

# Newsletter

## Wisconsin Labor History Society

(Affiliated with the Wisconsin Historical Society)

For more information and WLHS news, visit: <http://www.wisconsinlaborhistory.org/>

## Terese Agnew's "Portrait of a Textile Worker" Finds Permanent Home in New York City Arts Museum

Terese Agnew, whose art brings Milwaukee's Zeidler Union Square Park gazebo and bus shelter to life, has been up to her elbows in garment labels for four years, collecting and sewing them into one huge tapestry. This year the New York Museum of Art and Design bought her finished work, "Portrait of a Textile Worker."

Inspired by a haunting photo of a clothing sweatshop worker in Bangladesh, she set out to create a design to honor and symbolize the world's garment workers. Settling on labels, she started collecting them from Milwaukee workers. When word got around on the Internet and through several articles, people started sending them in from everywhere.

"[It is] one of the finest pieces of contemporary textile art that I have seen in my curatorial career and we are terribly proud to own it," said museum curator Ursula Ilse-Neuman, who will coordinate its 2010 exhibit in London's Victoria and Albert Museum (Britain's national center for decorative and applied arts). It will also come to the Milwaukee Art Museum, which originally offered Agnew \$125,000 for the piece.

It takes many labels to think behind the label—to the people and sometimes their suffering. Agnew's own labor to make the tapestry—at least 6,000 hours sewing thousands of labels into a 9-foot by 8-foot-wide tapestry—damaged her tendons.

She chose to sell the tapestry to the New York museum because of the importance of the garment industry there and because Milwaukee could not display it permanently. "If this is my best work so far, it would be career suicide to lock it up, and be disrespectful to the concept," she told the *Milwaukee Labor Press* in a December 2007 article.



Agnew helped raise matching grant money for both her own work and the New York museum. Enthusiastic support from WLHS board member David Newby, Wisconsin AFL-CIO president, from the United Needleworkers and International Textile Workers Union (UNITE) and other unionists made the building and Agnew's tribute to the world's textile workers a reality—along with \$25,000 from Pleasant T. Rowland, founder of American Girl in Madison, and \$20,000 from William Lerach, a Wisconsin-born labor lawyer.

"I have come to think of this as the people's campaign, which it was from the start," Agnew told *Labor News*. "I can't tell you how great it was to see the signs around the construction of the new museum building, 'Union Made Safer and Better!'"

Together, Agnew's tapestry and the striking portrait (above) of a woman bent over her machine tell the pain and triumph of women and men who clothe the world. In its permanent union-made New York digs, always on display, and in its travels, Agnew rests assured: "The message can't be undermined or used as some sort of happy commercial gimmick."

## 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

# How U.S. foreign affairs impacts unions:

## *Looking at labor's role in U.S. wars and its effect on workers*

If there were any doubt about whether labor and workers should be involved in making U.S. foreign policy, it was dispelled April 28 after the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Wisconsin Labor History Society in Madison. Clearly, the voices of the people and families most affected belong in national political discussions about foreign policy and war today—workers are called upon to do the fighting, dying, and organizing in the circumstances created by that policy.

WLHS conference guest speakers and more than 80 participants reviewed U.S. foreign affairs from World War I to the present through the history, stories and experience of the sons and daughters of working people.



**Panelists (from left) David Nack, Susanna Rasmussen and Frank Emspak**

**Morning Panel** - Panelist **David Nack** of the UW School for Workers faculty told of soldiers recruited from Wisconsin and Michigan in summer 1918 to fight in the Great War who were sent instead to freeze in the North Russian winter, bearing arms against the Bolsheviks. This “forgotten war” was a shock for recruits who never saw the war they signed up to fight, Nack said.

Labor's role is partly exemplified by Samuel Gompers, founder of the American Federation of Labor and its leader until his death in 1924. Nack said Gompers, deeply involved in formulating U.S. foreign policy at the time, and a Socialist at the 1886 AFL founding, believed Bolshevik success would cause similar uprisings among American workers, undermining his vision for the American labor movement.

With the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, there was great debate as to whether the US should continue its alliance with Russia during World War I to maintain the Eastern Front against German forces. Many U.S. capitalists sought deals with Bolsheviks, hoping to reap profits later by building relationships with them, but Gompers favored

suppressing the Bolsheviks. The AFL endorsed sending troops to North Russia in 1918. Pointing to psychological effects on soldiers in the North Russian action, Vietnam and Iraq wars, Nack cited the 1934 autobiography of John R. Commons, a famous University of Wisconsin professor who has been credited with founding the study of labor history. Commons said his son Jack was among the enlistees sent to fight in North Russia. Jack became mentally ill afterward and disappeared as a result of his experiences in North Russia.

**Frank Emspak**, of the University of Wisconsin School for Workers, told how rampant anticommunism within labor during the Cold War period after World War II affected his own family, its devastating effects on all workers, and its mark on history resulting from systematic destruction of the labor movement's left wing in the era.

Most of his family had worked for General Electric (GE) in Schenectady, New York and many were fired for their progressive leadership in the union, Emspak said. His father, Julius, a founder and secretary-treasurer of the United Electrical Workers Union (UE) started at GE in the 1920s. Frank worked for GE in Lynn, Mass., for 12 years.

He said the systematic purge of the left wing in the labor movement was so thorough that in 1976 he was the first with a left-wing background hired at GE in 20 years. “The entire intellectual memory of those people taking on the company was lost because they were fired,” he said.

Similar practices in most industries took away “tremendous resources in standing up to the company,” Emspak said. “Not all were Communists, but they were all militant, committed trade unionists. It was critical to the times and also to what is happening today.”

He said American labor's legal, political and organizational frameworks today were put in place essentially in the 4-5 years after World War II, as was the labor-sponsored assault on the progressive trade union movement in the South through “Operation Dixie.” This “Operation” instead of organizing non-union workers paid organizers paid organizers to destroy the Food and Tobacco Workers Union in North Carolina, which had elected a Black woman Communist as president. The 17,000-member Mine Mill and Smelter Workers in Birmingham, Alabama, was another target—it also had elected a black Communist president.

“Think about the South and the difference it would have made if the South had been organized on some sort of progressive basis, and you had the basis there in 1944, 1945 and 1946,” he concluded.

## Panelists decry Cold War effects on workers

(continued from Page 2)

Beyond stopping Southern union organizing, he said, it stifled a Southern progressive movement from forming. Strong unions with liberal ideas would have moderated racism and boosted efforts for civil rights, equal education, a single-payer healthcare system, and opposition to the Vietnam War. Labor has only opened up to progressive movements in the last 10 to 15 years, he added.

Empak said the “fundamental division in the labor movement in 1946 and today” is over whether labor feeds business or business feeds labor.

In its isolation from progressive movements, labor often took the wrong side on civil and equal rights, he said.

He cited Section 9 (h) of the Taft-Hartley Act requiring union officers to take the non-communist oath. Some unions, like the UAW under Walter Reuther, used it to raid UE locals and others that stood up against the oath, which blocked workers from electing their own officers, he said.

U.S. labor surrendered itself to the Democratic Party in 1948 after reaching its goal of destroying the Progressive Party, he said, leaving itself “nowhere to go.” Most of labor supported Cold War government policies and stayed frozen through the Vietnam War, he said.

“The real effect on our family and others was this terrible destruction on humans and on a whole intellectual and political movement in our country,” he concluded.

**Susanna Rasmussen**, granddaughter of one of Wisconsin Labor History Society’s founders, Darina Rasmussen, told the story of when Darina was accused of being a Communist. She was called to testify before the House Un-American Activities Committee, and risked being jailed for pleading the Fifth Amendment. Susanna had decided to research the story and Darina’s FBI file to learn more about her grandmother and her family heritage.

A graduate of the UW – Madison School for Women Workers and an activist, Darina Rasmussen had married and settled down to farm in Forest County with her husband and raise a family when his tuberculosis suddenly returned and he died. The condition that brought them together at Tomahawk where she had worked while he was a patient now tore them apart. Darina moved to Cudahy to be near her family. She first worked for the County and then as a secretary for UE Local 1111 at Allen-Bradley Co.

FBI agents approached Darina in January 1955 at the UE office in Milwaukee asking her to spy for the FBI against the UE. She could easily see people entering the office. Susanna said Darina did not take the bait to become an

informant. Yet, she may have felt threatened enough to publicly announce she had been approached. The FBI could have tried to blackmail her, since she joined the Communist Party in the 1940s.

Rasmussen searched FBI files for whether Darina was a Communist, a UE cell member. “They assumed that any Communist was anti-American,” she said. The FBI records were revealing in what they did *not* say. Some sections were whited-out and lots of extraneous information was left in.



**Darina Rasmussen**

Called before HUAC in May 1955, Darina went to Washington, D.C. but remained silent, refusing to answer, thereby protecting others.

“Does that mean that my grandmother was a threat to national security, that she was smuggling secrets to the Soviet Bolsheviks? I seriously doubt it. My grandparents were hard-working rural idealists. They believed in workers’ rights. I’m sure they did not consider themselves subservient to the Kremlin,” Susanna said.

She said her study revealed her family was more dynamically involved with Communism than she had thought. She concluded:

“Their Communism was the result of loving books, appreciating religion and philosophy, while making day-to-day decisions...They believed in the power of choice and the freedom of speech and the joy and blessings of life—and when the government took away the ‘freedom of voice,’ my grandmother combated it with what she could: silence.”



**2007 WLHS Lifetime Achievement Award**  
Darold and Gretchen Lowe received the annual award for their tireless efforts for labor and social justice. Board member David Newby spoke in their honor and presented the plaque and check to them at the conference.

## Mixture of economics and U.S. Latin American policies affect wages, benefits here, Grandin tells conferees

Keynote speaker Greg Grandin, professor of history at New York University, an expert on Latin American history, said President Ronald Reagan's policies in the 1980s formed the "crucible" of current Bush Administration coalitions, including links to the religious right.

Grandin linked Reagan's Latin American policies to a restructuring of the U.S. economy and pointed out



that the U.S. supported Nicaraguan Contras and violent death squads in El Salvador and Guatemala.

He said the new right cut its teeth in Central America, setting up economic and foreign policy to benefit corporations and stagnate the economic lot of working

people. Grandin told how

Reaganites wooed the religious right with moral and religious justifications to "rescue" Central America.

Meanwhile, inequality grew in the U.S., labor power fell, and the middle class shrank and lost out, he said.

Reaganomics set up a budget-breaking arms buildup and a tax giveaway, Grandin said, while its austerity

program cut access to opportunities and services, creating a society where political and economic liberalism were no longer viable. Permanent budget shortfalls bled New Deal and Great Society programs dry, he said. Reagan shifted funding for public services to payroll taxes which only helped to weaken government programs, Grandin added.

"Tight money led to rising unemployment while organized labor's bargaining power, automatic wage increases, job security, guaranteed pensions, were sent to the ash heap of history. American corporations began moving American industry south, southwest and overseas," Grandin said.

The Reagan administration's activities in Latin America are "key to explaining many of the ideas, alliances and strategies that make up the Bush doctrine," such as the "right to pre-emptive warfare," justified by idealistic language, such as making the world safe for democracy. Meanwhile, democracy was redefined as "economic rights." Finally the imperial presidency arose.

Grandin said the Reagan foreign policy weakened Third World nations, forcing them to become havens for global corporations, while claiming to offer freedom and western style democracy. The International Monetary Fund cut subsidies, lowered tariffs, squashed social spending on education and health care, devalued currencies and broke labor unions, he said, overwhelming third-world nations.

## Afternoon panel reviews labor's role in U.S. foreign policy

Labor's involvement in Third World economies, such as Central America in the 1980s and 1990s, helped support U.S. imperialistic policies without members' input or knowledge and without any kind of mandate, **Kim Scipes**, assistant professor of sociology at Purdue University North Central said, opening the afternoon panel discussion. "There is no accountability," he said.

Scipes, a marine for four years and a member of Graphic Communications International Union for nine years, said labor involvement was key to the U.S. maintaining dictatorships and aiding in the overthrow of democratic governments in Guatemala in 1954, in Brazil in 1964, in Chile in 1973. He also pointed to U.S. aid to the 2002 Venezuelan right-wing attempted coup against the democratically elected government of Hugo Chavez.

To this day the AFL-CIO's international activities are largely funded by the National Endowment for Democracy, an arm of the US government that also funds units of the Democratic and Republican parties, and the US Chamber of Commerce internationally.

*Scipes works with the "Worker-to-Worker Solidarity Committee" <http://workertoworker.net> which aims to reform AFL-CIO foreign policy.*

**David Newby**, president of the Wisconsin AFL-CIO, played a short video of his speech from the floor of the National AFL-CIO Convention in 2005, supporting the call for an early end of the war in Iraq, proper support for the U.S. troops, decent benefits for veterans, and a free Iraqi labor movement. The final resolution combined some 18 resolutions from State and Local councils. He said speakers for the resolution were loudly applauded.

**Carol Weidel**, of Madison, of U.S. Labor Against the War (USLAW), said her group began in 2003, addressing the war's impact on working people, whose families provide troops and who are impacted by lost local and state government services as funds were drawn to war costs.

USLAW leaders visited Iraq and sponsored a U.S. tour by Iraqi labor leaders, with stops in Madison and Milwaukee.

# Frank Zeidler and Bay View martyrs remembered

About 200 people gathered in Milwaukee for the 121<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Bay View Massacre. Seven people were killed on May 5, 1886 during a workers' march for the 8-hour day. The May 6, 2007 commemoration was the 21<sup>st</sup> consecutive annual observation of the tragedy.

Former Milwaukee Mayor Frank P. Zeidler, a longtime event committee member, was sorely missed in his role of reading the names of those killed, speaking, and passing his own hat for the Wisconsin Labor History Society. He died last July 7 at age 93. His wife Agnes, a daughter, Anita, and a son, Michael, attended the event, which was dear to the former Mayor's heart.

**Sheila Cochran**, chief officer of the Milwaukee County Labor Council, led a moment of silence for Zeidler and then recounted when state militia dispatched by

Wisconsin Governor Jeremiah Rusk ordered militia to fire on 1,500 workers and others marching to the Bay View Rolling Mills one day after the Haymarket police riot in Chicago. The bullets killed seven people, including a 12-year-old boy and a man getting water for his chickens.

"Thus began a new chapter in the ongoing struggle for a more humane workplace and a just society," she said. "The struggle continues to this day, realizing that the struggle for justice is ongoing and never ending."

John Gurda, Bay View resident, event committee member, and Milwaukee historian, said puddlers, the best paid workers, received \$5 a day for a 12-hour day (equal to \$8 an hour today). Low-end jobs paid \$1.15 a day (about \$2 an hour today). No one had benefits and the mandatory work week was six days.

## Zeidler "100" Roll of Honor – Contributors as of April 2007

James & Joyce Reiland, Menasha

Patricia DiBiase, Madison

John B. Jentz, Milwaukee

Robert Agen, Appleton

James P. Schupp, Los Angeles, Calif.

Ann M. McNeary, Sun Prairie

Nelson Zane Eisman, Madison

Julie M. Weis, Madison

Jane G. Cooper, Madison

Erik Breilid, Madison

Jean L. & Oliver (Bob) Haase, Greenfield

Candice Owley, Milwaukee

Victor R. Greene, Milwaukee

Douglas W. Curler, Greenfield

Clarence J. Brown, Madison

Jan Levine Thal, Madison

Sally A. Stix, Madison

Laurie A. Wermter, Madison

Philip J. Blank, Milwaukee

Evelyn P. Silverstein, Milwaukee

David R. Newby & Kathleen McElroy

Dr. Linda K. Christian-Smith &

Kenneth L. Smith, Hartford

Irving Brotslaw, Milwaukee

Dale E. Treleven, Milwaukee

Debra A. Kosloske, New Berlin

Anne Habel, Madison

James J. Lorence, Wausau

John A. Gurda, Milwaukee

Joseph A. Weinberg, Madison

Ruth A. Gundlach, Madison

Neil Gleason, Madison

Milwaukee County Labor Council

Nancy Emons, Jefferson

Margaret & Frank Roemhild, Bayfield

Angela D. Powell, Madison

Jack Norman, Milwaukee

David A. Poklinkoski, Madison

Laborers' International Union of North America, Local No. 113, Milwaukee

Carmen Clark, Madison

Bruce Clark, Bellevue, Ia.

Suzanne Clark, New Haven, Conn.

Robin Clark-Bennett, Davenport, Ia.

Douglas L. Rabbach, Watertown

Rosemary M. Dorney, Madison,

*in loving memory of Timothy N. Fast*

David Nack & Irene Miller, Madison

Anne S. Beal, Madison

Robert E. Peterson, Milwaukee

Berthina Joseph, Milwaukee

Cecilia Lewandowski, Milwaukee,

*in memory of Victor Lewandowski*

Kenneth A. Germanson

Graphic Communications Conference/

International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Fox Valley, Local 77-P, Neenah

*This is not the complete list. The "Roll of Honor" continues in the fall newsletter – and we still need new contributors in order to reach the full 100. Thanks to all!*

Learning from history:

**AFSCME saved Civil Service in the 30s--It can save public services today**

by John DeRosier

The earliest members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), which began in Wisconsin, built and led an alliance in 1933 to save the civil service system. That victory many decades ago shows how organized labor can lead today to reorganize the tax structure, to save services people want and save the union jobs state workers need.

A public employees union had little public support in the 1930s. Many opposed the very idea of governments bargaining with their employees. In 1935, Congress passed the Wagner Act, also known as the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA). It underwrote workers' rights to collective bargaining but it excluded public employees. Wisconsin in 1937 passed its own version of the Wagner Act, known as the Little Wagner Act, or Wisconsin Labor Relations Act. It didn't protect public employees, either. By then, AFSCME had been formed and AFSCME led the way in saving civil service.

**AFSCME rising**

AFSCME began in Madison on May 16, 1932, as the Wisconsin State Association of Administrative, Clerical Fiscal & Technical Employees. It formed to protect Wisconsin's civil service, begun in the Civil Service Act of 1905. Some people wanted to eliminate both the Civil Service Act and the civil service system.

Contrary to public opinion, Philip La Follette, Wisconsin's governor in 1932, supported an employees' union. He announced his support after meeting with Henry Ohl, president of the Wisconsin Federation of Labor, and Colonel A.E. Garey, state personnel department director.

But La Follette, a Progressive, lost the September 1932 primary election. The Democrats took control of the state assembly and the governor's office in November. Conservative Democrats and Republicans controlled the state senate. After being out of power for nearly 40 years, the Democrats were determined to get rid of the 1905 Civil Service Act. If a public employees' union stood in the way, public opinion offered it little support.

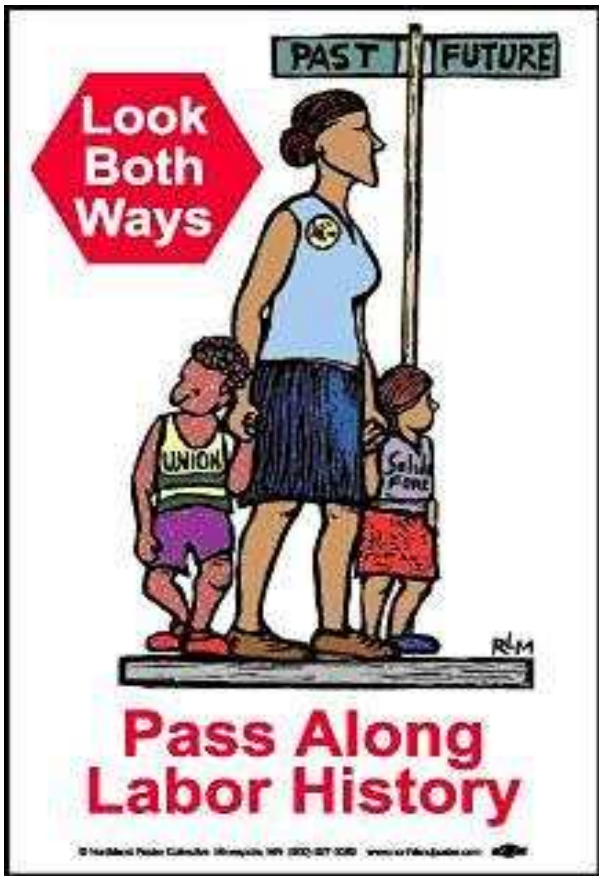
That lack of support changed. Led by Arnold Zander, Wisconsin's senior personnel examiner, and with only 50 union members in 1935 when chartered as Federal Labor Union (FLU) #18213, the union mobilized labor, veterans' groups, women's groups, farm organizations, and municipal leaders to lead the fight to protect the Civil Service Act and system. Along with Colonel Garey, they fought against Senate Bill S-8, which would have eliminated the state civil service system. With added help from the media and a public outcry supporting

Zander, Garey and their efforts, the union prevailed. Wisconsin's civil service remained intact.

Membership in FLU #18213 quickly grew: the union could save jobs. Between 1934 and 1936, the idea of a national union, the Association of Federal, State, County, and Municipal Employees hatched and the name was adopted. In 1935, Roy Kubista, a research assistant for AFSCME, started working on a retirement system for public employees (his efforts paid off, but not until 1943).

**From recognition to power and bargaining rights**

As other groups formed in other states, AFSCME gained its own AFL charter on Oct. 8, 1936. By end of that year, AFSCME had 10,000 members. Kubista eventually became the secretary-treasurer for the national union and following his retirement served as a legislative representative for the state association. *(continued on Page 7)*



Poster by Ricardo Levins Morales, used with permission of Northland Poster Collective, which sells the poster in full color. 1-800-627-3082 or <http://www.northlandposter.com/catalog/p607.html>

## AFSCME Saved Civil Service

*(Continued from Page 6)* By the time World War II ended, AFSCME was recognized as a force in Wisconsin's city and county governments, especially in the urban areas, but statewide bargaining rights took another twenty years to realize. In the small-town rural areas, union leaders were simply fired. That began to change in 1959 when Governor Gaylord Nelson signed a bill protecting municipal employees. In 1962 unions and employers received the right to call in an outside arbitrator, and in 1965 the state legislature extended bargaining rights on a limited basis, to state employees.

As a result of union recognition, policemen, firefighters, and city and county employees formed their own locals, swelling AFSCME's ranks. In 1977 binding arbitration replaced strikes, after actions by Milwaukee police, Madison firefighters, and Hortonville teachers. Binding arbitration became an alternative to strikes: if neither side could reach an agreement, resulting in an impasse, all that was needed was for one side to ask for binding arbitration.

By 1973 AFSCME had a national membership of 500,000, making it one of the largest unions in the national AFL-CIO. The members included school custodial workers, county road maintenance crews, street crews, garbage truck crews and others—all AFSCME members.

Today the backbone of county government is all AFSCME members—clerks, receptionists, and secretaries. More than 90% of county and municipal workers are now organized. Other AFSCME members work in clerk of court offices—even setting up payment schedules for people who can't pay a fine all at once. And they work in county jails—many of which are overcrowded.

But unionists now face new challenges. Employees are also being laid off due to shrinking revenues from the state to counties and cities which in turn reduce local government budgets. Another factor is unfunded and underfunded mandates from the state to counties, which also reduce county's budgets. The bottom line is fewer employees with remaining employees doing the work of two or three.

The answer is not simple. Property taxes provide these funds, but many people can't absorb a tax increase. Wisconsin's federal revenues are now lower and that means less money for local governments. Some counties have been frugal with the taxpayers' dollars but others haven't—meaning that some counties can absorb cuts while others are already operating at a bare-bones minimum. Yet, few people want their services cut.

Shared revenues need to be restored. For several years shared revenues for local governments have decreased to where they are not receiving a fair share. Unfunded

and underfunded mandates from the state to counties need to stop. If the state wants to mandate programs to the counties, then the state should pay for them.

### Learning an action plan from history

Just as AFSCME in the 1930s fought battles to prevail, we must battle to change the revenue structure and protect the jobs and services maintained by state, county, and municipal workers today. With only 50 members at its inception, and with effective leadership, the union prevailed, aided by an informed public. The same needs to happen today. Without public support, local government budgets will continue to shrink and more employees will lose their jobs, resulting in fewer services for the public.

Local governments and public employees need to inform and mobilize labor, veterans' groups, women's groups, farm organizations, municipal leaders, and others. With support, Wisconsin will continue as a progressive state and unions will regain the leadership they enjoyed in bygone years.

### My appreciation to these sources:

- Robert W. Ozanne, *The Labor History Movement in Wisconsin, A History* (Madison: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1984.)
- Robert H. Zieger, *American Workers, American Unions* (Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press, 1986.)

## Teach your children well

The "40 Books about Labor for Children and Youth," annotated book list on the WLHS website found a Nebraska welcome recently when Laurie Wermter, WLHS vice-president and board member replied to an appeal posted on the H-Net mailing list.

It seems the Omaha, Nebraska school district received a "generous" anonymous money donation to buy books about labor history and labor studies for each of its school libraries.

When the schools superintendent asked the Omaha Federation of Labor for suggestions, they posted to the H-Labor Internet list. Laurie replied with the list compiled by the UW-Madison School of Education's Cooperative Children's Book Center, at [www.wisconsinlaborhistory.org/40books.pdf](http://www.wisconsinlaborhistory.org/40books.pdf)

For a hard copy of the list, write Laurie Wermter, 847 Williamson Street, Apt 9, Madison, WI 53703

## Voyageur features Harvey Kaye

WLHS cofounder, board member, and UW-Green Bay faculty member Harvey Kaye, Ph.D., is featured in the Summer/Fall 2007 issue of *Voyageur* Magazine in a one-page review of his latest book, *Thomas Paine and the Promise of America* and a glowing biographical article alongside.

The *Voyageur* biography applauds and details Kaye's multiple books and articles, his teaching excellence, his early studies in Ecuador, Mexico, and England, with no plans to teach. A taste of teaching at Columbia University led him into faculty positions at St. Cloud University and then UW - Green Bay.

The article quoted Bill Moyers remark about *Thomas Paine and the Promise of America*, "It stirs the heart, moves the mind, and routs the demon of despair."

The book review, by J. Rixey Ruffin, Assistant Professor at UW-Stevens Point, commended Kaye's thorough research and attention to Paine's written works. Allowing Kaye's on-target observation that 20th-Century conservatives resurrected Paine in their own political and undemocratic images, Ruffin warned that Paine's 18th-Century voice was not entirely that of 19th-Century or modern labor and radicals either.

## 2008 National History Day Theme Set

The next National History Day theme is "Conflict and Compromise in History." Projects can be on conflict or compromise—or both. State coordinator Sarah Clement invites ideas for a list of Wisconsin topics. [Sarah.Clement@wisconsinhistory.org](mailto:Sarah.Clement@wisconsinhistory.org)

## Wisconsin Labor History Society

(Affiliate, Wisconsin Historical Society)

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