On Tuesday, July 25th the United Association for Labor Education: 43rd Annual Northeast Summer School for Women in Unions and Worker Organizations brought their skills and energy downtown to support the Tompkins County Workers Center campaign for a local minimum wage that is a Living Wage in Tompkins County. It was a joyful sight to see the marchers and their beautiful signs hopping off a TCAT bus and marching to the Bernie Milton Pavilion where TCWC supporters cheered and joined with them. Over 100 supporters brought the message to traffic and passer-bys with hand-made signs and brand new chants.

A series of speakers spoke about pride of being in a union, the hardship of poverty wages, especially for caregiving work. Cornell Graduate Students United spoke about their own efforts on campus. Ithaca City School District Education Support Professionals were also represented and spoke of the challenging work and needed changes.

This rally and the Workers’ Center’s Ithaca Festival parade float (pg 4) both highlighted the ways that the issue of a Living Wage is particularly a feminist issue. Wages for caregiving work are some of the lowest while the work itself is some of the hardest and most important.

Toward the end of the rally a flash mob dance occurred, and by the end of it nearly everyone who attended was dancing. This was one of the most uplifting rallies in recent memory!
Thanks to Tompkins County Workers’ Center (TCWC) for serving as the fiscal sponsor for the Tompkins County Immigrant Rights Coalition (TCIRC). We also appreciate the TCWC’s collaboration on planning events, educational outreach and the NYS Green Light campaign. Together we convinced NYS Assemblywoman, Barbara Lifton, to co-sponsor “Green Light” legislation to issue drivers’ licenses that won’t require proof of US citizenship.

The TCWC and TCIRC share a common concern for the rights of all workers, including those without citizenship, to safe working conditions and to organize for fair treatment. Our first public forum focused on the conditions of immigrant dairy farmworkers in New York State, as documented in the Milked report. Building on the “participatory research” methods in the Milked report, we now plan to research the condition and needs of Tompkins County immigrant workers in the restaurant and hospitality industries and in immigrant communities more broadly. We will include immigrant workers, professors and community organizers in the development and implementation of this project.

Our Tompkins County Immigrant Rapid Response Network has trained over 88 responders who are committed to witness and document the presence of immigration agents in our county. We try to ensure that immigrant rights are respected and provide community support in case of immigrant detentions. **If you witness the presence of ICE or Border Control in our community, you can call our Rapid Response hotline: 607-358-5119.** This year we mobilized our network to respond to ICE’s arrests of local workers. Our experiences with the network motivated us to work on educational outreach for immigrant workers and to develop an Immigrant Legal Fund to support immigrants in our county who have been detained by ICE or Border Control. In April we had a fantastic benefit dinner for the fund. We also published “Guidelines for Immigrants Arrested by ICE,” written by Chotiwat Luenam, based on his personal experience. [You can find these guidelines at the Truthsayers website at: bit.ly/afraidofarrestbyice]

Members of TCIRC have helped to organize protests against US immigration policies and practices locally, regionally and nationally. For example, June 27th we participated in protests against Trump’s immigrant family separation and incarceration policies outside and inside Rep. Reed’s office in Corning with constituents from 5 counties. A few days later on the Ithaca Commons we spoke at the “Families Belong Together” rally (over 500 participants) and led workshops at the “Dismantling Borders” Teach-In. For more information and to get involved, email tcimmigrants@gmail.com or contact Patricia Rodriguez (607-339-1372).

**Back by Popular Demand: Workers' Center T-SHIRTS!**

These snazzy navy blue T-Shirts are now available at the Tompkins County Workers’ Center office on The Commons in downtown Ithaca (115 The Commons/E. Martin Luther King, Jr. Street, above Autumn Leaves Used Books). We appreciate a sliding scale donation of your choice with pick-up of your shirt. You can call our office in advance to let us know you’re coming down for one (607-269-0409) or email us at TCWRH@tcworkerscenter.org.

The TCWC Logo is on the front of the shirt and the image to the left is on the back.

Donations help us cover the cost of the shirts and deliver our programs for workers in the community.
Following retirement from full-time college teaching, I recently studied for and led a Shabbat afternoon “minchah” service at Temple Beth-El in honor of my ascent into Jewish adulthood that had never been celebrated with a Bat Mitzvah service when I was a young teenager. My motivation to connect this event with a light dinner and dance party fundraiser for the Tompkins County Workers Center was a desire to celebrate my current understanding of the “truth” best expressed by my sister educational philosopher Deborah Britzman: “The confusion of love and education begins at birth.”

I was educated very early in my family by both pro-socialist thinking and Jewish tradition, and on account of the positive emotional weight of the early connection-making between the two, I am always surprised when Jews defend the military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, or when left-leaning activists express surprise that I can find joy in daily weekday participation in the patriarchal tradition of morning minyan at the Temple.

I understand that “the confusion of love and education begins at birth” can rationalize lots of horrific beliefs, but I also believe that for each of us human beings, the undertaking prompted by life cycle events of a critical examination of that confusion could increase the army of warriors for social justice our society so desperately needs at this time. The hope is that we can disentangle ourselves from the classism and racism that got mixed up with getting and keeping the early love that was a matter of life and death, and that we can reclaim a very simple morality to help direct our current life energies: everybody needs and deserves basic economic and climate security. Further, underpaid workers are making daily “donations” to the economic security of those of us who have it, (or have some of it).

I urge all families to spread the word: Life cycle events do not need to be associated with gifts we typically neither want nor need. If our highest hopes for the subject(s) of life cycle events is that they will have the capacity to develop their integrity and compassion in order to live a good life, let’s structure the events to support such development.

Barbara is the author of *Haunting and the Educational Imagination*, (Sense, 2014)
Tompkins County Workers Center & the ICSD Educational Support Professionals March Together in the Ithaca Festival Parade

This year for the Ithaca Festival Parade the Tompkins County Workers Center joined with the Ithaca City School District Education Support Professionals to highlight the need for a Living Wage for *everyone* in our community, including the hard-working women and men who support our students and classrooms all year long.

The energy was high even though it was a very rainy day. We enjoyed getting to know each other and share our struggle before the parade. As the parade started we received very warm support from our friends and neighbors all along the parade route.

Photo Credit: Tracy S Voorheis

Join us! We need every voice to stand together to support Living Wages and justice for all workers in Tompkins County. Send in your membership form today (page 7)!
Support Living Wages and justice for all workers in Tompkins County. Send in your membership form today (page 7)!

www.TCWorkersCenter.org

What does it take to make ends meet in Tompkins County? $15.11

www.TCWorkersCenter.org
Support our 114 Certified Living Wage Businesses with over 3025 workers!

We are pleased to welcome four new employers: Women's Opportunity Center, Greensprings Natural Cemetery, Reach Medical and Grayhaven Motel!

Advocacy Center
Alcohol & Drug Council of Tompkins County
Alternatives Federal Credit Union
Autumn Leaves Used Books
Ancient Wisdom Productions
Avital’s Apiaries
Blue Spruce Painting and Decorating
Boyce Thompson Institute
Bridges Cornell Heights
Brightworks Computer Consulting
Buffalo Street Books
Brotherton Construction
Cancer Resource Center of Finger Lakes
Catholic Charities of Tompkins/Tioga
Center for Transformative Action
Child Development Council
Cinemapolis
City of Ithaca
Colonial Veterinary Hospital
Community Dispute Resolution Center
Community Foundation of Tompkins County
Community Nursery School
Community Science Institute
Cornell Child Care Center
Court St. Chiropractic of Ithaca
Downtown Ithaca Alliance
Family and Children’s Service of Ithaca
Feirman Builders, Inc.
Finger Lakes Naturals
Finger Lakes ReUse
First Baptist Church of Ithaca
First Congregational Church of Ithaca, United Church of Christ
First Unitarian Society of Ithaca
Friendship Donations Network, Inc.
Foodnet Meals on Wheels
Grayhaven Motel
Greensprings Natural Cemetery
The History Center of Tompkins County
Holmberg Galbraith, LLP
Home Green Home
Hospicare and Palliative Care
Human Services Coalition of Tompkins County
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local #241
International Food Network, Inc.
Ironwood Builders of Ithaca
Ithaca Cashshare
Ithaca Cayuga Optical Service
Ithaca Health Alliance
Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services
Ithaca Oral Surgery and Implants
Ithaca Urban Renewal Agency
IthacaMed
Ithaca Teachers Association
Jewel Box
Jillian’s Drawers
Julia e Dean Inc/The Clay School
Loaves and Fishes
McBooks Press
Miller Mayer Law Firm
Multicultural Resource Center
New Roots Charter School
Northeast Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine
Nutritional Wellness Center
OAR – Opportunities, Alternatives and Resources
One World Market
Ongweoweh Corporation
Park Foundation
Planned Parenthood of the Southern Finger Lakes
Q2 Solutions
Reach Medical, PLLC
Renovus Energy, Inc.
Schlather, Stumbar, Parks and Salk
Sciencenter Discovery Museum
Segal and Sorensen
Shade Tree Auto, Inc.
Shaw & Murphy Law Firm
Silk Oak/Ithacamade
Singlebrook Technology, Inc.
Snug Planet LLC
Sparks Electric
St. Catherine of Sienna Church
St. John’s Episcopal Church
St. Luke Lutheran Church
St. Paul’s United Methodist Church and Nursery School
Stone Quarry House
Strawbridge and Jahn Builders
Sunbeam Candles
Sunny Brook Builders
Sunny Days of Ithaca
Sustainable Tompkins
Sweet Land Farm CSA
Taitem Engineering
Temple Beth El
The Frame Shop
The Strebel Planning Group
Tiny Timber LLC
Tompkins County
Tompkins County Public Library
Tompkins County Recycling, LLC
Town of Caroline
Town of Danby
Town of Enfield
Town of Ithaca
TRC Energy Services (Ithaca)
Trumansburg Community Nursery School
United Auto Workers Local 2300
Upscale Remodeling Corporation
Village of Cayuga Heights
Viridius Property
The Watershed
Weaver Wind Energy
Women’s Opportunity Center
Youth Farm Project
Are You a Member of the Tompkins County Workers' Center?

I want to Get Involved in the Fight for Workers Rights!

$____ Individual Annual Membership
Due = One Hour’s Wage or 10.40 if not working

During the next year, I’LL BE THERE at least five times for someone else’s fight, as well as my own. Contact me for Rapid Response Alerts.

__________________________________________
Signature

Name (Please Print):
Home Address
City/State/ZIP
Phone
Email

Mail to: TC Workers Center
115 The Commons/ E MLK St. Ithaca, NY 14850
You’ll receive a laminated card in the mail. Great to have you with us!

Is a member of the Tompkins County Workers’ Center
During the year, I’LL BE THERE at least five times for someone else’s struggle as well as my own. If enough of us are there, we’ll start winning.

I’LL BE THERE...
...standing up for our rights as working people to a decent standard of living
...organizing working families to take strong action to secure better economic future for all of us
...fighting for secure family-wage jobs in the face of corporate attacks on working people and communities
...supporting the right of all workers to organize and bargain collectively in the workplace
Labor Day Picnic
September 3rd, 2018  11-3pm
Stewart Park Large Pavilion

Bring a dish to pass if you’re able
burgers and dogs included (veggie too)

Come be with us in struggle and in celebration
for the work we have all done this year.

Annual awards celebration, food, a day at the
park. See you there!

50/50 Raffle! Music! Great folks!