



Working-Class Notes

Volume 8, Issue 2

Spring 2005

The Directors' Report . . .

This year, the Center for Working-Class Studies celebrates its 10th anniversary. We started the Center after our 1995 conference, as part of our participation in a national project on teaching about diversity sponsored by the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U). Our proposal to be part of the AAC&U project asked "Will the working class be invited to the diversity banquet?" Ours was the only one of more than 80 proposals from around the country that emphasized issues of social class. In the beginning, and throughout our 10-year history, we received strong support from our deans and provosts. Jim Scanlon was YSU's provost in 1995. Some of you may remember meeting Jim at our conferences in 1995 or 1997, when he opened the conference by reading working-class poetry. He supported our initial funding requests, and he asked just one thing: that we involve other faculty across campus. In 1995, five faculty members from three departments worked together to form the Center.

Today, we have 17 faculty members involved, from eight departments. Our affiliates pursue individual research, teaching, and outreach projects related to working-class studies, from Greg Moring's public sculptures that use images from Youngstown's working-class history to David Stephens's research on how Youngstown's geography shaped its economic and social history to Patricia Hauschildt's explorations of how class shapes the experiences and attitudes of urban elementary school students. We also partner with other departments and programs on campus for every event in our lecture series. This year, we have co-sponsored speakers with the Nursing department, the American Studies program, the Africana Studies program, the History department, and the Journalism program.

When we started the Center, none of us imagined how far we might come in ten years, not only here in Youngstown but also nationally

and internationally. Who knew ten years ago that we would now be at the heart of a recognized new academic field? This spring, we have a new book out that provides an overview of *New Working-Class Studies*, the interdisciplinary field that has developed in the past decade. The book includes essays by 18 scholars discussing the intersection of class with gender and race, how working-class studies is developing in several disciplines, the significance of cultural representations in the field, and ideas about the relationship between class and American politics and education. The book is just one sign of the growth of this new field, along with other books, articles, and activities happening around the US and elsewhere. Next month, the *Minnesota Review* will publish excerpts from the book's introduction and an interview about the new field and the Center.

Certainly, we don't claim full credit for the emergence of the field. We do believe that the Center has contributed by creating opportunities for individual scholars, students, artists, and activists to find each other, to hear about trends and issues in the field, and to view themselves as part of a larger effort. At our first few conferences, we kept hearing from people who said they felt isolated at their home institutions, who felt that no one else understood or valued their work or their life experiences. Today, we regularly hear from people describing themselves as

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Working-Class Notes

Working-Class Notes is published by the Center for Working-Class Studies twice during the academic year—once in the fall, and again in the spring. Deadline for submissions is October 1 for the Fall newsletter and March 1 for Spring.

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News and Information

Working-Class Studies MA Program at YSU

YSU's American Studies Program will begin its new MA degree this fall. Among the program's innovations is the emphasis on working-class studies, making it the first MA program in the country with such a strong focus on working-class culture, history, and experience. Graduate courses include Introduction to Working-Class Studies, Working-Class Literature, Class and Culture, Work in America, Teaching Working-Class Studies, and Labor History. Students may complete a focus area in working-class studies, and they will have the opportunity to complete internships at the Center for Working-Class Studies, the Youngstown Historical Society for Industry and Labor, and in other cultural institutions and community organizations that focus on issues of class, race, community, and labor.

The program aims to prepare graduates to work in the public sector, in museums, schools, and community groups. The CWCS will provide graduate assistantships for the new MA, which will give students the opportunity to work on projects on campus and in the community. For more information on the program, contact Dr. Stephanie Tingley, American Studies Coordinator, at satingley@ysu.edu. Application information is also available on the website of YSU's Graduate School, www.ysu.edu/GradSchool/admission.htm.

Workers' Solidarity Cultural Festival

The Fourteenth Annual Workers' Solidarity Cultural Festival will be held on Sunday afternoon, May 22, at the former Beards Fork Elementary School in Fayette County, West Virginia. The Festival will include performances by folksinger Anne Feeney, dancer Jude Binder, the reggae band Shayar and Krooshal Force, and the Southern Appalachian Labor School's "Harping for Harmony" group, performing on harps they made from local worksite building materials. For more information on the Festival, call (304) 779-2772.

Directors, cont'd

part of an international community. Our recently-created listserv, Working-Class-Studies, has over 500 subscribers from all around the world (see Angela Jancius's report on Outreach, p. 4, for more information).

The Seventh Biennial Conference of the CWCS, May 18–21, will celebrate the development of this new field and raise critical questions about where we go from here. The conference will feature two keynote presentations. Mike Rose, whose books have helped to shape the conversation about working-class pedagogy, will talk about his latest book, a study of the expert thinking involved in various forms of working-class labor. Ruy Teixeira, co-author of *America's Forgotten Majority: Why the Working Class Still Matters*, will address the role of the working class in contemporary American politics. We've also invited several publishers to talk about how they view the future of working-class studies. Academic presses such as Cornell, Illinois, Michigan, and others have all begun to feature books in working-class studies, while small press publishers like West End and Bottom Dog continue their long history of publishing working-class voices. No doubt, one measure of the legitimacy of a new field is the ability of participants to get their work published and read, and this panel will help us measure how far working-class studies has come and where we might be headed. We'll also hold a plenary conversation in which we invite everyone attending the conference to share their ideas about where this new field ought to go in the next ten years. We've invited three scholars, representing different fields and perspectives, to open the discussion—Tim Strangleman, Dorian Warren, and Michele Fazio. And as always, the conference will feature panels and roundtables, poetry and prose readings, performances, workshops, and exhibits. We hope you'll join us.

The conference will also include the first official business meeting of the Working-Class Studies Association. At this meeting, members will consider the plans developed by a 16-person Organizing Committee. The formation of the organization is an important milestone for this

new field. Not only does it demonstrate the legitimacy of our work together, it also helps ensure the continuation of communication and collaboration among participants in the field for many years ahead. The business meeting will be open only to WCSA members, so we encourage you to join, if you haven't already.

The future of the field of New Working-Class Studies looks promising. Every year, we see more books that address working-class life and culture, we hear from more people who want to get involved, and our conferences and mailing lists continue to grow. We see academic and community projects developing around the country and internationally, from the continued success of the Working-Class Lives seminar series in the United Kingdom to a proposal for a BA in working-class studies at California State University-Channel Islands.

The CWCS's future also looks bright. We receive more and more requests every month from the media, the community, and academia for cultural information and research on working-class life, issues, and politics. We try to provide as much assistance as possible and often direct callers to others like you who can help with their requests.

At the same time, like many innovative projects at institutions around the country, we also face ongoing funding and staffing issues. Our Ford Foundation funds will end in 2007, and we are hard at work trying to raise an endowment to support our work in the future. Many of you have already contributed, and we are very grateful for your support. If you haven't, we hope you will consider doing so. See p. 4 for more information on our fundraising efforts.

The Center's success is based not only on the work we do but also, significantly, on your work. It's exciting to see this field grow, to work with so many of you in various ways, to see your books getting published, dissertations completed, and new programs started. Thank you for your contributions to this growth, and we hope you'll join us for our celebration in May.

In unity,

Sherry Linkon and John Russo

CWCS Outreach

CWCS's new Outreach Coordinator, Angela Jancius, has several projects on the drawing board, with a main goal of strengthening the Center's involvement in the community. Tentatively scheduled to begin in the winter of 2005, the first initiative, "The Mahoning Valley Dialogue on Work," will facilitate a series of public forums and thematic workgroups that link educators and students with local leaders, businesses, labor experts, and the media in a constructive dialogue on the future of work in the Mahoning Valley. The Dialogue on Work is being organized by CWCS in collaboration with the city's urban renewal initiative, Youngstown 2010, and the Youngstown Alliance for Congregational Transformation Influencing Our Neighborhoods (ACTION). Angela is also currently working with YSU faculty and community affiliates ... to increase the Center's involvement in labor and working-class arts.

Angela has also organized and is serving as moderator for the new "Working-Class-Studies" listserv. The Working-Class-Studies listserv serves as a forum for diverse intellectual and political approaches to scholarship, teaching, and outreach, and promotes partnerships linking scholarly work with activism. Within its first month of activity, the WCS listserv currently has more than 500 subscribers from around the world. The Center's first listserv, CWCS-L, is

now being used primarily to announce events and opportunities in northeastern Ohio and nearby areas.

CWCS Fundraising Drive

During our tenth anniversary, Center for Working-Class Studies is asking for your support to help us continue our programs in teaching, community outreach, student mentoring, research, and the arts. When funding from Ford Foundation ends in 2007, we will need our own resources to continue current and future programs. This year, our goal is to raise \$20,000 for the Center's Enrichment Fund. We're very grateful to those who have already contributed, and we hope you will join them. Become a Friend of the Center by contributing whatever you can to this important cause. To make your tax-deductible contribution, please select from the following options:

1. Send a check payable to the "YSU Ctr. for Working-Class Studies" to Angela Jancius, the Center for Working-Class Studies, Youngstown State University, One University Plaza, Youngstown, OH 44555;
2. Call the CWCS at (330) 941-2978, or 330-941-2058;
3. Make an online donation from CWCS's website, www.as.yosu.edu/~cwcs/give.htm.

Working-Class Studies Association Update

The Organizing Committee of the Working-Class Studies Association held a productive planning meeting in March, mapping out strategies for developing the organization, how it will function, and a constitution. Among other things, the Organizing Committee decided that the WCSA should begin plans to develop a journal, develop a set of awards to recognize significant and emerging work in the field, and continue to explore the relationship between the academic aspects of working-class studies and the important cultural, organizing, and political work being

carried on in a variety of settings. Full reports on these plans will be mailed to WCSA members in April and discussed at the WCSA Business Meeting at the Youngstown conference in May. In addition, an initial Elections Committee was formed to identify a slate of officers to carry forward the organization's work.

For more information on the organization, and to join online, visit the WCSA website at naples.cc.sunysb.edu/CAS/wcm.nsf/pages/wcsa.

NEW WORKING-CLASS STUDIES: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

**The 10th Anniversary Conference of the Center for Working-Class Studies
at Youngstown State University
Co-sponsored by Ford Foundation
May 18-21, 2005, Youngstown, Ohio**

The Seventh Biennial Conference of Center for Working-Class Studies will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Center's founding. The conference will feature plenary sessions involving Michael Rose, Ruy Texiera, editors from academic and small presses, and reflections on the development of New Working-Class Studies by experienced and emerging scholars, including Tim Strangleman, Dorian Warren, and Michele Fazio.

There will be panel discussions that explore literature by and about the working class; working-class and labor history; media and popular culture; current workplace issues; geography and landscape; economics; union organizing and practice; museum studies; the arts; multiculturalism; ethnography; autobiography; pedagogy; and personal narratives of work.

The conference will also include photographic and art exhibitions, performance art, and poetry readings by Guy Saldanha, Tom Juravich, Jeanne Bryner, and Diane Gilliam Fisher, among others. There will also be film screenings, workshops, and the first business meeting of the Working-Class Studies Association.

Conference materials, including information on hotels, schedule, and registration is available on the Center for Working-Class Studies's website, <http://www.as.ySU.edu/~cwcs/>.

New Faculty Affiliates

The Center for Working-Class Studies is pleased to welcome its newest faculty affiliates, Dr. Patricia Hauschildt and Alyssa Lenhoff.

Dr. Patricia Hauschildt is an associate professor in teacher education and has been at YSU since 1995. Her extended interest in working-class issues began when she read Carolyn Steedman's *Landscape for a Good Woman* and was faced with many ghosts that she thought had been erased (or at least hidden) with her own education and a move from "work" to a "profession." In a recent research project involving low-income white students in a middle school, those ghosts reappeared, demonstrating the power of a working-class past and the importance of accepting and valuing one's history/herstory.

Her research interests investigate the intersections of literacy, pedagogy, and culture in relation to teaching for equity and social justice. She is currently working on a book about teach-

ing in challenging classrooms and the importance of coming to know "the teacher self."

Alyssa Lenhoff, the director of journalism at Youngstown State University, is a former investigative reporter and has won some of the top prizes in journalism, including two Scripps Howard national reporting awards. Her investigation of deaths in Ohio prompted state and national reforms and her probe into the West Virginia Treasurer's office revealed \$240 million in missing funds. She has also uncovered widespread abuses, fraud, and injustices in government programs intended to help low-income residents.

She earned her undergraduate degree in journalism from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University. She also holds a master's degree in English from Youngstown State University and is pursuing a doctorate degree from Union Institute and University. She is married to Ohio State Senator Marc Dann and the couple has two children.

Class Action Launched

Two of the founders of United for a Fair Economy and Responsible Wealth have launched a new, national non-profit focused on issues of class, Class Action. Class Action's mission is to raise consciousness about the issues of class and money, and their impact on our individual lives, our relationships, organizations, institutions, and culture. We aim to heal the wounds of classism, support the development of cross-class alliance building, and support the movement of resources to where they are most needed to create justice, equity, and sustainability for all.

Visit Class Action's website to learn more:
www.classactionnet.org.

New Projects at the Homestead Pump House

The Battle of Homestead Foundation recently announced the installation of three memorials at the Homestead Pump House, the site of the famous Homestead steel strike in 1892. An exterior bronze plaque reproduces an 1890s lithograph of the battle at Homestead, while a set of 14 banners inside show the history of the steel industry and steelworkers in the Monongahela Valley. In addition, industrial designer Don Sentner has created a

moveable model of the site that can be manipulated to show the sequence of events that occurred there.

Visitors can view these memorials when they attend events in the Pump House Lecture series. This year's series includes plays, a workshop on labor songs, poetry readings, and a presentation by Braddock, PA, filmmaker Tony Buba. For more information, contact Russ Gibbons at (412) 782-0171.



Guy Suldana's photos of workers will be on display during the Working-Class Studies: Past, Present, and Future conference in Youngstown this May. This photo shows a textile worker at an integrated woolen mill in Rhode Island, which closed in 1999.

CWCS Bibliography Project

The Working-Class Studies Bibliography on the CWCS website is among the most visited sections of our site, getting hundreds of hits every day. From the beginning, the project has relied on volunteers to edit and update its various sections.

We are seeking volunteer "section editors" in all of the fields represented in the bibliography to review the listings and add recent or overlooked books to the list. Section editors may wish to work in teams. We can offer a small honorarium (\$75) for each section, and section editors' names are listed on the site. If you're interested, please contact John Russo at jbrusso@ysu.edu.

How Class Works—2006 Call For Presentations A Conference at SUNY Stony Brook June 8-10, 2006

The Center for Study of Working Class Life is pleased to announce the How Class Works—2006 Conference, to be held at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, June 8–10, 2006. The conference seeks to explore ways in which an explicit recognition of class helps us understand the social world in which we live—and ways in which analysis of society can deepen our understanding of class as a social relationship. Presentations should take as their point of reference the lived experience of class; proposed theoretical contributions should be rooted in and illuminate social realities. All presentations should be accessible to an interdisciplinary audience.

While the focus of the conference is in the social sciences, presentations from other disciplines are welcome as they bear upon conference themes. Presentations are also welcome from people outside academic life when they sum up social experience in a way that contributes to the themes of the conference. Formal papers will be welcome but are not required.

The conference welcomes proposals for presentations that advance our understanding of any of the following themes:

- The mosaic of class, race, and gender
- Class, power, and social structure
- Class and community
- Class in a global economy
- Middle class? Working class? What's the difference and why does it matter?
- Class, public policy, and electoral politics
- Pedagogy of class

Submissions must be postmarked December 15, 2005, and follow these guidelines:

Proposals for presentations must include the following information: a) title; b) which of the seven conference themes will be addressed; c) a maximum 250 word summary of the main points, methodology, and slice of experience that will be summed up; d) relevant personal information indicating institutional affiliation (if any) and what training or experience the presenter brings to the proposal; e) presenter's name, address, telephone, fax, and e-mail address. A person may present in at most two conference sessions. To allow time for discussion, sessions will be limited to three twenty-minute or four fifteen-minute principal presentations. Sessions will not include official discussants.

Proposals for sessions are welcome. A single session proposal must include proposal information for all presentations expected to be part of it, as detailed above, with some indication of willingness to participate from each proposed session member. Notifications will be mailed on January 16, 2006.

Submit proposals as hard copy by mail to

Michael Zweig, Director
How Class Works—2006 Conference
Center for Study of Working Class Life
Department of Economics
SUNY
Stony Brook, NY 11794-4384
631-632.7536

or as an e-mail attachment to
michael.zweig@stonybrook.edu

For more information, visit the conference website at **www.workingclass.sunysb.edu**.

Book Review: Janet Zandy, *Hands: Physical Labor, Class, and Cultural Work*, Rutgers University Press, 2004

Reviewed by Larry Smith, Professor Emeritus, Firelands College of Bowling Green State University, Director, Bottom Dog Press

I met Janet Zandy at my first Working-Class Studies Conference at Youngstown State University in 1995. In a room full of fellow working-class academics, she delivered an inspiring keynote address placing our experience in an historical context of working-class people and connecting our life to our work as teachers, researchers, and writers. She brought us all in from the cold.

She is doing that still in her research and teaching at Rochester Institute of Technology, in her work as editor of working-class collections (*Calling Home, Liberating Memory, What We Hold in Common*), and in her personal and theory-based writing of culture. With one foot in her family's working-class life and the other in the academic world, she stands firm as an authentic model of integration and vital connection.

This new collection of her essays and critical writing blends personal memoir and photography with class and literary theory. "Consider these writings as necessary hybrids, organic filaments of connection and structured conceptual frames. I approach theory as leveler and guide," Zandy explains. What keeps it all grounded here is her focus on the physical reality of class culture and the cost of labor to the human body and spirit. Our identity is still tied to our hands.

The book's four main divisions are around themes of "Loss: Circumstances and Choices," "Articulations: Culture Is Not Negation," "Recoveries: Useable Pasts," and "Technologies: On Laboring Bodies." Liberally framed with photos and quoted epigrams, the book opens with "Trubeck Labs," the most personal account of her family life in New Jersey and her father's dangerous work with chemical waste. Like so many of us, Zandy connects her privileged education with a responsibility as a "scholarship girl" and the cost to her family, particularly in her father's early death. The style is vivid and clear here, the voice direct and authentic: "neither suburb nor city, working-class north Jersey breathes in tight spaces. The speeding cars and

potholes are unforgiving on this stretch of Route 17. I look for familiar landmarks, noticing new small businesses and clusters of urban commerce on either side. I am on a small quest of my father's company."

"Books of the Dead" includes well documented accounts of physical abuse to workers and the writings that have witnessed these tragedies—Audre Lorde's *Zami* on radiation poisoning, Muriel Rykeyser's "The Book of the Dead" sequence of poems treating Hawk Nest's Silicosis. The poems are seen as an "epilogue to occupational death." "God Job" uses documentary photography to launch into a discussion of working-class literature and how "All of us...carry within us traces of our family's work histories."

Section Two "Articulations" examines the work of Tillie Olsen's *Silences* essays and Meridel Le Sueur's "Worker Writers," as people's writing. Zandy's "In the Skin of the Worker: Or What Makes a Text Working Class?" provides a means to articulate and identify key qualities in working-class writing. "Worker Ghosts" reveals how workers have been "ghosted" in life and writing, and how worker writers like Sue Doro and Mary Daniels and working-class publications have restored bodies of laborers to life.

The "Recoveries" section begins with a fine section on "Fire Poetry on the Triangle Shirtwaist Company Fire of March 25, 1911." She treats the poetry that has evolved from this historic and symbolic event which launched the Women's Garment Worker's Union: Chris Llewellyn, Mary Fell, Carol Tarlen, Julia Stein, Safiya Henderson-Holmes. She also provides a strong assessment of "Ralph Fasanella: Epic Painter of the Working Class."

In the final "Technologies" section, she exposes and assesses the costs of technology to the worker's bodies and minds. A healthy and informative section of "Notes" follows.

Book Review: Mike Rose, *The Mind at Work: Valuing the Intelligence of the American Worker*, Viking, 2004

Reviewed by Janet Zandy, Department of Language and Literature, Rochester Institute of Technology

Turn Arthur Miller's famous admonition, "attention must be paid," from Linda Loman's appeal to her sons and Miller's sympathetic treatment of "low men" to the attention workers themselves pay to their jobs, and you begin to see the importance of Mike Rose's new book, *The Mind at Work*. Rose takes his readers into the highly textured worlds of waitresses, railroad and auto workers, hair stylists, novices and seasoned teachers, plumbers, carpenters, and electricians, and exposes the fallacy of the mind-body dichotomy. He shows, in the words of Joe Meraglio, former wet sander on the GM line, that "There's really no such thing as unskilled work."

Rose begins at the kitchen table, the center of so many working-class homes, by interviewing his mother, Rose Emily Meraglio about her life and her years of work as a waitress. This is an important starting point to illuminate other patterns in the interviews and observations that follow: an efficiency, even choreography, of movement; a diagnostic and problem solving frame of mind; a mindfulness, a sense of being inside

the work; a cognitive variability; a language and literacy of labor; and an aesthetics of labor—expressed in the waitress's balance of plates and cups, in the calligraphy of welding, or the signature of braided wire or cut hair. Rose questions Western definitions of the aesthetic as individual expressivity and reveals an aesthetics of work involving social relationships and "principled action within an economic context."

Ever the keen observer and respectful listener, Rose constructs a crucial dialectic between the very real physical conditions workers face and the agency and meaning they invest in that work, the inseparability of hand and mind. "I think through my fingers" says Nancy, a hair stylist from St. Paul. Master plumber and teacher, Jon Guthier speaks of a "kind of library" of mechanical knowledge. Respected foreman, Joe Meraglio recognizes the capabilities of his workforce, "People build a job." Rose asks what could be learned "if we turn the epistemological tables, look not at the waitress or plumber through the lens of white-collar achievement, but, rather, look

at work a the other end of the occupational scale with a waitress's or plumber's knowledge in mind?"

A word about Mike Rose's own mind at work. This is a deeply scholarly, synthetic, and full researched book, but Rose carries the academic apparatus lightly, never badgering the reader but rather pointing and probing, illuminating and inserting with the suppleness of a skilled welder. Although Rose draws on familiar work worlds, his mother's restaurant experience, his uncles' work on the railroad or the auto line, this is autobiography in service to a larger narrative, the self opening to something larger. Narrative is not separated from social science or educational theory, any more than vocational ed and academic rigor should be divided. *The Mind at Work* is part of a long historical struggle for a participatory democracy, a "model of mind," as Rose writes, "that befits the democratic imagination."

Note: Mike Rose will talk about *The Mind at Work* in his keynote address at the CWCS conference on Wednesday evening, May 18.

Hands, cont'd

The only fault this reader finds in this essential book is the author's dependence on scholarly and theoretical language. After telling us a worker-student is finding himself and his writing skills in her classroom, "the

course appealed to him because it seemed real" she forces this analysis: "he did not experience a bifurcation between his tactile, experiential world and the classroom." This slight diction problem is offset by

the sincerity of her intention to integrate worker's lives with our learning from them. She still stands with a foot in both worlds as a bridge for us all. It's an excellent and useful study.

New Releases

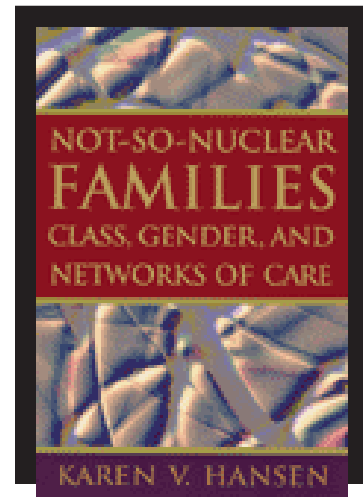
In *Work Identity at the End of the Line? Privatisation and Culture Change in the UK Rail Industry* (Palgrave 2004), sociologist **Tim Strangleman** tells the story of workplace culture and identity in the railway industry before during and after privatization in the mid-1990s. It combines rich interview material from workers and managers involved in the privatization process with a fascinating background detail of nationalization. The book links social theory with workers' stories, presenting a study of the loss of work that is at once personal and national.

In this age of *Will & Grace* and gentrification, the "dream market" and gay investment advisors, you don't hear much about working-class queers. In fact, some would even consider the idea a contradiction in terms. But editor **Wendell Ricketts** and the eighteen contributors to *Everything I Have*



Is Blue: Short Fiction by Working-Class Men About More-or-Less Gay Life (Suspect Thoughts Press) would beg to differ. The first collection of short stories by working-class queer, gay, and bisexual men, *Everything I Have Is Blue* is a rich and long-overdue contribution both to the burgeoning field of working-class studies and to LGBT-queer studies. The American and international writers collected here include a professional trucker, a Texas prisoner, a librarian, a poet, an activist, a retired English professor, and a street mime, to name a few, but what makes their voices powerful and unique isn't their professions, it's their ability to straddle ideological and cultural divides that would give Paul Bunyan pause.

In *Not-So-Nuclear Families: Class, Gender, and Networks of Care* (Rutgers University Press), **Karen V. Hansen** investigates the lives of working parents and the informal networks they construct to help care for their children. She chronicles the conflicts, hardships,



and triumphs of four families of various social classes. Each must navigate the ideology that mandates that parents, mothers in particular, rear their own children, in the face of an economic reality that requires that parents rely on the help of others. In vivid family stories, parents detail how they and their networks of friends, paid caregivers, and extended kin collectively close the "care gap" for their school-aged children. Hansen not only debunks the myth that families in the United States are independent, isolated, and self-reliant units, she breaks new theoretical ground by asserting that informal networks of care can potentially provide unique and valuable bonds that nuclear families cannot.

Bottom Dog Press has added two new titles to its Working-Class Lives series. *Alive in Hard Country*, a collection of poems by **Richard Hague**, was named the 2004 Appalachian Writers Association Poetry Book of the Year. Paolo Corso's collection *Death By Renaissance* includes photographs by **George Thomas Mendel**. Together, they remind us of the diversity of working-class life, that it is rooted in rural as well as urban life. Both Corso and Hague will read from their work at this year's CWCS conference.

Class Concerns: Adult Education & Social Class

(Jossey-Bass), a new book by **Tom Nesbit**, examines how social class affects the experiences of adult students. Essays by some of the leading progressive adult educators in the world explore how class affects different arenas of adult education practice and discourse. The book highlights the links between adult education, the material and social conditions of daily and working lives, and the economic and political systems that underpin them.

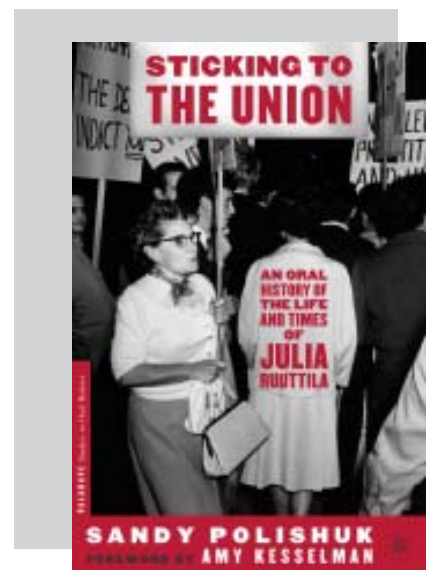
Chapters focus on adult education policies; teaching, learning, and identity formation; educational institutions

and social movements; and the interwoven relationships between class, gender, and race. *Class Concerns* reaffirms class as a major factor in shaping the lives we lead and the educational approaches we develop. It offers suggestions for adult educators to identify and resist the encroachments of global capitalism and understand the role of education in promoting social equality. Finally, it suggests that a class perspective can provide an antidote to much of the social amnesia, self-absorption, and apolitical theorizing that pervades too much of current adult education discourse.

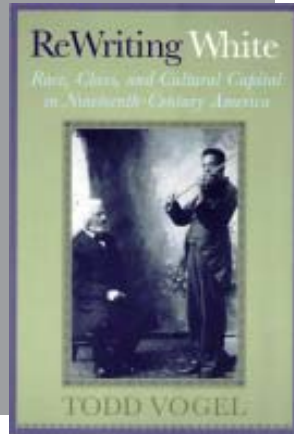
Espejos y Ventanas/ Mirrors and Windows is a collection of oral histories of Mexican farm workers and their families, edited by **Mark Lyons and August Tarrier** (New City Community Press). Most of the individuals whose stories appear in this book live in the Philadelphia area, picking and packing mushrooms. The volume includes interviews as well as poems by workers and their families.

The book is the most recent project of New City Community Press, a project based on the idea that writing can help communities gain visibility and agency and that making the voices of these communities heard can contribute to better understanding and to social change.

Although married four times, Julia Ruuttila claimed that the love of her life was not a man but a union. ***Sticking to the Union: an Oral History of the Life and Times of Julia Ruuttila*** (Palgrave Macmillan) follows her from her Industrial Workers of the World origins to the CIO, the International Woodworkers of America, and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union. A well-known labor activist and journalist in the Pacific Northwest, Ruuttila chose the picket sign and the typewriter as her chief weapons. She possessed a tireless passion for workers and their struggles, whether founding a committee to free the last Wobbly prisoner from the Centralia Tragedy, leading the Ladies' Auxiliary of the International Woodworkers of America during an eight-and-a-half month lockout in Portland in 1937–38 or coming before the House Un-American Activities Committee for her work with the Oregon Committee for Protection of Foreign Born. At the same time, her everyday hardships were not unlike many other working-class women of her era: abusive husbands, illegal abortions, poverty, and single motherhood. Ruuttila's remarkable story unfolds in her own words, with author **Sandy Polishuk** skillfully placing the narrative in its historical context and pointing out where other sources conflict with Ruuttila's account.



New Releases, cont'd



What did it mean for people of color in nineteenth-century America to speak or write “white”? More specifically, how many and what kinds of meaning could such “white” writing carry? In ***ReWriting White***, **Todd Vogel** looks at how America has racialized language and aesthetic achievement. To make his point, he showcases the surprisingly complex interactions between four nineteenth-century writers of color and the “standard white English” they adapted for their own moral, political, and social ends.

The African American, Native American, and Chinese American writers Vogel discusses delivered their messages in a manner that simultaneously demonstrated their command of the dominant discourse of their times—using styles and addressing forums considered above their station—and fashioned a subversive meaning in the very act of that demonstration. Vogel develops a mechanism for triangulating race and class, helping us understand how culture producers have used class, and the public’s assumptions about a working-class culture, to achieve their own race and gender goals.

Alan Derickson’s *Health Security for All: Dreams of Universal Health Care in America* (Johns Hopkins Press) explores the invention and reinvention of this egalitarian ideal since its emergence in the early twentieth century. It illuminates the persistent deprivation of much of the US working class with regard to access to basic and often life-saving health services and examines the sad consequences of that deprivation. It discusses the many variants of universalism in health policy, focusing mainly on the progressive side of the ideological spectrum but also identifying some surprising conservative support for all-inclusive health security. The study argues that realization of this ideal of social protection will require a mass movement of the uninsured working poor.

Robert P. Wolensky, Nicole H. Wolensky, and Kenneth C. Wolensky have co-authored, ***Voices of the Knox Mine Disaster: Stories, Reflections, and Remembrances of the Anthracite Coal Industry Last Major Catastrophe, January 22, 1959*** (Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Press). The book supplements the authors’ first volume (*The Knox Mine Disaster*, 1999, PHMC Press) on the coal mining disaster that took 12 lives when the Susquehanna River broke into the Knox Coal Company’s River Slope mine. The catastrophe ended deep mining in much of northeastern Pennsylvania. The book reconstructs the story of the disaster—including causes, consequences, and remembrances—largely through first-person accounts. The working-class context of the disaster is apparent, particularly in the lack of work alternatives for miners in a declining industry coupled with strong pressures from the company to mine illegally under the river. The volume also examines the ways in which the working-class community of the former “hard coal” areas around Scranton and Wilkes-Barre has faithfully memorialized the disaster over the past 46 years.

