LABOR DAY 2011 IN FAYETTEVILLE
WORKERS JUSTICE CENTER
NWA Workers Justice Center invites you to
NWAWJC 1st Annual Labor Day Breakfast
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 3, FUNDRAISER
Breakfast at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 9 to 11.
Contact
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14 ADVOCATES FOR WORKING PEOPLE
Baker, Kimball. *Go to the Worker: America’s Labor Apostles.*
“These were priests and savvy lay leaders who spent half of their time with union members and the other half getting Christians to support organizing drives, strikes, and labor legislation.” Baker profiles 14.

Robert Reich, “March in Protest on Labor Day”
Robert Reich's Blog, RSN August 25, 2011
Excerpt: "Perhaps there would still be something to celebrate on Labor Day if government was coming to the rescue. But Washington is paralyzed, the President seems unwilling or unable to take on labor-bashing Republicans, and several Republican governors are mounting direct assaults on organized labor (see Indiana, Ohio, Maine, and Wisconsin, for example)."
READ MORE http://www.readersupportednews.org/opinion2/279-82/6403-focus-march-in-protest-on-labor-day
This Labor Day we need protest marches rather than parades
It's been the worst decade for American workers in a century. That hardly calls for a celebration.

Verizon worker Steven Simard, of Danvers, Mass., holds a placard and chants slogans from a picket line outside a Verizon office, in Boston. Conditions for American workers warrant protests rather than picnics.

Steven Senne/AP/File

Labor Day is traditionally a time for picnics and parades. But this year is no picnic for American workers, and a protest march would be more appropriate than a parade.

Robert Reich
Robert is chancellor's professor of public policy at the University of California at Berkeley. He has served in three national administrations, most recently as secretary of labor under President Clinton. He has written 13 books, including 'The Work of Nations,' 'Locked in the Cabinet,' and his most recent book, 'Aftershock: The Next Economy and America's Future.' His 'Marketplace' commentaries can be found on publicradio.com and iTunes.

Recent posts

- 08.25.11 This Labor Day we need protest marches rather than parades
- 08.21.11 Austerity is ushering in a global recession
- 08.11.11 We need a bold jobs plan, but Obama shies away
- 08.08.11 Double-dip recession? It would be for no good reason.

...not only are 25 million unemployed or underemployed, but American companies continue to cut wages and benefits. The median wage is still dropping, adjusted for inflation. High unemployment has given employers extra bargaining leverage to wring out wage concessions.

All told, it's been the worst decade for American workers in a century. According to Commerce Department data, private-sector wage gains over the last decade have even lagged behind wage gains during the decade of the Great Depression (4 percent over the last ten years, adjusted for inflation, versus 5 percent from 1929 to 1939).

Big American corporations are making more money, and creating more jobs, outside the
United States than in it. If corporations are people, as the Supreme Court’s twisted logic now insists, most of the big ones headquartered here are rapidly losing their American identity.

CEO pay, meanwhile, has soared. The median value of salaries, bonuses and long-term incentive awards for CEOs at 350 big American companies surged 11 percent last year to $9.3 million (according to a study of proxy statements conducted for The Wall Street Journal by the management consultancy Hay Group). Bonuses have surged 19.7 percent.

This doesn’t even include all those stock options rewarded to CEOs at rock-bottom prices in 2008 and 2009. Stock prices have ballooned since then, the current downdraft notwithstanding. In March, 2009, for example, Ford CEO Alan Mulally received a grant of options and restricted shares worth an estimated $16 million at the time. But Ford is now showing large profits – in part because the UAW agreed to allow Ford to give its new hires roughly half the wages of older Ford workers – and its share prices have responded. Mulally’s 2009 grant is now worth over $200 million.

The ratio of corporate profits to wages is now higher than at any time since just before the Great Depression.

Meanwhile, the American economy has all but stopped growing – in large part because consumers (whose spending is 70 percent of GDP) are also workers whose jobs and wages are under assault.

Perhaps there would still be something to celebrate on Labor Day if government was coming to the rescue. But Washington is paralyzed, the President seems unwilling or unable to take on labor-bashing Republicans, and several Republican governors are mounting direct assaults on organized labor (see Indiana, Ohio, Maine, and Wisconsin, for example).

So let’s bag the picnics and parades this Labor Day. American workers should march in protest. They’re getting the worst deal they’ve had since before Labor Day was invented – and the economy is suffering as a result.

The Christian Science Monitor has assembled a diverse group of the best economy-related bloggers out there. Our guest bloggers are not employed or directed by the Monitor and the views expressed are the bloggers’ own, as is responsibility for the content of their blogs. To contact us about a blogger, click here. This post originally ran on www.robertreich.org.

Sanders to join Vermont Workers’ Center and Vermont labor unions to celebrate labor day
by Press Release | August 25, 2011

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August 23, 2011
Contact
James Haslam, Vermont Workers’ Center
802-272-0882

Celebrate Labor Day the Old Fashioned Way—with Workers and Unions Burlington and Middlebury Celebrations with Sen. Bernie Sanders, Workers’ Center and Vermont labor unions

When: Labor Day, September 5, 2011
Where: 12noon – 3pm, Battery Park, Burlington, VT (in case of rain Contois Auditorium) 5-7pm, Town Green, Middlebury, VT (in case of rain St Stevens Church on the Green)

• What: Senator Bernie Sanders will join members of the Vermont Workers’ Center and Vermont labor unions to celebrate Labor Day and learn how we can address the needs of working families in Vermont and in this country. Music by Vermont bands Coba Stella and Secret Heliotropes and free BBQ. Presented by Vermont Workers’ Center, Vermont AFL-CIO, Vermont N-National Education Association, and Vermont State Employees Association (VSEA).

END OF LABOR DAY NEWSLETTER 2011