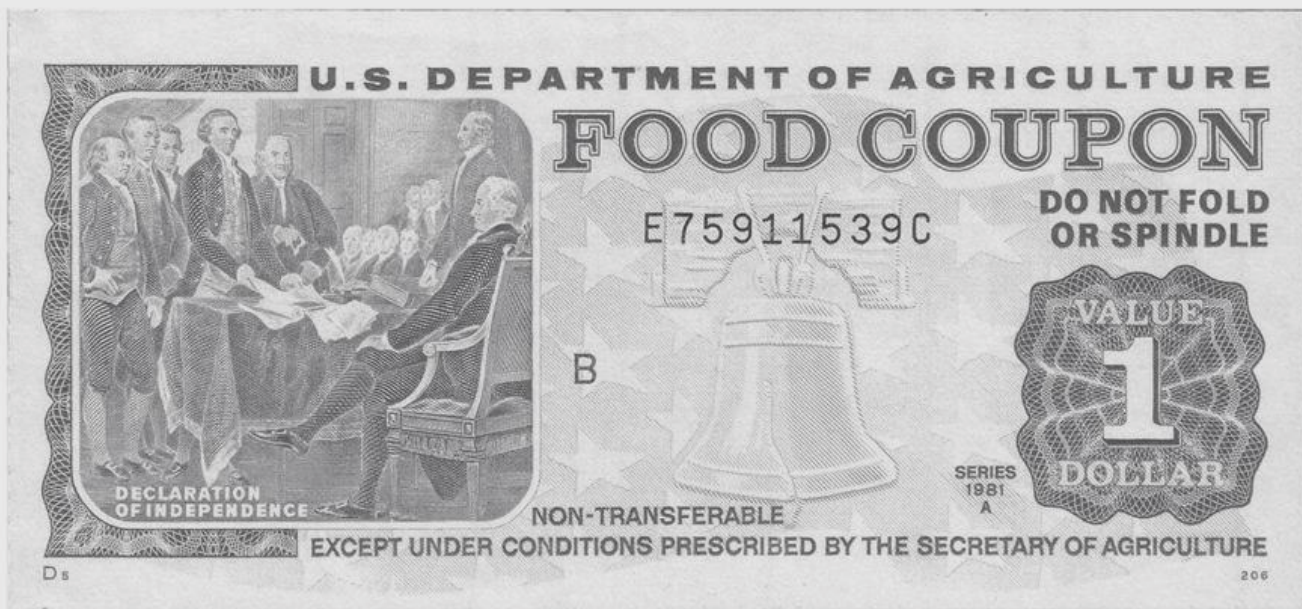


LAWCHA

The Labor and Working-Class History Association

IS YOUR PROFESSOR LIVING IN POVERTY?



YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED. SUPPORT ADJUNCTS!

LOOKING AHEAD FROM
NOVEMBER

2016 PRIZE & AWARD
WINNERS

2015 BIBLIOGRAPHY

CELEBRATING JAMES GREEN

CONTINGENT FACULTY
COMMITTEE

GLOBAL AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE REPORT

NEWSLETTER
2016



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"Activism--'Coming Out' as an Adjunct," by Lee Kottner, July 11, 2015. <https://extraordinaryfacultyfm.wordpress.com/2015/07/11/activism-coming-out-as-an-adjunct/>



President's Perspective

Looking Past November

James Gregory, University of Washington

Things are going to be different after November 8. We are either going to veer into a sequence of madness that is beyond imagining or we will have a new Democrat in the White House and then a Supreme Court capable of reversing some of the tragic rulings of the last decade. We may be facing a rare and strange opportunity, an LBJ type opportunity. Clinton's difficulties, the disarray in the GOP, and the surging activism of millennials in the Sanders, Dreamers, and Black Lives Matter movements may provide an opportunity to build effective social movements that lawmakers cannot ignore. That was the Great Society formula. LBJ's Congress faced fired up social movements alongside a divided GOP. The result was a set of important laws and still more activism. Does history repeat? If so, hopefully without new imperial wars.

Be that as it may, it is clear that we are in a moment of political passion and mobilization and LAWCHA is positioned to help with some of the critical challenges, especially on the campuses where many of us work. Schools, colleges, and universities are ground zero for several of the new civil rights and labor movements. Black Lives Matter and the Immigrant Rights movement find much of their millennial-generation leadership on campuses. TA union campaigns have new energy after the Columbia NLRB ruling. And the crisis of faculty precarity has reached a new level of urgency.

Committee on Contingent Faculty

Last year, with encouragement from past president Nancy MacLean, an ad hoc committee drafted proposals that the Board of Directors adopted at its April 2016 meeting, most importantly creating the Committee on Contingent Faculty and with it a new blog associated with LaborOnline. LAWCHA is now fully committed to fighting precarity in academic labor markets, the great crisis of higher education.

Casualization has many victims. It destroys livelihoods and shatters the careers of scholars who have worked for years to earn advanced degrees and build valuable skills. It undermines the quality of education and the system of governance of colleges and universities, and ultimately it threatens to shrink the

intellectual culture of an entire society as brilliant young people realize that there is no future in academia.

The Fight for \$15 and other living wage campaigns have set agendas that need to be brought into academia. Many schools are routinely paying adjunct faculty less than a living wage, while hiding that fact behind obscure employment formulas. Hiring adjunct faculty on a course-by-course basis, one semester at a time, paying no benefits—this has become standard practice at even wealthy universities.

But who is calculating what this means in terms of paychecks and working hours? Only the victims. What kind of living do you make when you are paid less than \$3000 per course (the national average appears to be about \$2700)? If you can find three courses one semester and three the next, you have earned \$18,000. And how many hours have you worked on teaching, grading, consulting, and course preparation for those six classes? Too many. Some schools pay more but none want to consider whether they are meeting living wage standards or minimum wage laws. And other laws and standards are ignored. Why are contingent faculty denied unemployment insurance?

LAWCHA's Committee on Contingent Faculty and its blog will push the fight against precarity in academia. Please join in. We need to make this fight everyone's concern. We need to bring it to our campuses, to unions and news media, and to lawmakers at every level.

LAWCHA 2016 Awards

Our meeting with the OAH in Providence was highly successful thanks to our intrepid program committee. LAWCHA organized or sponsored 18 sessions and hosted a wine and beer reception attended by nearly 100 members and friends. Jobs With Justice members led a fascinating walking tour of historical and contemporary labor sites in Providence. Naoka Shibusawa deserves thanks for arranging this.

The awards banquet was especially memorable. Elizabeth Fones-Wolf and Ken Fones-Wolf won the David Montgomery Award. Talitha LeFloria and Nancy Wolloch were named co-winners of the Philip

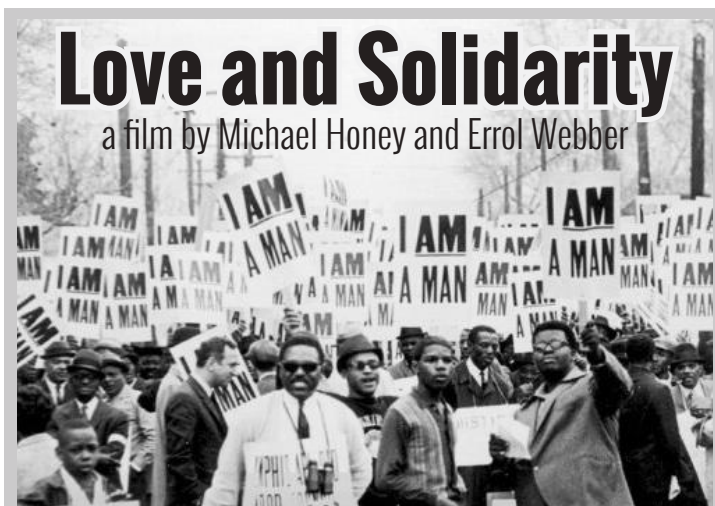


LAWCHA Board of Directors and Executive Committee at the OAH Conference, 2016.

Taft Labor History Book Award. Stephen Beda accepted the Herbert G. Gutman Prize for the Best Dissertation. Sarah F. Rose and Joshua A. T. Salzmann won the best article award.

The highlight was the presentation of the LAWCHA Distinguished Service Award to Jim Green,

former president and founding member. We did not know it then but Jim had only a few months to live. The citation thanked him for exemplary contributions to the field of labor history, to social justice movements, and to LAWCHA (see article). His death on June 26 provoked an outpouring of admiration and affection, some of which has been recorded on the LAWCHA website's Jim Green memorial page. A celebration of his life will be held November 12 at Carpenters' Union Hall in Boston.



Love and Solidarity

a film by Michael Honey and Errol Webber

Love and Solidarity is an exploration of nonviolence and organizing through the life and teachings of Rev. James Lawson. Lawson provided crucial strategic guidance while working with Martin Luther King, Jr., in southern freedom struggles and the Memphis sanitation strike of 1968. Moving to Los Angeles in 1974, Lawson continued his nonviolence organizing in multi-racial community and worker coalitions that have helped to remake the LA labor movement.

Through interviews and historical documents, acclaimed labor and civil rights historian Michael Honey and award-winning filmmaker Errol Webber put Lawson's discourse on non-violent direct action on the front burner of today's struggles against economic inequality, racism and violence, and for human rights, peace, and economic justice.

38 MINUTES AVAILABLE NOW

LoveAndSolidarity.bullfrogcommunities.com

Board of Directors Decisions

LAWCHA is thriving. We came close to reaching the 600-member milestone in 2015 following the Georgetown conference. Unfortunately, not everyone is renewing promptly so the number has since fallen, as it often does in our non-conference years. Membership should surge again with the Seattle conference. Fourteen percent of our members are graduate students who currently pay dues of \$25. Responding to a request from the Committee on Contingent Faculty, the Board authorized the Executive Committee to negotiate with Duke University Press (which publishes *Labor*) for a reduced rate for contingent faculty. We hope to be able to implement those changes in 2018.

Treasurer Liesl Orenic reported that our finances are healthy and the Board authorized more graduate student travel awards for LAWCHA conferences and support for other initiatives including the Teaching Resources Committee and its active blog. Shortly after the Providence meeting, we received news of a generous gift. Liz and Ken Fones-Wolf donated \$500, half of the Montgomery prize. Many thanks!



President's Perspective

Archive for LAWCHA Papers

At the initiative of former Treasurer, Tom Klug, LAWCHA's organizational records are to be archived at the Walter Reuther Library at Wayne State. Founding mothers and fathers and subsequent officers are encouraged to preserve documents (including digital correspondence) and contact Jim Gregory or Hannah Ontiveros at the lawcha@duke.edu.

LaborOnline and Facebook Page

Thanks to Rosemary Feuer and Ryan Poe our digital outreach has been growing. Each day 100-150 people visit our website and our facebook page has nearly 3000 followers. Meanwhile our blog LaborOnline publishes a steady stream of important contributions some of which have been subsequently republished in other outlets. Most blog entries reach at least 1000 readers. Please read and please contribute.

LAWCHA at AHA and OAH

Sophia Lee has joined our program committee and is now our liaison with the AHA. For the January 5-8 Denver meeting, LAWCHA will sponsor five sessions.

As we do every year, we will be part of the OAH meeting April 6-9 in New Orleans. Program Commit-

tee members Jana Lipman, Ken Fones-Wolf, and Max Krochmal have organized several sessions and arranged for LAWCHA to sponsor others, eighteen in all. In addition, we will hold a luncheon. Talitha LeFloria, whose book, *Chained in Silence: Black Women and Convict Labor in the New South*, won the Taft Award and other prizes, will be the guest speaker.



Scales of Struggle

COMMUNITIES, MOVEMENTS, and GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

June 23-25, 2017 - University of Washington, Seattle



Our 2017 annual meeting will be in Seattle, June 23-25, at the University of Washington. This gives us a chance to visit the left coast city where labor has been winning important victories and pioneering new strategies. And late June is a great time to see the Pacific Northwest. Stay after the conference and explore Seattle and the mountains, islands, and waterways of Puget Sound.

LAWCHA.org/wordpress/annualmeeting/seattle-washington-2017



Teaching and Learning Labor's Story

LAWCHA launched a teachers/public sector worker Toolkit at its website about eighteen months ago. The toolkit is part of LAWCHA's mission to promote "public and scholarly awareness of labor and working-class history" and "teaching labor history in the classroom, from K12 to colleges and universities." Easily accessed through the Teaching Resources link,¹ the toolkit includes a rich variety of sources that can be used for learning and teaching about labor and working class history. The teaching blog² encourages dialog about these and other sources.

Now, the teacher/public sector committee is excited to announce the next phase of this initiative: Teaching Labor's Story. Teaching Labor's Story will address the neglect and distortions of labor's story in standard textbooks and narratives used in high schools and universities across the country. It seeks to meet teachers, labor educators and public sector workers where they are by providing resources that can be readily incorporated by experts and non-experts alike into their existing curriculum. The Teaching Labor's Story project will consist of primary source documents carefully selected

to reveal labor voices, experiences and actions during commonly recognized historical eras and events. Each document will be accompanied by a custom-written annotation that contextualizes it (highlighting both broad trends and noteworthy particularities); identifies the document's connection to established history curriculum; and provides a brief glossary of terms, additional resources, and discussion/writing prompts.

Teaching Labor's Story will be a peer-reviewed, crowdsourcing and web-publishing opportunity for LAWCHA members and their students. After testing the first models in the Fall, the committee plans to post a Call for Contributions and sample document annotations to the Teaching Resources link in early 2017. Look for opportunities to learn more about this at the 2017 LAWCHA Conference in Seattle.

1. LAWCHA.org/wordpress/teaching-resources

2. LAWCHA.org/wordpress/committee-portal/teaching-committee

LAWCHA Seeks

Manuscript Submission and Reviewers for *Labor*

Labor reviews monographs, anthologies, films, TV shows, and permanent museum exhibits about the working class history of the Americas (Latin America, the United States, and Canada), as well as books about other parts of the world that we think will be of interest to labor historians anywhere. We do not generally review new editions of books, document readers, memoirs, or temporary exhibits.

To volunteer, email laborreviews@gmail.com a note listing your fields of expertise and attaching a copy of your CV. Please note, though, that, except under exceptional circumstances, we do not permit people to suggest the books they want to review and we do not publish reviews by graduate students.

One exception to the solicitation rule is review essays. If you have or would like to write a review essay on a subject you think would be important to *Labor's* readers, please feel free to contact us. If you're revising your dissertation for publication and your press wants you to take out the historiographical section, consider sending a version of it to *Labor*.

Advice to Authors

If you want your book to be reviewed by *Labor*, please be sure we get it. Many presses neglect to send books out to journals for review. Just because you filled out a form listing the journals you want to receive your book doesn't mean it will happen. And even presses that do regularly send us books often miss books we think are relevant. We recommend that you ask your press to send you the list of journals to which they've sent your book and feel free to check with us at laborreviews@gmail.com to make sure we've received it.

Direct editorial correspondence and manuscripts for submission to:

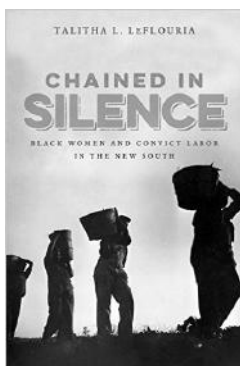
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Taft Prize, 2016

Chained in Silence: Black Women and Convict Labor in the New South

by Talitha L. LeFlouria, Florida Atlantic University
University of North Carolina Press

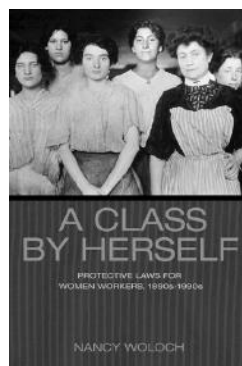
Talitha L. LeFlouria's *Chained in Silence: Black Women and Convict Labor in the New South* (The University of North Carolina Press) is at the cutting edge of the newest southern labor history, putting renewed emphasis on types of labor coercion persisting in the wake of slavery. Her innovative research uses oral history sources and medical records to interrogate convict workers' experiences in new ways.



A Class by Herself: Protective Laws for Women Workers, 1890s-1990s

by Nancy Woloch, Barnard College
Princeton University Press

Nancy Woloch's book, *A Class by Herself: Protective Laws for Women Workers, 1890s-1990s* (Princeton University Press) exemplifies even-handed, careful, and insightful research, illuminating key cases affecting labor standards legislation over the course of the 20th century. Speaking to broad themes about gender and labor, *A Class by Herself* synthesizes years of research into a powerful narrative.



The Taft Prize Committee this year consisted of Ileen De Vault (Chair, Cornell), Lawrence Glickman (Cornell), Stacey Smith (Oregon State, LAWCHA), Tom Dublin (SUNY-Binghamton, LAWCHA) and Dorothy Sue Cobble (Rutgers, LA WCHA).

LABORonline

LaborOnline features commentary on a host of issues, contemporary and historical, as well as "instant" dialogue and debate among readers and authors about the contents of LAWCHA's print journal, *Labor*. Recent posts and articles include,

- Jews in the Labor Movement: Past, Present and Future
by Bennett Muraskin
- Who is *Shameless* This Election Season? One TV Show's Challenging Depiction of the Working Poor
by Pamela Fox
- White Trash, Hillbillies, and Middle-Class Stereotypes
by Jack Metzgar
- The ILWU History Project
by Harvey Schwartz and Robin Walker
- The New Democrats and the Old Dominion: A Legacy of the Hyper-Capitalist 1990s
by Michael Dennis
- Some Silver Linings for the Working Class in British Politics?
by Tim Stangleman
- Irish Rebels at Home and Abroad
by Paul Buhle
- The Education Campaign: Addressing Inequality through Teaching and Learning?
by Sherry Linkon
- Portrait of a "Marriage": Radicals & the Democratic Party
by Mark Lause

LAWCHA.org/LaborOnline

Herbert Gutman Prize, 2016

Steven C. Beda

Landscapes of Solidarity: Timber Workers and the Making of Place in the Pacific Northwest, 1900-1964

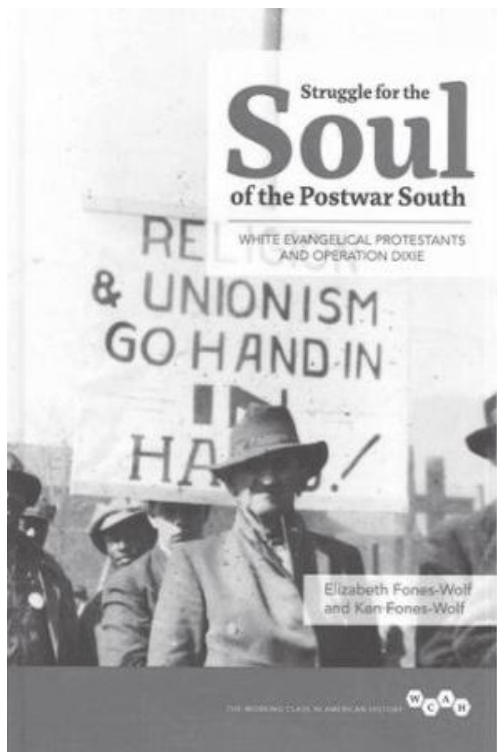
University of Washington, 2015
Advisor: James Gregory

Skillfully linking social and environmental history, Beda analyzes archival, literary and quantitative sources to paint a rich and novel portrait of timber workers' engagement with the social, political and environmental worlds of the 20th century Pacific Northwest. In the spirit of Herbert Gutman, Beda reached these conclusions through a painstaking exploration of the work, family and community lives of timber workers. Skillful analysis of the Integrated Public Use Micro Samples allows him to recover the dense networks of family and community that sustained individual workers as they travelled throughout the region. This year's Gutman prize committee consisted of William P. Jones, University of Wisconsin Madison; Jarod Roll, University of Mississippi; and Jacob Remes, SUNY Empire State College.

For more information on LAWCHA's awards and prizes, please visit LAWCHA.org/wordpress/grants-prizes/

David Montgomery Award, 2016

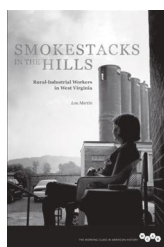
Committee: Eric Arnesen, Chair; Bruce Laurie (University of Massachusetts-Amherst) and Deborah Cohen (University of Missouri-St. Louis)



Struggle for the Soul of the Postwar South White Evangelical Protestants and Operation Dixie

by Elizabeth Fones-Wolf and Kenneth Fones-Wolf
University of Illinois Press

Elizabeth Fones-Wolf and Kenneth Fones-Wolf address several central issues in labor history: the failure of the Congress of Industrial Organization's Operation Dixie and the inability of the labor movement to unionize the South in a substantial way, on the one hand, and the nature of southern workers' religious worldviews, on the other. Southern white workers' skepticism of organized labor rested, in part, on their deeply held religious commitments, which were underestimated or misunderstood by northern trade unionists who sought to enlist southern workers in their cause. Yet the men and women in these pages were neither misled by employer paternalism nor misdirected by labor's opponents. Their religious beliefs provided them with sources of personal and community strength; they also informed their priorities and influenced their political choices. The authors make a convincing case that organized labor's fate in the South cannot be understood without attention to the "cultural and religious values" of working people. They provide us with a nuanced and respectful account of southern workers their religious beliefs, and religion's role in shaping responses to the postwar efforts to organize the South. In so doing, they challenge labor historians to take religion seriously as a powerful force and constitutive element of their subjects' lives.



HONORABLE MENTION

Smokestacks in the Hills Rural Industrial Workers in West Virginia

by Lou Martin, Chatham University
University of Illinois Press

2016 Distinguished Service Award

James Green

LAWCHA's Award for Distinguished Service to Labor and Working-Class History was presented by Past-President Nancy MacLean to James Green, Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Massachusetts Boston, in honor of his exemplary contributions to the field and its members and this organization over so many years.

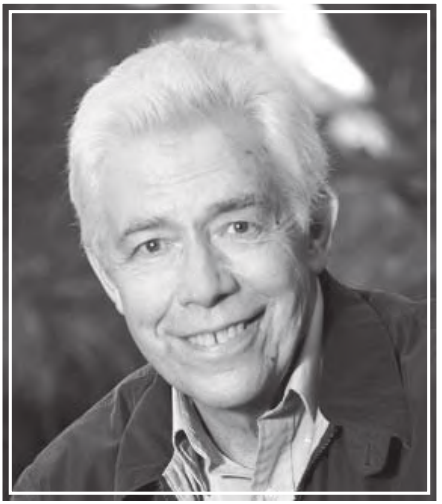
"In seven books, many articles, films, exhibits, local tour guides, and other cutting-edge labor education and public history projects, Professor Green has opened new avenues of scholarly inquiry and pioneered new ways to communicate historical narratives to broad audiences.

Devoted first and foremost to education, Green has made labor history into public history over the last half

century at the University of Massachusetts, while providing models for other labor historians to follow, including by his role in documentaries of working-class history in "The Great Depression," with Blackside Productions, and most recently "The Mine Wars," aired nationally this year in PBS's distinguished "American Experience" series.

As an activist, Jim has been part of nearly every struggle for social justice over the past five decades. A founding member of LAWCHA, Jim was elected President in 2003 and during his term of office helped launch the organization's journal, *Labor: Studies in Working-Class History*, serving later as associate editor.

Celebrating the Life and Work of Jim Green



In the days after Jim's death, many LAWCHA members shared memories. LaborOnline asked Jim O'Brien, who had known and worked with Jim Green for more than forty years to write about their friendship and about Jim Green's impact on labor history and social justice.

Memories of Jim Green

by Jim O'Brien

Note: The Author is a friend of Jim Green since 1971, has been part of many left-history projects, from the early-70s Radical Historians Caucus and Radical America magazine to *Historians Against the War*, of which he is co-chair

When I moved to Boston in the fall of 1971, one of the first people I set out to meet was Jim Green, then a second-year junior history professor at Brandeis University nearby. I think Paul Buhle of *Radical America* magazine, also new to Boston, tipped me off. Paul and I and other history grad students at the University of Wisconsin had shared a range of radical-history projects, certain that a new understanding of history was emerging from the 1960s New Left that we were part of. Jim was seen as a kindred spirit.

Jim at the time had his plate full. A sheep among senior wolves in the Brandeis history department, he was pouring energy into his teaching while scrambling to finish his lengthy Yale University dissertation, praised highly by his adviser, the legendary C. Vann Woodward. (The topic – populist and socialist movements in the American Southwest – bespoke a New Left historian's digging for what common people had striven for and accomplished in the past. It didn't bespeak good prospects for flourishing in the academic history world of the early '70s. As Jim recounted the conversation years later, David Hackett Fischer once approached him to say he had no chance for getting tenure and also would not be given the customary year's employment after tenure denial – "We're making an exception in your case.")

Busy as he was in commencing his academic career, he

EVENT:

Celebration of Jim's Life and Work

2pm, November 12, 2016
Boston, Massachusetts, United States

The Labor Resource Center and many friends and family of Jim Green will be gathering to celebrate Jim's life and work at 2 pm on Saturday, November 12, at the Carpenter's union hall (750 Dorchester Ave, Boston MA), and we hope you can join us.

was determined not to be defined by it. When Jim and I met for lunch (at a Lebanese restaurant in Boston's South End, where he lived at the time), we almost immediately started speculating about a potential radical history conference, aimed at bringing together radical academics and community/labor organizers. (It was held the following spring at MIT with a good attendance.) We also began a friendship that enriched my life for just short of forty-five years.

This remembrance will be heavy on the 1970s and 1980s for two reasons. One is that the closer his story gets to the present, the higher the proportion of readers who already know at least the basics, most notably his fabulous books on Haymarket (2006) and the West Virginia mine wars (2015). The other reason is that the creative merger in his work between academia and engagement took shape in this early period and never really changed.

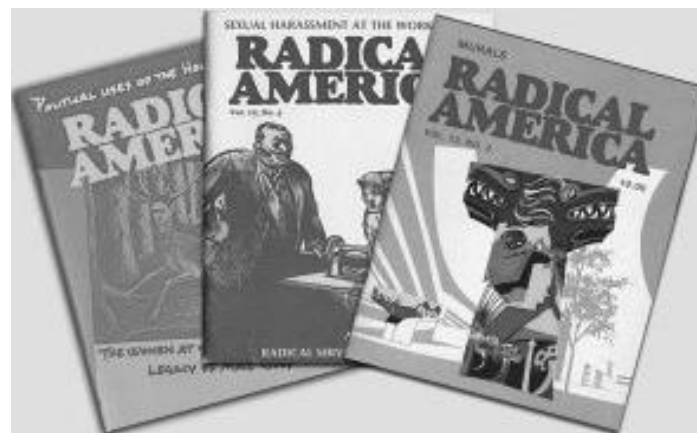
Even had his time at Brandeis gone better, Jim would have felt uncomfortable in a purely academic setting. But he never felt uncomfortable as a *historian*. His instincts nudged him toward exploring history in a way that enabled him to bring a nonacademic audience and readership along with him. The radical history conferences (one a year 1972-74) were an example of his desire for bridge building. So was his work on *Radical America* magazine, whose editorial collective Jim joined in 1972. RA offered a voice for activists, past and present, and sought to put the tools of academic research to present-day uses, with accessible language. Jim put together special issues on American labor in the 1930s and the 1940s, and with Allen Hunter he wrote a long, trenchant article on the background of Boston's school-integration crisis of 1974-75, "Racism and



Remembering Jim Green

Busing in Boston.” In a sophisticated but highly readable way, the article counterposed the black community’s long struggle for better schooling to the Boston School Committee’s populist racism.

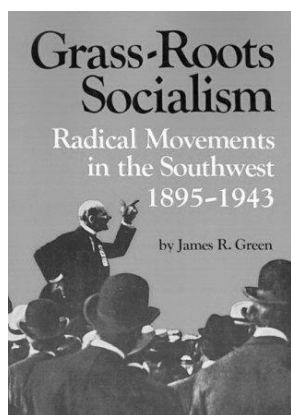
His employment took a giant leap in 1977 – downward as measured by academic prestige, upward as measured by his own kind of history. His Brandeis stay had been extended by a year’s leave in 1975-76 to teach at Warwick University in the U.K., but the spring semester of 1977 was unmistakably the end of the road. Happily, an opening emerged just then at the University of Massachusetts Boston, specifically in UMass Boston’s New Left-inspired College of Public and Community Service (CPCS). He taught in CPCS for thirty years until transferring to the History Department and then (in 2014) retiring.



Radical America Magazine, whose editorial collective Jim joined in 1972.

and from Manchester to Colchester.” In 1978 he and two fellow Boston-area historians, Marty Blatt and Susan Reverby, formed the Massachusetts History Workshop, whose story is very well told in Chapters 2 and 4 of Jim’s partly autobiographical book *Taking History to Heart*. The most successful of the Workshop’s early programs brought two hundred current and former clerical workers, overwhelmingly women, together with historians of women’s work; a follow-up oral history project on office work involved upwards of a hundred people. The Workshop also initiated two major commemorative events at Boston’s Faneuil Hall (one in 1983 honoring the 1903 founding of the Women’s Trade Union League and one in 1986 for the hundredth anniversary of the original eight-hour strike) that involved elements of the official trade union movement. Arthur Osborn, president of the state AFL-CIO, scorned the Workshop as a leftist “front group,” but ended up speaking at both events because influential groups within his federation (notably the building trades in the case of the 1986 event) had jumped in with enthusiasm.

Looking back, 1986 marked a turning point in Jim’s ability to dialogue with the mainstream labor movement. The same year that brought five hundred unionists to Faneuil Hall for the eight-hour commemoration was the first of thirty years in which Jim led a half-dozen lecture/discussion sessions each winter in the Harvard Trade Union Program. Through them he met a great variety of midlevel union officers and staffers from across the US as well as other countries. The United Mine Workers, under the new reform leadership of Rich Trumka, was especially well represented in the Harvard sessions. Trumka soon recruited Jim to make labor-history presentations to West Virginia activists and to the UMW’s Executive Board, and Jim later organized Boston-area

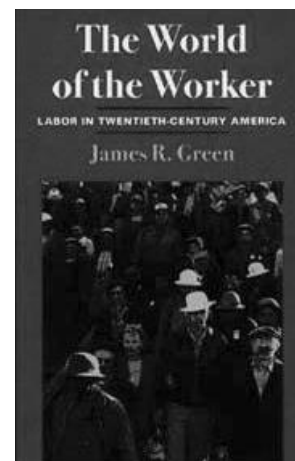


Jim’s dissertation-turned book, *Grass-Roots Socialism*, published in 1979.

CPCS, created in 1973, was aimed at mid-career social service and public service workers, many of whom had some college experience but not bachelor’s degrees. Many were union members, and not a few were hungry for a broadened understanding of the union movement and its history. The Labor Studies degree program which he soon started was a wonderful fit for a significant part of CPCS’s nearly unique student population. CPCS, and UMass Boston more generally, also encouraged and cherished his research. In 1979, the year after his revised dissertation emerged in book form as *Grassroots Socialism*, he won the campus-wide Chancellor’s Award for Distinguished Scholarship.

I’m struck by the memory that in the mid-1970s, when Jim and Paul Faler and I, along with several young Canadian historians, put together an annotated guide to North American working class history, only a small minority of the U.S. entries were academic history books. They were crowded-out by novels, memoirs, and films, which we saw as better ways of conveying a feel for the past. For Jim, I think this posed a dilemma, since he felt an affinity for the growing number of young academic historians influenced (as he was, especially during his year at Warwick) by British historians such as E. P. Thompson and Eric Hobsbawm. His first major book project after *Grassroots Socialism* was a conscious effort to incorporate much of the new research into a narrative history. At Eric Foner’s invitation, he wrote a book that Hill and Wang published in 1980 as *The World of the Worker: Labor in Twentieth-Century America*, still in demand today. He never lost the fellow-feeling with other academic labor historians of his generation (and subsequently younger generations) even as he aimed his own writing and speaking at a nonacademic audience.

The British historians who most influenced Jim’s practical work were Anna Davin, Raphael Samuel, and others in the History Workshop that flourished at Ruskin College, London. As he later wrote, “They had created a popular history movement through which they shared radical history with working people in countless venues from Aberdeen to Kentish Town



The World of the Worker: Labor in Twentieth-Century America, 1980.





Remembering Jim Green

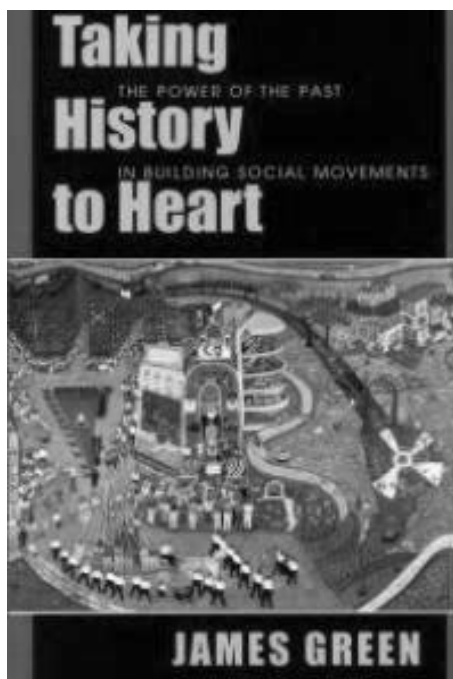
support for the union's bitter and ultimately successful strike against Pittston Coal in 1989-90.

His next major book project didn't come to fruition until exactly twenty years after *The World of the Worker*. *Taking History to Heart: The Power of the Past in Building Social Movements* (U. of Massachusetts Press, 2000) reflected the way of presenting history that had moved to the center of his life. The heart of the book was a thoughtful recounting of his own mixed successes and partial failures in what he called "movement history," primarily about the past struggles of working people. Besides the History Workshop and his teaching at UMass and at Harvard, he was able to describe films, walking tours, television (notably as research coordinator for the seven-part "Great Depression" documentary shown by PBS in 1993), and National Park Service consulting. That was a partial list. The book ended on a hopeful note, with chapters on the Pittston Strike and the rank-and-file ferment that led to new reform-minded leadership to the national AFL-CIO.

One chapter of *Taking History to Heart* gave a third-person account of how memories of the 1886 Haymarket tragedy, and the eight-hour movement that formed its background, had been kept alive over the generations, with ebbs and flows that reflected the changing fortunes of radical movements here and abroad. I think already in Jim's mind was the idea of telling the story of Haymarket himself, which he did in his 2006 book *Death in the Haymarket* (Pantheon Books). He was very conscious of trying to write a coherent, engaging story for a broad public. What struck me as we talked about it and I read drafts was his willingness to keep polishing, to make the story as accessible as it could be. In fact, more than any of his earlier writing, this book drew mainstream reviewers and readers.

The year after that book was published, he escaped from the now-shrinking College of Public and Community Service to UMass Boston's History Department. His specific mission in this new setting, true to his abiding interests, was to create and direct a master's program in public history. He brought all his experiences to bear in setting up the program, which is still flourishing two years after his 2014 retirement.

He had one more book in him, inspired by his connec-



Taking History to Heart: The Power of the Past in Building Social Movements (University of Massachusetts Press, 2000).

tions with coal mine unionists. *The Devil Is Here in These Hills* (Grove Atlantic, 2015) told the story of industrial conflict in southern West Virginia in the early twentieth century. He consulted on last winter's PBS documentary *The Mine Wars*, and was proud that it had drawn four million viewers. Toward the very end of his life he was amused and intrigued to correspond with a group that wants to make the story into a musical.

By the time the book appeared, and as the PBS film was taking shape, Jim was sick. In August of 2014 he came back from a week in Ireland – a family vacation during which he gave the keynote speech for the Cork Mother Jones Festival¹ – suffering from maladies that pointed tragically to leukemia. Complications from a partially successful bone marrow transplant in November kept him going in and out of the hospital for over a year and a half. Even when he was at home he had to make frequent hospital trips for testing and for transfusions. His public appearances were few and iffy. One that he particularly cher-

ished was coming to the Organization of American Historians convention in Providence for a few hours, seeing old friends and attending the LAWCHA luncheon where he received a lifetime achievement award. Another was to travel to Washington DC for a talk on labor history at the AFL-CIO headquarters and a follow-up question period in which he and now AFL-CIO president Rich Trumka shared the stage.

His mind kept going through it all. On Monday of the week before he died, he asked me to look something up for an article he hoped to write for *West Virginia History* on the experience of writing the mine wars book. On Tuesday, he said that he didn't think he had the strength to keep struggling against his illness. (But he still called our mutual friend Phil Chassler that night to give advice on a Labor Studies class Phil was to teach.) On Wednesday, we said goodbye, me through tears and him with a firm handshake and the words, "My best friend," which he was for me also. Thursday was for family, and at the end of that afternoon, Thursday, June 23, he passed away. He did what he could to make a better world, not only for untold millions whom he knew only as part of humanity, but for many hundreds of us who were fortunate to know him as the gentle, generous soul that he was.



"The Mine Wars," based on Jim Green's book, *The Devil is Here in These Hills*, first aired on January 26, 2016.

1. <https://motherjonescork.com/>

LAWCHA Global Affairs Committee Report

The Global Affairs Committee was established in 2013 to cultivate linkages between LAWCHA and other labor history organizations around the world and to publicize scholarly undertakings, international activism, and labor history research resources transnationally. We have numbers of members from other outside the US, and at our New York conference in 2013 we had significant international participation (46 scholars from 13 countries). The committee is co-chaired by past LAWCHA president, Shel Stromquist and former board members Joan Sangster and Brian Kelly.

Last year, LAWCHA co-sponsored and helped organize a joint conference with the Australian Association for the Study of Labour History (AASLH) on “Australian-U.S. Comparative and Transnational Labour History.” The conference was held in Sydney on January 7-8, 2015 and brought together labor historians from Australia, the US, Britain and New Zealand for two very lively days of presentations (25 papers) and discussion. Greg Patmore (University of Sydney) and Shel Stromquist (University of Iowa) are coediting a volume of essays from the conference, now fully revised and ready for submission to one of several university presses that have

expressed interest. The volume is titled: *Intersections and Divergences: US and Australian Labor in Comparative Perspective*. Contributors include: from the US, Bob Cherny, Jim Barrett, Tom Goyens, Jeffrey Johnson, and Shel Stromquist; from Australia, Nikki Balnave, Bradley Bowden, Verity Burgmann, Dianne Hall, Ben Huf, Jennie Jeppesen, Marjorie Jerrard, Diane Kirkby, Elizabeth Malcolm, Angie Ng, Patrick O’Leary, Greg Patmore, Scott Stephenson, and Nathan Wise; from New Zealand, Peter Clayworth; and from Britain, Robin Archer.

In February 2016 the LAWCHA executive committee accepted an invitation from Marcel van der Linden to join the Global Labour History Network (GLHN), founded in June 2015, to promote collaborative research, data collection and exchange of ideas internationally on the history of work and workers broadly defined—paid and unpaid, free and unfree, rural and industrial, organized and unorganized. The network envisions collaborative projects and transnational conferences as part of its program. For more information, see:

LAWCHA.org/wordpress/2016/03/02/lawcha-joins-the-global-labour-history-network

LAWCHA’s Contingent Faculty and Contingent Labor Blog

Eric Fure-Slocum, St. Olaf College

LAWCHA’s recently launched blog on contingent faculty and contingent labor is the latest step in the organization’s efforts to confront declining labor conditions in higher education. The blog offers an opportunity for labor historians to share updates, scholarship, opinions, questions, links, and strategies. The immediate problems that contingent faculty face will be a main focus for this blog, but we hope to engage broader questions about the growing presence of adjuncts in higher education. Adjuncts and contingent faculty at four- and two-year institutions now constitute up to seventy percent of the academy. We also expect that blog contributors will begin connecting the history of contingent faculty in academia to the larger histories of precarious labor.

Work on these issues began a year ago, when LAWCHA president Nancy MacLean helped to organize an ad hoc committee. That group was asked to look at how LAWCHA might make the organization and its events more welcoming for contingent faculty. The committee also began thinking about ways that LAWCHA—as an organization of scholars and activists concerned about working conditions—might aim to become a model for other professional organizations, all of which confront the effects of colleges’ and universities’ reliance on precarious labor. Members of the group include

Steve Beda, Eric Fure-Slocum (convener), Claire Goldstene, Trevor Griffey, Joseph Hower, Ruth Needleman, Linda Upham-Bornstein, Naomi Williams, James Young, and Jennie Woodard.

The ad hoc committee’s proposals, reviewed by LAWCHA leaders and members, reaffirm many practices already underway in the organization. LAWCHA leaders have long encouraged widespread involvement in the organization—from students and activists, to well-established scholars and their more precariously-placed colleagues. But attention to membership dues rates, conference program organizing (e.g. aiming to include contingent faculty in more panels, including teaching-focused sessions), and travel funds could help to include more contingent faculty in LAWCHA. Other recommendations urge LAWCHA both to confront arguments that precarity is inevitable and to join others in fighting for a more just academic workplace, including a strong endorsement of collective bargaining for contingent faculty.

The committee looks forward to hearing from LAWCHA members and supporters, especially other adjuncts and contingent faculty. If you have suggestions or would like to be involved, please contact Eric Fure-Slocum (furesloc@stolaf.edu).

Labor History Bibliography, 2015

Compiled by Rosemary Feurer, Northern Illinois University

This list is categorized at laborhistorylinks.org/booklist.html. If we have neglected to list a book, please let us know. Thanks to the Taft History Prize Committee for contributing to this list.

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