



The Sidney Hillman Foundation

THE AMERICAN PROSPECT

THE AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT AT A CROSSROADS: New Thinking, New Organizing, New Strategies

Thursday, Jan. 15, 2015

555 New Jersey Ave. N.W., Fourth Floor, Washington, D.C.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

The American labor movement is at a critical juncture. After three decades of declining union density in the private sector and years of all-out political assaults on public sector unions, America's unions now face what can only be described as existential threats. Strategies and tactics that may have worked in a different era are no longer adequate to confront today's challenges. The need for different approaches to the fundamentals of union work in areas such as organizing, collective bargaining and political action is clear. This conference will examine new thinking and new initiatives, viewing them critically in the light of ongoing union imperatives to cultivate member activism and involvement, foster democratic self-governance and build the collective power of working people.

AGENDA

- 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Check-in and Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. **AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT AT A CROSSROADS**
Randi Weingarten, *president, American Federation of Teachers and Albert Shanker Institute*
- 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. **NEW FORMS OF LABOR ORGANIZING/ORGANIZATION I**
Tefere Gebre, *executive vice president, AFL-CIO*
Harold Meyerson, *editor-at-large, American Prospect; columnist, Washington Post; board member, Albert Shanker Institute*
Karen Nussbaum, *executive director, Working America*
David Rolf, *president, Workers Lab, Service Employees International Union, Local 775*
- 10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Break
- 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. **NEW FORMS OF LABOR ORGANIZING/ORGANIZATION II**
Paul Booth, *assistant to the president, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees*
Sara Horowitz, *founder and executive director, Freelancers Union*
Jessica Smith, *chief of staff, American Federation of Teachers*
Cristina Tzintzún, *executive director, Texas Workers Defense Project*

- 12:15 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. **REFLECTIONS ON THE STATE OF AMERICAN LABOR**
Steven Greenhouse, labor journalist
- 12:30 p. m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. **BUILDING COMMUNITY-LABOR ALLIANCES**
Conversation with:
Sarita Gupta, *executive director, Jobs with Justice*
Gerry Hudson, *executive vice president, Service Employees International Union*
Joseph McCartin, *director, Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor, Georgetown University*
Sejal Parikh, *fast food workers campaign director, Working Washington*
- 2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Break
- 2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. **RETHINKING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND UNION REPRESENTATION**
Catherine Fisk, *chancellor's professor of law; co-director, Center in Law, Society and Culture, University of California at Irvine Law School*
Mary Cathryn Ricker, *executive vice president, American Federation of Teachers; board member, Albert Shanker Institute*
Dan Schlademan, *director, OUR Walmart, United Food and Commercial Workers International Union*
Saket Soni, *executive director, National Guestworker Alliance*
- 3:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Break
- 4:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. **WORKERS' RIGHTS AND COLLECTIVE POWER**
Mark Brenner, *director, Labor Notes*
Patricia Castellanos, *deputy director, Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy*
Richard Kahlenberg, *senior fellow, Century Foundation; board member, Albert Shanker Institute*
Rich Yeselson, *labor strategist*
- 5:15 p.m. – 5:40 p.m. **NEXT STEPS**
Leo Casey, *executive director, Albert Shanker Institute*
- 5:40 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. **RECEPTION**

If you have any questions, contact Vicki Thomas at vthomas@ashankerinst.org.