

Hudson Mohawk May Day Committee

www.hudsonmohawkmayday.org

News Release: For Immediate Release

Labor Organizer from Bolivia and a representative from the Venezuela Consulate to be among speakers at “May Day 2006”

The Hudson-Mohawk May Day Committee is planning the 8th Annual May Day Celebration of International Workers Day on Sunday, April 30, and Monday, May 1, 2006. This year’s theme is “Lessons from Latin American Workers.” With hundreds of thousands of immigrant workers mobilizing on the streets for their human rights, and with a nation-wide immigrant general strike called for May 1, May Day 2006 promises to be an historic day.

The May 1 program being developed will be held at Bush Memorial Hall on the campus of Russell Sage College, Troy, NY, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Among the speakers are:

Claudia Lopez is an organizer of the Cochabamba chapter of the Federation of Factory Workers of Bolivia and active in the development of political education programs and strategies for Federation members. Claudia, as a member of the Federation, played a key role in the Coalition in Defense of Water and Life, the organization credited with uniting peasants, environmentalists, teachers and blue and white-collar workers in the fight against the granting of control of the public water supply system to global giant Bechtel Corporation. This successful campaign, known as the “Water War of 2000,” reversed the privatization of water in Cochabamba, and created a community-based operation of the water supply. The May Day Committee is actively working to get a visa for Claudia in time for the May 1 program.

Susan Gauss is Assistant Professor (joint with Department of Latin American and Caribbean Studies), Department of History, University at Albany. Professor Gauss is currently working on a book manuscript that examines the political and social origins of rising industrialism in post-revolutionary Mexico and also researching issues of gender, class, and violence in the textile industry in Mexico in the 1940's. She will be speaking on “The World of Mexican Workers in Historical Perspective.”

(more)

The program will also include Williams Camacaro from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela Consulate office in New York City.

A representative from the Immigrant Rights movement will speak.

In addition to the program on Monday May 1, "Fiesta Latina" will be held on Sunday, April 30, 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm at St. Patrick's/Holy Family Church, 282 Quail St., Albany. The free program will include flamenco guitarist Maria Zementauski, a bilingual storyteller and dancing.

The Hudson-Mohawk May Day Committee includes members from the Troy Area Labor Council, Solidarity Committee of the Capital District, Eighth Step, New York Labor History Association, the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, a number of area labor unions and other activists. They have planned educational and entertaining events on May 1 throughout the Capital District for the last seven years. Both programs this year are free, but donations will be accepted.

May Day, the International Workers Day, celebrated by workers throughout the world, began in the United States with the struggle for the 8-hour work day and the Haymarket Massacre in Chicago in 1886.

For more information about the May Day 2006 Celebration contact Dan Wilcox, 518-482-0262, email: dwlcx@earthlink.net; or Art Fleischner, 438-4206 ext. 202.