

# UNION CITY

METRO WASHINGTON COUNCIL NEWS, AFL-CIO

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Monday, March 30, 2009

**THIS JUST IN: Free Choice Blitz!** There are several Employee Free Choice Act events on Capitol Hill over the next 36 hours, including **Making Work Pay: Women and the Employee Free Choice Act** today at 10A, ARAW's **"Faces of the Employee Free Choice Act"** Launch with workers, **Martin Sheen and Brad Whitford** (Tuesday at 10A) and **Faces of the Employee Free Choice Act Reception** (Tuesday at 5:30P). [Click here](#) for full details.

**NOVA HOTEL WORKERS DEMAND DIGNITY, RESPECT:** Cooks, housekeepers and other hotel workers rallied at the Sheraton Crystal City Hotel in Arlington Friday, outraged by the hotel's recent firing of three pro-union employees. Herman Romero (at left), a cook at the Sheraton Crystal City for almost 6 years, told *Union City* that he was fired last Tuesday after the hotel claimed "that there is not enough work for us," but that "I believe that the real reason I was fired is because I have been very vocal about the benefits of union representation."



Santana Alvarez, a dishwasher for over 18 years who was also fired last week, said that "even before we were fired, there was too much work; we are greatly understaffed and are forced to work heavy loads for very little money." Delmy Morales, a housekeeper for over 12 years, added "we want to be treated with dignity and respect; we are tired of our managers questioning us about our union activity and then cutting our work hours and pay." - story/photo by Adam Wright

**TEAMSTERS RALLY TO SUPPORT FOODSERVICE WORKERS:** Hundreds of Teamsters rallied Friday in front of the National Restaurant Association (NRA) to denounce the organization's anti-worker and anti-union lobbying activity and raise awareness of the plight of thousands of workers across the country who work at U.S. Foodservice. Chanting "Shame on you!" the demonstrators targeted the NRA for spending millions of dollars a year directly lobbying Congress on behalf of member institutions like U.S. Foodservice, to stop the passage of legislation crucial to workers, including the Employee Free Choice Act, increasing the minimum wage and the Fair Pay Restoration Act. "We need the protection of the Employee Free Choice Act," Frank Solis, a 12-year employee of US Foodservice in Phoenix, told *Union City*. "My friends and colleagues have been harassed, intimidated and



fired for trying to organize and win a union contract." Ryan Proctor, a five-year worker at US Foodservice in Phoenix added "We're not asking for raises - we just want to be treated fairly." - *story/photo by Adam Wright*

**LABOR UPDATES: LOC Union Establishes Fund For Fired Worker:** An emergency fund has been established by AFSCME Local 2910 to help fired Library of Congress food service worker Willie Price during her struggle to get her job back ([Library Of Congress Cafeterias Boycotted Over Firing, UC 12/22/2008](#)). "Willie Price needs our help," reports Local 2910's Jackie Colburn. "Willie has been out of work since December 18, 2008." Checks and money orders can be mailed to the Willie Price Emergency Fund c/o Saul Schneiderman P.O. Box 5349, Takoma Park, MD 20912.



**CESAR CHAVEZ CELEBRATED AT DOL:** AFGE Local 12 is celebrating [Cesar Chavez'](#) birthday tomorrow with a free mid-day screening at the Department of Labor of a 30-minute film about the farmworker leader and civil rights activist, and remarks by Randy Shaw, author of "Beyond the Fields: Cesar Chavez, the UFW, and the Struggle for Justice in the 21st Century." Non-DOL employees are welcome to attend and must contact [campbell.carolyn@dol.gov](mailto:campbell.carolyn@dol.gov) by 5P today to ensure access to the DOL.

**STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR LABOR SEDER:** Tomorrow night's 8th annual [Labor Seder](#) is packed full of singing, storytelling, discussion, reflection and action. The Seder – which starts at 7P -- links the Passover freedom story to the present struggle of day laborers in DC. "The only thing that could make the evening even better would be for you to bring a friend or family member to share the excitement with," says Jews United for Justice Executive Director Jacob Feinspan. [Click here](#) to register online.



**CSA'S "NEWS YOU CAN USE": Free Foreclosure Counseling:** Maryland residents facing foreclosure can get free counseling at the upcoming "[Securing Your Future Expo](#)," reports the Community Services Agency. "Other info available at the Expo includes how to manage your finances, debt management, household budgeting and emergency preparedness," CSA Executive Director Kathleen McKirchy tells Union City. Pre-registration is required for the foreclosure counseling --call 410-426-1118 or [click here](#) and be prepared to bring all your paperwork – but no pre-registration is required for the daylong Expo; volunteer attorneys are being provided by the Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland.



**TODAY'S LABOR HISTORY:** Chicago stockyard workers win 8-hour day (1918); At the height of the Great Depression, 35,000 unemployed march in New York's Union Square. Police beat many demonstrators, injuring 100 (1930); Harry Bridges (I), Australian-born dock union leader, dies at age 88. He helped form and lead the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) for 40 years. A Bridges quote: "The most important word in the language of the working class is 'solidarity'" (1990); More info & ammo for unionists is available online from [Union Communication Services](#) and from the [2009 Slingshot Collective Organizer booklet](#).

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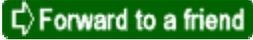
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