

Occupy Wall Street and Workers' Rights Movements: Snapshots of the Past Year's Local Labor Activities in 2011-12



The Occupy Wall Street protests against economic inequality spread from lower Manhattan to a surprising number of cities around the world last fall. The two photos here show union and other protesters rallying at the OWS base in Zucotti Park on October 5th to protest mass arrests that drew global attention just a few days before. [Photo credit: Regional Labor Review].



To celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Social Security system, authors Kirstin Downey and Susan Jacoby were invited to speak on the system's origins and current impacts, as well as the challenges it now faces from critics seeking its reform or elimination. The April 7th panel was part of Hofstra's 3-day April 2011 scholarly conference on "1935: The Reality and the Promise." [Photo credit: Regional Labor Review].

"The National Labor Relations Act – Still Labor's Magna Carta?" was the central question of another panel at the 1935 conference. Roger Clayman (Executive Director, Long Island Federation of Labor), center above) discussed the historic importance of the 1935 Wagner Act, as well as its current marginalization in battles with employers for union rights. With him on the April 8, 2011 panel were (left to right): Grant Hayden (Hofstra Law School); Susan Rubisch-Gissler (Carlow University); and John Higgins (Catholic University; former NLRB Acting Counsel in Washington DC). [Photo credit: Regional Labor Review].



LABOR STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP WINNER:

Micaela Bigg, Hofstra Labor Studies Major, was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the Labor and Employment Relations Association (LERA). Each year, the Long Island chapter of this prestigious national organization awards scholarships to the four most promising Labor Studies students on Long Island.

"EQUAL PAY DAY" 2011 focused on "Immigrant Women's Fight for Fair Pay." The principal speakers were (left to right above): Tracey Walters (Professor, SUNY Stony Brook); Lauris Wren (Hofstra Law School); Norma Murillo (Unity Housecleaners Cooperative and The Workplace Project); and Brenda Elsey, Hofstra History Professor and Women's Studies Director, who moderated the panel and translated. The April 12th event was organized by the Labor Studies Program and the Women's Studies Program, and was cosponsored by the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program and the Hofstra Labor & Employment Law Journal [Photo credit: Regional Labor Review].



Local & National Events: Spring/Summer 2012

NY METRO

February 9, 16 & 23 – African-American History Month features the annual Labor Studies film series “Africans At Work: Black Life and Labor in Africa and America.”
 “Traces of the Trade” – Tuesday, February 9, 2:15-3:45 p.m. in Guthart Cultural Center Theater (Axinn Library)
 “Ain’t Scared of Your Jails” – Tuesday, February 16, 9:35-11 a.m.; Guthart Cultural Center Theater
 “The Dark Side of Chocolate” Thursday, February 23, 12:45-2:00 p.m. in Student Center Theater
 Free admission, seating limited, no reservations. For schedule of each film, visit: www.hofstra.edu/laborstudies.

March 7 – Monthly meeting of Labor & Employment Relations Association, L.I. Chapter. Starts 6 pm at Black Forest Brew Haus, Farmingdale, NY. For info. call: 516/746-9307 or visit: www.lilera.org.

March 15 – New York Times reporter Charles Duhigg speaks at Hofstra on his recent expose of Apple’s harsh factory conditions in China. Global Studies Assistant Prof. Kari Jensen discusses her research on sweatshop labor in Bangladeshi garment factories. Location: Plaza Rooms, Hofstra Student Center. Part of “Globalization Day,” this panel was organized by the Labor Studies Program and the Center for Civic Engagement.

March 22-24 – National conference of United Association for Labor Education (UALE): “Subterranean Fire: The Labor Movement in Hard Times. At Westin Convention Center, Pittsburgh, PA. For info and registration, visit: www.uale.org.

March 30 – “Working But Still Poor – Organizing for Economic Justice on Long Island,” 2nd annual conference presented by Long Island Jobs with Justice. Time: 8:30 am - 2:30 pm. Guest speakers include: Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone, Rev. Charles Coverdale of Riverhead, John R. Durso of the LI FED and RWDSU 338, Congressman Tim Bishop and Dick Ianuzzi, President of NYSUT. At Touro Law Center 225 Eastview Drive, Central Islip NY. For more info, contact Jobs With Justice: 631/348-1170, ext. 304 or email: lijwj01@gmail.com.

April 17 – “Equal Pay Day” – Tamara Draut, author of *Strapped: Why 20-Somethings Can’t Get Ahead*, speaks on “The College Debt Threat,” at 12:45-2:10. At 2:15 – 4 pm, Gemma Adaba (UN and ITUF consultant) and Economics Prof. Fatemeh Moghadam discuss global gender inequality in developing countries. The day’s events are organized by Hofstra’s Labor Studies Program, and co-sponsored by the Women’s Studies Program and Honors College. Location: 246 East Library Wing of the main Axinn Library. Free admission, seating limited. For info., visit: www.hofstra.edu/cld and www.pay-equity.org.

April 28 – “Workers Memorial Day,” a nationwide day of remembrance to recognize the thousands of U.S. workers who die and millions more who become disabled each year just doing their job. In New York State alone, each year an average of over 220 workers die on the job and nearly 280,000 are reported to become ill or injured as a result of their work. For information on local events, visit: www.nycosh.org and www.lilabor.org

May 1 – “Mayday at the Movies: Comedy & Tragedy At Work:” the 11th annual day-long festival of new films and classics on work and working people, with introductions and discussion led by academic experts. At Guthart Cultural Center Theater (central campus, entry 1st floor, Axinn Library), Hofstra University. Free admission, seating limited. Presented by Hofstra’s Labor Studies Program. For film schedules and other info. call: 516/463-5040.

May 4 – Annual spring conference of Labor & Employment Relations Association, L.I. Chapter. Starts 9 am at , Tam O’Shanter Club, Brookville, NY. For info. call: 516/746-9307 or visit: www.lilera.org.

June 6 – Monthly meeting of Labor & Employment Relations Association, L.I. Chapter. Starts 6 pm at Nassau Co. Bar Association, 15 West St., Mineola, NY. For info. call: 516/746-9307 or visit: www.lilera.org.

June 6-7 – 65th annual conference of the Center for Labor & Employment Law, NYU. At Vanderbilt Hall, 40 Washington Square South. For info., visit www.law.nyu.edu/centers/labor.

July 18-22 – Women’s Union Summer School at Rutgers University, organized by the United Association for Labor Education (UALE). For info., contact Donna Schulman via email: dlschulman@work.rutgers.edu.

RELEASE DATES FOR MONTHLY LABOR MARKET INDICATORS

2012 RELEASE DATE	NATIONAL			REGIONAL	
	Employment & Unemployment	Job Openings & Turnover	Real Earnings	New York Job Growth	New York Labor Force
MARCH	9	13	16	8, 29	13
APRIL	6	10	13	19	3, 24
MAY	4	8	15	17	22
JUNE	1	19	14	14	19
JULY	6	10	17	19	24
AUGUST	3	7	15	16	21
SEPTEMBER	7	11	14	20	25

Sources: National Statistics – U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS): *The Employment Situation; Job Openings and Labor Turnover (JOLT); Real Earnings*; and *Metro Area Employment & Unemployment*. <http://www.bls.gov>
 NY State and Local Statistics – NY State Dept. of Labor: Monthly Press Release. <http://www.labor.state.ny.us>.

NOTE TO READERS:

If you know of upcoming labor-related meetings or conferences, collective bargaining contract expirations or renewals, or other events you would like considered for our next Calendar, please send us a brief description, together with the time, place, contact person, and their telephone number. Either fax this information, with a cover sheet addressed to Regional Labor Review, to fax # 516-463-6519; or email us at: laborstudies@hofstra.edu