IBU members celebrate a century of progressive maritime unionism

The Inlandboatmen’s Union (IBU) – one of the nation’s largest inland maritime unions and the ILWU’s Marine Division – celebrated their 100th anniversary and 24th Convention in Seattle on November 11-15.

The IBU’s history, accomplishments and struggles were highlighted at a Centennial Anniversary evening gala held inside Seattle’s spectacular Museum of Flight. Over 250 union members and industry officials mingled among the exhibits of historic and modern aircraft. The IBU’s new President, Marina Secchitano, was introduced by the evening’s Master of Ceremonies, IBU Secretary/Treasurer Terri Mast.

Secchitano recognized many leaders in the room, including all four of the ILWU’s International Officers: President Willie Adams, Vice President (Mainland) Bobby Olvera, Jr., Vice President (Hawaii) Wesley Kurtado and Secretary-Treasurer Ed Ferris. Other union leaders introduced included ILWU Canada President Rob Ashton, former IBU Presidents Alan Cote and Don Liddle, along with former IBU Secretary-Treasurer Larry Miner. President Don Marcus of the Masters, Mates & Pilots Union was thanked along with Paul Garrett, Assistant Secretary of the Maritime Union of Australia’s Sydney Branch. Many IBU employer representatives attended, including Washington State Secretary of Transportation Roger Millar, President Tom Escher from San Francisco’s Red & White Fleet, Bruce Reed from Tidelander on the Columbia River, Rob Reller of Manson Construction, and Black Ball Ferry CFO David Booth.

The official speeches were brief, including the ILWU’s newly-elected International President Willie Adams, who thanked the IBU for their 1980 decision to affiliate with the ILWU, and for the many contributions made by the IBU before and since. The City of Seattle prepared an official proclamation that was presented by Mayor Jenny Durkan’s office, honoring the IBU’s many accomplishments. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti sent his congratulations via twitter. Video testimonials from union advocates appeared on giant screens inside the museum, including U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, a powerful union advocate and potential U.S. Presidential candidate who congratulated Secchitano for being elected President of the IBU. “This is the year of the woman, and your new leadership role is noteworthy and important.” Also joining via video was Washington State Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal of Seattle who sent her congratulations and best wishes to officers and members. The evening concluded with a video presentation highlighting the IBU’s hundred-year history and century of struggle for workers’ rights. The program concluded with a champagne toast – to another hundred years of militant, member-focused unionism.

Launched in dangerous times

The courageous group of Bay Area ferry workers who founded the IBU’s predecessor in 1918, the Ferryboatmen’s Union of California, did so in difficult and dangerous times. Unions and strikes were illegal. Seventeen states passed “criminal syndicalism” laws that allowed thousands of union members to be imprisoned and brutalized, including California, Oregon and Washington. Conditions continued on page 2
IBU members celebrate a century of progressive maritime unionism

continued from page 3

got worse for unions when America entered the First World War on a wave of nationalism promoted by big business and politicians who used their warped sense of “patriotism” to attack union organizers as traitors and “enemies of the people.” Leaders of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) who helped workers in West Coast ports, lumber camps, factories and fields, were among those hunted down, jailed, beaten, tortured and murdered. Congress passed the unconstitutional Sedition Act in 1918, making it a crime to criticize or hold opinions against the war. Other earth-shaking events during 1917-1918 included the Russian Revolution and mobilizations by women for the right to vote. These factors caused deep divisions within labor unions, as radicals were purged, jailed and killed – while many establishment unions turned their backs on civil liberties and some joined racist campaigns against “dangerous alien immigrants.”

When the war ended in November of 1918, much of Europe was destroyed, 16 million were dead and another 75 million would soon die in the global flu pandemic. Most militant labor unions were exterminated or weakened – but the IBU managed to survive and grow in these difficult conditions.

Early focus on ferry workers

The IBU’s early growth was possible because so many ferries were being used to transport cargo, railroad cars and people around booming cities and ports on the West Coast.

Surviving by organizing

The union’s initial boom lasted little more than a decade. New bridges built during the mid-1930’s caused many ferries to be idled. The modern bridges were needed to accommodate an explosion of cars and trucks. In an ironic twist, many of the new bridges were funded by President Roosevelt’s New Deal programs, which created millions of desperately-needed construction jobs across the country, but also caused thousands of ferry workers to lose their work. Roosevelt’s support for workers and unions was also enormously helpful when the union expanded beyond the Bay Area to help workers organize in the Pacific Northwest, where port cities in Washington, Oregon and Alaska had grown quickly from timber and mining. The union also moved to help workers organize in Southern California, especially San Pedro and San Diego.

Breaking with old limitations

The IBU’s dramatic growth was also possible because they expanded beyond their previous “jurisdiction,” that limited them to only help ferry workers. This narrow perspective was soon abandoned in favor of helping workers on tugs, barges and other vessels. Workers at fish canneries and processing plants joined in 1985, and most recently, environmental response workers. This new approach to jurisdiction was called “industrial unionism” and it gave the union a new name: the Inlandboatmen’s Union of the Pacific.

Search for a democratic partner

Over the years, the IBU has affiliated with different unions and federations, always searching for a democratic partner. Early on, they affiliated with the International Seaman’s Union (ISU) that was part of the American Federation of Labor. When the industrial union movement rose in the 1930’s, the IBU aligned with the Congress of Industrial Unions (CIO), being the first west coast union to join that rebel group – doing so a few months before the ILWU. During the next decade they tried to avoid bitter conflicts between ILWU President Harry Bridges and Sailors Union of the Pacific.

continued on page 4
Have been crucial to the success of the program and established several scholarship from her own personal history and economic, social and political geography to pursue her interests in feminist, and also the first Chair whose research studies on campus. England is the first endowed Chair in Labor Studies. A Kim England, the newest Harry Bridges Center. He introduced the audience to the outgoing director of the Bridges Center through the Martin Jugum scholarship for the Bridges Center in 2018, the Frank Jenkins Jr. Fellowship in Labor Studies, the Martin and Anne Jugum Scholarship in Labor Studies, and the Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes Scholarship in Labor Studies. The Gundlach Scholarship in Labor Studies was created by the estate of Jean Gundlach, a labor activist and former staff secretary of Harry Bridges and the ILWU, to honor her memory and that of her siblings, Wilford, Ralph and Betty, all former UW alumni. Ralph Gundlach was a former UW professor, but he died in 1948 of a brain hemorrhage. He was a communist by the McCarthyist Canwell Committee. Through Jean’s own efforts, former UW President William Gerberding issued an apology for UW’s participation in the Canwell hearings. This year’s Gundlach scholarship was awarded to Brian Serafini, a PhD student in Sociology whose research challenges assumptions about precarious labor and worker consent in the fast food industry. Martin ‘Jug’ Jugum was a longtime activist and key member of the ILWU for over fifty years. He was essential in creating the Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies and was a co-chair for the Harry Bridges Memorial Committee. The Martin and Anne Jugum Scholarship in Labor Studies was created to honor him and his wife and their dedication to the labor movement. This year the scholarship was awarded to two undergraduates: Jenesis Garcia and Marcos Vieyra. Garcia has a deep commitment to resistance in the forms of community healing and personal authenticity. Her work is shared with her community and embodied through her work as the University of Washington C Queen’s Tend and Trans Student of Color Cultural Worker and Advocate. Vieyra is also dedicated to community resistance through his organizing with Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Alto Pacifico (Mecha), and hopes to pursue a career in law to develop an in-depth understanding of the U.S. legal system, to subvert laws that serve the interests of only those in power, and act as an advocate for laborers by providing platforms through which their voices may be heard.

Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes were two critical and inspiring labor leaders who fought hard to dispel brutal conditions and racist management in their workplaces. They jointly formed the Alaska Camery Workers Association to undertake this feat. In 1977 Domingo and Viernes also formed the Bank and File Committee of ILWU Local 37 to struggle for union democracy and fair working conditions, despite severe opposition from all sides. They were elected to ILWU Local 37 leadership in 1980 and worked to build solidarity with workers in the Philippines. Both were tragically both murdered in 1981 at the order of Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos. The Domingo Viernes Scholarship was formed in 2011 by the Inlandboatmen’s Union, Region 37, to honor their memory and the inspiring legacy of their activism. The award of the scholarship this year was Alejandra Perez and Polly Woodbury, Perez, as an undocumented student, has worked tirelessly to develop trainings and resources to serve other undocumented students and young professionals through the creation of Undoco Ally Trainings and her collaboration with the Washington Dream Coalition.

Woodbury, currently a graduate student in Social Work and Global Health, has spent several summers working with the ALCIO through internships with the Union Summer program and the Solidarity Center in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Kim’s long standing interest in labor, work and employment stems from her own personal history and geography. She was born in Wallasey, a town on the River Tyne in Northeast England, with a long history of coal mining and steel building. She grew up in a time when jobs in those industries were declining, and saw the struggles of family and friends whose livelihoods were disappearing. She remarked, “As a girl, I knew those jobs weren’t open to me anyway, but I was mindful of what this meant for the local economy and everyday life, and saw the ways unions fought to keep jobs and protest deteriorating working conditions.”

As someone who bails from a proud working class community in the North of England, she will continue to bring this dedication to labor and activism in her research, advocacy, and leadership as Harry Bridges Chair. Honoring ILWU Local 19 Thanks to the generous contributions from ILWU locals and pensioners, two new scholarships were created at the Bridges Center in 2018, the Frank Jenkins Jr. Fellowship in Labor Studies, and the Michelle Drayton and Ian Kennedy Scholarship in Labor Studies. Frank Jenkins Jr. – grandson of a runaway slave, first son of a Bulloch Soldier and a native Filipina, and a member of the first known Filipina family in the Puget Sound region – was a devoted labor activist and lifelong union member and leader in Seattle’s ILWU Local 19. He began working on the waterfront as a young adult in the 1920s and was a contributor to the 1934 strike. His activism during his decades-long commitment to the ILWU and work with other labor activists such as Martin Jugum, an ILWU member who is also honored at the Bridges Center through the Martin and Anne Jugum scholarship for undergraduate students, allowed for the implementation of more equitable policies on the waterfront. One of their greatest contributions was the introduction of a rotation system that allowed everyone to receive an equal amount of work that did not strip fair opportunities from Black workers.

In February of 2018, to honor Jenkins’s contribution to the ILWU and labor community, the membership of ILWU Local 19 voted to contribute a sum of $100,000 to the Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies for the creation of the Frank Jenkins Jr Fellowship in Labor Studies. The Coast Longshore Division followed with a matching donation of an additional $100,000 (See the September 2018 issue of the Dispatcher) At the banquet, Kim England and the former Endowed Bridges Charies, James Greg, ory, Iman Jacoby, Maggie McCormick, and George Lovell, collectively honored ILWU Local 19 at the Labor Awards Banquet by awarding the union with this year’s Robert Duggan Distinguished Supporter Award on behalf of the Local 19 mem, bership. They were given the award for their role in the Jenkins Fellowship and for supporting the Bridges Center and students for three decades.

Honoring Local 19: ILWU Local 19 President Rich Austin, Jr. accepted the Robert Duggan Distinguished Supporter Award on behalf of the Local 19 membership. They were given the award for their role in the Jenkins Fellowship and for supporting the Bridges Center and students for three decades.
Continued from page 2

Pacific President Harry Lundeberg. In 1947 the IBU joined the Seafarers' International Union (SIU), but left in 1979 over objections to what were seen as undemocratic and unethical practices. The following year saw a bitter strike by Washington State ferry workers leading to a court injunction. That’s when ILWU locals shut down the Puget Sound in solidarity. The move that led to a settlement for ferry workers and affiliation with the ILWU.

Mandatory membership was an issue. Ilwus had peaked at 40,000 before WWII. As the number of ferries continued to dwindle and anti-union laws took their toll, the membership levelled to 4,000 where it remains today. But the union retains the same democratic, member-focused, progressive spirit from a century ago. And ferry service is now making a comeback, with communities in Alaska, Washington and California recognizing the critical role that public ferries play in regional transportation plans.

24th Convention opens

On Monday morning, November 12, all the history and current challenges came into sharp focus as the IBU’s 24th Convention was called to order at the Edgewater Hotel, overlooking Elliott Bay on the Puget Sound. The convention was chaired by President Marina Secchitano. Longtime IBU Secretary-Treasurer Terri Mast announced that 45 delegates and 20 special guests were present. The guest list included ILWU Canada President Bob Ashton who was accompanied by Local 400 Secretary-Treasurer Jason Woods and Liam Lumdsen, a Young Worker and Local 400 Board member. Also attending was Sydney Branch President Paul Barnett, who came with Rob Paterson, Glen Munnight, Trent Miller and Liam Burke, all from the Maritime Union of Australia.

Spiritual message for the union

Deacon Jose Deleon from the Seattle Seafarers Ministry offered a prayer and reflection on the IBU’s longstanding commitment to promoting justice and equality. Deleon said he was grateful for the opportunity to work so closely with the IBU and the ILWU over many years, helping crew members from the Philippines, China and other nations. These seafarers sometimes arrive to the West Coast on vessels with substandard working conditions. Deleon thanked IBU member Jeff Engels for coordinating work of the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) on the West Coast with a talented team that includes Inspectors Peter Lahay in Canada, Stefan Mueller-Dorffos in LA and Martin Larson in Oregon. Deleon praised the ITF inspectors for helping seafarers win many struggles for dignity, respect and better pay.

Joyful union noise

Next up was Seattle’s Labor Chorus, which came to celebrate the 100th Anniversary and inspire convention delegates to prepare for the hard work ahead. The Chorus performs frequently at picket lines, rallies and community events, with rosettes that include IBU members Scott Semur, who was a founding member, and his wife Susan Moser, who performed at the convention. The Chorus started 21 years ago at the Northwest Folklife Festival where legendary union advocate and folk singer Pete Seeger promised to return and sing with the fledgling group if they became established. They did, and Seeger keep his promise.

IBU President Secchitano

IBU President Marina Secchitano was elected last December to become the union’s first female President. She joined longtime Secretary-Treasurer Terri Mast, making the IBU one of the few unions to be led by women leaders.

Secchitano offered many thoughts about what could be accomplished at the convention and a vision for what lies ahead in the coming years.

Non-union tug threat

One challenge facing the IBU and covered by Secchitano was plainly visible just outside the meeting room’s large windows where a growing number of non-union tugs and barges operate along much of the West Coast and Hawaii.

Big oil hurts union members

Secchitano highlighted the growing non-union environment by citing the recent change at the Port of Valdez, Alaska. Big oil companies in Valdez decided to replace their longtime union contractor, Crowley, with a large anti-union corporation from the Gulf of Mexico, called Edision Chouest. The new contractor has a history of misbehavior, including sick, unsafe working conditions. In 1989 dumped 11 million gallons of oil from Slope crude through Prince William Sound. The company was a new contractor hired to provide tug assist and emergency response for tankers carrying North Slope crude through Prince William Sound, where a catastrophic spill in 1989 dumped 11 million gallons of oil into pristine waters and fouled 1300 miles of shoreline.

“I recently visited those Crowley workers and families up in Valdez during the final days of their contract, and it was heartbreaking,” said Secchitano, explaining that the new contractor brought their own non-union workforce from the South instead of recruiting Crowley workers that included many Native Alaskans. She said the IBU has been trying to help displaced workers find jobs at other union companies. Secchitano added that many small businesses in Valdez are now suffering because Edision Chouest refuses to “buy local” and support the community like Crowley did for decades.

Ferry workers get organized

Secchitano also commented on the challenges facing thousands of public ferry workers who were recently hit by the anti-union Janus decision, handed down last year by the US Supreme Court. The Janus attack was financed by Carrie Tolstedt, the anti-union ruler of the Seattle community bank. The Janus Court ruling would destroy unions by encouraging members to quit paying dues. IBU ferry workers in Alaska, Washington and California responded by educating their co-workers about the scheme through thousands of conversations. This approach yielded excellent results, with only a handful refusing to pay their share of dues. “The member-to-member conversations you had with your co-workers made the difference and helped us stay strong,” said Secchitano. “We’ve still got more work to do in some areas, but we’re on the right track with this approach.”

Cheap oil hurts ferry workers

Secchitano described a special problem facing ferry workers in Alaska that has implications for all union members. Some Alaska politicians are trying to privatize the state’s public ferry system in order to break public unions and convert a valuable public asset into a private, profit-making investment for Wall Street. She said the threat has become more serious because selling crude oil is a key industry for Alaska, and the state needs to keep increasing profits to pay for public services. The threat is more serious now because of the decline in oil prices. She explained that declining oil prices and resulting budget shortfalls have caused many legislators demanding big budget cuts from public employees in Alaska, including ferry workers. Secchitano promised to help IBU members in Alaska fight back. She also praised efforts by Acting (Jan-May, 2018) Regional Director Darryl Tseu, who is sharing the valuable experience and relationships he has with many Alaska legislators.

Non-union on our doorstep

During a break in the session, IBU Puget Sound Business Agent Gail McCormick explained that his region’s largest tug companies, Foss and Crowley, “have the largest and most powerful tractor tug fleets with the best-skilled crews, so pilots tend to favor them, but the non-union and sub-standard operators are nipping around the edges and showing up more often,” he said, point- ing across Elliott Bay where a non-union tug was visible in the distance.

continued on page 5
Three of the biggest non-union tug and barge companies are Vane Brothers from Maryland, Edison Chouest from Louisiana and the Kirby Corporation from Texas. All three also have modern fleets, and are scouting for new work, in part, because low oil prices have forced companies to close down expensive wells in the Gulf of Mexico – and cancel support vessel contracts there.

Secchitano explained how she’s seen the growing non-union threat take shape on the West Coast. “When I visited Hawaii recently, I saw a big Kirby tug next to a Foss union vessel. Then back home I saw a Kirby tug in San Francisco Bay, which we hadn’t seen before, and I learned that it was heading up here to the Puget Sound, so we can see these guys are getting more serious about moving out west,” she said.

Secchitano ended with some important updates, the first of which involved the IBU’s pension which had an unfunded liability for many years but is now on a recovery plan that will restore the fund’s health over the next 11 years.

She also provided the latest good news about expanded ferry services in San Francisco Bay, where state and federal funding has supported a 14-vessel fleet serving four routes that carry 2.7 million passengers annually – with plans to reach 5 times that number in 2035 using 44 vessels. The new passenger ferries are the cleanest 400-passenger vessels in the world and can reach over 30 mph.

Secchitano ended by noting the untimely passing of Veronica Sanchez, a skilled legislative advocate who helped Bay Area maritime workers wage many campaigns for good jobs and better working conditions. She said Sanchez was a valuable ally of the IBU and other unions. “Veronica will be remembered for fighting many good fights with us, and we will miss her deeply.”

Greetings from Canada

ILWU Canada President Rob Ashton was invited to the podium where he congratulated IBU members for their century of progressive unionism. Ashton said he was representing 6000 ILWU Canada members, plus another 7000 affiliated members. He urged the IBU to continue their progressive tradition, warning that employers are constantly looking for ways to create division and doubt between workers. He cited the importance of welcoming everyone into the union, regardless of their gender orientation. “What matters is that we all bleed just like the next worker, regardless of how we look or how we choose to live.”

He also praised the ILWU tradition of operating in the open and encouraging members to ask questions – especially the questioning elected union officials. “We can’t be afraid to have members criticize and challenge their elected officers,” he said.

Adams said the same principle applies to welcoming new and younger voices. “I’m excited and energized by what young people are doing in this union. We need to involve them, include them and listen to them.”

He also acknowledged President Secchitano for “having the courage to step up, lean in and stick her neck out to run for President. I look forward to working with you and your team,” said Adams.

He wrapped up by sharing his concerns about the political challenges facing IBU and ILWU members, emphasizing the need to prepare now for a voice in the 2020 election. Adams noted the positive election results in November, with a record number of more-union-friendly candidates who will control the U.S. House of Representatives. But he also reminded everyone that the U.S. Senate remains controlled by an anti-union majority – and added that Alaska’s new governor favors big business over workers and unions. “Those workers and others like them depend on us to help them organize and speak out,” Adams concluded.

Special guest: MM&M President

Don Marcus, President of the Masters, Mates and Pilots Union, opened by joking about the challenge of following fellow ILWU and MM&M member, then shared a common bond, they are among the larger group of Maritime Unionsh formed who the Maritime Labor Alliance six years ago. He said the group plays an important role in building unity.

“M&M&M has been growing in the past few years, and we will miss her deeply,” he said.

Marcus ended with some important updates, the first of which involved the MM&M pension which had an unfunded liability for many years but is now on a recovery plan that will restore the fund’s health over the next 11 years.

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IBU members celebrate a century of progressive maritime unionism

Environmental conflicts – Washington State delegates detailed their experience with a well-intentioned but deeply-drawn carbon tax ballot measure. It was defeated by voters – but re-opened longstanding tensions between the building trades and other unions over whether workers should take action to protect the planet from global warming, focus solely on jobs – or find a way to do both. One possible point of agreement is that workers should be protected from bearing the brunt of a noteworthy change. This particular carbon tax measure was unintentionally drafted in a way that would have deeply cut the State’s Transportation and public ferry budget, making it a “no-deal” for the IBU. This painful experience highlighted the need for unions to be more involved with environmental groups so they can participate when environmental laws are conceived and drafted.

Industrial waterfront protection – Secretary-Treasurer Terrt Mast opened this topic by noting that coastal cities must take steps now to protect their industrial waterfront lands or risk losing them – along with good-paying jobs. In Seattle, the IBU and ILWU are part of a successful coalition that joined forces with local business groups to protect Seattle’s working waterfront, especially in the South of Downtown (SODO) industrial area. The Mayor has since appointed ILWU member John Persak and Mast to a committee that will suggest solutions to save the City’s industrial waterfront.

Vocational training – In Washington State, the IBU has joined with vocational education advocates to see if they can require all schools in the state to provide a minimum number of vocational classes so working-class families can get training that leads to good-paying union jobs for their children.

Artic scramble – ILWU Alaska leader Dennis Young shared his efforts to monitor plans to route commercial vessel traffic through previously frozen areas of the artic. He described the aggressive scramble by countries and companies to enter areas that were unreachable until global warming began melting polar ice at an alarming rate. Besides opening shorter polar routes between Asia and Europe, he said other companies want to drill for oil and gas in the outer continental shelf beneath the artic.

V. P. Olvera on Organizing

Tuesday began on a solemn note with a brief ceremony recognizing IBU members who passed since the last convention. Everyone stood in silence as names of the departed from every region were read into the official record.

Newly-elected International Vice President Bobby Olvera, Jr., thanked the IBU for inviting him to observe and participate at the convention, then quickly jumped into what he called “new changes that are coming to the ILWU.” He said the changes would include better communications, new education modules and a “return to our roots” when it comes to organizing. He said the officers recently held their first National Organizing Committee meeting and would hold more each quarter, probably scheduled before or after International Executive Board meetings. He said there would be greater coordination with Hawaii, and a willingness to pursue long-term organizing campaigns that make sense from a strategic standpoint. “We talk a lot about solidarity, but don’t always walk the walk,” he said. “There should never be an ILWU campaign that doesn’t involve every ILWU local in a 100-mile radius, so everyone knows what the issues are, who the people are, and what’s at stake for all of us.” He closed by saying the ILWU can help “re-build the house of labor in a progressive way, by working with other progressive unions, including nurses, teachers and others who share our vision of helping the entire working class.”

Ferris urges courage and action

Newly-elected ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Ed Ferris was next, and he began by challenging delegates to “search for opportunities among all the challenges we face, including hostility to unions from many politicians.”

Ferris continued, “We’re up against a wealthy and well organized ruling class that doesn’t care about the work.

continued from page 7
Mike Mitre, former ILWU Local 13 President

Former ILWU Local 13 President Mike Mitre (right) with his brother, Greg Mitre at a Longshore Caucus in 2006.

In Memorium

Mike Mitre, former ILWU Local 13 President

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Former ILWU Local 13 President Mike Mitre passed away on November 24 at the age of 64.

Mike was born in Riverside, CA to Ralph and Margie Mitre. He was a dedicated union member and leader who served the ILWU with distinction. He was an avid surfer and skier who traveled the world to surf and seek adventure. Mike attended White Point Elementary, Dana Jr. High, Fermin Lasuen & San Pedro High schools. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Cal State Long Beach. He considered attending law school but was lured by the call of the sea and the port.

His maritime career started at Ports O’Call working on the top deck of the vessel Sierra Nevada. Moving on to the tugs and barges at United towage, he attained his U.S. Coast Guard license and went to work at Catalina Cruises as a captain. He then joined the ILWU Local 13 in 1985 and remained a longshoreman until his passing.

He was elected twice by the membership to serve as President of ILWU Local 13. Mitre also served on the International Executive Board, the Local 13 Executive Board, was a Caucus and Convention delegate, and served on the Longshore Legislative Committee. While serving as the Director of Port Security for the ILWU, Mitre represented the union before the Senate and House Committees on Port Security.

He was preceded in death by his father Ralph. He is survived by his mother Margie, his loving ex-wife Mar tha, son Sean, daughter Lauren, broth ers Greg, and Jeff, sister Laurie, and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

Services were held Saturday December 1st, at McNemey Mortuary, in San Pedro. A memorial paddle out, a traditional surfer ritual that honors the life of a fallen surfer, was held at Royal Palms State Beach in San Pedro on Sunday December 2nd.
NEW PENSIONERS:
Local 4: Carl A. Flintoff;
Local 10: Leon W. Hill; Maurice V. Hendrick;
Local 13: David N. Whitford; Dane P. Valdez; Kenneth H. Smallwood; Samuel F. Tuaea;
Stanley E. Eaton; Palmer T. Feland;
Gary W. Butterbaugh; Richard A. Duncan; Joseph L. Sandoval;
Local 19: Steven J. Richards; Kennis A. Ghee; Harry Munirhead Ill;
Local 23: Ronald W. Bredeson;
Donald J. Pierce; Chris A. Brindle;
Local 32: Steve E. Ritchie;
Local 46: Ruben C. Perez;
Local 47: Robert K. Rose;
Local 54: Salvador S. Rodriguez;
Local 63: Sylvia K. Sigala;
Debra D. Reposky; Earl T. Bryan;
Cathy A. Brown; Deborah Taylor;
Dario W. Leonardo;
Local 94: Gary L. Gonzales;
Local 98: Steven J. Qania;

DECEASED PENSIONERS:
Local 8: Leo C. Ross; William H. Grison;
Local 10: Carlos M. Huanan;
Local 12: Willis A. Sutton;
Local 13: Kenneth M. Sutton;
Local 19: Terrel B. Rushing;
Charles L. Reinsmith; Lawrence T. Biggs (Mary);
Local 23: Darrell Booth;
Local 29: Apolonio R. Samson;
Local 34: Daniel Andazola;
Local 52: Parker N. Johnston (Judith);
Local 63: Han C. Lee;
George R. Morgan;
Local 91: Vernon W. Roberts;
Local 94: Marcelino Martinez;

DECEASED SURVIVORS:
Local 4: Virginia J. Underwood;
Enid D. Rand; Local 10: Doris Boyd;
Queen E. Brown; Vita B. Mackin;
Shirley B. Smith;
Local 13: Nadine G. Lung; Patricia Wedderburn;
Shirley A. Van Andel;
Local 21: Marilyn B. Raappana;
Local 23: Kathleen E. Smith;
Local 34: Annie Gentry;
Local 52: Rosegene Mathews;
Local 98: Audrey Kover;

2018 Annual Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies Awards Banquet
continued from page 3

Labor History and the Labor Archives of Washington
In addition to awards honoring the ILWU, the banquet featured announcements of the latest research projects funded by the Bridges Center, a report on the activities of the Labor Archives of Washington, and a host of other awards. Of particular note, this year the Pacific Northwest Labor History Association (PNLHA) collaborated with the Bridges Center on the creation of a $500 Paper Prize to promote and reward engaging labor history research by students. One of the two award-winning papers this year, "The Longshoremen During the Seattle General Strike by Juan Ortiz," focused on longshore history by illustrating the complex economic and social changes that occurred after World War I and the intricate nature behind the Seattle longshore workers’ decision to join the 1919 General Strike.

In researching his paper, Ortiz drew upon collections held by the Labor Archives of Washington, established in 2010 thanks to generous support from the ILWU. The Labor Archives is currently organizing for the 100th anniversary of the Seattle General Strike with a commemorative event titled Solidarity City. The Seattle General Strike and 100 Years of Worker Power. This event will take place at the Labor Temple on February 6th in light of post WWI economic and social conditions. Sixty-thousand union and nonunion workers stopped working in an act of solidarity, halting the city’s daily functioning before a military intervention incited by Seattle Mayor, Ole Hanson. “Solidarity City” will feature experts and panels from the labor community to speak about the 1919 events and how the labor movement has evolved since, honoring the legacy of labor rights activism and where it must continue to go.

UW Laundry Workers Speak Out
The banquet concluded with an appeal for support from several members of the Washington Federation of State Employees (WFSE), UW United Students Against Sweatshops and 44 state legislators. The UW Laundry Workers, despite appeals and protests from the laundry workers, WFSE, UW United Students Against Sweatshops and 44 state legislators. This decision will result in job losses for about 100 union workers in late March. At the banquet, several people who have worked for Mount Baker laundry for decades spoke about how the closure will impact them and their families. The majority are immigrants and refugees.

More information about the year-round activities of the Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies, including scholarships, research projects, events, and the Labor Archives of Washington, can be found by visiting the Bridges Center’s website at labor.uw.edu.