The Labor and Working-Class History Association

NEWSLETTER 2013

LAWCHA MEMBERS AND MORAL MONDAYS

REFOCUSING & RECAP: NYC 2013 CONFERENCE

LAWCHA MEMBER ACTIVITIES

REMEMBERING ROBERT ZIEGER, 1938-2013

GUTMAN AND TAFT PRIZE WINNERS, 2013

2012-2013 BIBLIOGRAPHY
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Published April, 2014
Printed by Grass Roots Press (Raleigh, NC)

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The moment Republicans assumed unilateral control over North Carolina’s state government in 2012, they made national news for their sweeping attacks on social programs, voting rights, reproductive healthcare, and public education. In response, activists, educators, workers, teachers, and students from all over the state began voicing their discontent on the lawn of the legislature in Raleigh. Moral Monday protests, as they became known, were organized by Reverend William Barber, President of the North Carolina NAACP, and other progressive clergy. By May of 2013, they had gathered support from grassroots groups and labor unions from across the state.

A number of academics, including several LAWCHA members, participated in the early Moral Monday protests. LAWCHA’s first President, Jacquelyn Dowd Hall was one of the first arrested for civil disobedience on May 6, 2013, along with history professors William Chafe and Robert Korstad (pictured).

Current LAWCHA members have also been using their expertise to shape public policy debate. President Nancy MacLean has been working to recruit even more scholars to inform the conversation over public policy in North Carolina with expert knowledge from a variety of disciplines. Working closely with other LAWCHA members such as Lisa Levenstein and David Zonanderman, Scholars for North Carolina’s Future (SNCF) holds regular events addressing the issues pertaining (but not limited) to Moral Mondays.

What began as a weekly protest in one state has sparked a broad movement against right-wing attacks on workers, voting rights, and teachers across the South. The movement has spread to Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina. As recently as March 17, 2014, dozens of protestors were arrested in an Atlanta Moral Monday protest against the Georgia state legislature’s regressive agenda.

Moral Mondays will continue until the right-wing legislative attack on working-class families ends. It has become, as Reverend Barber says, “a movement, not a moment.” Its rallying cry sounds louder than ever: Forward together, not one step back!

Keep Up with Moral Mondays

North Carolina NAACP: http://www.naacpnc.org/
Twitter: @MoralMondays
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/MoralMonday
Scholars for North Carolina’s Future: http://sites.duke.edu/sncf
Challenges and Opportunities

Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of a talented and diverse program committee, the New York conference, established a new threshold for the organization that creates both challenges and opportunities. The program had a remarkable diversity of sessions—more than 100 altogether—that brought together academics, trade unionists, community activists, public school teachers, and others. In sessions that ranged from the assaults on labor and the public sector to women’s work in a global economy to organizing contingent labor in car washes and universities, participants debated contemporary crises and the meaning and relevance of historical cases. The energy and commitment that the more than 640 registered participants brought to those discussions was palpable. And the mix of backgrounds, current experience, and perspectives on the future of working people and their struggles generated remarkable connections.

Deserving of special thanks for the success of the conference is a core group of members of the program committee. Manny Ness helped build an impressive network of local support and wide-ranging sessions that tapped into community activist and trade union circles in the city. He also helped recruit a stellar group of participants in the two plenary sessions that bracketed the conference while managing innumerable details. Chris Michael took on considerable responsibility for catering, facilities, and other crucial local arrangements in New York. Ryan Poe, LAWCHA’s executive assistant, managed online registration, program design, recruitment of volunteers, and many on-site logistics. Kim Phillips, past-president of LAWCHA and co-chair with Manny Ness of the program committee, facilitated valuable cooperation from Brooklyn College and secured funding for a number of key aspects of the conference—including facilities, program printing, and some of the catering. Many other folks—too numerous to mention—contributed their efforts in a multitude of ways—large and small to make the conference a success. They all deserve our abiding gratitude.

One benefit of the conference for LAWCHA was a quite unprecedented surge in membership. By the end of 2013 membership had risen to 702, 23% above the previous high of 570 in 2009 (interestingly, the year of our previous self-standing conference in Chicago) and 44% above 2012 levels. But, also significant is the fact that much of that growth in membership came from the activist community and from graduate students who were drawn to participate in the organization through the conference. These new members represent an opportunity and a challenge. The challenge is one that we have always faced—how to retain members who initially join the organization. The opportunity lies in building a program going forward that addresses their interests and needs.
What We Have Been

Over the course of its 12 years, LAWCHA has been primarily an organization of academic historians. This is particularly true of our elected board of directors but also to a large extent our membership. Our meetings have had the form of academic conferences, usually hosted by universities or held in conjunction with national history conferences (OAH) or regional labor history associations (SLSA, PNWLHA, SWLSA). The exceptions have been self-standing national conferences, arguably our most successful, in Chicago (2009) and New York (2013). Each of these has had significant labor and community activist participation.

Beyond the conferences, aimed particularly at academics, we offer members an academic journal of high quality and a very high quality website (though this is also open to the wider public of nonmembers). We list members’ academic and op-ed publications. More recently, in conjunction with the journal Labor: Working Class History of the Americas, we have instituted interactive features (LaborOnline, a teachers’ blog, and tweets) that frequently address contemporary issues, as do the Action Alerts on the website. But beyond these benefits we offer little. And for those who can’t or don’t attend the academic conferences we provide little sense of belonging to a wider community of labor historians or labor activists.

Ways Forward—Alternatives

Keep on, keepin’ on. We can certainly continue as an organization to maintain and even expand somewhat the work and focus that we currently have. Labor history as an academic sub-discipline is not suffering from the “crisis” or malaise that some in the recent past have seen. The conference program suggested the presence of an emerging cohort of younger scholars and graduate students who are moving the field in new and exciting directions. The development of new transnational and comparative directions is exciting, as is the increasing focus on informal sector and contingent labor. Strong interests in the intersections of race and gender with class are a further source of vitality.

But, it is likely, if we remain a national academic organization of the sort we have been, we will lose a significant share of the new members we have acquired this year and that many members, especially those who are not academics, will continue to feel marginalized in a largely academic organization.

One alternative (there are certainly others)—Local and state networks. As the organization has grown, some of us have perceived an opportunity to rethink the direction of the organization. It would be possible, in the current circumstances, to imagine both maintaining our identity as a national organization—with the current complement of our academically-oriented programs and building a new, decentralized structure to support programmatic activity at local and state levels. Such a structure, at least in theory, would provide new points of access and involvement for members, many of whom are already active in their own communities. It would be through local networking that the intersection of labor history and

The mix of backgrounds, current experience, and perspectives on the future of working people and their struggles generated remarkable connections.
current labor/community activism might most fruitfully be nurtured.

We have taken a few steps in this direction following the New York conference. First, the board appointed an ad hoc committee to investigate ways in which LAWCHA can provide more support to beleaguered public school teachers and public sector workers more generally. With resources generated by the conference, we have hired a graduate assistant to work with the committee in building contacts, assembling curriculum resources, and facilitating input from teachers and public workers. The focus initially is primarily on a single region—the Upper Midwest—with the prospect of expanding that work further.

Second, we have reorganized access to the membership list on the LAWCHA website so as to facilitate identification of members at the local and state level. Our hope is that by being able to easily contact LAWCHA members in a given city or state, members who want to initiate a local or statewide project—a conference, a lecture series, defense of a historic site, a campaign for labor history curriculum in the schools, a strike support activity—can easily reach out to others who might share that interest or be able to spread the word further.

Third, we want to continue to strengthen our relations with local groups that are already working on labor history projects of a public nature and to bring the publicity and networking that a national organization can provide to such efforts. There is much important work that is already going on that we can support. And there is room for new efforts that need a spark to be ignited. These local activities provide opportunities for LAWCHA members to engage with each other and with other activists and academics. We need to find more ways to support and encourage this work.

Even as we encourage greater local activity, we must also recognize the importance of the global context in which we live and work (think: “Think globally; act locally”). Another feature of the New York conference was the significant participation of scholars and activists from outside the U.S.—46 participants from thirteen countries, including a session on domestic workers organizing in the Americas with activists from the Latin American and Caribbean Confederation of Household Workers.

These are opportunities that I hope we can seize in the months and years ahead and in the process build a stronger LAWCHA that is both visible as a national organization and vibrant at the local level where so much important work needs to be done.

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Join LAWCHA

Want to contribute to the work of hundreds of scholars and activists across the country? Join the Labor and Working-Class History Association and receive a subscription to *Labor: Studies in Working-Class History of the Americas*, our yearly newsletter, access to teaching resources and activist news, and connections to labor scholars from around the world.

LAWCHA.org/Join
How have working people developed solidarity and power to confront employers and the state, to struggle with each other and within their communities, to enhance rights and extend the arc of justice? How do we as scholars, educators, and labor activists assess strategies deployed in the past and the present? How do workers themselves measure the success of our social movements? Over 500 people came together in New York City in early June 2013 to wrestle with such questions. We explored the efficacy of past organizations, including unions, cooperatives, and mutual aid societies, and the promise of new structures being built by people of color, women, immigrants, and workers historically excluded from labor law and collective bargaining. Indeed, the presence of domestic workers, worker center organizers, occupiers and others outside of or loosely related to traditional trade unions marked an expanded house of labor as surely as did discussions of prison, home care, student, and creative workers widen the subject of labor history and labor organizing.

This conference report presents only a taste of the rich offerings served in the environs of the Brooklyn College Graduate Center for Worker Education, located just blocks away from the New York Stock Exchange in an urban landscape expressive of the contradictions of global capitalism.

In unprecedented numbers, the conference brought together scholars of labor, trade union and community activists, and many participants who can claim all of these identities. Present were more than forty international scholars and activists from 17 countries, including leaders of domestic workers’ organizing campaigns in Mexico and Central America. Activist scholars opened the conference with a plenary on “The Assault on Labor and the Public Sector: Strategies for Resistance in the Post-Election Environment,” chaired by Alice Kessler-Harris (Columbia University). Frances Fox Piven (CUNY Graduate Center) argued that the crises that have undermined organized labor in the United States have not rendered workers powerless and that the most promising strategies for exercising power are emerging on the labor movement’s periphery—in fast food, the retail sector, the Occupy movement, workers’ centers, and so on. Richard Wolff (University of Massachusetts) proposed that the labor movement devote itself not only to collective bargaining but also to the establishment of enterprises owned and managed by the workers who make them run. Bill Fletcher, Jr. (Institute for Policy Studies) called for a reinvigorated political agenda, including labor initiatives with regard to tax structure, U.S. foreign policy, and the rights of the unemployed. Saket Soni (National Guestworker Alliance and New Orleans Workers’ Center for Racial Justice) observed that new forms of corporate power call for new forms of organizing and offered examples of collective resistance among guest workers and other contingent employees. During the Q and A, the speakers stressed the labor movement’s need for scholars who can contribute to worker education, to public discourse on labor issues, and to movement brainstorming with regard to strategy...

A number of panels highlighted contingent and precarious work. A roundtable on “Organizing Contingent Labor” historicized the presence of workers without steady employment and linked past struggles to present organizing... A very lively discussion debated the range and limits of worker centers, their relation to trade unions, the necessity of socialized wages, the problem of the
capitalist state, and the scale necessary to win. An important session on contemporary warehouse organizing featured Marien Casiliñas-Pabellon, director of a labor center in Northern New Jersey and Louis Guida of Warehouse Workers United. Both emphasized the highly contingent nature of work in the giant warehouse and distribution centers now sited on the peripheries of virtually every major metropolitan region in North America. Layers of subcontractors, a return of the old patron system, and a virtual absence of an enforceable labor law make for a difficult, but not impossible, organizing climate...

A number of other panels addressed the situation of excluded and precarious workers, centering on private household workers and their fight for worker control in New York City, through the National Domestic Worker Alliance, and by way of the passage of a bill of rights and ratification of the ILO convention, “Decent Work for Domestic Workers.” One panel highlighted regional organizing in Latin America... Another one, organized by Peter Rachleff, featured Mark Nowak, Premilla Nadasen, and Susanna Rosenbaum on organizing strategies in New York, London, and Los Angeles among domestic workers. Nowak shared poetry dialogues that came out of workshops he conducted with Domestic Worker United and other worker organizations that underscored the power of spoken word and collective expression for worker resistance and community making. As Linda Burnham stressed again and again during the conference, telling their own stories and building that capacity is essential to making a road for others to walk upon. Other sessions considered women workers in sex-segregated workplaces subject to sexual harassment, organizing day care, and fighting for respect as well as raises; evaluated the Equal Pay Act on its 50th anniversary; and explored writing biography of working-class women.

“Sex Work and the State” pushed for treating sex workers as workers rather than criminals or victims. Calling for an un-exceptionalized approach to sex work that situates it as labor, Heather Berg spoke about workers’ health in the adult film industry and the racialized and gendered discourses of risk attached to discussions of sexually transmitted disease. Kate D’Adamo called for an understanding of sex trafficking as a labor issue, and problematized legal frameworks that make workers more vulnerable in the name of ‘protecting’ them. Melissa Gira Grant explored the history of third party criminalization in prostitution and highlighted the ways in which the state and state agents (such as police officers) often emerge as the primary perpetrators of violence against sex workers. Samanta Majic looked at the institutional history of sex worker operated St. James Infirmary, a clinic that provides healthcare and community-building to workers often denied access to vital services. Gregor Gall closed the panel with a broad overview of sex worker organizing globally, discussing various drives to unionize as well as the features of sex work that make organizing a challenge...

“Working-Class Resistance to the Carceral State” utilized a range of sources to analyze the different spaces and scales at which working-class people are targeted for policing and imprisonment, and their efforts to resist such actions, revealing the diversity of research links between

Recap of the 2013 LAWCHA Conference

Opening plenary at the 2013 LAWCHA Conference.
Left to right: Saket Soni, Richard Wolff, Frances Fox Piven, Bill Fletcher, Jr.
Credit: Ann and Shel Stromquist

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carceral studies and working-class history. Sarah Haley addressed imprisoned Black women in early 20th Century Georgia who resisted their exploitation in myriad ways including by burning down their prison camp; Amanda Hughett presented the relationship between imprisoned women and lesbian feminist activist allies on the outside to oppose unjust treatment in North Carolina prisons in the 1970s; and David Stein uncovered the forces influencing choices to invest federal governmental capacity in policing and imprisonment of street crime instead of funding for full employment and guaranteed income in the 1970s. The papers also made a broader argument about the necessity of studying the roles of imprisoned people in working-class history and 20th century political economy...

“Rights and Opportunities: Workers, Employers, and the Politics of Ideas” included Claire Goldstene on “Equal Opportunity Reconstituted: Samuel Gompers, the AFL, and the Corporate Economy,” and Amy Wallhermfechtel speaking on “The Constitutional Bases for Legal Challenges to Union Political Assesments.” Goldstene described the reaction of AFL President Samuel Gompers to tensions stemming from the late 19th century rise of the corporate economy. She noted how the union leader adjusted his ideals on rights through acceptance of a capitalist system rewarding merit with the embraced of the rhetoric of “equal opportunity.” This was part of the transition, Goldstene argued, from Gompers’ “producerist” to “consumerist” mindset. Wallhermfechtel portrayed another union-related transition in rights occurring in the second half of the 20th century, this time expressed through US Supreme Court cases relating to the right to political speech. She described how the Court changed its approach, from defending group rights of unions to more exclusive dependence on First Amendment rights to free speech from the 1960s through 2012.

“Comparative Labor History in the 20th Century: States, Unions, Struggles” offered an international panorama of class struggle and labor organizing. Godfrey Vincent outlined the history of worker organization and labor union activism in Trinidad and Tobago since the 1930s, describing the tension between revolutionary struggle and the realization of union political power. Continuing with the idea of unions and their political power, Michael Snodgrass spoke of the “the Golden Age of Charrismo,” as a union comparison to what has been called golden age in Mexico. From the 1940s through the 1980s the country experienced significant economic progress under relative political stability, although in the form of “Dictablanda,” or soft authoritarian rule of the
Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI). Union leaders practicing “charrismo sindical” served as strong political actors in their own right. Crossing the Atlantic, Tara Martin in “Worker Resistance in Times of Austerity—British Public Sector Workers in 1979 and Today,” compared current union reaction to austerity to the so-called “Winter of Discontent” of 1978-79, which produced widespread strikes by public sector unionist against Labor Party anti-inflationary pay policies. The conservative media reacted by spinning the activism as “crisis,” leading eventually toward the victory of Margaret Thatcher in fall national elections. Finally, Aviva Chomsky analyzed community and work where coal is produced, comparing land, coal and identity in the Appalachian region of the United States and the Colombian Andean coal mining area...

The closing plenary, “Looking Forward: New Directions and Strategies for Labor,” held at the historic Cooper Union Great Hall, gave voice to new organizing possibilities facing working people. John Wilhelm, past president of UNITEHERE, a union reinvigorated by the grassroots organizing of immigrant workers, expressed optimism that workers were figuring out new ways to organize themselves and in the process “inventing new structures of power.” A panel of labor and community activists, chaired by Ruth Milkman, professor of sociology at CCNY Graduate Center, examined what she described as new varieties of working class initiative. Ed Ott, past president of the New York Central Labor Council, argued that “no size fits all” when it comes to organizing models. “If you have the workers, everybody will deal with you.” Jaribu Hill, executive director of the Mississippi Workers Center for Human Rights, described struggles in Mississippi and across the South, which called into existence workers’ centers that could address the “whole life of the worker” and provide a space where new organizing could happen. Erik Foreman, from the Jimmy John’s Workers’ Union (IWW) offered a graphic first-hand account of the conditions workers at Starbucks and Jimmy John’s faced that led them to a different “organizing script” relying on collective action rather than a bankrupt NLRB organizing process. Linda Burnham, research director for the National Domestic Workers’ Alliance, used the example of the campaign for a Domestic Workers Bill of Rights to illustrate how workers’ confidence that they can organize themselves and their willingness to build networks of community support outside a narrow collective bargaining framework could produce success. Finally, Elaine Bernard, executive director of the Labor and Worklife Program at Harvard Law School, ended with a call to look forward, take risks, and remember that new circumstances will bring about new forms of organizing.

I thank those who were able to contribute on such short notice. I have added to and edited reports offered by Heather Berg (UCSB), Jill Jensen (Penn State University), Nelson Lichtenstein (UCSB), Priscilla Murolo (Sarah Lawrence), Kit Smemo (UCSB), David Stein (USC), and Shel Stromquist (University of Iowa).

http://lawcha.org/wordpress/2013/06/14/lawcha-watch-recap-of-the-2013-national-conference/

For Better or Verse

Dear LAWCHA Members,

I wish to call the attention of labor historians to the collection of poems and songs by my uncle, Henry Foner, former president of the Fur and Leather Workers Union published by Labor Arts under the title, For Better or Verse. Many of them illuminate aspects of the labor movement over the past three-quarters of a century. The book contains words of praise from other troubadours of labor such as Pete Seeger Peter Yarrow. In a brief introduction, I wrote, “Old-timers will chuckle when they recall when they first heard these works, while a younger generation will gain a new appreciation of Henry’s multifaceted talents.”

- Eric Foner

The brief book can be ordered from Labor Arts for $10 per copy, with discounts for multiple copies: LaborArts.org/FonerBook
LAWCHA members were involved in the efforts to erect two notable historical markers this year. Bill Barry, former Director of Labor Studies at Community college of Baltimore County noticed that there was only one labor history marker in Maryland, the one erected by Saul Schneiderman of Labor Heritage Foundation, to Mother Jones. So after speaking to a Maryland Occupy gathering in 2011, he applied for a marker to commemorate the 1877 Railroad strikes that started on July 16, 1877 against the B&O Railroad. He writes, “Every labor historian should consider a project like this: it sharpens our sense of history, builds public—and permanent—visibility with a marker and will be an occasion for focusing public resources on the workers’ history of your area. The marker is stunning, and given that it is located near the city’s baseball stadium, it will certainly raise public awareness of the strike.” You can read more about the effort and process at LAWCHA.org/wordpress/2013/04/03/marker-to-1877-mass-strike-unveiled-in-maryland/

Another marker, in a much less labor-friendly state, was a notable achievement this year. The efforts of Local 22 of the Tobacco Workers Union-CIO in the 1930s and 1940s as documented by Robert Korstad in his book Civil Rights Unionism, is a remarkable story of the forging of community activism, political activism, democratic participation, with an aim for full emancipation and economic justice—all within the union movement, and years before the usual dating of the civil rights movement. This year a marker commemorating the connection between unionism and civil rights struggle was placed near the plant. For more about this effort see LAWCHA.org/wordpress/2013/05/29/time-for-truth-and-reconciliation-by-the-afl-cio/

LAWCHA member Anthony Bonthius was involved a model collaboration between workers, unions and academics in Ohio. Tom Sodders, a retired Ohio truck driver, had started collecting New Deal era prints from around the Ohio Area. When he learned that Youngstown State University and the Massillon Museum were going to host a commemoration of the Little Steel Strike, he offered his collection, which provided half the material. The project also developed into a traveling exhibit funded by the Ohio Humanities Council and a book in which Bonthius was one of the contributors. You can learn more about this and about the book at LAWCHA.org/wordpress/2013/08/31/art-and-the-little-steel-strike-of-1937/

Former LAWCHA president Michael Honey has been giving singing lectures on his new book John L. Handcox, the Southern Tenant Farmers’ Union, and African American Song, which was published in 2013 as part of Palgrave Macmillan Oral History series. His edited book of Martin Luther King’s labor speeches, All Labor Has Dignity, is now available in paperback from Beacon Press. Mike is currently directing the Center for the Study of Community and Society at the University of Washington Tacoma, which is recording oral histories of people in the region and collaborating on immigrant oral histories with the Center for the History of the New America at the University of Maryland.

LAWCHA member Jessie Ramey, whose book Child Care in Black and White: Working Parents and the History of Orphanages has won 3 prizes, has been deeply involved in supporting public school teachers in Pittsburg. She has a terrific blog at http://yinzercation.wordpress.com/
Dr. Robert Zieger, Distinguished Professor of History Emeritus at the University of Florida, passed away on March 6, 2013. Professor Zieger was one of the preeminent labor historians of the United States. He was a two-time recipient of the Philip Taft Labor History Book Award for the best book in labor history. He was a prolific writer and authored classic works including, *For Jobs and Freedom: Race and Labor in America since 1865*, *The CIO, 1935-1955*, and *America’s Great War: World War I and the American Experience*. Bob was a spirited and rigorous historian who introduced countless scholars, students, union members, and community organizers to the field of labor history. He edited several key volumes in southern labor history including Life and Labor in the New New South (2012) which presented some of the best new work in the field of southern labor studies.

Dr. Bob Zieger talked the talk, and he walked the walk. Bob was a longtime member and leader of the United Faculty of Florida, AFL-CIO. He was his union’s delegate to the North Central Florida Central Labor Council for many years, and he gave the keynote address at the CLC’s Annual Dinner in 2012. On the job, Dr. Zieger conducted scores of office visits beginning in the 1990s to encourage fellow faculty and instructors to join the United Faculty of Florida. His energy and knowledge of the labor history was an important element in a highly successful union drive on campus recently.

Paul Ortiz,  
*University of Florida*
at other times he was more: sometimes a father-figure, sometimes an older brother, and always a treasured friend.

His broad historical knowledge, careful scholarship, union activism, and tremendous network of labor history/labor movement contacts amazes me even to this day. Even more amazing, as other remembrances will show, he took the time and effort to personally help not only his Ph.D. students but many younger scholars. To so many of us, students formal and informal, he will always be remembered as one of our working class heroes.

Gilbert Gall,  
*Region Field Director*  
PSEA Southwestern Region

**Remembrance by Michael Honey**

Bob Zieger’s untimely passing is a huge shock. Bob brought myself and many others into labor studies through the early North American Labor History conferences at Wayne State... He was open minded, humble, and always learning new things. A lot of people will miss him terribly, both for who he was and for what he did. Otto Olsen, my mentor and dissertation chair in graduate school at Northern Illinois University...wrote to me that Bob was “a workhorse in the local labor union movement, not only serving on a variety of boards and committees but doing the manual work of clearing up and putting chairs away after meetings. Like Otto himself, Bob merged his working-class family background and the spirit of Jimmy Higgins with intellectual dexterity and deep learning as a scholar...

With great appreciation, we lift a toast to Bob and offer our deep condolences to Gay and to their family.

Michael Honey,  
*University of Washington Tacoma*

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**Remembrance by Alex Lichtenstein**

I first met Bob Zieger twenty-five years ago, when I was graduate student poking around the National Archives at the old Suitland, Maryland facility. I do not recall what we spoke about that day, or really even how we happened to encounter one another. But I remember clearly how open and friendly Bob, already an accomplished scholar, was to a student who had just barely begun work on a dissertation. And that brief encounter turned into a quarter-century of friendship, and, for me, mentorship.

This, I think, was absolutely typical of the man—maybe one of the least pretentious people I have ever met, either inside or outside of academia. Bob, of course, was the author of many fine books on a range of subjects, not all of them confined to labor history. He produced what remains the single best volume on the history of the CIO. He edited several important collections of essays on southern labor history which helped many younger scholars (including myself) break into the field. Those who had the benefit of his editorial eye know that he wielded an exceptionally merciless pen—and also know that their prose was made much the better for it. He was universally loved as a dedicated teacher of both undergraduates and graduate students. And he unfailingly served as an extraordinarily generous mentor for other scholars. Bob was someone who would never pull up the ladder once he had climbed it.

I invite other LAWCHA members to offer Gay and Robert Zieger, Jr. our condolences and to bid a sad farewell to Robert H. Zieger, a loving husband and father, a mentor, a comrade. But I am sure Bob would appreciate another sentiment as we contemplate his life well-lived: *don’t mourn, organize!*

Alex Lichtenstein,  
*Indiana University*
The Cornell University ILR School, in collaboration with LAWCHA, is pleased to announce the winners of the 2013 Philip Taft Labor History Award for Best Book in American Labor and Working-Class History Published in 2012.

Matt Garcia,

*From the Jaws of Victory: The Triumph and Tragedy of Cesar Chavez and the Farmworker Movement*

University of California Press

Kimberley Phillips,

*War! What Is It Good For?: Black Freedom Struggles and the U.S. Military from World War II to Iraq*

University of North Carolina Press

The Taft Labor History Prize Committee, made up of Ileen DeVault, Jeff Cowie, Thavolia Glymph, Laurie Green, and Seth Rockman is pleased to announce the winners of the 2013 prize for the best books in labor and working-class history published in 2012. The winners of this year’s prize, in alphabetical order, are Matt Garcia, for *From the Jaws of Victory: The Triumph and Tragedy of Cesar Chavez and the Farmworker Movement*, published by University of California Press, and Kimberley Phillips’s *War! What Is It Good For?: Black Freedom Struggles and the U.S. Military from World War II to Iraq*, published by The University of North Carolina Press.

Matt Garcia’s *From the Jaws of Victory* is a brave, if sobering, biography of a movement and its leader. A testament to Garcia’s skill with oral histories, the book tells the UFW’s story from inside the union, identifying a wider circle of organizers and an unsettling struggle to consolidate the gains of the grape boycott. Garcia does not shy away from criticizing the strategic choices of the movement’s hallowed leader, but this volume is neither revisionism for its own sake, nor a romantic lament for what might have been. Instead, Garcia brings together the “hope, triumph, and disappointment” that have characterized the quest for social justice in modern America.

Kimberley Phillips’s *War! What Is It Good For?* uniquely grapples with blacks in the armed forces from both a race and class perspective, as both members of the military and as workers. Bookended by chapters on the better-known World War II and Vietnam wars, Phillips’s middle chapters on black soldiers during the Cold War, particularly in the Korean War will forever change our understandings of this period. Phillips builds from there to consider the impact of African American experiences in U.S. wars on American culture and on the Black Freedom Movement. She emphasizes the ongoing importance of this multifaceted struggle in her epilogue by bringing her account all the way to Iraq. Phillips’s groundbreaking work thus not only adds to, but in several ways changes, the conversation about African Americans in postwar America.

The Philip Taft Labor History Award for Best Book in 2013 will be announced at the OAH and LAWCHA Annual Meeting in Atlanta, April 9-13. For more information, including submission guidelines, please visit the Taft Award website: www.ilr.cornell.edu/taftaward/
The Labor and Working Class History Association (LAWCHA) announces the winner of the

2013 Herbert G. Gutman Prize for Outstanding Dissertation in Labor and Working-Class History in 2012

Dr. Vilja Hulden,

Employers, Unite!
Organized Employer Reactions to the Labor Union Challenge in the Progressive Era

University of Arizona
Advisor: David Gibbs

Dr. Hulden was the recipient of the seventh annual Herbert G. Gutman Prize for Outstanding Dissertation in Labor and Working-Class History for her dissertation, “Employers, Unite! Organized Employer Reactions to the Labor Union Challenge in the Progressive Era.” “Employers, Unite!” argues that the anti-union campaign of Progressive-Era organized employers molded in crucial ways the shape of labor relations in the United States, and that to understand the development of ideas about work, business, and labor unions, we need to understand how these employers gained and wielded political and societal power.

The prize is named in honor of the late Herbert G. Gutman, a pioneering labor historian in the U.S. and a founder of the University of Illinois Press’s “Working Class in American History” Series. LAWCHA hopes that the spirit of Gutman’s inquiry into labor and working-class history will live on in this prize. Winners receive a cash prize of $500 from LAWCHA and a publishing contract with the University of Illinois Press.


The Gutman Prize Committee for the 2013 award consisted of Nelson Lichtenstein (University of California, Santa Barbara), Chair; Michael C. Pierce (University of Arkansas); and Heather Ann Thompson (Temple University).

The Gutman Prize for Outstanding Dissertation in Labor History for 2013 will be announced at the OAH and LAWCHA Annual Meeting in Atlanta, April 9-13. For more information, including submission guidelines, please visit the LAWCHA website: LAWCHA.org/wordpress/grants-prizes/

Announcing The David Montgomery Award

Following a successful fundraising campaign launched after the 2012 Joint Organization of American Historians/LAWCHA meeting, the David Montgomery Award is now a reality. Beginning in 2014 the OAH & LAWCHA will present a cash award for the best book on a topic in American labor and working-class history. The award is given in recognition of David Montgomery’s crucial role in pioneering new approaches to the study of working people and their history.

OAH.org/programs/awards/david-montgomery-award/
Labor History Bibliography, 2012-2013
Compiled by Rosemary Feurer, Northern Illinois University

This list can be found categorized by subject at http://www.laborhistorylinks.org/booklist.html
If we have left off a title please let us know: rfeurer@niu.edu. Thanks to Ileen DeVault for sharing the Taft History Prize list of books as a starting point for these lists.

2012


2012 Labor History Bibliography


