

## CLUW CLAMORS FOR JUSTICE

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY  
EVENTS AROUND NATION  
DECRY ATTACKS ON  
WORKERS' RIGHTS



Among the CLUW members gathered in front of AFL-CIO Headquarters on Dec. 8 were (from left): Yvonne Cohen, CLUW Office Manager (OPEIU); Bonnie Oakes, CLUW DC State VP (OPEIU); Judy Beard, CLUW National Treasurer (APWU); Andrea Chapman (APWU); Yvonne Clark (OPEIU); Carol Rosenblatt, CLUW Executive Director (AFSCME); Gloria Richmond (OPEIU).

**C**LUW members demonstrated their commitment to workers' rights at a week full of rallies, marches and candlelight vigils across the country leading up to International Human Rights Day on December 10.

In the largest gathering, thousands of union women and men paraded in Washington from AFL-CIO headquarters to the White House on December 8 to press the Bush Administration to strengthen protections for workers who wish to organize and halt efforts to eliminate collective bargaining rights for hundreds of thousands of federal workers. Marchers included Ohio CLUW State Vice President JoAnn Johntony and dozens of other CLUW members from unions including APWU, IBEW,

AFSCME, AFT, NEA, AFGE and UFCW.

"The right to organize has been destroyed, right-wing politicians cut back the law to nothing, and corporations trample on our freedom like it's their personal doormat," AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Linda Chavez-Thompson told a pre-march rally. "George W. and his buddies have turned the federal government into the nation's number one union buster."

Speakers also focused on labor's attempt to pass the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA), which was introduced in the House and Senate in April. The EFCA would require employers to recognize a union once a majority of workers signs cards authorizing union representation. It would provide for

mediation and arbitration of first-contract disputes and authorize stronger penalties for violation of the law when workers seek to form a union. And the Act would also prohibit so-called "captive audience" meetings where employees are required—under threat of being fired—to listen to management diatribes against unions.

The D.C. protesters brought a petition containing labor demands to the White House gates, where the Secret Service refused to accept it. Protest organizers then faxed the petition to the President—complete with its more than 100,000 signatures.

International Human Rights Day commemorates the 1948 U.N. ratification of

*(continued on page 3)*

Sign up to be a CLUW e-Activist:

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



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## Philly CLUW supports right of graduate assistants to organize



CLUW members John Braxton (co-president of AFT 2026) and Dee Tancredi (Philadelphia Federation of Teachers) address rally in front of Penn's College Hall. Opposite Tancredi is Philadelphia CLUW board member April Logan (TUGSA).

**C**LUW members marched December 8 alongside graduate assistants at the University of Pennsylvania who are demanding recognition of their union. Hundreds of demonstrators attended the rally outside Penn's College Hall, co-sponsored by CLUW's Philadelphia chapter—one of dozens of International Human Rights Day events across the country that focused on attacks on worker rights (see pages 1 and 3).

Chapter President Kathy Black said the protest was the latest skirmish in a national fight by graduate students who work for universities. It is a fight they thought they had won in 2000, when the National Labor Relations Board ruled that graduate teaching and research assistants at private colleges are employees and have a right to form unions. But four years later, under the Bush Administration, the NLRB reversed that decision.

Despite the setback, the Penn organization GET-UP (Graduate Employees Together—University of Pennsylvania) continues to act like a union. At the rally, the group presented the Penn administration with a petition demanding improved medical coverage.

"It is crucial that people who perform the critical work that makes the university what it is—teaching and research—have a voice on working conditions," said Tina Collins, a Penn research assistant and member of the Philadelphia CLUW board.



Tina Collins

## Holiday Observance

*"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."  
—Martin Luther King Jr.*

**R**aise your voice alongside your union sisters and brothers at the AFL-CIO's 2006 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Observance January 12-16 in Baton Rouge, LA.

In the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita—and the federal response to the devastation—Baton Rouge is a powerful symbol of the need to rededicate ourselves to Dr. King's ideals of economic and social justice. This diverse, growing and important union city is the ideal place to honor his commitment to civil rights, worker's rights and political empowerment.

But bring your work clothes: CLUW members will be participating in several restoration projects in Louisiana.

The Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Observance weekend begins Thursday evening, January 12 with an Opening Plenary and ends with a parade Monday morning, January 16. Make your reservations directly with the Sheraton Baton Rouge Convention Center Hotel (103 France Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802) by calling 225-242-2600. Room rates are just \$89 per night plus 13% tax. The reduced conference registration fee of \$150 includes conference attendance, labor breakfast, awards dinner and all conference materials.

For information contact Eva Walton in the AFL-CIO Civil, Human and Women's Rights Department at [ewalton@aflcio.org](mailto:ewalton@aflcio.org) or 202-637-5274.

Martin Luther King Jr.

## HUMAN RIGHTS DAY EVENTS

(continued from page 1)

the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which mandates that "everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions." Throughout the week, protesters from Maine to Hawaii made the point that employers routinely ignore that basic liberty and that, for many U.S. workers, rights accorded them by the Declaration and by the National Labor Relations Act exist only on paper.

The AFL-CIO reports that rallies across the nation attracted more than 60,000 people. Similar protests were held by workers in Canada and Mexico, and around the world as far away as Hong Kong and Bahrain.

CLUW President Marsha Zakowski reports a large number of CLUW chapters participated in Human Rights Day events. Here is a sampling:

■ CLUW's **Michigan Tri County Area** and **Genesee County** Chapters participated in a December 10 rally in Flint that ended with a candlelight vigil around the Sit Down Memorial at UAW Region 1-C in solidarity with striking Delphi workers. More than 350 union and community activists drew attention to the plight of UAW members facing steep wage cuts proposed by the nation's largest auto parts manufacturer, which has filed for bankruptcy protection. Activists have obtained more than 6,500 signatures on a petition

being forwarded to the bankruptcy judge who will rule on the case in January.

■ **Ohio's Greater Miami Valley CLUW** also rallied December 10 with the Ohio AFL-CIO, IUE/CWA and USWA 87L in Dayton's Courthouse Square in support of Delphi workers and retirees across the country. The protest kicked off an outreach campaign demanding justice for their labor sisters and brothers who built Delphi Corp. and General Motors.

■ **Greater Georgia CLUW** joined the Georgia World Peace Committee in a rally in Atlanta.

■ With the California Peace Action Committee, **Los Angeles CLUW** participated in an International Human Rights Day Neighborhood Celebration and a Candlelight rally for Peace and Solidarity with the Philippines.

■ **Chicago CLUW** was a co-sponsor and demonstrated along with the Chicago Federation of Labor at the Haymarket Memorial. Despite the city's first heavy blizzard which prevented many from reaching the December 8 event, more than 100 braved the conditions to stand up for workers whose right to join a union is under attack.



Members of CLUW's St. Louis Chapter were among the 500-plus activists who gathered in the cold on December 9 to demand that Peabody Coal and Missouri Gov. Matt Blunt respect the choice of Peabody miners to form a union and bargain collectively. The miners have been fighting for a year to win representation by the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA). The Human Rights Day rally was held in the park across from Peabody Coal headquarters in St. Louis, reports St. Louis CLUW President Alice Moore-Jones.

■ **Minneapolis/Twin Cities CLUW** helped organize a rally and march December 9, which included worker testimonials.

■ **St. Louis CLUW** rallied with labor and community activists on December 9 to demand that Peabody Coal respect the right of workers to form unions and bargain collectively. Peabody miners have been fighting for a year to win representation by the United Mine Workers of America (see photo above).

■ **Metro Detroit CLUW** emphasized the campaign for workers' rights at a December 14 meeting that also focused on World AIDS Day.

■ **Pittsburgh CLUW** took part in a rally December 5 with the Allegheny Central Labor Council, USW and other groups, kicking off a week of action in support of Comcast workers.

■ **Philadelphia CLUW** participated in two events. At a town hall meeting December 6 to kick off International Human Rights Day, AFL-CIO President John Sweeney, Rep. Curt Weldon (R-PA) and community and faith-based leaders heard testimony from workers fighting for union recognition. On December 8 CLUW members marched alongside graduate assistants at the University of Pennsylvania who are demanding recognition of their union (see page 2).



Ready to rally at UAW Region 1-C in Flint, Michigan in support of Delphi workers are members of CLUW's Genesee County Chapter: (front row, from l.) Teresa McGinnis (UAW), Bonnie Smith, Mary Simmons (UAW), Mary Dillard (UAW); (back row) Barb Young (UAW), Sandra Jenkins (SEIU) and Kim Prickard (UAW).

## ■ WOMEN'S HEALTH

# CLUW PARTICIPATES IN CERVICAL CANCER SUMMIT: PART OF CHALLENGE TO ELIMINATE CERVICAL CANCER

**Atlanta** – Making cervical cancer the first cancer eliminated in the United States is the ultimate goal of the three-day national HPV & Cervical Cancer Summit, hosted in November by Women In Government (WIG), a non-profit, bi-partisan association of elected women state officials.

CLUW Executive Vice President Jean Hervey (UNITE HERE) and CLUW's Cervical Cancer Prevention Works Project Director Carolyn Jacobson were there to work with WIG in reaching its goal in the labor movement, specifically focusing on reaching the 6.5 million union women in the U.S.

The Summit was the largest cervical cancer gathering to date of U.S. state legislators, advocates, medical experts and public policy officials, including those from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). It is the latest step in WIG's fight against cervical cancer, begun in January 2004, when the organization launched its Challenge to Eliminate Cervical Cancer Campaign.

The Campaign engages state legislators nationwide in policy and awareness efforts to help eliminate cervical cancer. To date, 42 states have introduced legislation or resolutions targeting cervical cancer elimination and 34 states have enacted such measures. CLUW, through its Cervical Cancer Prevention Works program, is a partner in the campaign.

"We know that cervical cancer is caused by certain 'high-risk' strains of HPV. Improved screening technology, such as HPV testing, holds great promise in better identifying women

needing early intervention. Additionally, vaccines—which hopefully will be on the market soon—have demonstrated significant success in preventing infection with the high-risk HPV strains in clinical trials," said Executive Vice President Hervey.

"This is a very exciting time for women—especially for union women in the U.S.—the large majority of whom, thanks to their unions, have health insurance. And most union plans cover these tests," commented Hervey.

She also noted, "Each of us has a responsibility, besides to ourselves: It's up to each of us to make sure we tell every woman we are in contact with that cervical cancer can be prevented and the best way to prevent it is to schedule screening appointments at regular intervals."



CLUW Exec. Vice Pres. Jean Hervey, right, is pictured at the Summit with Jill Birdwhistell Pierce, American Medical Women's Association.

## ■ IN MEMORIAM

### Ruth Miller

With great sadness CLUW reports the death of Ruth Miller, a founding member of CLUW. Ruth died on September 22 in Los Angeles.

A well-known leader in LA for women's rights, Ruth was Education Director of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, now a part of UNITE, and served on the National Executive Board of CLUW representing ACTWU. The founding president of CLUW's Los Angeles Chapter, she served in that post from 1975 to 1997.

Ruth was a founder of the Women In The Workforce Committee of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, which she chaired until her retirement, and she served as chair of both the California and Los Angeles Commissions on the Status of Women.

## January is Cervical Cancer Screening Month

CLUW has joined the National Cervical Cancer Public Education Campaign to promote January as Cervical Cancer Screening Month and call attention to the fact that cervical cancer is the only cancer for which we know the cause—high-risk strands of HPV (human papillomavirus). The virus can be detected early—BEFORE IT BECOMES CANCER—through regular screening.

Screening can be done by your doctor using just a Pap test if you're younger than 30, or a Pap and HPV test if you're older. Most health plans cover both tests, but you may have to ask for the HPV test.

If you are overdue for your ob/gyn appointment, Cervical Cancer Screening Month is a good time to schedule it—and to remind your women friends, family members and co-workers to do the same. For additional information about cervical cancer and its prevention and/or to bring a program to your CLUW chapter or union, see [www.cluw.org/cervcancer.html](http://www.cluw.org/cervcancer.html) or call Carolyn Jacobson at 202-223-8360, ext. 4. (You can download a flier for union bulletin boards at [www.cluw.org/cervcancerflier.pdf](http://www.cluw.org/cervcancerflier.pdf).)

Join the campaign by taking the pledge to get a gynecologic exam each year and registering for an annual reminder: [www.cervicalcancercampaign.org](http://www.cervicalcancercampaign.org).

# THANK YOU!

CLUW wishes to thank the following Contributing (\$50), Supporting (\$75) and Sustaining (\$150) members. To become a special member of CLUW, please make your check payable to CLUW and mail to National Treasurer Judy Beard at the CLUW office. Your contribution will help empower women through the labor movement. Please note: Membership contributions change as of January 1 (see box below) and the CLUW office will be moving in mid-January (see back page).

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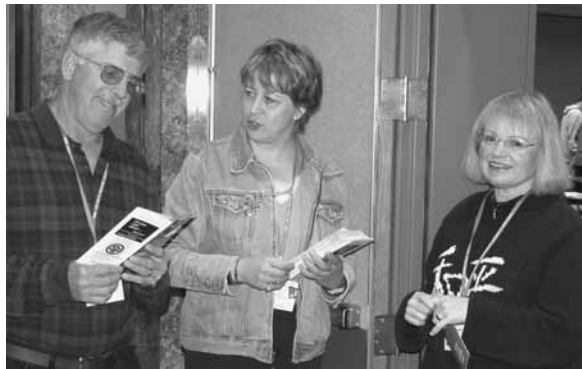
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# LOCAL NEWS

CLUW membership brochures in hand, CLUW National VP Janet Nelson (AFSCME) discusses the goals of the Coalition of Labor Union Women with Steve Boroughs and Barb Zimski (r.) at a recent AFSCME Council 5 convention in Minnesota.



## Metro Detroit

■ Responding to initiatives in California and Washington State that have resulted in abolishing programs designed to recruit women and minorities into non-traditional professions, Detroit CLUW passed a resolution in support of affirmative action and vowed to fight a similar amendment being proposed to Michigan's Constitution. The proposal, deceptively called the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative, would ban public sector voluntary affirmative action programs.

## Pittsburgh

■ Several CLUW members participated in the Pittsburgh ACORN Awards Dinner on December 7 at the Duquesne University Student Union Hall. Attending were CLUW member Mary Ellen Hayden, the newly elected president of Pittsburgh ACORN; Anne McLemore, president of Pittsburgh CLUW; Margaret Hart, treasurer; William Belt, board member; and Charleen Moten of Indiana University of Pennsylvania. ACORN (Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now) works for social justice, affordable housing and better neighborhoods.

■ Members at the December 5 Pittsburgh CLUW meeting donated holiday toys for needy area children.

## CLUW Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Intl Union \_\_\_\_\_  
 Local Union \_\_\_\_\_  
 Enclosed are my CLUW dues: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Type of membership: \_\_\_\_\_  
 I am a member of a bona fide collective bargaining organization.  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Dues increase

Delegates to CLUW's 13th Biennial Convention voted to raise membership fees effective January 1, 2006 for certain categories of membership. The new annual dues structure is:

- Regular Membership: \$50
- Associate Membership: \$50
- New Member: \$35 for the first year
- Retired/Student/Unemployed\*: \$15  
\* a person who is in a collective bargaining situation but temporarily laid off, unable to work due to a hurricane, etc., so long as she is still eligible for membership in her union.
- Contributing Member: \$75
- Supporting Member: \$100
- Sustaining Member: \$150

In addition, the convention created a Lifetime Membership for a one-time fee of \$1,000.

## ■ OPPOSE ALITO NOMINATION

Moving?

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Union Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Let us know your change of address. Send this coupon to the National CLUW office.

Don't stand idly by as the Senate considers a Supreme Court nominee who is hostile to the rights of women and workers. Urge your Senators to oppose Samuel Alito.

Judge Alito's record suggests he would roll back basic legal protections, making him a risky replacement for the Court's first female justice. Sandra Day O'Connor has often cast the decisive vote in a series of 5-to-4 decisions affirming women's legal rights. In her place would be a nominee who has worked to undermine the right to choose, to end affirmative action, and to make it harder for victims of discrimination to win redress in court.

He also subscribes to an extreme view of "federalism" that would dangerously limit Congressional authority. As a Circuit Court judge, for example, he argued that Congress does not have the power to regulate the possession and transfer of machine guns or to enact a key provision of the Family and Medical Leave Act.

Yet, although Judge Alito has clearly stated his legal beliefs through years of court opinions and Justice Department writings, he is asking the public to trust him when he says he has no legal agenda.

Don't believe it. Write your Senators and tell them you agree with AFL-CIO President John Sweeney, who says, "On issues of equality, workers' rights and the power of our elected representatives in Congress to improve Americans' lives, Judge Samuel Alito has repeatedly put basic rights at risk." See [www.cluw.org](http://www.cluw.org) for more information.

**Judge Alito would shift the Court in a new and dangerous direction on core legal issues for women, especially women's reproductive rights, Congress's power to protect the public, and legal protections against discrimination.**



### Coalition of Labor Union Women

1925 K Street, NW, Suite 402  
Washington, DC 20006



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### CLUW IS MOVING!

The National CLUW office is relocating to the AFL-CIO on January 18. New address:  
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New fax: 202-508-6968

