

# 2015 Puget Sound Labor Notes Troublemakers School

September 12, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. ♦ South Seattle College



Photos: UNITE HERE 8, Jim Levitt, James Leder

## 9 - 9:30 a.m. Registration

*(coffee and light snacks)*

## Opening Plenary 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Chair: **Alexandra Bradbury** (*editor, Labor Notes*)

Welcome: **Darby Frye** (*WA LERC, South Seattle College*)

**Ramon Torres** (*president, Familias Unidas por la Justicia*) on direct action in the berry fields

**Amy Nysten** (*president, Ferndale Education Association*) on statewide rolling teacher strikes

**Aretha Basu** (*community organizer, Women of Color for Systemic Change*) on solidarity with Black Lives Matter

**Mark Brenner** (*director, Labor Notes*) on putting some movement back in the labor movement

## Morning Workshops: 10:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

*(see over for details)*

1. Secrets of a Successful Organizer
2. *Emerging Leaders*: Leading Change through Storytelling
3. Beyond Grievances: Direct Action on the Job
4. Using Your Legal Rights at Work
5. New Forms and Approaches in Organizing

## 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Lunch

*(across the way in Building B)*

## Afternoon Workshops: 1:30 - 3:15 p.m.

*(see over for details)*

1. Secrets of a Successful Organizer
2. *Emerging Leaders*: When Your Brother is Undercover: Queer Labor Issues Today
3. Beating Apathy
4. Contract Campaigns That Win
5. Preparing for the Threat of 'Right to Work' in the Public Sector
6. Black Lives Matter to Labor

## Closing Plenary: 3:20 - 4 p.m.

Chair: **David Yao** (*APWU, Labor Notes policy committee*)

**Chelsea Orvella** (*SPEEA*) and **Larry Brown** (*Machinists 751*) on holding Boeing accountable

**Nicole Grant** (*MLK CLC, IBEW 46, & WA-YELL*) on labor's next generation

Song: **Alexandra Bradbury**

## Short Picket: 4:15 - 4:45 p.m.

to support the berry pickers' boycott of Driscoll's at Costco (*4401 4th Avenue South, Seattle 98134*)

## Social Hour and Celebration: 4:30 p.m. - ?

at **Union Bar** (*in Hillman City, 5609 Rainier Ave S, Seattle 98118*) featuring fair trade musician **Nate Omdal** on jazz bass

# Workshops

**MORNING 10:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

**AFTERNOON 1:30 - 3:15 p.m.**

**1. Secrets of a Successful Organizer** (C-207, *upstairs*)

How can you inspire your co-workers to join you in building union strength? Learn proven strategies to identify an organizable issue, develop a winning plan of action, and maximize participation.

*Teresa Tobin (1199NW)*

**2. Emerging Leaders: Leading Change through Storytelling**

(C-208, *upstairs*)

Stories can transform us and bring us together. Hear inspiring stories, share yours, and discuss how our stories connect with issues of justice and social movements.

*Mozart Guerrier (21 Progress)*

*Shaunie Wheeler (IBEW 77 & WA YELL)*

*Darby Frye (WA LERC, South Seattle College)*

**3. Beyond Grievances: Direct Action on the Job**

(C-110, *main floor*)

Ever tried slowing down, working to rule, walking out, marching in, or raising a ruckus to push your boss to fix a workplace problem? Collective action is a great labor tradition. Hear from workers who've done it.

*Veronica Diaz (UNITE HERE 8)*

*Ramon Torres (Familias Unidas por la Justicia)*

*Mike McWilliams (SPEEA)*

*Chair: Karin Strand (SEIU 1199NW)*

**4. Using Your Legal Rights at Work** (C-111, *main floor*)

What workplace activities does the law protect? What can and can't I say on the Internet? What are my rights if the boss calls me into the office? What are a steward's rights? And what can I do if my union isn't backing me up?

*Julian Gonzalez (labor and employment attorney)*

**5. New Forms and Approaches in Organizing** (C-212, *upstairs*)

As the boss gets creative, so do we. Day laborers, gig musicians, transit riders, cab drivers, and high-tech temps are adapting familiar organizing models to build power where they're at. What can we learn from each other's strategies, and how can we back each other up?

*Fredi Dubon (Casa Latina)*

*Nate Omdal (Fair Trade Music, AFM 76-493)*

*Scott Myers (Transit Riders Union)*

*Chair: Eunice How (UNITE HERE 8)*

The *Emerging Leaders* track is led by **Washington Labor Education and Research Center** and **Washington Young Emerging Labor Leaders**.

Spanish-English interpretation by **Lupita Ayon** and **Cariño Barragan**.

[www.labornotes.org](http://www.labornotes.org)

**1. Secrets of a Successful Organizer** (C-207, *upstairs*)

How can you inspire your co-workers to join you in building union strength? Learn proven strategies to identify an organizable issue, develop a winning plan of action, and maximize participation.

*Mark Brenner (Labor Notes)*

**2. Emerging Leaders: When Your Brother is Undercover:**

**Queer Labor Issues Today** (C-208, *upstairs*)

More union members than ever are out as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT). Learn about the issues and develop skills to show solidarity on the job, at the union hall, and in your community.

*Jai Briar (IBEW 46)*

*Soph Davenberry (SMWIA/SMART 66)*

**3. Beating Apathy** (C-111, *main floor*)

Are you beating your head against the wall trying to get co-workers involved? Learn practical strategies and hear success stories from others who turned their workplaces around.

*Chair: Alexandra Bradbury (Labor Notes)*

**4. Contract Campaigns That Win** (C-110, *main floor*)

What you can win at the bargaining table depends on what you do away from it—on the job and in the streets. Panelists will share strategies, challenges, and how our unions have grown through some of our biggest current and recent fights.

*Ariana Davis (UFCW 21)*

*Anita Claymore (SEIU 1199NW)*

*Dean McGrath (ILWU 23)*

*Dan Troccoli (SEA)*

*Chair: Susanne Murphy (SPEEA)*

**5. Preparing for the Threat of 'Right to Work' in the Public Sector** (C-222, *upstairs*)

A case on its way to the Supreme Court threatens basic union rights in the public sector. The threat is serious, but a bad ruling doesn't have to be a death knell. Hear how some local unions are using this moment as an organizing opportunity.

*Karen Hart (SEIU 925)*

*Jonathan McCollum (WFSE)*

*April Rebollo (SPEEA, on organizing in right-to-work Kansas)*

*Chair: John Boyle (WA LERC, South Seattle College)*

**6. Black Lives Matter to Labor** (C-212, *upstairs*)

As AFL-CIO President Rich Trumka said after Ferguson, "Our brother killed our sister's son." Come learn about cross-movement organizing between Black Lives Matter and labor, and what more could we do.

*Aretha Basu (Women of Color for Systemic Change)*

*Nakita Oliver (local creative and organizer)*

*Jacque Jones-Walsh (CBTU, WFSE)*

*Claude Burfect (CBTU, WFSE)*

*Sheley Secrest (NAACP)*

*Chair: Teresa Mosqueda (WSLC)*