

Delegation Unveils Plaque at
**May Day Rally in
Haymarket Square**

It was a warm and welcoming sunlight that flooded Chicago's Haymarket Square on the morning of May 1, 2010. About 100 people had responded to the call of the Chicago Federation of Labor and the Illinois Labor History Society to attend a May Day rally at the Memorial Sculpture which occupies the spot where the speakers' wagon stood on May 4, 1886 when the world-famous Haymarket Tragedy occurred.

The new monument was dedicated on May 1, 2004 by the City of Chicago with funds from the State of Illinois, thus filling a void which had existed since the tragic event. The sculpture, which depicts a hay-wagon exploding, was created by artist Mary Brogger.



Tamiko Komatsu, Vice President of Zenroren cheers the unveiling of their plaque on the Haymarket Sculpture.

The rally opened with a few traditional labor songs, presented by folksinger Bucky Halker. Greetings were brought from the Chicago Federation of Labor by its Secretary-Treasurer, Jorge Ramirez of the UFCW. Ramirez has been elected to succeed Dennis Gannon as President of the Chicago Federation of Labor as of July 1, 2010 when Gannon will retire. Welcoming remarks also came from ILHS President Larry Spivack.

The event heard briefly from Alexi Giannoulas, Democratic candidate for U.S. Senator from Illinois. The Master of Ceremonies was Alvis Martin, AFL-CIO Field Coordinator who represented the State AFL-CIO. From the immigrant community came Ana Guajardo, Executive Director of Centro de Trabajadores Unidos, a worker center based in South Chicago. Also among the speakers was Joe Tessone of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). From Germany came Eckhard Geitz, a resident of August Spies' hometown.

Important organizational projects underway in Chicago were acknowledged with the appearance of Emily Mueller of the charter

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ILHS Hosts Unionists From Japanese Fed

ILHS President Larry Spivack enjoyed the privilege of acting as tour guide to a party of 75 unionists from the Japanese labor federation Zenroren who made a special visit to Chicago to learn about its labor history. The group was enroute to the United Nations special session on nuclear disarmament in New York.

While in Chicago, they took part in the May Day conference at DePaul University under the leadership of ILHS trustee Bill Pelz.

Touring various labor sites in Chicago, Spivack took them to the Old Stone Gate at the Chicago Stockyards and the impressive mural painting on the south wall of the Charles Hayes Center of the Chicago Housing Authority at 49th and Wabash. That wall bears the famous mural "The Worker" painted by William Walker. It represents the historic struggle of working people for union representation and an acceptable work environment.

The Japanese delegation's trip also included a visit to the Haymarket Martyrs Monument at the Forest Home Cemetery in Forest Park. They participated as well in the May Day Rally at Haymarket Square at Desplaines and Randolph in Chicago, where they unveiled a plaque presented by their organization. It is one of a number of plaques at the base of the monument representing the international labor movement.

A bit of Chicago nightlife was included with a visit to the Velvet Lounge jazz club where ILHS sponsored a performance by the Miyumi Project featuring Tatsu Aoki and his septet of jazz musicians. Their music is a hybrid of traditional Japanese drumming and modern American jazz. All together, about 130 people attended that event.



Zenroren delegates visit the Old Stone Gate.

ILHS Holds Annual Meeting at Dominican University

The 2010 annual meeting of the Illinois Labor History Society was held at the Priory Campus of Dominican University on Saturday May 15th at 12:30 p.m. President Larry Spivack delivered a report on the activities and events of the past year. President Emeritus Les Orear spoke briefly of the several important figures of the labor history movement who had died in the past year. In addition to Bill Adelman, these were Franklin Rosemont, Vicki Starr, Bill Neebe, Leon Despres, and Frank Lumpkin.

Orear's remarks were followed by a party recognizing his own recent birthday on May 11th, on which he turned 99.

The annual meeting re-elected all current officers and filled the vacancy of former Vice-President Bill Adelman by electing Trustee Tom Suhrbur to that office. Suhrbur is a longtime trustee and on the staff of the Illinois Education Association. The officers re-elected were Larry Spivack, President; Michael Matejka, Vice-President; Deborah Pope, Recording Secretary; and Robert Bionaz, Treasurer.

The trustees re-elected for a three-year term were Joe Bella, James Conness, James Thindwa, and Eileen Willenborg. Joining them are newly elected trustees Dick Stanton, and Penelope Rosemont. Trustees Rosemary Feurer and Sherrie Voyles retired from the Board. Stanton has recently returned from several years in Ireland, where he served as a labor mediator. He had been chairman of the ILHS Board of Trustees for many years. Penny Rosemont replaces her recently deceased husband Franklin on the board, and continues to represent the Kerr Publishing Company.

At the adjournment of the meeting, a memorial tribute for Bill Adelman began.

May Day Rally (continued from page 1)

schools of the city, and Petra Castelan of UFCW whose focus has been the struggle at the Pete's Grocery Store chain. Reverend C.J. Hawking of ARISE represented the interfaith community.

Perhaps the most dramatic feature of the event was the unveiling of a new plaque attached to the base of the monument. It was presented on behalf of the Japanese labor federation Zenroren by its Vice-President Tamiko Komatsu. A group of roughly 75 Japanese delegates were on hand for the unveiling. There are now 6 such plaques from labor organizations in various parts of the world, including Columbia, S.A., Iraq, and Switzerland-based UNI Global Union.

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Conference on Labor History Draws Worldwide Attendance

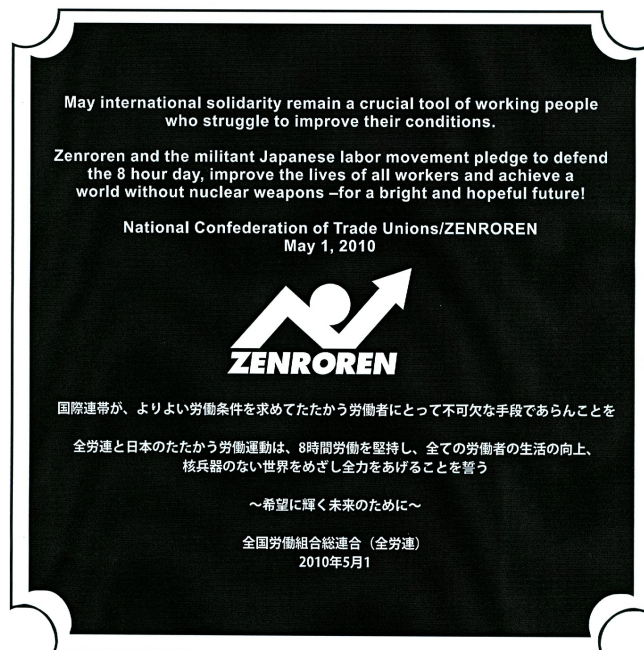
Under the title "A Century + of May Days: Labor and Social Struggles International Conference," Chicago was the host to a worldwide gathering of historians and social activists. The conference was convened by the Institute of Working Class History and hosted by the International Studies Program at DePaul University. ILHS trustee Bill Pelz, professor at Elgin Community College, was the moving spirit behind the project.

It was held in Chicago from April 30 to May 2 and drew over 160 participants, coming from Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Israel/Palestine, Japan, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Scotland, Sweden, Turkey, the UK, Venezuela, and the U.S.

The conference opened with a screening of the once "banned" in the U.S. documentary film *Salt of the Earth*. The conference offered a wide range of panels, among them *Dissenters in Nineteenth and Twentieth Century America*; *Workers, Peasant and Class Struggle in Modern China*; *African Americans, the Class Struggle, and U.S. Labor*; *May Day Around the World*; and *History of Class Struggle in the Islamic World*. Panel leaders included ILHS trustees James Thindwa, Katie Jordan, and Alma Washington.

The plenary sessions, attended by all participants, were *Labor and the Peace Movement* with visiting Japanese trade unionists; roundtable on *The Future of Labor History and Left History* with Bryan Palmer, editor of *LABOUR/Le Travail*, Canada's premier labor history journal; *Capitalism and Crisis: Social Justice or Mad Max?*; and concluded with a dynamic presentation on *Wage Theft in America* by Kim Bobo.

Conference participants attended the May Day Rally at Haymarket Square, after which ILHS President Larry Spivack led them on a labor history tour of the Stockyards Gate, the Walker mural entitled "The Worker" at the Charles Hayes Center, and the Haymarket Martyrs Monument at Forest Home Cemetery. The Walker mural was an American Bicentennial project funded in part by the Illinois Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts under the sponsorship of the Illinois Labor History Society.



Newest plaque on the base of the Haymarket Sculpture.

ILHS Remembers V.P. Bill Adelman



(l to r.) Larry Spivack, Rev. C. J. Hawking, daughter Jessica Adelman, son Mark Adelman, grandson Benjamin Adelman, sister Sandra Walsh

At the conclusion of the May 15th annual meeting held on the premises of Dominican University in River Forest, a tribute to our late Vice-President Bill Adelman began. A resolution of tribute adopted by the Illinois State House of Representatives was delivered by Camille Y. Lilly, State Representative from Oak Park. State Senator Don Harmon was also on hand for the presentation. Another such resolution adopted by the Illinois State AFL-CIO Executive Board was presented by ILHS trustee Amy Nixon of the State AFL-CIO on behalf of its Secretary-Treasurer Timothy Drea.

Many of Adelman's former colleagues from the University of Illinois Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations (ILIR) were present, as well as other labor educators from the area. Among those who spoke briefly were Ron Peters, former director of the ILIR at Champaign Urbana, Francesco Montalvo of the Chicago program, and Emily Rosenberg of the DePaul University Labor Education Program.

Remarks were also made by Bill Parsons, the grand-nephew of Albert Parsons. Folksinger Allen Schwartz, who enjoyed a close relationship with Adelman in past years, spoke movingly about his association with Adelman over the citywide events of the 1986 Haymarket Centennial. At both the Dominican event and the subsequent memorial at the Martyrs Monument in Forest Home Cemetery, Schwartz presented a number of songs he had written in conjunction with Adelman's frequent tours, notably a song about Lucy Parsons. Schwartz, a longtime former ILHS trustee who headed the Chicago Metro History Fair in the past, is now a resident of Ohio, but came in especially to participate in the Adelman memorial services.

Katie Jordan of the Chicago Chapter of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) representing the Chicago Federation of Labor on this occasion, delivered a letter from President Dennis Gannon of the CFL and President-Elect Jorge Ramirez. ILHS President Larry Spivack read a moving letter from the Rhode Island Labor History Society honoring the memories of our recently deceased. It concluded with the deeply moving words, "So here in Rhode Island, seemingly a million miles away, we take time at our board meeting to remember your heroes as if they were ours."

Among the speakers was Adelman's former colleague Bernard Brommel, now of Northeastern Illinois University, and author of the

book *Eugene V. Debs: Spokesman for Labor and Socialism*. Deputy Director Roberta Lynch of AFSCME Council 31 spoke briefly, observing that Adelman always emphasized labor's core values.

At this point, the Adelman tribute was adjourned and went by car caravan to the Forest Home Cemetery in nearby Forest Park, where the members of the caravan joined others gathered at the Martyrs Monument for a continuation of the tribute.

Les Orear spoke about Adelman's role in the founding of the ILHS. Emphasizing the international impact of Adelman's contribution, Orear told of the reissue of *Haymarket Revisited* for the Center of Indian Trade Unions in New Delhi. In the forward to *Glorious Saga of May Day Martyrs*, CITU President M.K. Pandhe referred to the tour he and his wife had taken under Adelman's leadership. He wrote, "For over two hours he narrated the entire background to us in a lucid manner which reflected his firm commitment to the working class and their legitimate struggles."

Notably present at the event was Mark Rogovin, the co-author of the pamphlet *The Day Will Come*, which details all the burial sites associated with the Martyrs Monument.



Allen Schwartz

At the tribute, ILHS trustee Liesl Orenic noted that the Martyrs Monument had been a centerpiece of Adelman's famous labor tour parties and pointed out that over the years since the monument was erected by the Pioneer Aid and Support Society in 1893, there has been significant deterioration in its physical condition. As the "Steward" of the monument, so declared by the National Park Service when it named the monument a National Historic Landmark in 1981, the ILHS has undertaken to have the monument properly restored by a reputable expert. Orenic introduced the professional restorer who has been selected for the project, Andrzej Dajnowski.

As the ceremony drew to a close, Alma Washington, an ILHS trustee and professional actress who plays the role of Lucy Parsons, read one of Adelman's favorite poems, "The Eagle That is Forgotten" by Vachel Lindsay which refers to Governor John Peter Altgeld. Members of Adelman's family, including his son and grandson were present. Reverend C.J. Hawking of ARISE brought the memorial event to a conclusion. As was Adelman's custom, roses were left at the monument as the guests departed.



Memorial Day Massacre of 1937 Recalled by S.O.A.R.

Sunday, May 30, 2010 was exactly 73 years after the Memorial Day Massacre of 1937, during which 10 friends and members of the newly formed Steelworkers Organizing Committee were killed by officers of the Chicago Police Department. They and scores of others were peacefully demonstrating their support for the steelworkers then on strike for recognition and a union contract at the Republic Steel Co. plant.

Under the slogan "Never Forget the Memorial Day Massacre in 1937! Fight for Jobs or Income Now!" a nice crowd gathered on Sunday, May 30th at Memorial Hall, the former headquarters of Steelworkers Local 1033, to pay their annual respects to the 10 dead and many others injured on that dreadful day so long ago. The meeting was called by SOAR (Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees). Flowers were placed at the sculptural memorial in front of the fire station at the north end of the parking lot of Memorial Hall.

Bea Lumpkin spoke of that blithe spirit, Mary Pullins, who had died a few days previously at age 108. Mrs. Pullins had been a longtime worker at the huge U.S. Steel plant not far away, now an empty lot. Mrs. Lumpkin's own husband Frank had recently been honored at Memorial Hall.

Among the speakers at the event were former District Director Ed Sadlowski, Victor Storino, Former President of Local 1033, and the Reverends Zaki L. Zaki and Leonard Dubi. From nearby Local 1010 at the Inland Steel plant came President Tom Hargrove, who reported last year's placement of a plaque inside his local's hall to the victims of the Massacre. The crowd also heard from 10th Ward Alderman John Pope. Les Orear, President Emeritus of ILHS, representing Larry Spivack, the current President, was introduced.

A major address was presented by Ike Gittlen on behalf of the Alliance for American Manufacturing. The United Steelworkers of America is one of the members of the Alliance. Gittlen pointed to the need for a legislative program to reinvigorate employment in American manufacturing industries and urged the audience to contact their members of Congress to support, in particular, the construction of a speedy light-rail transportation system.

The concluding remarks were made by Bill Gibbons, a SOAR executive board member, who presented a detailed analysis of the new Health Care Reform law.



Bea Lumpkin and Carolyn Eastwood, ILHS volunteer, meet in Haymarket Square on May Day.

ILHS Prizes at State History Expo



ILHS awarded prizes to labor history projects on the Cherry Mine Disaster and desegregation in the CIO. (Pictured l.to r.) Joy Sugihara (Niles North H.S.), Mike Matejka, ILHS Trustee; Madison Nelson (Booth Elementary); Henrietta Cho & Ammara Junagadhwal (Niles North H.S.); Tony Keeney (Cherry Elementary); Brendan Menietti (Breeze District 12); and Andrew Pullman (Cherry Elementary). Not seen is judge Joe Berry, ILHS Trustee.

Frank Lumpkin Memorialized

The Chicagoland labor movement lost another member of its "tall tree" generation with the March 1 death of Frank Lumpkin, the African-American leader of over 3,000 workers at the Wisconsin Steel Works on Chicago's East Side.

Lumpkin figured prominently in the struggle of the Wisconsin Steel workers to receive their rightful benefits following the abrupt closure of the plant in 1980 and the abandonment of the workers by the company union which represented them. He rallied his fellow employees and led their demands against the brutal employer who had closed down without required notice and refused to pay the unpaid wages, pensions and other monies due to the employees.

Lumpkin also held his fellow workers together during the years of litigation required for them to achieve a just settlement. That litigation was undertaken by attorney Thomas Geoghegan, a member of the law firm led by the late attorney Leon Despres, longtime alderman of Chicago's 5th Ward. Lumpkin and his group were given shelter and aid by United Steelworkers Local 1033.

Lumpkin's wife Bea Lumpkin wrote a biography of her husband under the title, *Always Bring a Crowd*, a motto coined by Frank, inveterate labor organizer that he was. Her book notes that the ultimate settlement totaled \$18.8 million.

A memorial service was held for Lumpkin by the local chapter of SOAR (Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees) on April 5 at the Steelworkers Memorial Hall on Avenue O. in Chicago. On April 24 the interment of ashes in a plot adjacent to the Haymarket Martyrs Memorial at Forest Home Cemetery occurred, followed by a memorial program and repast at the Workers United Hall on Ashland Ave. These events were hosted by Bea Lumpkin and family. ILHS President Larry Spivack gave a eulogy at the Forest Home interment.

Numerous generous donations have been made to ILHS in honor of Lumpkin. Many have arrived from Lumpkin's son and other employees of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which matched those donations.

ILHS Launches Drive to Restore Monument

“Look at this simple, yet majestic woman cast of bronze; how she presses with one hand the laurel wreath on the brow of the fallen hero, while, without halting, she steps forward into the great storm laden future whose lightening now causes the world to tremble. Look at this image and your hopes will be nourished, your sense will become keener, your hearts will be steeled!”

—From the address by Dr. Ernest Schmidt at the dedication ceremony of June 25th, 1893



A reported 8,000 people were in attendance in 1893 as the Martyrs Monument was unveiled and Dr. Schmidt delivered the stirring words quoted above. They had come from Chicago and around the world to what was then known as Waldheim Cemetery. This was the same event at which Governor John Peter Altgeld announced his pardon of those Martyrs who were in Joliet State Prison.

In 1971, the Illinois Labor History Society became the owner of the Monument and plot of land in Forest Home Cemetery. A moving ceremony was held in which the deed to the Monument was presented to ILHS by Irving S. Abrams, the last surviving member of the Pioneer Aid and Support Society.

The Pioneer Aid and Support Society raised the funds to erect the monument to the Haymarket Martyrs. The Martyrs were unfairly convicted of inciting an unknown person to throw a bomb into the ranks of police who had ordered those gathered at Chicago’s Haymarket on

the night of May 4th, 1886 to disperse. The meeting had been called to protest consistent police brutality in strike situations. The conviction was denounced widely throughout the world labor community. Among those protesting was Samuel Gompers, the head of the American organized labor movement.

The monument was recognized as a National Historic Landmark by the U.S. Department of the Interior in 1997, and ILHS was named its official “Steward.” Every year, the Monument is visited by many from around the world who come to pay tribute to the Martyrs and to recognize the historic and artistic significance of the site. At the time of the Landmark Day ceremonies, attended by hundreds, Les Orear, then ILHS President, declared:

The monument is a place of pilgrimage. It is a place where people come for inspiration. Some may visit in worship of ancient dogmas. Others find encouragement to carry on the struggle, however the goal may change through the years. Some fix on a symbol of injustice at the hands of the state; to others the Monument speaks, magnificently, of the determination to overcome all injustice.

After almost 120 years, however, this beautiful work of art is now in desperate need of proper cleaning, preservation, and ongoing upkeep. Furthermore, it was vandalized by metal thieves who removed the original bronze floral arrangement at the base of the monument and the bronze plaque naming the Martyrs.

Fortunately, we have found a highly qualified conservator. Andrzej Dajnowski is nationally known and willing to do this major restoration job, including the recreation of the missing bronze pieces. **BUT**, this much needed project will require significant funding.

We need your help. We have received a major gift that will cover about half of the project, but we need another \$15,000! So we turn to you for assistance.

Please give generously. Your name will be listed in connection with the rededication ceremony planned for May 1, 2011, the 125th anniversary of the Haymarket Tragedy.

March into the future. This will be more than the rescue of a piece of beautiful art and the preservation of historical memory. This restoration project will embody the theme of the monument itself. Marching into the future as the figure does, it will continue to inspire countless “pilgrims” of the labor struggle to carry on!

YES, I want to help restore the Haymarket Martyrs Monument.

Please accept my contribution in the amount of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$200 \$500 other \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Make check payable to the Illinois Labor History Society and mail to 28 E. Jackson Blvd., Room 1012, Chicago, IL 60604