers of justice.

Richard is also a member of ILHS. We are currently in the organizing stage of a book signing event to be held in October 2017. Please follow our website for upcoming details at www.illinoislaborhistory.org.



“Major portions of the book concern the organizing careers of my father Herb March, (an ILHS Hall of Fame member) who was a key organizer of the packinghouse workers in Chicago from the 1930s to the 1950s, and of my mother Jane March who was an organizer of the Back-of-the-Yards Neighborhood Council.”

—Richard March, author

"Robber Barons & Populists: Would Clarence Darrow Recognize Today's Populism?"



Author John Farrell, a Clarence Darrow biographer, was the guest speaker at this year's event. Pictured above speaking to the symposium.

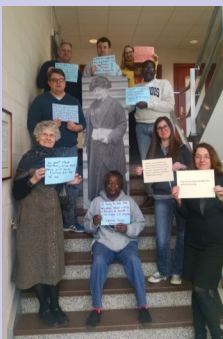
Author, John Farrell was the guest speaker at the annual Clarence Darrow symposium for the 79th anniversary of Darrow's death, Monday March 13, 2017. The program was titled, "Robber Barons & Populists: Would Clarence Darrow recognize today's Populism?".

It began with a brief ceremony and wreath-tossing near the Darrow Bridge in Jackson Park to honor where Darrow's ashes were scattered after his death and where, as a bet, he once agreed his spirit would return if it turned out communication was possible from the afterworld. Through the annual commemoration ceremony and lecture, Darrow's spirit has returned—usually to remind us that his work is not yet done. After the program at the Science and Industry Museum, Farrell signed copies of his book *Clarence Darrow: Attorney for the Damned* which ILHS currently has in our online bookstore.

Darrow, who died March 13, 1938, is remembered for his crusading role as "attorney for the damned" in such controversial cases as the Scopes Monkey Trial, the Leopold and Loeb murder case, and the pardoning of the Haymarket anarchists.

Why Teach Labor History?

The Women in Labor History Class showing off their favorite Mother Jones' quotes.



This project is supported by the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities and the Champaign County AFL-CIO Central Labor Council and presented jointly by the Labor Education Program and the Research Cluster on Public History and Student Research, in partnership with the Illinois Labor History Society and the Urbana Free Library. This one day workshop explored more than 150 years of Illinois women's Labor History,

From Lucy Parsons to Jennie Curtis to Jane Adams to Mother Jones these discussion were led by ILHS Vice President Michael G. Matejka and former Director of ILHS, Stephanie Seawell.

It is a requirement by the state of Illinois to teach labor history in the classroom. Teachers earned credit for the class.



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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 Self Walking Tour Package, a \$40.00 value (*Haymarket Revisited, The Pullman Tour, The Day Will Come* and our Labor Trail Map).

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:

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

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

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

_____ Affiliate my union (\$200 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 AUD 1851, Chicago, IL 60605

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

INTRODUCING: FULYA PINAR ÖZCAN

ILHS is proud to introduce, Fulya Pinar Özcan our special guest for this years May Day Celebration. She is an International Relations Expert, Project Manager and President of the Women Committee in Textile Trade Union Öz İplik-İş. She is also vice president of Hak-İs Confederation women Committee in Ankara, Turkey

Fulya Pinar Özcan was born in Turkey on 9 November 1977. She was married in 2011 and has a 2 year old daughter and a 4 year old son. She graduated from Eastern Mediterranean University in July 1999 with a degree Bachelor of Arts in International Relations. She completed her Masters of Business Administration at Webster University in Orlando, Florida in August 2004

After receiving her education, Fulya Pinar Özcan worked in America Online Call Center in Orlando as Assistant Trainee. She later returned to Turkey and started to work in the Textile Trade Union Öz İplik-İş 2006 as a project manager and an International Relations Expert.

In March 2012, Fulya Pinar Özcan established a women's committee in the union and become president of that committee.

In her current position as International Relations Expert and head of the Gender Equality department, she develops and implements projects/programs, maintains networks between International organisations and Union. She also conducts local and International field research related to industry and Industrial Relations, advises President, represents Union on International and national meetings and make presenta-

tions specifically on Gender Policies, migration, refugees and asylum seekers, training, child labour, multinational companies, code of conducts, global economy, organizing, collective bargaining, employment, unemployment, social dialogue, Textile Industry, Create and maintain network among the social partners, organize national networking, publicity and awareness raising events, produce and/or supervise the production of advocacy materials, represent Hak-İş confederation and Öz İplik-İş Textile Union in International and National Committees, Councils and Platforms and transfer information, Policy Development recommendations on behalf of Union, Develop an overall strategy and implementation plan for the projects, Provide ongoing leadership and guidance to all initiatives in the project, Prepare policy papers,

develop strategies and recommendations on industrial relations

Fulya Pinar Özcan become European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) Women committee member representing Hak-İş Confederation in 2009 and she was elected as presidium member in 2011. Recently She is elected as vice president of ETUC women committee which represent 22 million women workers through out Europe

She represent European Trade Union Confederation in the European Women Lobby (EWL) board and general assembly which represent 50 million women in 30 European country and 3000 women association since 2012. She represent Hak-İs Confederation in the ITUC - Asia Pacific Regional General Council.



May Day 2017



Monday
May 1, 2017
12:00 pm at
Union Park

ILHS Haymarket
Commemoration

With Guest Speaker:
Pinar Ozcan representing
the Confederation
of Turkish Real
Trade Unions.



LABOR
FIGHTBACK
FESTIVAL

REPUBLIC STEEL MEMORIAL MASSACRE COMMEMORATION



Fred Redmond
United Steelworkers
International Vice President (Human Affairs)
KEYNOTE SPEAKER 2016



Ald. Susan Sadlowski Garza



"THEY FOUGHT THEN,
WE FIGHT NOW!"

Saturday, May 21st, 2016
Starts at 2:00pm
11731 S. Avenue "O"
Chicago, IL 60617
(773) 368 - 5775

JOIN US FOR:
Food
Entertainment &
Fun



DESIGNED BY BEHAVENET/INKSDURAN



May Day
Day Without Immigrants

*We are not criminals, we are workers!
We have rights and will exercise them!*

*On May 1st we will march at 1 pm
from Union Park (Lake & Ashland),
to Chicago's Loop*





ILLINOIS LABOR HISTORY SOCIETY

430 S Michigan Dr
AUD 1851
Chicago, IL 60605

Phone: 312-341-2247

E-mail:

ILaborHistoryS@gmail.com

Web:

<http://illinoislaborhistory.org>

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.

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



ILLINOIS LABOR HISTORY SOCIETY
430 S MICHIGAN DR
AUD 1851
CHICAGO, IL 60605