# **Published by the International Longshore and Warehouse Union**

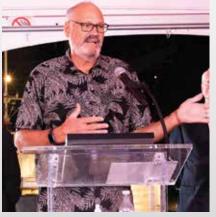


# DISPATCHER

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**Friends and allies:** (Left side, bottom to top): Local 13 E-Board member Sal DiCostanzo, Local 13 Vice President Vic Zuniga, ISC CEO & President Cpt. Dick McKenna (Ret.); (Right side, bottom to top): ISC co-managers Pat Pettit & Merry Jo Dickey, ISC Board Chairman Guy Fox.

# International Seafarers Center, a safety net for mariners, seeks secure funding stream

he International Seafarers Center (ISC), located in the Los Angeles-Long Beach port complex, is a

them. They see these big container vessels, but they don't see what goes on inside them or the workers who make it all happen. They are all skilled workers. They don't make very much money, and what money they do make goes home to their families." In order to combat this deprivation, the ISC has been providing facilities and services for the recreational, personal, and cultural needs of merchant mariners for approximately 35 years. It survives on grants, two yearly fundraising events, and periodic donations. The ISC is currently working towards securing stable and consistent sources of funding to keep the center afloat for the long term.

Temporary housing with bedding, bathrooms, showers, a kitchen, and other basic amenities that seafarers need when coming to port;
Communication services, such as phones, internet, and computers, so seafarers can communicate with family and friends;

non-profit organization with a mission to provide a home away from home for sailors, providing a safe place for them to relax, sleep and access communication and transportation services.

International seafarers are vulnerable to exploitation and abuse, as they are isolated and far from home. In addition, there are few legal protections for workers at sea and ship owners often utilize the "flags of convenience" system that allows them to register vessels in countries with little regulation or oversight.

"Seafarers are the invisible link in the supply chain," said ISC Board Chairman Guy Fox. "Nobody sees The center provides a variety of important services to the thousands of seafarers that call on the Los Angeles-Long Beach port complex, including:

- Ministry services to tend to the spiritual needs of seafarers;
- Transportation services via 3-fleet van to necessary destinations such as the port, banking and groceries.
- Free library, exercise equipment, and a small store with basic supplies.

#### Home away from home

Retired Navy Captain Dick McKenna, who serves as the President and CEO of the ISC, said that the Center can see more than a dozen seafarers using the facility at any given time, with some staying for several days to

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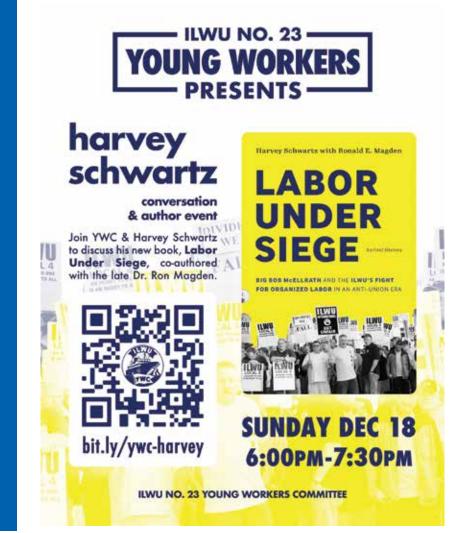
# MUNZ marks the 10th anniversary of the Ports of Auckland Dispute

uring the week of October 17th, 2022, I had the immense honor and privilege to serve as the ILWU Representative to the Maritime Union of New Zealand's (MUNZ) 10th anniversary of the Ports of Auckland Dispute.

The Ports of Auckland Dispute was a defining moment for the MUNZ. As a hostile port authority, the Ports of Auckland did everything they could do to destroy the union. The dispute started on March 7th, 2012, with the announcement that more than 300 workers would be fired. This announcement came after months of negotiations, a lock-out and strike actions. On March 10th, over five thousand community supporters marched on the ports chanting, "Who's port! Our port!" Finally, on April 5th, after mobilizing massive community and international support, and a few legal battles, the workers of MUNZ Local 13 'took back the port,' and walked back in through the gates of the Ports of Auckland to resume their jobs.

The battle may have been over, but the war was not. The following decade would continue with port management attempts to undermine workers through speed-ups (which resulted in two workers' deaths), an attempt to implement a completing in-house company Union, and a massive automation project began in 2016. In 2021, after a workers' vote of no confidence in Port CEO Tony Gibson, Mr. Gibson resigned, and is now awaiting trial for charges brought my MUNZ under health and safety laws. 2021 saw huge positive changes for the Port and the Union, culminating in the announcement in early 2022 of the abandonment of the automation project. In short, the port and union are now again enjoying a positive relationship resulting in safety, productivity, and jobs.

The week ended with the anniversary dinner, where over 200 invited guests packed into the Princes Wharf Maritime room in downtown Auckland. International Affiliates from the MUA, ETU, ITF, ILWU and many others were in attendance, along with many rank-and-file MUNZ members. Speeches were heard from Craig Harrison and Carl Finlay of the MUNZ, Warren Smith, Will Tracey, Jason Minors, and Paul Keating of the MUA, Paul McAleer of the ITF, and myself on behalf of the ILWU. The speeches were powerful. The importance of political engagement and solidarity at the Local, National, and International level across all sectors of workers could not be overstated. A special moment was given to George Lye, a





Left to right:, MUNZ National Secretary Craig Harrison, Local 23 President Jared Faker, MUNZ National President Carl Findlay.

Tauranga-based Union member who was given a special "solidarity" award for his 5-year fight to bring the MUNZ to his workplace.

I was honored to receive on behalf of the ILWU a plaque which reads: "Presented to International Longshore and Warehouse Union to acknowledge the solidarity and unity given to the members of Maritime Union of New Zealand Auckland Branch Local 13 during the 2012 Ports of Auckland Dispute." This plaque marks the 10-year anniversary of the dispute. The Union movement to this day still remains 'unbroken.' Proud to be union.

> An Injury to one is an Injury to all. – Jared Faker President, Local 23

# ILWU says Congress must uphold collective bargaining in railroad negotiations

he ILWU, which has issued several statements of support for the nation's railroad workers throughout negotiations, issued a statement on November 29 blasting the movement in Congress to impose a contract that workers have rejected for lack of paid sick leave.

"Warren Buffet can afford to pay wages for railroad workers who get sick and need to stay home or see the doctor," said ILWU International President Willie Adams. "If Congress imposes a contract siding with Warren Buffet against the will of our nation's 115,000 railroad workers, this would be a watershed moment that undermines union rights in America akin to the replacement of air traffic control workers during the Reagan Administration." Pres. Adams says profitable private railroad companies, not workers, have brought the country to the brink of a strike: "Warren Buffet can afford to pay wages for railroad workers who get sick"

with the nation's railroad workers and their 12 rail unions in their fight to get a fair agreement with the private rail companies that have reaped record profits from U.S. rail network during the pandemic," said Adams. "The ILWU continues to unequivocally stand in support and solidarity with the nation's railroad workers and their unions in their fight for a fair agreement with the private rail companies that have reaped record profits during the pandemic," said ILWU International Vice President (Mainland) Bobby Olvera, Jr. "The railroad barons' profits have contributed to #inflation, and they do not need any favors from Congress especially at a high cost to workers and collective bargaining.

Warren Buffett's company Berkshire Hathaway owns Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF), one of the nation's main railroads.

"The ILWU continues to unequivocally stand in support and solidarity

# DISPATCHER

Roy San Filippo Communications Director

#### ILWU TITLED OFFICERS

William E. Adams, President Bobby Olvera, Jr., Vice President, Mainland Paul K. Kreutz, Vice President, Hawaii Edwin Ferris, Secretary-Treasurer The *Dispatcher* (ISSN 0012-3765) is published monthly except for a combined July/Aug issue, for \$5.00 a year and \$10.00 a year for non-members by the ILWU, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109. Periodical postage paid at San Francisco, CA. *The Dispatcher* welcomes letters, photos and other submissions to the above address © ILWU, 2012. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Dispatcher, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109-6800.

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# International Seafarers Center, a safety net for mariners, seeks secure funding stream

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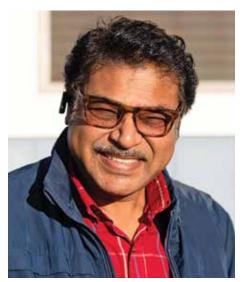
a week. He said the ISC provides seafarers with a "home away from home" and a comfortable place to stay while they are off ship.

"These are not stereotypical sailors who want to go out carousing and hitting up the bars," McKenna said. "They have families and just want a comfortable place to relax when they are in port."

The center operates out of a building on land owned and donated to the ISC, by the Port of Long Beach. The Port recently helped to renovate the space by installing new windows, among many other improvements. However, the ISC pays for all the ongoing operating expenses, including the property taxes on the building.

#### Layer of protection

Local 13 Executive Board member Sal DiCostanzo said that the ISC not only provides important resources to seafarers, but is also a refuge that can help protect them from exploitation. During the pandemic, the ISC worked closely with the Port of Long Beach, the Long Beach Department of Health and



# ISC Chaplain Sam Chauhan on why he became a chaplain

for seafarers: "Basically, because of a love for the sailors," he said. "Those who come to our shores and bring us a lot of goodies from around the globe. They are marginalized. Not many people notice them or know about them. So we care for them. We visit them. We show them that all of us care. We give them gospel, good news, encouragement, and transportation. We give them all kinds of gestures, which shows them that we care for them, and that we love them. That's how I was drawn." Human Services, and the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) to provide free COVID vaccinations to more than 13,500 seafarers. Unscrupulous ship agents were trying to charge desperate seafarers \$300 for the vaccine.

"These workers are making \$600 a month on average and some agents were trying to get half a month's pay from them for a vaccine that was ultimately made available at no cost. That's one example of why a place like this is so important," DiCostanzo said.

"It's not just for the amenities that the ISC offers, but they also help check the people that would otherwise take advantage of the crewmen," DiCostanzo said. He added, "The ITF uses this facility as a launching pad to intervene on the mariners behalf, making sure that seafarers are getting paid properly, that they are not being otherwise abused. These are the workers that bring the cargo to our ports. We have a responsibility to watch their backs."

#### Network of support

McKenna recalled a situation about 10 years ago when a ship caught the eye of the local ITF inspector. "A ship that pulled in—it was a rust bucket watertight integrity was looking terrible, and everything was rusty, so the ITF went onboard and they discovered the crew hadn't been paid," McKenna said. "The inspector turned it over to the Coast Guard, who arrested the ship and then the owner of the ship just walked away, leaving the Filipino crew stranded with no money and no way to return home."

He said the ISC worked with the local Filipino community to raise money for the stranded crew so they could get home and give them a bit of money to recoup some of their wages that were stolen from them by the employer.

"Seafarers are the most vulnerable workers of the supply chain," said Local 13 Vice President Vic Zuniga. "In many regards, they don't have a voice and don't have a lot of people looking out for their best interests. They should feel assured that when they come into this port, they will have dignity, and respect, and will be assisted to get basic necessities while they are here."



Dick McKenna (left) and Local 13 Vice President Vic Zuniga at the International Seafarers Center.

#### Fight for funding

The ISC supports itself with two annual fundraisers, grants, donations—including a \$10,000 donation recently approved by the Local 13, 63, and 94 Executive Boards—and a small voluntary fee of \$35 billed to shipping companies for every ship arrival in the ports of Los Angeles or Long Beach. "We get something like a 25 percent response from all the ships that arrive here," McKenna said. Only a few companies—Pasha, APL, and Matson pay the voluntary fee, according to the ISC.

"I've told both Ports that the International Seafarers Center is an integral part of the port complex, and we should be on their budget," Fox said. "We want a five-star Seafarer's Center to represent this five-star port complex."

The ISC is careful with its resources, with only two employees who collect a modest salary. Both McKenna and Fox work pro bono and do not receive a salary. McKenna said that the seafarers who stay there often help during their stay by performing maintenance and repair work.

Pat Pettit, one of the center's managers, has been with the ISC since the beginning. "I'm 73 now and I've been here since I was young," Pettit said. "I used to work in the port. My grandfather sailed, my dad sailed, and my stepdad sailed. I know how hard this work is. My dad was never home for birthdays, Christmas, or anything like that. I didn't understand at the time, but when I got older, I realized he was out there working for us."

#### Labor helping labor

"The Local 13 Executive Board voted unanimously to donate to the ISC, and Local 13 President Ramon Ponce de Leon has been active in encouraging support for Seafarers Center," Zuniga said. "We understand the importance of the services that this facility provides to seafarers and how this place has become a necessity for them."

"This facility is more than just somewhere to sleep, somewhere to get something to eat, and transportation to go pick up supplies—things that we take for granted daily," said Zuniga. "It's labor helping labor, and that is why we're firmly behind this organization. I think that we will continue to provide support and work to ensure that they continue to be able to provide these important services to seafarers when they come to our port."

DiCostanzo said the ILWU challenged marine terminal operators to match Local 13's donation. "Some of them did, and some donated that maybe hadn't donated in the past, but it's about raising awareness and doing right by the most vulnerable link in the supply chain," said DiCostanzo.

# Southern California ITF Inspector Stefan Mueller retires



Outgoing ITF Inspector Stefan Mueller (left) was recognized for his work supporting the International Seafarers centered. On the right is Joshua Bosic who will be the new ITF Inspector in Southern California. ong-time Southern California International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) Inspector Stefan Mueller retired on November 1, after more than 17 years of service protecting the rights of seafarers

"During his time as an ITF Inspector, Stefan has worked tirelessly for seafarers who cannot always defend themselves, championed their cause at all times, and has done so with empathy and a quiet determination to see that rights of seafarers are upheld," said Steve Trowsdale, ITF Inspectorate Coordinator. "In addition to being an ITF Inspector, Stefan has also maintained board member positions on the International Seafarers Center in the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, helping to ensure the best possible welfare services provided to visiting seafarers."

"Stefan started as an ITF Inspector in February of 2005," said ITF West Coast Coordinator Jeff Engels. "He did a great job not only working diligently to help the forgotten workers on the Flag of Convenience ships that called on the Ports in Southern California, but also worked to protect the jurisdiction of longshore workers utilizing the "Dockers Clause" in the ITF collective bargaining agreement. He will be missed."

Joshua Bosic, a 13-year member of the Inlandboatmen's Union, the Marine Division of the ILWU will be the new ITF Inspector for Southern California.

# ILWU delegation travels to Australia to celebrate MUA's 150th anniversary

Australian Prime Minister thanks MUA for 'fighting for the aspirations of working people'



DOLTONE HOUSE

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese



ILWU Canada Secretary-Treasurer Bob Dhaliwal

victories that will deliver new jobs on the Australian coast.

"Your anniversary comes at a time of promise for maritime workers in Australia," Cotton continued. "Your new government represents hope for the union's members, and the Albanese Labor Government's promise to create an Australian-flagged and crewed strategic fleet was brought about through the MUA's campaigning and strength." The event concluded with a speech by Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, who spoke of his great respect for the MUA and his gratitude for the contributions the union had made to Australia's social and political fabric over its 150-year history.

"The MUA has been fighting for the aspirations of working people for such a long time," said Prime Minister Albanese. "The journey from the Hungry Mile is an inspirational tale of adversity overcome, and an enduring lesson in the power and strength of collective action. The great truth of the story that we all share as members of this great labor movement, is that progress is never found at the end of a smooth road. The things worth doing, the changes worth making, are always hard going, always hard fought, and always hard-won, but we are always better for the battle and our country is always better for the victory, and that is something our opponents have never understood." "Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Maritime Of Australia was a great experience," said Local 13's Brandi Goode. "I had the opportunity to collaborate with different comrades from all over the world at the International Solidarity Conference. For me this experience showed that while we represent different parts of the globe, we share the same challenges and victories."

ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Ed Ferris (on the right at the microphone) along with the ILWU delegation, presented MUA National Secretary Paddy Crumlin with a gift to honor union's 150th Anniversary.

diverse delegation of ILWU members attended the 150th Anniversary of the Maritime Union of Australia in Sydney for several days of festivities from October 10th-14th.

Events included historical tours honoring the history of Australian wharfies and Indigenous culture and International Solidarity Day, which included trade unionists from around the world highlighting the common bonds shared by workers.

The celebration culminated in a gala dinner on Darling Island in Sydney Harbour that honored the history and the enormous contributions the MUA has made to the international union movement and working-class struggle. More than 600 guests attended the event, including delegations from unions around the world and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

"The ILWU and the MUA are cut from the same cloth of militant, rankand-file unionism," said ILWU International President Willie Adams. "Our solidarity stretches across oceans and is an unbreakable bond of unity and friendship. We've always had their backs and they have always had ours the Sydney Wharf Labourers Union in 1872, which eventually lead to the formation of the Waterside Workers Federation in 1902. In 1906, several unions came together to form the Seamen's Union of Australia. The MUA was formed in 1993 with the uniting of the Seamen's Union of Australia and the Waterside Workers' Federation. Throughout its 150 years, the MUA has been known for its internationalism and militant commitment to the betterment of maritime workers and the working class.

#### Shared history

The ILWU and MUA have a long, shared history that predates the official founding of the ILWU in 1937. ILWU co-founder Harry Bridges was a member of the Seamen's Union of Australia before immigrating to the United States.

#### Gala event

Speaking at the gala event, the MUA National Secretary Paddy Crumlin said that the various struggles, setbacks, and victories from MUA's past would put it in a good position to continue fighting for the working class long into the future.

"We are proud of what we have achieved," said Crumlin. "We are proud of everything we have stood up for. We are proud that we are providing a strong base for working men and women to live better lives, just as we have for 150 years." Crumlin said that the union's success has always been tied to the international trade union movement.

"The great thing about the trade union movement, and particularly our beautiful union, is that if we made an achievement, we never made it without wanting to reach out to someone else – whether it's the union next door, or down the supply chain, or anyone else under pressure around the world," he said. "We have always had a sense in ourselves that if we're able to win power, then we can translate that not just into a better life for ourselves and our families, but a better life for our community and for our own nation, and also for a better life for international working people."

The gala featured contributions from the MUA's pensioners, who they refer to as veterans, led by Jim Donovan and Fred Krausert, a retired seafarer who serves as the National President of the MUA's Veterans. He reminded the gathering that despite being retired from the job, the vets remained wholly committed to the struggle. Krausert told the crowd of the many long, hardwon rights and entitlements that had been delivered by collective action and solidarity in the workplace.

and will continue to in the future."

#### 150 years of militant unionism

The MUA was created through an amalgamation of unions starting with



ILWU delegation at the Maritime Museum in Syndey.

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#### Secretary-Treasurer Ferris

International Secretary-Treasurer Ed Ferris spoke at the gala on behalf of the ILWU. "The relationship that we have with all of you is so precious to us," Ferris said. "We're all in this together; because we have each other's backs, international solidarity is going to be the key to success."

ITF's General Secretary Stephen Cotton sent a video message highlighting the impact made by the MUA far beyond Australia's shores.

"The MUA continues to fight for Australian and international seafarers through the Flag of Convenience campaign and continues to fight for decent, safe work for dockers around the globe," Cotton said. He also congratulated the MUA on recent political

# **Report on MUA's 150 Year Anniversary**

Report by Ziggy Mangat (Secretary Treasurer ILWU Canada, Local 400 Marine Section)

# Local 400 Secretary-Treasurer, selected in a raffle at this year's LEAD conference to attend the Maritime Union of Australia's 150th Anniversary event, reports on events

Winning the trip to Australia at the 2022 Lead Conference by raffle was bittersweet. Representing the ILWU as an International Delegate from Canada was a great privilege, yet at the same time, I felt anxious leaving behind my union duties and ongoing industrial disputes. Nevertheless, I was excited for the challenge of managing my workload from abroad to best be of assistance to all my brothers and sisters of the Great ILWU.

My biggest mistake leaving for Sydney was thinking it was going to be tropical in Australia and packing for a warm climate. Upon arrival, I quickly realized that I had left warm weather behind in Canada; we had arrived at chilly Australian springtime. After a short 15-hour direct flight from Vancouver, Canada, I arrived Monday Oct 10th, (Thanksgiving – at home) linking up with other ILWU delegates: Sisters Brandi Williams (Local 13), Melanie Bowers (Local 23) & Terri Mast (IBU) and Brothers Ed Ferris (ILWU International), Collin Mansanas (Hawaii-Local 142), Matthew Coleman (Hawaii-Local 142) and Bob Dhaliwal (ILWU Canada).

Late afternoon on our first day, we were greeted by 15 representatives of the MUA who took us for a solidarity lunch. As the introductions continued, I found the hardest worker in the group, Robbie Paterson, a tow boater as we call them. I managed to pry out all the information I could out of brother Paterson about their ongoing issues with Svitzer and their tug crews, as we are having very similar issues in Canada.

Our week was organized with a fun-packed schedule, beginning with the International Solidarity Day. The day opened with a respectful acknowledgement of the Indigenous territories and a very moving ceremony. This was followed with inspirational speakers, including brother Alex Gordon from the UK's National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT), and an International Dockers Movement Panel. My favorite presentation of the day was by Penny Howard (MUA - National Research Officer) speaking on "Offshore Wind and renewable - Struggles and issues around offshore wind."

The afternoon brought more learning about national issues faced by the MUA, Maritime Union of New Zealand (MUNZ) and the All Japan Seamen's Union (JSU) around Cabotage, followed by the Asia Pacific Campaigning later in the afternoon. To wrap up the conference, we heard wonderful solidarity speeches from Venezuelan Ambassador Daniel Gasparri and Cuban Ambassador Ariel Lorenzo Rodriguez.

In the evening of the International Solidarity Day, we had the pleasure and the honor of witnessing the unveiling of the "Wharfie's Mural." The story behind this mural, and what it took to save and preserve this piece of art, was quite stirring. I was very pleased to know that this piece of art would be preserved for future generations to appreciate the struggles of the MUA and the Labor community in the most appropriate place ever - The Maritime Museum.

The second day consisted of an Indigenous-led tour of the Maritime Museum, which provided a detailed understanding of the Indigenous culture. For me this was a highlight of the trip. The day ended with a charity event called "The War on the Wharves," a boxing event between fighters of from the Maritime Unions of Australia and New Zealand to raise donations for Souths Cares. Souths Cares is a charity that supports disadvantaged, marginalized, Indigenous youth and families with a focus on education, training, health and employment.

The third day consisted of yet another busy day, starting with a MUA Veteran-led bus tour, exhibiting the local labor historical sites, and ending with a scrumptious lunch at Harry's meat pie (street vendor). I am still debating whether getting mashed peas on a meat pie was a good idea or not.

The evening was the final dinner for the 150th Year Anniversary, which prompted numerous speeches from International Unions, International Ambassadors and the Australian Prime Minister, gifts, and solidarity videos. It was a true pleasure to be present at this dinner and to meet and connect with all the various Labor and government leaders.

The last and final day consisted of a bit of souvenir shopping and ITF Hybrid Conference.

As we all departed the following day, we collectively decided to take a "short" ferry ride to view the famous Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Opera House. This quick 45-minute ferry turned into a 2-3 hour round trip as we had no idea on how the stops operated. It ending with us rushing to the airport with not a minute to spare.

In short, it was a very fast-paced week full of interesting events and learning about shared experiences and struggles. It was a pleasure to represent my union and stand in solidarity with the MUA.

Congratulations to the MUA on their 150th Anniversary.

#### Harvey Schwartz with Ronald E. Magden

LABOR

UNDER

SIEGE

### Labor under Siege

Big Bob McEllrath and the ILWU's Fight for Organized Labor in an Anti-Union Era

Harvey Schwartz and Ronald E. Magden

COMPELLING STORIES AND FORCEFUL VOICES CAPTURE A TENACIOUS UNION IN TRANSITION

Big Bob—six-foot-four Robert McEllrath's waterfront handle—was heralded for his powerful speaking style, charisma, unifying vision, and negotiating prowess. President of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) for twelve eventful years, McEllrath retired in 2018 after nearly forty years as a union officer. More than just a telling of a storied career, *Labor under Siege* explores how the influential union persisted in an era when the US labor movement was under attack and seemingly in retreat.

In the face of grave dangers since the 1980s, including threats from corporations, government authorities, law enforcement agents, and even other

# Tell us about your

#### Chuck Alexander (Work Number: 56976)

I grew up in West Seattle overlooking the waterfront. My dad, Russell Alexander (Work #: 56548) would take me with him to tie up and let go of ships. I started casual work in Seattle in 1978. I got my B book in 1980, then received my A book in 1987.





#### History | Western History

#### AUGUST 2022

320 Pages, 6 x 9 in, 17 b&w illus. \$30.00 / £23.99 PB / ISBN 9780295750330

Harvey Schwartz is curator of the Oral History Collection for the ILWU Library in San Francisco. He is the author of Building the Golden Gate Bridge: A Workers' Oral History and Solidarity Stories: An Oral History of the ILWU.

Ronald E. Magden (1926–2018) is the author of several books, including A History of Seattle Waterfront Workers, 1884–1934 and two accounts of longshore unionism in Tacoma. labor unions, the ILWU has persevered and retained its vibrancy. Offering insight into Big Bob's leadership and a close-up view of how decision-making and policy were carried out to ensure the union's survival, *Labor under Siege* shows how union officers and rank-and-file members shaped ILWU strategy and furthered the union's legacy of advocating for workers' rights, democracy, and justice.

"A model of oral history. The ILWU is such a fascinating union with its militant past that bleeds into the present, making *Labor under Siege* all the more compelling." —Erik Loomis, author of *A History of America in Ten Strikes* 

"Robert McEllrath steered the legendary, militant West Coast dockworkers union through some of its most tumultuous waters. Schwartz, a consummate oral historian, lets the voices of Big Bob and those around him describe those stormy seas." —Peter Cole, author of Dockworker Power: Race and Activism in Durban and the San Francisco Bay Area

"As labor reasserts itself, it can learn from those who recall the importance of effective leadership, maintaining solidarity locally and internationally, supporting social justice causes, and upholding the ILWU motto, 'an injury to one is an injury to all."— Laurie Mercier, author of *Speaking History: Oral Histories of the American Past*, 1865–Present

#### Availible at Powell's Books. Please use the Local 5 partner link: https://www.powells.com/?partnerID=35751

I spent 42 years proudly doing jobs from the ship hold to the cranes. I retired from the clerks local. This tattoo represents my time devoted towards the ILWU which will last forever.

Share your story—send an email to roy@ilwu.org

# UNION-MADE HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

# BOOKS

**Powells Books** Portland, OR http://ilwulocal5.com/support/ (Use this link for online shopping at Powell's

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**Brown and Haley** Seattle, WA

# CERAMICS

**Heath Ceramics** San Francisco Bay Area

# **KNIVES AND CUTLERY**

**Cutco Cutlery** https://www.cutco.com/

# **Gerber Legendary Blades**

Portland, OR

gerbergear.com. Some Gerber knives are imported, but if it says "Made in Portland" on the blade, it's union-made.

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**American Rootswear** www.americanrootswear.com

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All American Clothing www.allamericanclothing.com

Danner hiking and hunting boots. Portland, OR danner.com Danner does import some boots, so check the label: If it's U.S.-made, it's union-made.

**Red Wing Shoes** http://www.redwingshoes.com/

Joseph Abboud clothing **American Athletic (Russell Brands)** 

# HOLIDAY DINNER

# TURKEY

- Boar's Head
- Butterball
- Empire Kosher
- Foster Poultry Farms
- Thumann's

# PIES

- Banquet Fruit Pies
- Entenmann's
- Marie Callender's
- Pillsbury Crescent Rolls & Pie Crust

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6 **DISPATCHER •** NOVEMBER 2022

# **UW's Harry Bridges Center's new Bridges Endowed Chair in Labor Studies has 20 years of ILWU ties**

he Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies announced Moon-Ho Jung, Professor of History, as the latest holder of the Harry Bridges Endowed Chair in Labor Studies at the University of Washington. Created in 1992 by members of the ILWU, the Harry Bridges Chair recognizes a distinguished scholar in the field of Labor Studies. The Chair also serves as the Director of the Harry Bridges Center, overseeing the Center's mission to advance the study of working people and their organizations through research, teaching, and community outreach.

Professor Jung is the tenth University of Washington professor to hold the Harry Bridges Chair, now celebrating its 30th anniversary. Through the continued support of ILWU members and other activists in the labor movement, the Harry Bridges Center has grown into the premier Labor Studies program in Washington State, enrolling hundreds of students each year in classes on labor topics, offering student internships in the labor movement, and annually awarding over \$100,000

in scholarships and research funding.

In 2010, the Washington State labor movement, the ILWU, and the Harry Bridges Center founded the Labor Archives of Washington, dedicated to preserving and promoting the history of working people. Many of the Bridges Center's awards honor ILWU members of the past, including Local 19 leaders Martin Jugum, Frank Jenkins, Jr., and Art Mink; longtime ILWU secretary Jean Gundlach; Local 37 leaders Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes; and retired Local 52 members Ian Kennedy and Michele Drayton.

Professor Jung brings two decades of experience as a highly accomplished scholar and teacher. A historian of race, labor, and politics in the United States, with a particular emphasis on Asian American history, Jung's work focuses on the struggles of working peoples.

He is the author and editor of four books, including Coolies and Cane: Race, Labor, and Sugar in the Age of Emancipation (2006), which tells the story of how thousands of Chinese workers were recruited to work alongside African American workers in Louisiana after the Civil War.

Professor Jung also edited The Rising Tide of Color: Race, State Violence, and Radical Movements across the Pacific (2015), a volume of essays by scholars

on grassroots struggles against racial capitalism and state violence, collected and selected from a major conference organized by Jung in spring 2011.

His most recent book, Menace to Empire: Anticolonial Solidarities and the Transpacific Origins of the US Security State (2022), excavates the entwined history of anti-Asian racism and US government repression of labor and political radicals, including the Hawaii division of the ILWU and cannery workers union ILWU Local 37 (now Inlandboatmen's Union, Region 37).

The history of the ILWU is a frequent topic in Professor Jung's classes, particularly the story of union activists Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes, who were murdered by agents of the Ferdinand Marcos dictatorship in Seattle in 1981 for their union reform and international solidarity efforts.

Since first joining the University of Washington faculty in 2001, Professor Jung has played a major role in the Harry Bridges Center's development. In 2003, working with former ILWU Education Director Eugene Vrana and ILWU Local 52 member Joseph Wenzl, he co-chaired a strategic planning committee that laid much of the groundwork for the Harry Bridges Center's growth over the next twenty years.

From 2005 to 2011, Profes-



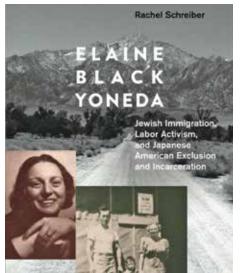
Prof. Moon-Ho Jung, Harry Bridges Endowed Chair in Labor Studies at the University of Washington

sor Jung played a leading role in the Bridges Center's Race, Radicalism and Labor Working Group, and received funding from the Bridges Center for several of his books. He has also served for many years on the faculty Standing Committee, the governing body of the Bridges Center.

"We are living through a seemingly endless wave of crises, with an immense toll especially on the most vulnerable among us," Professor Jung wrote (where?). "That is why Labor Studies matters now more than ever. To me, Labor Studies is ultimately about framing, understanding, and highlighting the struggles of those who confront the horrors of racial capitalism, state violence, and gendered exploitation every single day. I believe it is in studying those struggles that we can find hope and creativity in our own strivings for collective justice."

# **BOOK REVIEW**

# Elaine Black Yoneda: Jewish Immigration, Labor Activism, and Japanese American Exclusion and Incarceration by Rachel Schreiber; Temple University Press



systems at home while fighting against similar systems Europe.

Elaine Black Yoneda has received far less attention from labor historians than her husband, Japanese-American labor organizer and ILWU longshore worker, Karl Yoneda. It was her relative anonymity that drew Schreiber to want to write a biography of her. Although Yoneda is not well known, she had strong ties to the ILWU. Anyone who has been to the Local 10 dispatch hall in San Francisco has probably seen her portrait—"The Red Angel"— which is a part of a mural inside the building. Yoneda's labor activism resulted in her arrest more than a dozen times on charges such as disturbing the peace, inciting riots, "seditious utterances," and unlawful assembly. In 1935, she was arrested in San Francisco's Dolores Park protesting Criminal Syndicalism laws that targeted radical labor unions like the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). Although she never finished high school or had any formal legal training, she defended herself and others in court and used the trial as forum to bring to light violations of civil liberties, including the right of free speech and the right to assemble.

only woman to serve on the executive committee of the 1934 San Francisco General Strike. It was during this time she earned her nickname "Red Angel." It was Yoneda who identified the body of Nick Bordoise who was killed by police along with Howard Sperry on Bloody Thursday.

She was an organizer with the International Labor Defense (ILD), a legal defense organization of the Communist Party USA (CPUSA) that organized legal defenses for imprisoned of labor activists and assisted in legal defenses for civil rights and anti-lynchcamps as they wanted to differentiate that history."

Elaine could likely have avoided going to Manzanar based on her race, but chose to go the camp with Karl. A surprising revelation the book explores is that, despite a lifetime of standing up for labor rights and civil liberties, both Elaine and Karl remained faithful to the CPUSA party line that supported Japanese incarceration and exclusion as a necessary anti-fascist wartime measure against the Axis powers. The lovalty didn't flow both ways, however. Elaine and Karl, along with all Party members of Japanese descent and their spouses, were also expelled from the CPUSA. They eventually rejoined the after the Party reversed the expulsions and apologized. After the war, the Yonedas settled in Sonoma County, California, and became chicken ranchers, and maintained their ties to the ILWU. Karl, who served as United States Military Intelligence Service in China, Burma, and India after Manzanar, attempted to return to the longshore work, but was physically unable to perform the work after contracting malaria during his service that resulted in the loss of a kidney. Both remained active in the labor and social justice movements. Elaine worked as a clerical worker for the ILWU-PMA pension fund until continued on page 8



new biography by historian Rachel Schreiber Lells the complex story of Communist labor activist Elaine Black Yoneda, who was a participant in many of the defining issues of the 20th Century: the rise of the American labor movement, emerging movements for civil rights and civil liberties, the fight against fascism, and the contradictions embodied in U.S. government policies that embraced racial classification

Born in New York in 1906, Yoneda was a Jewish-American woman and the daughter of Russian immigrants. She was a radical labor activist and was the ing movements. The ILD participated prominently in many high-profile cases including Sacco and Vanzetti, Tom Mooney, and the Scottsboro Boys.

Yoneda, along with her husband Karl and son Tommy, spent eight months incarcerated in the Manzanar War Relocation Center, one of ten American concentration camps, where more than 120,000 Japanese Americans were imprisoned during World War II after the bombing of Pearl Harbor under Executive Order 9066.

Schreiber deliberately uses the term "concentration camp" in her book. She notes, "While incarceration was happening, [these sites] were referred to as concentration camps. After the Nazi camps were liberated, the U.S. went on a campaign to call them internment

# **TRANSITIONS**

#### **NEW PENSIONERS:**

Local 8: Steven Knight; Cecilia A Pinkal; Michael J Rapacz; Chris E Scheffel; Local 10: David Allen; Dickie Allen Lacey; Allan T Nubla; Kelvin D Routt; Anthony V Sims; Local 13: Daniel A Bemis; Salvador Borja; Manuel De Leon Jr.; Jose L Gonzalez; Rocco Grieco; Coleen M Hill; Michael L Lisk; Mike V Nakich; Steven Smith; Ivan T Stame; Julian Temblador; Local 19: John R Caro; Richard T Davidson-Jenkins: Deborah D Whitaker: Local 21: Stewart Chamberlain; Local 23: Wardell Canada Jr.; Kevin R Ellis; Jeffrey Frisvold; Terry D Hoffman; Local 26: Marlene M Erven; Emmett Hall Jr.; Delores R Jones; Paul Lopez; Local 29: Enrique Olivas; Local 34: Darrell E Burns; Michael P Mahoney; Local 46: Mark F Pro; Local 50: Catherine Kadow; Local 98: Douglas L Crawford; Nikkila; Local 52: Gerald Lee Anderson; Mark R Anderson; Raymond J Grife; Stephen P Hura; Charles L Sharin; Local 63: Lynda Ann Chevalier; Michael J Gutierrez; Jacqueline Haywood; Reginald Haywood; Cande Milla; Manuel P Soto; Local 63-OCU: Melissa Ajoc; retired from Yang Ming; Margaret Carroll-Carrillo; Malea Lombardo; Antoinette "Toni" Medina; Donna Melton; Joyce Thompson; Local 91: Maverick B Qualls; Local 92: Gene E Bilderback; Local 94: Michael D Hill; Edmond J Mondor III;

#### **DECEASED PENSIONERS:**

Local 8: Douglas W Hooper Jr.; Local 10: Charles Burgin; Corentha Hardin; Jose H Ramirez; Willie Swanson; Rexford K Wilkins; Local 13: Clifton F Eakin Jr.; William E Gross; Theodore J Lester; Gilbert C Lucero; Raul Madrid (Theresa); Frank L Miladinovich; Frank E Sanchez; George W Ulrich; Herbert M Winston; Local 18: William Linker; Local 19: Robert L Hawran; Fred T Kageyama; James A Swinney; Local 21: Wayne B Bauer; Don O Moore; Local 23: Lannie O Enger; Local 29: Guillermo Luna; Local 63: Robert R Poli; John Prizmich; Kermit L Roberts; Kenneth Shimokochi; Andrew N Simich; Local 63 OCU: Linda Barfoot: Janice Montgomery; Local 92: Steven

#### **DECEASED ACTIVE MEMBERS:**

Local 8: Allen D Knapp III; Local 10: Carl Yates; Alfredo Ramirez; Local 13: Paula Chagnon; Local 21: Gregory L Trujillo; Local 29: Arthur E Vargas;

#### **DECEASED SURVIVORS:**

Local 10: Ruth E Dentice; Jean Q Myles; Janet M Saito; Local 13: Delores J Bare; Lorraine Molina; Enriqueta Salas; Local 21: Phyllis Foremke; Local 23: Peggy J Burks; Gladys B Kilby; Local 24: Judith V Byers; Local 34: Corine G Thornton; Local 63: Julie L Hu; Frances Kincy; Evangeline Negrete; Local 91: Eva M Small; Local 92: Eleanor L Ruddiman;

### **BOOK REVIEW**

continued from page 7

1973 and was a member of OPEIU Local 29. She was president of Auxiliary 16, active in the Bay Area Pensioners, an outspoken member of the Northern California District Council, and a frequent guest speaker and organizer of many ILWU events, including the union's annual Bloody Thursday celebration.

In 1960, Elaine and Karl attended the Sixth World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs in Tokyo, Japan, on behalf of the ILWU. Karl represented Local 10, and Elaine represented the Federated Auxiliaries (then called the Women's Auxiliaries). After the conference, the Yonedas visited Hiroshima, where Elaine finally met Karl's mother, a survivor of the atomic bombing.

Both Elaine and Karl worked with the ILWU-led program for redress/reparations for those incarcerated under Order 9066. Karl spoke at the ILWU's General Convention in 1979, and Elaine spoke at the 1981 General Convention in support of the redress campaign along with Nikki Bridges, wife of Harry Bridges.

Schreiber uses the biography to "make visible those who are often invisible in our society," and in doing so, tells an important story about the way marginalized people have challenged prevailing systems of power but without shying away from exploring her subjects' own individual contradictions.

# **ILWU BOOKS & VIDEOS**

Books and videos about the ILWU are available from the union's library at discounted prices! BOOKS

Solidarity Stories: An Oral History of the ILWU. By Harvey Schwartz. An inspiring collection of first-hand accounts from ILWU union leaders and rank-and-file workers. \$17.00.

A Spark Is Struck: Jack Hall & the ILWU in Hawaii. By Sanford Zalburg: A high quality re-issue of the informative epic account of Jack Hall and the birth and growth of the ILWU in Hawaii \$13.50 (paperback).

The Legacy of 1934: An historical exhibit by the ILWU. Produced as a catalogue to accompany the new traveling historical art exhibit about the origins of the ILWU in the 1934 maritime strike, this brief but vivid publication stands on its own as a pictorial history of the coastwise strike and an account of the extraordinary sacrifices and democratic principles of the founding members of the union. Two (2) for \$5.00

# A Helping Hand...

...when you need it most. That's what we're all about. We are the representatives of the ILWU- sponsored recovery programs. We provide professional and confidential assistance to you and your family for alcoholism, drug abuse and other problems—and we're just a phone call away.

#### **ILWU LONGSHORE DIVISION**

**ADRP**—Southern California Tamiko Love 29000 South Western Ave., Ste 205 Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275 (310) 547-9966

**ADRP**—Northern California **Hunny Powell** HPowell@benefitplans.org **400 North Point** San Francisco, CA 94133 (415) 776-8363

#### **ILWU WAREHOUSE DIVISION**

**DARE**—Northern California **Teamsters Assistance Program 300 Pendleton Way** Oakland, CA 94621 (510) 562-3600

INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE UNION



1188 FRANKLIN STREET 4th FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO CALIFORNIA 94109 (415) 775-0533 (415) 775-1302 FAX ww.ILWU.org

### ILWU statement in support of striking workers at the University of California

11/15/2022

The International Longshore & Warehouse Union (ILWU) stands in solidarity with the 48,000 striking academic workers throughout the University of California system.

"You are making history with your collective action as you fight for fair wages and conditions," said ILWU International President Willie Adams. "The University of California doesn't work without you. The ILWU stands with you as you exercise your fundamental right to withhold your labor while the employer withholds a living wage from you for the vital work you provide for students. You have our support and solidarity in your fight for a fair contract. An injury to one is an injury to all."

# **ILWU BOOK & VIDEO ORDER FORM**

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copies of <b>Solidarity Stories</b> @ \$17 ea. =	\$
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**Brian Harvey** 5201 SW Westgate Dr. #207 Portland, OR 97221 (503) 231-4882 ADRP—Washington

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**Donnie Schwendeman** 3600 Port of Tacoma Rd. #503 **Tacoma, WA 98424** (253) 922-8913

#### **ILWU CANADA**

**EAP**—British Columbia **John Felicella** 3665 Kingsway, Ste 300 Vancouver, BC V5R 5WR (604) 254-7911

Harry Bridges: The Rise and Fall of Radical Labor in the United States. By Charles Larrowe. A limited number of copies of this out-of-print and useful biography are now available through the book sale by special arrangement with Bolerium Books in San Francisco, which specializes in rare publications and documents about radical and labor history. \$10.00

The Big Strike. By Mike Quin. The classic partisan account of the 1934 strike. \$9.00

The Union Makes Us Strong: Radical Unionism on the San Francisco Waterfront. By David Wellman. The important new study of longshoring in the ILWU. \$20.00 (paperback)

#### VIDEOS

"Eye of the Storm: Our Fight for Justice and a Better Contract." A 58-minute DVD feature documentary film produced and directed by Amie Williams, Eye of the Storm tells the story of the 2002 longshore lockout on the West Coast. DVD Version \$5.00

"We Are the ILWU." A 30-minute color video introducing the principles and traditions of the ILWU. Features active and retired members talking about what the union meant in their lives and what it needs to survive and thrive, along with film clips, historical photos and an original musical score. DVD or VHS version \$5.00

"Life on the Beam: A Memorial to Harry Bridges." A 17-minute DVD of the original video production by California Working Group, Inc., memorializes Harry Bridges through still photographs, recorded interviews, and reminiscences. Originally produced for the 1990 memorial service in San Francisco. DVD \$5.00

# copies of **The Union Makes Us Strong** @ \$20 ea. = \_ copies of **Eye of the Storm** DVD @ \$5 ea. = copies of We Are the ILWU DVD @ \$5 ea. = copies of A Life on the Beam DVD @ \$5 ea. = **Total Enclosed**

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