

Bread and Roses Strike Centennial Anniversary Conference (April 27-28, 2012)

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When 30,000 workers walked out of Lawrence's textile mills in the dead of a New England winter in January 1912, they launched an epic confrontation between capital and labor. With immigrant women playing a central role, the strike gained national prominence. To commemorate the strike's 100th anniversary and to consider its lessons for today, the Lawrence History Center is issuing a call for papers, art, spoken word, and video presentations for a Bread & Roses centennial conference to be held in Lawrence, Massachusetts on Friday and Saturday, April 27 and 28, 2012.

Submissions of individual papers and panel **presentations will be considered through July 1, 2011.** Graduate, undergraduate, and high school students are encouraged to submit. Include a brief biography of up to 250 words with your submission.

ALL SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO:

symposium2012@breadandrosescentennial.org

Notification on acceptance will be made by mid-Oct. 2011.

An edited book with several of the selected papers will be published in the Baywood Publishing Series, Work, Health and Environment.

Suggested paper/panel themes:

- Immigrant Workers and Unionization Then and Lessons for Today
- Women workers in the Bread & Roses Strike: Are There Lessons for Today?
- How Did the Strike Story Resonate Beyond Lawrence?
- Commemoration and Memory: How Lawrence Recalls the Strike

- Teaching Strikes: Bread & Roses and Labor Studies
- Community – Labor Coalitions for Change
- Labor Activism and Political Repression
- Strikes and Social Change: Then and Now
- How the International Press Covered the Strike
- Worker and Community Health and Safety in Lawrence Then and Now
- The Hazards of Working with Wool
- Imaging a Sustainable Lawrence: What Might 2062 Hold?
- Organized Labor and the Church: Then and Now
- The Roles of Music, Art and Spoken Word in Telling Labor’s Story
- Immigrant Communities Then and Now

Activities and Events

- A permanent multi-media history exhibit will be housed in the top floor of the Everett Mill building showcasing the strike’s lead-up, events, and aftermath. Artifacts, rare video from the strike, oral history recordings, publications, and original documents will be exhibited to tell the Bread and Roses story. Current and former UMass Lowell students and history department faculty are engaged in the creation of this exhibit, including Professor Forrant. Notables including the U.S. Secretary of Labor, the national president of the AFL-CIO, Governor Deval Patrick, and Senators John Kerry and Scott Brown will be extended invitations to attend the opening of the exhibit. This event will garner national and international attention.
- An exhibit of famed painter Ralph Fasanella’s original works depicting moments in the Bread and Roses strike to be displayed in Lawrence. Fasanella spent considerable time living and working in Lawrence and his paintings are widely known and revered.
- An academic symposium in Lawrence of students and scholars from across the country who will present work that relates to the strike’s themes and lessons. The symposium will include a weekend-long series of panel discussions, presentations, lectures, and walking-tours of the city. The symposium is being chaired by Professor Forrant. Over a

dozen area colleges and universities are supporters of the symposium.

- Bread and Roses Labor Day 2012 Festival. Vendors, labor unions, community groups, and local businesses will join prominent performers, business leaders, public officials, and union leaders to help Lawrencians celebrate labor day and the strike's centennial.
- Lawrence Reads. Through the public library age-appropriate histories of the strike books will be simultaneously read and discussed across the city.

For more information, see the [Bread and Roses Symposium Site](#) or contact Professor Bob Forrant at Robert_Forrnt@uml.edu.

Author



[Rosemary Feurer](#)

Rosemary Feurer is Professor of History at Northern Illinois University. She is the author of *Radical Unionism in the Midwest, 1900-1950*, among other books and essays. She is working on The Illinois Mine Wars, 1860-1940 and a new biography of Mary Harris "Mother" Jones.