



UMass Amherst
Labor Extension Program
Labor Center, Thompson Hall
200 Hicks Way
Amherst, MA 01003-9277
A105125



In the Past 4 months...

The UMass Labor Extension Program Has Provided Trainings On These Topics...

- **Building a Strong Health & Safety Agenda in the Public Sector**
SEIU 509
- **Officers Elections and Treasurers Training**
Mass Nurses Association
- **Union Elections and Treasurers Training**
MNA
- **Leadership Skills**
NE Regional Summer School for Union Women
- **Grievance Handling**
NE Regional Summer School for Union Women
- **How Unions Work: Leadership Training**
GEO

To Contact the UMass Labor Extension Program:

<p>■ UMASS AMHERST LABOR EXTENSION PROGRAM Labor Center, Thompson Hall 200 Hicks Way Amherst, MA 01003-9277 Dale Melcher: 413-545-6166 Fax: 413-545-0110 email: dmelcher@lrrc.umass.edu</p>	<p>■ UMASS DARTMOUTH LABOR EXTENSION PROGRAM Dubin Labor Education Center 285 Old Westport Road North Dartmouth, MA 02747 Kim Wilson: 508-999-8781 Fax: 508-999-9168 email: kwilson@umassd.edu</p>
<p>■ UMASS BOSTON LABOR EXTENSION PROGRAM CPCS Labor Resource Center 100 Morrissey Blvd. Boston, MA 02125-3393 Tess Ewing: 617-287-7352 email: tess.ewing@umb.edu</p>	<p>■ UMASS LOWELL LABOR EXTENSION PROGRAM 600 Suffolk St., 5th Floor Lowell, MA 01854 Susan Winning: 978-934-3127 Fax: 978-934-4033 email: susan_winning@uml.edu</p>



- **A Popular Education Approach to Green Jobs**
The New England Consortium
- **Green Jobs Panel**
Western Mass JWJ Conference

- **Leadership Skills**
NE Regional Summer School for Union Women
- **Working in Coalitions**
NE Regional Summer School for Union Women
- **Workers Rights**
Springfield Works

Art and the Labor Movement

The labor movement has always had an important connection with artists (and many artists participate in the labor movement as members). Workers in the Lawrence textile strike of 1912 cried "We want bread, but we want roses, too!" The life of a working person isn't supposed to be dull and colorless. In the 1940s Labor leader Phillip Murray addressed this when asked famously what workers wanted, "Paintings on the walls, carpet on the floor and music in the home". This is a great quote that captures what we want – but also, we want to use some of the fruits and process of art to be a part of organizing, as well as a way for working people to express ourselves.

Many of us know from new organizing and contract campaigns that art and culture can act as powerful organizing tools. From skits pointing out inequality in a workplace to the use of buttons and posters to show unity, organizers have utilized the power of the arts.

We are fortunate at the Labor Extension Program to be able to promote the use of art to build the labor movement through many different projects. An active project at the moment is the photography project at UMass Dartmouth, which is a collaboration with the Zeitarian theater in New Bedford. Fifteen union members, from all different unions, have been getting together on weekends to learn how to be better photographers, but more importantly, to portray the lives of workers through our photos which aim to show the dignity of work. Many union groups have done similar projects, the most well known being SEIU 1199. See the secondary article for more details.

Murals have been important avenues for education and action around social justice struggles, including the labor movement. From revolutionary murals in Latin America to murals about the fight for independence in the north of Ireland, murals are an important way



Artists Lydia Stein (right) and Annie Haynes put the final touches on restoring the Frederick Douglass labor history mural in New Bedford.

to gain support for campaigns and to educate. Several years ago, the Labor Education Center at UMass Dartmouth worked with two artists, Mike Alewitz, and Dan Devenny to have two murals painted in SE Massachusetts. After years of the elements, the New Bedford Frederick Douglass mural needed critical repair. We were very fortunate to find two local artists, Lydia Stein and Annie Haynes, (see photo) who did the painstaking work of removing the peeling paint and restoring many areas in the mural. This will be celebrated at the UMD annual awards dinner on October 21.

Please contact your local labor extension coordinator if we can be of support to any projects your union or community group may be working on.



An IBEW member photographed her coworkers for the UMass Lowell Photography Project.

Unseen America

Unseen America is a project that gives cameras to working people, and with advice and support from a professional photographer, they go out and document their lives. The images the workers produce convey what is important to them, often revealing lives and a creativity almost completely hidden in America. The project began with 1199SEIU New York City in 2006, and then spread to many other cities and states, where regions have organized several Unseen America workshops and exhibits. Members of SEIU/1199 Massachusetts participated as well. On Cape Cod, the worker-photographers exhibited at Cape Cod Hospital to celebrate the first Unseen America class on Cape Cod. A class and exhibit at Boston Public Library featured photographs of workers who used a camera for the first time in their lives.

Inspired by the Unseen America vision, UMass Lowell Labor Extension adapted the program to partner local teens and union members in the region. With photographer Earl Dotter as the instructor, the photographers took pictures of their neighborhood, but also of small factories and the former Malden Mills. The project included an inspiring exhibit of Earl Dotter's photographs at the Boott Mill, with a companion show at nearby Mogan Center of the union and teen photos.

Around THE STATE

Undocumented Students and the American Dream Thursday, October 14, 6:00-8:00

Cost: Free
Location: UMass Boston Student Lounge, Wheatley building, 4th floor
Contact: Tess Ewing, 617-287-7352 or Wally Soper, 617-287-7436, UMass Boston LRC
UCLA Labor Center Director Kent Wong and immigrant student activists discuss the inspiring struggle of immigrant students to gain equal access to higher education.

Stewards Training Wednesday evenings, 6:30-9, October 20, 27, November 3, 10, 17

Cost: \$125, \$100 each if local sends 3 or more
Location: UMass Amherst Design Center, 7 Elm St, Court Square, Springfield
Contact: Dale Melcher, 413-545-6166 or dmelcher@lrrc.umass.edu
Basic stewards training for current stewards and those considering becoming stewards. Topics include: a mobilizing approach to problem solving, roles and responsibilities of the steward, legal rights (including Weingarten and Duty of Fair Representation), and basics of grievance handling. This program is co-sponsored by the Hampshire Franklin CLC and the Pioneer Valley AFL-CIO.

Arnold M. Dubin Labor Education Center Annual Awards Banquet Thursday, October 21, 6:00 reception, 7:00 dinner

Cost: \$40.00 per person or \$400.00 for table of ten
Location: Venus de Milo Restaurant, Swansea, MA
Contact: Diane Cruz, 508-999-8007, or dcruz@umassd.edu
Join us this year as we honor Lieutenant Governor Tim Murray, Jim Snow, Regional Director, AFL-CIO and local heroes of the labor movement.

North Shore Labor Council Women's Committee Solidarity Breakfast Nov. 13 or 20, 10am -noon

Cost: free
Location: TBA
Contact: Aliza Levine, 781-595-2538
Join women from around the region for an inspiring morning to share food and stories of successful struggles.

Organizers' Roundtable Second Tuesday of the month, 9:30-11:30 am

Cost: Free
Location: IBEW Local 103
Contact: Bill Corley, 617-436-3710, John Drinkwater, MA AFL-CIO, 781-423-8230
Roundtable discussions on topics of interest to union organizers

Program Notes

■ UMASS AMHERST

The major event of the summer was our move into the UMass Sociology Department – both organizationally and physically (see box). We participated in the planning and instruction at both the WILD Summer Institute and the Northeast Summer School for Union Women, teaching leadership skills and working in coalitions. We completed Workers Rights training for Springfield Works, a pre-apprenticeship program targeting women and people of color, and continued our Springfield work by joining with a group of UMass faculty and staff with projects in the city to explore collaborative work. This fall our stewards training will be offered at the UMass Design Center space in Court Square in downtown Springfield (see Around the State). Finally, we are teaching Women and Work, an undergraduate UMass course.

■ UMASS BOSTON

The UMass Boston Labor Resource Center is very excited to announce that Jeff Crosby, president of IUE-CWA Local 201, and president of the North Shore Labor Council, will be joining us as a half-time lecturer starting next semester. With his wealth of knowledge and practical experience in the labor movement, he will be a great addition to the LRC. On the other hand, we are sad to be losing our super-capable administrative assistant, Adam Thomas, who is starting law school this fall at Northeastern. Adam leaves very big shoes to fill. But the person who will be replacing him, Sheila Duncan-Jones, comes with her own impressive skills, and we look forward to working with her.

■ UMASS DARTMOUTH

As referenced in the main article, the UMD Labor Extension Program has been busy with art related projects. In October, the Frederick Douglass mural restoration will be complete with repair of the peeling paint, and a new bronze plaque. Our Labor Education Center has a new original piece of artwork greeting our visitors. It is a three panel mural depicting SE Massachusetts' connection of labor to activism around women's rights and youth organizing. Please come by and visit. We are thrilled to continue our statewide work with SEIU 888 stewards training and will be working with members in Harwich, Brockton, and Duxbury this fall.

■ UMASS LOWELL

UML labor extension staff is moving forward to develop a proposal for a new interdisciplinary undergraduate minor in labor studies. We hope to have it approved by the Faculty Senate in the fall and starting in the spring semester. We look forward to expanding beyond our traditional labor and community constituencies and bringing dialogue about the role of unions in the economy and society to students at the university. Internships with unions and the labor council in the region will be an important aspect of the program. We are working with the Bread and Roses Centennial Committee (see box) both on the academic symposium project and with state and local labor leaders to ensure that labor has a prominent role in the planning and events. We are also working with the North Shore Labor Council as it develops it's New Lynn regional power building project.



Bread & Roses Centennial: It's Time to Commemorate Bread & Roses Strike of 1912

In anticipation of the 100th anniversary of the Bread & Roses Strike of 1912, a coalition of community and labor partners is planning a number of events in commemoration of this anniversary, including a major permanent exhibit, multi-lingual interpretive media, academic symposium, and more. Watch for more information in this newsletter.

UMass Amherst Labor Center has Moved

In August, the UMass Amherst Labor Center joined the UMass Sociology Department. We will continue to be the Labor Center and offer our MS in Labor Studies, in both the residential and limited residency formats, as well as research, education and training, and consulting services. We are excited by the opportunities this presents to share our extension work and resources with Sociology department colleagues and bring their expertise to the labor community. All our contact information is the same – just a location change to the 6th and 7th floors of Thompson Hall. Come visit us and see our new digs!

The Resource Corner

The following organizations are wonderful resources for materials, performers and speakers. These sites also provide links to many other resources.

Labor Heritage Foundation (at www.laborheritage.org/www.laborheritage.org/) mission is to strengthen the labor movement through the use of music and arts. Their core project is the annual Great Labor Arts Exchange (GLAE) which brings artists, musicians and performers together to showcase many different forms of labor arts and culture. They also maintain a print and online catalogue of music, film, theatre, books, posters, buttons, and note cards related to the labor movement, peace, justice, equality, civil rights, and labor history and culture. LHF also maintains a network of activists, artists, and leaders, who perform, speak on relevant issues, provide trainings, and/or produce materials useful for the promotion of the history, culture, and importance of the American Labor movement.

LABOR ARTS (at www.laborarts.org) is a virtual museum where images of the cultural artifacts of working people and their organizations are gathered, identified and displayed. They have an amazing catalogue of materials, exciting on-line exhibits and links to a wealth of other resources.

S P O T L I G H T

One art form in which Labor—and other movements for social justice—has always excelled has been posters. While sometimes simply a basic form of communication, at their best, posters can be beautiful, sophisticated and powerful conveyors of a social justice message.

SEIU 509 member Stephen Lewis has been collecting labor-related posters for over 20 years, and has now amassed a collection of about 3,000, from over 40 countries. Several years ago, he thought that he would like to share his treasures with a wider audience, so he wrote a grant to get the funding necessary to mount an exhibit of 30 posters. Since then, he has shown groups of his posters at numerous venues around the state and Rhode Island: Boott Gallery in Lowell, Lawrence and Holyoke Heritage State Parks, and a number of public libraries. Each exhibit is organized around a theme, such as Health and Safety, Workers' Response to Globalization, women's struggles, etc. A short handout provides a history and explanation of the images and their context.

Stephen's purpose is not only to expose people to nice graphic art, but to convey a pro-union and pro-solidarity message. When people see an exhibit about what unions are doing to promote health and safety on the job, for example, they may come away with a more friendly feeling about unions, says Stephen. Or when they see union posters promoting women's equality from Oman or Yemen, they may think, "This is not just an issue I care about, but people around the world in other cultures care about it, too."