



THE DISPATCHER

www.ilwu.org

VOL 77, NO 2 • FEBRUARY 2019

THE INSIDE NEWS

LETTERS TO DISPATCHER 2

ILWU members attend Women Build Nations conference 2

Keith Shanklin: Local 34's first African-American President 3

Secretary-Treasurers Conference May 19-23 3

TRANSITIONS 8

BOOKS & VIDEO 8



ILWU International President Willie Adams joined family and friends to celebrate the life of former Local 6 Sec-Treasurer Fred Pecker.

page 4



Photo by Otto Pippenger

Campaign launch: Workers at Anchor Brewing in San Francisco launched their union effort with supporters who visited customers and small businesses on February 7. Anchor is hammering workers with an anti-union campaign before the March 6th union election.

Anchor workers organize at craft brewery

Workers who make one of the nation's best-known craft beers – Anchor Steam – are organizing to join the ILWU. Their grassroots, home-grown campaign is filled with energy and attracting national headlines because craft brews are hot, profitable and popular with young people. If the Anchor workers vote for the union on March 6th, they'll join the ILWU and be some of the first craft brewery workers to organize.

Unlike most craft brewers, Anchor has deep roots. They were founded in San Francisco more than a century ago in 1896. But they've also been swept along with many new craft brews that have been bought by big corporate players. Anchor was purchased in 2017 by Japan's Sapporo for \$85 million.

In recent years, wages, benefits and working conditions at Anchor went from relatively generous to

skimpy. Employee Garrett Kelly says he joined the company three years ago, starting at \$15.50, with 180 hours of paid sick leave and 45 minute paid lunches. Retirement was a 401(k), not a pension, but the company matched 3% of what he contributed. Now the match has been taken away, lunch is down to 30 minutes and half their sick time has disappeared. Looking back, some employees remember five years ago when the starting pay was over \$17 an hour.

"It's a tale as old as time — it's just a concentration of wealth at the top with a complete disregard for workers," Kelly told a reporter.

Another thing mentioned by many workers is the increased time they spend commuting to work, because low wages and the lack of affordable housing is pushing them and other families out of the city.

When a majority of the sixty or so brewery workers decided it was time to do something, they reached out to the ILWU after considering other unions. Before that step, they contacted the Democratic

Socialists of America (DSA) San Francisco Chapter, which is full of young activists including some craft beer workers. They're savvy about public media, public relations and know how to organize actions that are fun and effective. Their organizing campaign was launched in the Mission District's nightclub area, where dozens of workers and volunteers visited local bars to chat-up patrons, bartenders, owners and snag selfies that were posted with the hashtags #anchorunion and #anchoredinsf.

Sapporo management first responded by promising to remain "neutral," but has now hired union-busting consultants and is forcing workers to attend anti-union lectures. Some workers have been told to remove their union buttons but most brewery workers are proudly wearing theirs.

"We're prepared for the company's anti-union campaign," said union supporters Ryan Enright and Bruce Belden. "We're keeping

continued on page 3

Postmaster: Send address changes to The Dispatcher, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109-6800.



30 ILWU members attend 8th annual 'Women Build Nations' conference in Seattle

A record number of rank-and-file women attended this year's "Women Build Nations" conference in Seattle on October 12-14.

The annual event aims to support women who are already working or training to become members of 14 different building trade unions that operate in the US and Canada. While not part of the National Association of Building Trades Unions (NABTU), the ILWU women who attended were warmly welcomed and encouraged to participate.

"Some ILWU women have attended this conference in the past on their own, but this was the first time that we attended as a recognized union," said Fran Grove of Local 94. "It's important for our union to be included at this level because we move construction equipment and materials that make it possible for other women in the trades to build nations." Grove organized ILWU attendees by mailing letters to locals and by reaching out to sisters via social media. She was also the point person who contracted NABTU on behalf of the ILWU delegation.

Thousands of women attended the three-day conference that unofficially opened on Friday with a community service project coordinated by Habitat for Humanity. Several ILWU women volunteered for the effort that built four small houses for Seattle's homeless.

"It was truly amazing to work side-by-side with ladies from the building trades who helped people get

off the streets," said Vanetta Hamlin from Local 10. "I learned some new construction skills, and refined my skills in team building!" Hamlin is the Records Clerk at her local.

An opening reception on Friday night featured buffets, speakers, and live entertainment – plus a preview of what was coming in the next two days.

"Friday night really set the stage for the rest of the conference," said Maria Adame from Local 13. "Women from all over the country attended and I really wanted to get to know them." Adame is the first female crane trainer lead on the west coast.

Saturday morning began with a plenary session that featured prominent speakers from various governmental agencies that enforce workplace safety and health laws. The morning's highlight was a session with Kayleen McCabe, a general contractor who stars in the reality TV show, "DIY." She dazzled her audience with humorous anecdotes about working as a union construction expert who stars in her own weekly show.

After lunch, members from each union were asked to stand. The ILWU was the last union called, but the sisters from our locals were probably the loudest, especially when the emcee added the W-O when she said International Longshore and Warehouse-WO-men! The applause was thunderous!

Later that afternoon, almost 3,000 women took to the streets of downtown Seattle, making an impressive banner parade that



Women power: A large and diverse group of ILWU women attended a conference last Fall in Seattle with thousands of women union activists.

culminated with a rally at Westlake Park, five blocks from the Washington State convention center where we were meeting. Each union was represented by sisters who chanted and cheered old and new labor songs while proudly displaying their union banners. The parade seemed to grow stronger as each of us gained confidence from being there with so many participants. It's important to note that our parade was supported by family members, including other men, women and children who marched with us and remained for the rally.

"The parade was both a testament of solidarity and demonstration of camaraderie among women from all different unions," said Stef Flores, a member of Local 54 in Stockton, CA, who also serves as an International Representative to the ILWU Canada Young Workers Committee. "I just had to stand there to take in the fact that we're all part of a larger movement."

Besides the general sessions and plenary meetings, there were many smaller break-out sessions for topics that included 12-Step Meetings, union caucuses, group exercises, a musical jam session, and a double-feature movie at night. Optional registration was required for a special taskforce on issues facing women at the national level, including a political action clinic and policy forum.

Other workshops held throughout the weekend covered topics including health & safety, getting involved in union leadership, strategies to make change in the workplace, mental health and dealing with pressures on the job.

"Female ILWU workers have everything in common with women in the traditional building trades, except for how we are hired into our union," said Grove. "We deal with the same issues and endure the same hardships as any woman working in

continued on page 3

LETTERS TO THE DISPATCHER

Dear Editor,

Dave Arian and I were feeding 44-pound banana boxes to the conveyor belt. There must have been 20 guys working that deck, a lot of noise and yelling "up on the big one down on the little one" then Dave yells, Heads up!"

Several months later I had a chance to ask Dave, 'What happened after you said 'heads up' and in his typical San Pedroista way of pointing out the obvious Dave said, "Dummy, you looked up." That was good old Dave Arian. As much as he was short of sympathy and etiquette, he was all about seeing clearly the lay of the land and where justice stood. He learned that at home.

Year's before I was visiting Arthur, Dave's older brother and Dave, were complaining to his dad—known as "Honest Lou" on the docks—that someone was sleeping on the couch, which was where Dave slept. So Honest Lou says to Dave, "The guy on the couch is drunk and needs the couch more than you do" and that's where Dave learned about justice.

There was a time when Dave was lettering in tennis and his nickname was "Mouse." He kept to himself was quiet and didn't have much to say. At that time, we were involved in the Civil Rights movement. It was a violent summer in the south and we were demanding the federal government do something to stop the violence and protect Civil Rights workers who had taken the summer to

do God's work in Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi. Dave and a hundred other good people decided to make their point at the federal building in downtown LA by committing civil disobedience. Back then justice was not only learned at home, sometimes the law had its way of making the point and maybe we owe something to the LAPD for the lessons they taught "Mouse"

Dave was a scientist in that he collected the facts, analyzed them and proposed a theory. But it wasn't all theory. He practiced what he preached. Dave was a worrier, he chose his path and he kept to it, come hell or high water or jail.

Dave did five days in LA's finest jail and when "Mouse" came out of that jail I swear he roared like a lion and he never stopped roaring.... until just the other day. I can't believe he is gone. In fact, I can hear echoes of his roar from all over the world. It has been said that the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice. So I have faith that Dave has prevailed and I know his last words to us are, "Don't mourn for me, ORGANIZE"

Lewis Wright, Local 63

"Retired from the industry, Not the struggle"

Send your letters to the editor to: *The Dispatcher*, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109-6800 or email to editor@ilwu.org

DISPATCHER

Craig Merrilees
Communications Director and Managing Editor
Roy San Filippo
Editor

ILWU TITLED OFFICERS
William E. Adams, President
Bobby Olvera, Jr., Vice President, Mainland
Wesley Furtado, Vice President, Hawaii
Edwin Ferris, Secretary-Treasurer

The *Dispatcher* (ISSN 0012-3765) is published monthly except for a combined July/Aug issue, for \$5.00 a year and \$10.00 a year for non-members by the ILWU, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109. Periodical postage paid at San Francisco, CA. *The Dispatcher* welcomes letters, photos and other submissions to the above address © ILWU, 2012. Postmaster: Send address changes to *The Dispatcher*, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109-6800.



Keith Shanklin: Local 34's first African-American president

Sitting in his office, newly-elected ILWU Local 34 President Keith Shanklin recalls the first time that he saw the working waterfront. "I remember going to an amusement park in Long Beach called the Pike which had a view of the Port," Shanklin said. He remembered looking out and seeing the cranes and rows of containers. "Of course I had no idea then that this industry would become my life and make me what I am today." Shanklin would become the first African-American President of Local 34 when members elected him their president on January 17th.

In 1996, Shanklin began his longshore career as a casual at Local 10. He entered the industry through the lottery system after completing a 12-years hitch in the Navy as an aircraft mechanic. He still remembers the day that he struggled out of bed with a high fever in order to wait in line and enter the lottery. After winning the lottery and starting to get occasional work as a casual, the Alameda Naval Base was closed and he had to take another job in the small town of Herlong, CA, located about 70 miles north of Reno.

Long commute

"I do believe that I had one of the longest commutes of any casual," said Shanklin. He'd drive down when the dispatch phone message said there was plenty of work and stay for several days before returning to Herlong.

"I'd take any job that came up, from cleaning the parking lot to lashing a ship." His persistence and hustle paid-off when Shanklin found himself at the top of the promotion list, becoming a "B-book registrant" after working two-and-a-half years as a casual – which was fast by today's rate. "The wait times are much longer now because the industry has changed," he said. Back then, employers needed tractor drivers, so Shanklin and other newly-registered longshore workers immediately got heavy equipment training. He received his A-book in another year and a half.

Shanklin also credits the waterfront culture for his chance to advance. He thanked more experienced workers for sharing their knowledge with him and others who were just learning. "You have to teach for another to learn," he says. "We have to help our new brothers to come up – and not let them struggle on their own."

Finding mentors

Early in his career, Shanklin was drawn to political activism and is grateful to those who mentored him, including Leo Robinson, Clarence Thomas and Henry Graham. He says they "took me under their wings and motivated me to go forward," adding that Leo Robinson was especially helpful in teaching him about trade unionism.

Giving back

"I believe the union is here for one reason – to make sure workers have a chance to provide for their families," Shanklin said. "I also believe that a union member has to give back to their



Historic election: Keith Shanklin was elected as the first African-American president of ILWU Local 34. Before joining the ILWU as a casual in 1996, Shanklin served in the US Navy. He was stationed on board the aircraft carrier Enterprise during the filming of the movie, "Top Gun" and appears in several scenes.

community and their union. It's not just about collecting your paycheck. You have to give back."

As an activist, Shanklin was an officer in the Million Worker March, a gathering of over 10,000 labor activists at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC on October 17, 2004, that was founded by Local 10 members Trent Willis, Clarence Thomas and Leo Robinson. Shanklin also volunteered to serve on the Local 10 Executive Board and Grievance Committee. He said serving on those committees and attending educational programs put on by the Longshore Division gave him tools he needed to become an elected officer.

Transfer to Local 34

In 2002, Shanklin transferred from Local 10 to Local 34. He said he transferred to explore the clerical side and because it was less stress on the body.

He excelled as a clerk because he was good with computers and at solving puzzles.

"I used to do a lot of puzzles when I was a kid, and that is basically what

a clerk does. The only difference is that you are dealing with containers full of cargo that is very important to someone far away. You have to make sure you're on top of your game."

Shanklin is also passionate about politics, but took a step back more than a decade ago to focus more time on his family, but eventually returned to his activist roots.

Encouraged to step-up

He credits outgoing Local 34 President David Gonzales for encouraging him to run for his new position.

"It's a unique honor to be elected the first African-American president of this local. I appreciate the membership for putting me in this position to serve them and be the voice they need to enforce the contract. We have a strong employer who fights us tooth and nail, every single day. My job is to ensure that we provide a good service and return home safe at the end of the day, that we continue to make this industry safer, our clerks more knowledgeable and that we pass on the ILWU tradition of solidarity to the next generation."

ILWU to Hold Secretary-Treasurers Conference

The ILWU will be holding a conference for local union financial officers May 19-23 in Seattle, Washington

Called the Secretary-Treasurers conference, the 5-day event will cover various aspects of union and financial administration, election rules, and recordkeeping, and is designed to ensure compliance with federal regulation and internal union procedures. Instructors include ILWU attorneys, union staff, and International and local officers.

Each U.S. local and affiliate is invited to send two participants: its secretary-treasurer (or other officer in charge of finances and recordkeeping) and the office manager or other staff person who maintains the union's financial and administrative records. Depending on the number of official participants, space may be available for a limited number of trustees selected by their local union. Only individuals nominated by their local affiliate will be permitted to attend.

An official announcement has been sent to each local.

Participants may register online at <https://www.ilwu.org/2019-ilwu-secretary-treasurers-conference/>

Anchor workers are organizing at San Francisco's craft brewery

continued from page 1

everyone informed about the usual lies and distortions from union busters."

Anchor workers are also embracing the spirit of solidarity by reaching out to support other worker organizing campaigns, including employees at

the nearby San Francisco Veterinary Specialists animal hospital. They also held actions during San Francisco's official "Beer Week." The *Dispatcher* will feature an update about their campaign and election in the March issue.

30 ILWU members attend 8th annual 'Women Build Nations' conference in Seattle

continued from page 2

a predominantly male industry. That's why it's so important for us to interact with women from other trades, so that we can learn from each other."

Grove plans to use the WBN model to organize a conference exclusively for ILWU women. A planning committee is pending with representatives from every local. Grove notes that the biggest obstacle will be securing funding to

enable women from every ILWU local to participate and attend.

"It will take a lot of work from our sisters and a lot of support from our brothers, but it can be done," said Grove. The ILWU Women's Conference is tentatively set for San Francisco in March of 2020.

Vivian Malauulu
Local 13

Fred Pecker: passionate “rebel with a cause” led Local 6 through successful organizing campaigns

Fred Pecker, who led Local 6 members through difficult times by helping workers organize, win strikes and fight for immigrant rights, passed on December 20, 2018, following a battle with pancreatic cancer.

Challenging times

Pecker joined the ILWU in 1985 after getting hired at Guittard Chocolate when Local 6 had several thousand members, a small fraction of the 19,000 workers on the books in 1946. The first decline came in 1950 after Teamster officials spent \$1 million to raid Local 6 warehouses and attack ILWU leaders as “unpatriotic communists.” The second drop began in the 1970’s as companies moved from the Bay Area to exploit low-wage labor, first in Mexico, then China. When those foreign-made goods arrived in containers to West Coast docks, most bypassed ILWU warehouses in favor of non-union facilities in the California’s Central Valley, Inland Empire or the deserts of California and Nevada, where unions were scarce. That process was still underway when Pecker emerged as a new leader at Local 6 while another 12 shops closed and 800 union jobs vanished in three years from 1991-1994.

Humble beginnings

Pecker’s first Local 6 job at Guittard involved cleaning-up piles of chocolate that spilled onto the factory floor. “I was on graveyard and would walk around with a tray and scraper. Chocolate was just coming out of packings on the tanks and oozing down the sides of machines. It was beautiful.” His wife, Susan Solomon added, “It was the only job where he came home smelling better than when he left.”

Radical roots

Fred Jonas grew up in a working class neighborhood of Queens, New York, which he said was “kind of like where Archie Bunker lived,” referring

to the conservative, working-class television character in the 1970’s sitcom, “All in the Family.” Unlike Archie, Pecker’s family had radical roots that included socialist grandparents who immigrated from Europe. His father Calman and mother Sylvia joined the American Communist Party when they were young, but quit after becoming disillusioned. Both remained strong union supporters and were active in their teacher unions. Pecker said his mother “told us if we ever crossed a picket line we were going to have some broken legs – and she was a non-violent person!” His father “kept everything inside” and “wasn’t a real communicative person,” because of trauma suffered during WWII, when he was sent behind Nazi lines to scout during the bitter-cold battles of the Rhine and famous bridge at Remagen.

“Be with people”

Despite reticence, Fred’s father conveyed sage advice about how his son could be an effective radical. “He used to tell me that going out at night with a bucket of paint and writing something on a wall wasn’t going to start a revolution. He said that it takes being with people.” His parents also emphasized the importance of unions and solidarity, saying, “the only way we get anything in life is by sticking together.”

A 14-year-old Teamster

Using that advice, Pecker began working with union members at a young age, learning about people and unions. He got his first summer job on a Manhattan street-corner “shape-up,” where temp workers were hired for short-term positions at Teamster warehouses and delivery routes.

Although he was only 14-years-old, Pecker worked 16-hour days and soaked up information about the Teamsters Union from seasoned union men who taught him what they knew, including unsavory details such as payoffs that were part of the job. These



Recycling justice: Fred Pecker on the steps of Oakland City Hall at a rally for Alameda County recycling workers. The campaign brought together labor, environmental and religious leaders to transform wages and conditions for East Bay recycling workers.

early warehouse and delivery jobs continued during his middle and high school years, and became useful when Pecker explored a career in teaching.

Falling in love

In 1977, Pecker was taking education classes at New York’s State University in Buffalo where he was joined by Susan Solomon. The two had met over a decade earlier because their parents were friends, political allies, and worked as teachers. Fred and Susan fell in love, started living together when Fred was 18, and married two years later. Susan’s parents and grandparents were San Francisco natives and political radicals. Those views cost her father a public school teaching job when he refused to sign a “loyalty oath” that required him to renounce his left-wing political views. Such oaths were eventually weakened by the courts, but destroyed many families and caused suicides during the 1950’s.

Teaching and learning

After Fred and Sue finished their teacher training, they thought about moving to San Francisco, but Fred was deeply connected to New York. Sue spent their final years in New York getting a Master’s degree in Education and working at a co-op nursery school while Fred worked at an early childhood center in the South Bronx, one of the state’s poorest neighborhoods. The staff at his center was in the middle of a campaign to win a better union contract. Pecker jumped into the conversations, sit-ins and street actions. He experienced his first union defeat at his next job where teachers helping children with parents caught in the criminal court system tried to organize a union. That drive ended when some union activists were fired. “I learned that it’s kind of hard to tell people to put your ass out on the line, if you don’t have somebody who’s standing with you or unless everybody’s ready to walk,” he concluded. Soon after they moved to San Francisco.

Coming to California

When they arrived to San Francisco in 1983, both took classroom teaching positions with low-income preschoolers at the Head Start program, and immediately began organizing parents and fellow teachers to improve conditions by forming a union. The campaign was successful and workers eventually secured a contract, but management responded by firing Sue for being pregnant with their son Herschel – something that was illegal but common 45 years ago. Fred remained a while longer but was later forced to resign. With both out of work and a baby on the way, they badly needed a job. Sue’s family was in a position to help, thanks to deep ILWU roots that included uncle Leroy King and the Patton family who had worked in distribution and warehouses for decades. Pecker got some casual work on the waterfront but it wasn’t enough.

“I was looking for work and Leroy King sent me to the Local 6 hiring hall where I registered with Henry McKnight, who was the Business Agent,” explained Pecker. “Henry had a good enough relationship with Guittard Chocolate that he was able to send people to work there and he got me a job.”

Connections with Leroy King

The connection to Leroy King was important, but Pecker also proved himself and became a leader in his own right. Their leadership styles were different, but Pecker always held enormous respect for King, who managed to survive many decades of ugly racism and political attacks. During the 1950’s, uncle Leroy and aunt Judy had been hounded without mercy by the FBI for having joined the Communist Party. Their inter-racial marriage caused them to be evicted from many San Francisco apartments. While King later softened his radical politics, he remained connected to Local 6, was a player in the ILWU, a

continued on page 5



Early morning picket: Fred Pecker (left) at an early morning picket for recycling workers at RockTenn in Concord, CA.

fixture at the city's Labor Council, and San Francisco's longest-serving city commissioner until he passed in 2015 at the age of 91.

Rising from the ranks

Pecker had only worked a few years at Guittard Chocolate when he was elected Chief Steward. Soon after, he was elected a Convention Delegate and Trustee. In 1991 he was elected to be a full-time business agent, helping workers at Guittard and dozens of other shops. He helped organize social activities with workers and their families, using picnics and holiday parties to build solidarity. The overwhelming challenge of that era involved "runaway shops," a process Pecker said was "in full swing" when he became a new leader in the 1980's and early 90's. The coffee industry, once a mainstay of Local 6, had been hit hard with closures at Folgers, Hills Brothers, S&W and Safeway. Liquor warehouses such as Hiram Walker were also moving away, along with massive paper and printing supply warehouses that once served the vanishing Bay Area printing trades. Besides seeking lower-wages, many companies were victimized by "leveraged buy-outs," a process developed by Wall Street to acquire profitable companies, bury them in debt, then sell-off parts of the business to make a profit – often killing the original company in the process.

No help from politicians

Pecker said, "these were not situations where the company was looking for a way to stay in business. The companies had made a business decision and just wanted to keep things calm until they shut."

Local politicians were sympathetic, but had no power. Presidents Reagan and Bush did nothing during their terms while thousands of factories closed each year. Congress finally passed a weak law called the "WARN Act" in 1988, but it merely required large plants to notify workers 60 days before closing. Bill Clinton was elected in 1992 as a "New Democrat" who made a priority of courting wealthy donors, corporate executives and Wall Street bankers to lobby for his NAFTA "free trade" agreement with Mexico. Workers and unions were largely ignored.

Pensions become defining issue

The larger economic and political changes hurt all unions, including members at Local 6, where the once-powerful "Master Warehouse Agreement" was jointly negotiated with the Teamsters following a truce reached decades earlier with the rival business-friendly union. Local 6's pension plan was also hurt because fewer active workers were supporting the plan's growing number of pensioners. Most Local 6 leaders were reluctant to discuss the pension problem because there was no easy solution. The problem could be ignored, but it was only growing worse. Benefits could be cut, but nobody wanted that. The third alternative, which Pecker supported, was to organize more workers into Local 6 to make the union stronger and improve the pension plan. This was the option Pecker favored, but he got little

support from other Local 6 leaders because organizing was so difficult, risky and could destabilize the Local 6 political order.

Choosing to organize

Pecker organized new call centers in the Bay Area that hired people to raise funds for non-profit and progressive political causes. He worked with the International Union on an innovative campaign to help bike messengers organize – a campaign Fred enjoyed because of the colorful characters involved and unconventional tactics they employed. But the largest and most successful campaign was one developed with the International Union to help workers build power in the East Bay waste and recycling industry. Local 6 already represented some workers in the industry, but hundreds more were still unorganized – and many of the existing contracts were lacking. Pecker wisely began the campaign by organizing to improve the existing waste contracts, believing those struggles would develop new leaders and organizing skills among the rank-and-file. The next step called for Local 6 members with those improved recycling contracts to help organize their non-union counterparts in the East Bay.

Recycling workers campaign

Pecker's ambitious plan came together on February 2, 2013 when 150 workers and family members filled the Local 6 hall in Oakland for a historic "Convention of Recycling Workers." The event was conducted mostly in Spanish and chaired by rank-and-file recycling workers. Union officials, including Pecker and International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams, took a lower profile. A wide range of special guests attended, including new allies from the environmental movement and supportive politicians. A Catholic Diocese leader pledged his support and recalled that his own father had been a member of Local 6 many decades ago and had joined militant organizing campaigns to win improvements.

Historic Convention

Pecker spoke briefly, outlining a vision to transform the recycling industry throughout the East Bay with good wages, benefits and new rights, including health and safety protections. The State's top two OSHA officials attended and supported the campaign. Pecker emphasized that a militant approach was needed, and the plan was adopted by everyone present. There were many challenges, including large numbers of undocumented immigrant workers who were eager to fight for the union, but vulnerable to employers calling-in "la migra" to punish troublemakers. Immigration experts spoke at the Convention and stayed afterward to address those concerns. Another problem involved the Teamsters Union that represented East Bay waste drivers and had secured good-paying jobs for imembers. They initially supported the recycling workers' campaign, then collaborated with waste companies to prevent recycling workers from winning dramatic improvements.



Organizing messengers: Fred Pecker speaking at a press conference drawing attention to the dangerous conditions for San Francisco's bike messengers who organized to join Local 6.

Trouble with Teamsters

Tensions with East Bay Teamsters had flared earlier in 2007, when ILWU's predominantly low-wage female, Latina workforce at Waste Management honored Teamster and Machinist Union picket lines. This was when the Teamsters were locked-out for more than three weeks. ILWU members stood firm despite having no warning, no savings and no right to unemployment insurance. Promises by Teamster officials to protect Local 6 from company retaliation never materialized. Without support from the Teamsters or Machinists Union, Waste Management went ahead and retaliated against Local 6 by outsourcing dozens of call-center jobs and suing the ILWU for supporting the lock-out. Pecker was furious, but there was little he could do.

An impressive victory

Despite these and many other challenges, Pecker prevailed in leading a successful campaign in multiple cities that transformed the East Bay recycling and waste industry – raising standards and putting hundreds of workers and families on a path out of poverty. New contracts were signed, more workers joined Local 6 and existing contracts were strengthened.

Disappointments

While Teamster officials failed to stop recycling workers from winning these dramatic improvements, Pecker continued to have concerns, noting that Teamsters had recruited a former Local 6 official with better pay – allowing them to monitor internal issues at Local 6 and quietly intervene on occasions, including during the recycling campaign. Pecker recalled how similar tactics were used by Teamsters during their 1950 raids against Local 6, and more recently at Local 17 where they recruited a former ILWU official with a good-paying job who then encouraged workers to leave the ILWU and affiliate with the Teamsters. At Local 6, mounting problems with the pension provided a new opening for the Teamsters, who held meetings with Local 6 members who were told they could join the better-funded Teamster pension – if Local 6 workers would agree to transfer control of their Master contract from the ILWU to the Teamsters, which eventually happened. It was a bitter pill for Pecker, who tried but failed to rally support for an organizing strategy that

would strengthen the Local 6 pension and avoid a future Teamster takeover.

Another setback occurred when Pecker lost his reelection bid by two dozen votes for Secretary-Treasurer in 2017. He'd held the top post at Local 6 for five terms, beginning in 1997 when he defeated a controversial incumbent.

Following the ILWU tradition, Pecker returned to his job at the Guittard chocolate factory where he started 34 years before. He remained active in the SF Labor Council, the ILWU Northern California District Council and Jobs with Justice. He had continued to be a fixture on picket lines and protests, where he met and made hundreds of friends during his three decades in the Bay Area Labor movement.

Love of music

Besides his love for unions and devotion to social justice, Pecker was passionate about music. He played the electric bass and performed with the ILWU Blues Band at union events during the late 1980's and early 90's. Pecker said he believed "music is something that brings us together," and was fond of quoting the pioneering radical Emma Goldman, who once said, "If I can't dance, I don't want your revolution." His taste in music was wide-ranging and detailed, including familiarity with obscure blues artists from the Mississippi Delta, Memphis, Kansas City and Chicago. He was familiar with performers in West Africa and groups in Cuba, Puerto Rico and Brazil. He had a deep love for all forms of African-American music, including gospel, soul, rhythm & blues and funk – but was especially devoted to jazz and had an encyclopedic knowledge of players along with a massive recording collection, which he donated along with his musical instruments and equipment to the Oaktown Jazz program that trains and mentors young jazz players in Oakland.

Recognition and reflection

Pecker was diagnosed with late-stage pancreatic cancer in the Spring of 2018 and enrolled in experimental drug trials, but ended chemotherapy when the cancer failed to respond. He received dozens of friends and family members at his home in San Francisco's St. Francis Square – a cooperative housing project of 300 units sponsored by the ILWU in 1963 that was the first racially-integrated site

continued on page 8

Fred Pecker: un apasionado “rebelde con causa” dirigió con éxito campañas de organización y huelgas para el Local 6

Fred Pecker, que dirigió a los miembros del Local 6 en momentos difíciles al ayudar a los trabajadores a organizarse, a ganar huelgas y luchar por los derechos migratorios, falleció el 20 de diciembre de 2018, cuando perdió su lucha contra el cáncer pancreático.

Momentos difíciles

Pecker ingresó al ILWU en 1985 después de ser contratado por Guittard Chocolate cuando el Local 6 tenía varios miles de miembros, pero solo una pequeña fracción de los 19,000 afiliados que tenía el sindicato en 1946. La primera pérdida empezó en 1950 cuando el sindicato de los Teamsters gastó \$1 millón para robarle los miembros al Local 6 en los almacenes y atacar los dirigentes del ILWU calificándolos de “comunistas antipatrióticos.” La segunda pérdida empezó en la década de los 1970 cuando las compañías abandonaron la zona de la Bahía para explotar a la mano de obra barata primero en México y luego en China. Cuando esas mercancías fabricadas en el extranjero llegaron a los muelles del Pacífico, la mayoría no fueron depositadas en los almacenes ligados al ILWU, sino que fueron a dar a las instalaciones no sindicalizadas en el Valle Central, el “Inland Empire” en California o los desiertos de California y Nevada. Fue en esa época que Pecker surgió como nuevo dirigente del Local 6, justo cuando se cerraron 12 centros de trabajo adicionales y 800 empleos sindicalizados se esfumaron en tres años entre 1991 y 1994.

Orígenes humildes

En el primer empleo que tuvo Pecker en Guittard se dedicaba a limpiar montones de chocolate que caían al suelo de la fábrica. “Yo trabajaba en el turno de la noche y cargaba siempre una charola y un raspador. El chocolate estaba escapándose por los sellos de los tanques y chorreando por los lados de las máquinas. Era una belleza.” Su esposa, Susan Solomon agregó, “Era el único trabajo donde llegaba a la casa oliendo mejor que cuando se iba a trabajar.”

Raíces radicales

Pecker se crio en un barrio obrero de Queens, Nueva York, que decía que parecía “un poco al barrio de Archie Bunker,” haciendo referencia al personaje conservador de clase obrera del programa “All in the Family.” A diferencia de Archie, los familiares de Pecker tenían orígenes radicales ya que los abuelos eran socialistas inmigrados de Europa. Su padre Calman y madre Sylvia ingresaron al Partido Comunista Americano en su juventud, pero después la decepción llevó a que lo abandonaran. Ambos siguieron siendo fuertes simpatizantes de los sindicatos y

combatían activamente en sus sindicatos de maestros. Pecker contó que su madre “nos dijo que si alguna vez atravesábamos una línea de piquete, nos iba a poner una paliza – ¡y eso que era una persona que no creía en la violencia! Su padre “se lo guardaba todo” y “no era muy comunicativo,” debido a los traumas sufridos en la Segunda Guerra Mundial, cuando se le mandó a reconocer el terreno tras las líneas de los nazis durante las batallas libradas en un frío brutal en el Rhine y el famoso puente de Remagen.

“Estar con la gente”

A pesar de ser reservado, el padre de Fred le dio consejos sabios a su hijo acerca de cómo podía ser un radical efectivo. “Me decía que salir a la calle de noche con un balde de pintura y pintar algo en un muro no iba llevar a la revolución. Dijo que para eso hay que estar con la gente.” Sus padres también enfatizaron la importancia de los sindicatos y la solidaridad, diciendo “la única manera de poder lograr algo en la vida es uniéndonos.”

Un Teamster a los 14 años

Pecker aplicó esos consejos y empezó a trabajar con los trabajadores sindicalizados a temprana edad, aprendiendo sobre la gente y los sindicatos. El primer empleo de verano lo consiguió en una esquina de Manhattan, en donde se contrataban a los jornaleros temporales de los Teamsters para trabajar en almacenes y como choferes de reparto.

Aunque solo tenía 14 años, Pecker trabajaba jornadas de 16 horas y de los miembros veteranos de los Teamsters absorbió información valiosa acerca del sindicato, incluso detalles desagradables como los sobornos que eran parte del trabajo. Continuó con estos primeros empleos en los almacenes y como chofer de repartos mientras asistía a la escuela media y superior, y le sirvieron cuando Pecker empezó a hacer la carrera de maestro.

El enamoramiento

En 1977, Pecker estaba tomando clases de educación en la Universidad Estatal de Nueva York en Buffalo cuando se juntó con Susan Solomon, a quien había conocido más de una década antes porque sus padres eran amigos de los suyos, al igual que aliados políticos y trabajaban como maestros. Fred y Susan se enamoraron, empezaron a vivir juntos cuando Fred tenía 18 años, y se casaron dos años después. Los padres y abuelos de Susan eran radicales políticos originarios de San Francisco. El padre de ella perdió su trabajo como maestro en una escuela pública cuando se negó a firmar un “juramento de lealtad” que implicaba renunciar a sus convicciones izquierdistas. Los tribunales fueron mermando dichos juramentos, pero muchas familias quedaron destruidas



Luchando por justicia: Más de 200 trabajadores del reciclaje sostuvieron una gran huelga en Julio del 2013. “Queríamos una mejor vida para nuestras familias,” dijo Alejandra León, ex-recicladora y líder quien ahora trabaja como organizadora sindical. Ella habla en la celebración honrando la vida de Fred Pecker el 23 de Febrero. Pecker murió en Diciembre. “Fred nos ayudó a obtener mejores salarios y respeto” dijo ella.

y llevaron a algunos al suicidio en la década de los 50.

La enseñanza y el aprendizaje

Después de que Fred y Sue terminaron su capacitación para el magisterio, pensaron en mudarse para San Francisco pero Fred estaba muy arraigado en Nueva York. Sue se dedicó a estudiar una maestría en Educación y trabajar en una cooperativa de enseñanza preescolar mientras que Fred trabajó en una preprimaria en el South Bronx, una de las vecindades más pobres del estado. El personal de su preprimaria estaba en plena campaña para renovar su contrato colectivo. Pecker se dedicó de lleno a las conversaciones, las sentadas y manifestaciones. Tuvo su primera derrota sindical en el siguiente empleo en el que trataron de sindicalizarse los maestros que ayudaban a niños cuyos padres estaban siendo procesados por el sistema de justicia penal. Esa campaña terminó cuando algunos de los activistas sindicales fueron despedidos. “Aprendí que no es fácil animar a la gente a que arriesgue el cuero si no cuenta con alguien que se comprometa a apoyarla o si la mayoría no está lista para hacer el paro,” concluyó. Poco después de eso se mudaron a San Francisco

Al llegar a California

Cuando llegaron a San Francisco en 1983, ambos consiguieron puestos de maestro en un programa de Head Start para preescolares de bajos ingresos e inmediatamente empezaron a formar un sindicato, organizando a los padres y a sus compañeros de trabajo para mejorar las condiciones. La campaña tuvo éxito y los trabajadores finalmente consiguieron un contrato colectivo pero la administración respondió con el despido de Sue por estar embarazada con su hijo Herschel, lo cual era ilegal pero algo que era muy común hace 45 años. Fred siguió trabajando allí por un rato más pero después se le obligó a renunciar. Al verse los dos desempleados y a punto de nacer su hijo, les urgía conseguir trabajo. La familia de Sue estaba en condiciones de ayudarles, gracias a que su tío Leroy King y la familia Patton habían sido miembros

de ILWU por décadas, trabajando en centros de distribución y almacenes. Pecker trabajó como eventual en los muelles, pero no era suficiente.

“Andaba buscando trabajo y Leroy King me mandó al centro de contratación del Local 6 en el que me inscribí con la ayuda de Henry McKnight, el agente sindical,” explicó Pecker. “Henry tenía una buena relación de trabajo con Guittard Chocolate, a tal grado que podía colocar allí a los que necesitaban empleo y me consiguió uno a mí.”

Las conexiones cuestan

La conexión con Leroy King fue importante pero Pecker tenía que hacer méritos y mostrarse capaz de ser líder por sí mismo. Los estilos de liderazgo de cada uno era distinta pero a pesar de esas diferencias, Pecker le tenía un gran respeto a King, que logró sobrevivir muchas décadas de racismo atroz y ataques políticos. Durante la década de los 1950, el tío Leroy y tía Judy habían sido hostigados sin tregua por el FBI por haber sido miembros del Partido Comunista. Su matrimonio interracial causaron su desalojo de varios apartamentos en San Francisco. King después suavizó su radicalismo, pero siguió participando con el Local 6 y el ILWU, era una figura permanente en el Consejo Laboral de la ciudad, y el comisionado más antiguo de San Francisco hasta que falleció en 2015 a los 91 años.

Ascenso desde la base

Pecker solo había trabajado unos cuantos años en Guittard Chocolate cuando fue elegido Delegado Principal. Poco después, fue electo como delegado a la Convención y al puesto de Fideicomisario. En 1991, fue elegido al puesto de Agente Sindical de tiempo completo para ayudar a los trabajadores de Guittard y decenas de otros centros de trabajo. Ayudó a organizar actividades sociales con los trabajadores y sus familias, usando los días de campo y fiestas navideñas para promover la solidaridad. El reto más grande de la época era la “huida de fábricas,” un proceso que Pecker dijo

continued on page 7

que estaba en su apogeo cuando él se convirtió en nuevo dirigente en los años 80 y 90. La industria del café, una vez el sostén del Local 6, había sufrido un golpe duro con los cierres de Folgers, Hills Brothers, S&W y Safeway. Los almacenes de licores como Hiram Walker también se estaban yendo, junto con los almacenes masivos de papel y suministros de imprenta que una vez abastecían las empresas de la impresión de la zona de la Bahía que huyeron a Nevada y Hong Kong, zonas sin sindicatos. Además de buscar mano de obra barata, muchas compañías fueron víctimas de las “compras apalancadas”, un proceso desarrollado por Wall Street para adquirir compañías redituables, endeudadas al tope, luego venderlas por partes para sacar una ganancia, y de paso destruir la compañía original.

Los políticos no ayudaron

Pecker dijo “en esas situaciones las compañías no tenían interés en seguir operando. Ya habían tomado una decisión sobre el negocio y simplemente querían mantener la calma mientras lo cerraban.”

Los políticos locales simpatizaban pero no tenían poder. Los presidentes Reagan y Bush no hicieron nada durante sus mandatos mientras miles de fábricas cerraban cada año. El Congreso finalmente aprobó una ley débil llamada la Ley WARN en 1988, pero simplemente requería que las grandes plantas notificaran a los trabajadores de que se cerrarían en 60 días. Bill Clinton fue elegido en 1992 como el “Nuevo Demócrata” que se dedicó a atraer a los donantes políticos, ejecutivos corporativos y banqueros de Wall Street acaudalados para que promovieran el tratado “de libre comercio” NAFTA con México. Los trabajadores y los sindicatos casi no fueron tomados en cuenta.

Las pensiones se volvieron la cuestión definitoria

Los cambios económicos y políticos globales perjudicaron a todos los sindicatos, incluso los miembros del Local 6, que habían negociado el Contrato Maestro de Almacenes conjuntamente con los Teamsters, el sindicato rival pro empresarial, después de una tregua acordada varias décadas antes. También fue perjudicado el fondo de pensiones del Local 6 debido a que no había suficientes miembros para sostener las pensiones de un número creciente de retirados. La mayoría de los dirigentes del Local 6 evitaban el tema de las pensiones porque no había una solución fácil. El problema se podía ignorar pero solo iba a empeorar. Se podían reducir los beneficios para los retirados pero nadie quería eso. La tercera alternativa, que fue la que Pecker apoyó, fue la de ampliar las filas del Local 6 organizando a más trabajadores. Así se fortalecía el sindicato y se mejoraba el plan de pensiones. Esta fue la opción que escogió Pecker, pero pocos dirigentes del Local 6 lo apoyaron porque la sindicalización era tan difícil, arriesgada y podía desestabilizar el balance político del Local 6.

La opción de organizar

Pecker organizó a los empleados de los nuevos centros de llamadas en la zona de la Bahía que recaudaban fondos para organizaciones sin fines de lucro y causas políticas progresistas. Colaboró

con el Sindicato Internacional en una campaña innovadora para organizar a los mensajeros en bicicleta – una campaña que Pecker disfrutó por los personajes pintorescos y las tácticas subversivas que emplearon. Pero la campaña más grande y más exitosa desarrollada con la ayuda del Sindicato Internacional fue para empoderar a los trabajadores de las empresas de basura y reciclaje del East Bay. El Local 6 ya representaba algunos trabajadores de ese sector pero sus cientos de trabajadores más no estaban organizados y los contratos vigentes tenían deficiencias. Pecker sagazmente empezó la campaña organizando a los miembros del Local 6 para que mejoraran sus contratos vigentes, con la idea de que se formaran líderes en esa lucha y desarrollaran su capacidad para organizar a los miembros de base. El siguiente paso consistía en que esos miembros del Local 6 con sus contratos de reciclaje mejorados ayudaran a organizar a sus compañeros no sindicalizados en el East Bay.

Campaña de los trabajadores del reciclaje

El plan ambicioso de Pecker dio frutos el 2 de febrero de 2013 cuando 150 trabajadores y familiares llenaron el salón del Local 6 en Oakland para una histórica “Convención de Trabajadores del Reciclaje.” El evento se llevó a cabo principalmente en español y fue dirigido por los trabajadores de base. Los dirigentes del sindicato, incluido Pecker y el Secretario Tesorero Internacional Willie Adams, jugaron un papel secundario. Una amplia gama de invitados especiales estuvieron presente, incluso nuevos aliados del movimiento medioambiental y funcionarios políticos simpatizantes. Un líder de la Diócesis Católica se comprometió a dar su apoyo y recordó como su padre había sido miembro del Local 6 muchas décadas antes y había participado en campañas combativas de sindicalización para conseguir mejoras.

Convención histórica

Pecker habló brevemente, delineando una visión para transformar el sector del reciclaje en todo el East Bay con buenos salarios, beneficios y derechos adicionales, incluyendo protecciones para la salud y seguridad industrial. Los dos funcionarios principales de OSHA del estado asistieron y apoyaron la campaña. Pecker insistió en que se requería tener un enfoque combativo, y el plan fue adoptado por todos los concurrentes. Hubo muchos retos, incluso la gran cantidad de trabajadores inmigrantes indocumentados que estaban dispuestos a luchar por el sindicato pero que corrían el riesgo de que los empleadores llamaran a la “migra” para castigar a los alborotadores. Expertos en materia de inmigración hablaron en la Convención y se quedaron después del evento para responder a las inquietudes. Otro problema consistía en que el sindicato de los Teamsters que representaba a los choferes de camiones de basura en el East Bay había conseguido empleos bien pagados para sus miembros, pero se apresuraron a colaborar con las empresas comerciales de desechos para impedir que los trabajadores de reciclaje logaran mejoras substanciales.

Problemas con los Teamsters

Las tensiones con los Teamsters en el East Bay empeoraron a principios de 2007, cuando la fuerza laboral de Waste Management, en su mayoría mujeres latinas que ganaban salarios bajos, respetaron las líneas de piqueteo de los sindicatos de los Teamsters y Maquinistas. Esto fue durante el paro patronal que duró tres semanas. Los miembros de ILWU no se doblegaron a pesar de que no se les avisó por adelantado, no tenían ahorros ni derecho a beneficios de desempleo. Los dirigentes de los Teamsters hicieron promesas vacías de proteger al Local 6 de las represalias del empleador. Sin apoyo de los Teamsters o Maquinistas, Waste Management tomó represalias contra los miembros del Local 6, subcontratando los puestos del centro de llamadas y demandando a ILWU porque sus miembros se negaron a trabajar durante el cierre patronal. Pecker se enfureció pero no había mucho que se pudiera hacer.

Una victoria impresionante

A pesar de estos y otros retos, Pecker logró dirigir con éxito una campaña en varias ciudades que transformó el sector del reciclaje en el East Bay, ya que mejoraron las normas de trabajo y se crearon las condiciones para que cientos de trabajadores y sus familias salieran de la pobreza. Se firmaron nuevos contratos y más trabajadores se integraron al Local 6 y se fortalecieron los contratos vigentes.

Decepciones

Aunque los dirigentes del Sindicato de los Teamsters no pudieron impedir que los trabajadores del reciclaje consiguieran esas mejoras impresionantes, Pecker siguió teniendo preocupaciones, ya que los Teamsters habían contratado a un ex dirigente del Local 6 pagándole un mejor salario, lo cual les permitía informarse de las cuestiones internas del Local 6 e interferir de vez en cuando, incluso durante la campaña de los trabajadores del reciclaje. Pecker recordó que los Teamsters utilizaron tácticas similares en sus incursiones contra el Local 6 en los años 50, y más recientemente en el Local 17, cuando reclutaron un antiguo dirigente del ILWU con un salario superior, que animó a los trabajadores a que abandonaran al ILWU y se afiliaran a los Teamsters. Dado el creciente problema de las pensiones para los miembros del Local 6, el Sindicato de los Teamsters se aprovechó de la situación y llevó a cabo reuniones con miembros del Local 6 para ofrecerles una solución al problema de las pensiones si se inscribían en el plan de pensiones de los Teamsters que estaba más solvente, a cambio de que los miembros del Local 6 le traspasaran a los Teamsters el control de su contrato colectivo maestro, que finalmente ocurrió. Fue un trago amargo para Pecker, que trató de conseguir apoyo para una estrategia de organización que hubiera fortalecido el plan de pensiones del Local 6 y evitar el control por los Teamsters en el futuro.

Hubo otro tropiezo cuando Pecker perdió su reelección por unas cuantas decenas de votos al puesto de Secretario Tesorero en 2017. Ocupó el puesto principal del Local 6 por cinco mandatos, empezando en 1997

cuando derrotó al líder polémico que ocupaba el puesto.

Obedeciendo la tradición de ILWU, Pecker volvió a su empleo en la fábrica de chocolates Guittard donde había empezado 34 años antes. Siguió participando en el Consejo Laboral de San Francisco, el Consejo del Distrito del Norte de California de ILWU y Jobs with Justice. Mantuvo una presencia constante en las líneas de piquete y protestas, en donde conoció y adquirió cientos de amigos a lo largo de las tres décadas que militó en el movimiento sindical en la zona de la Bahía.

Amor por la música

Además de su amor por los sindicatos y devoción por la justicia social, Pecker tenía pasión por la música. Tocó el bajo eléctrico con el ILWU Blues Band en los eventos del sindicato a finales de los años 80 y principio de los 90. Pecker solía decir que “la música es algo que nos une,” y le gustaba citar a Emma Goldman, la pionera radical, que una vez dijo, “Si no puedo bailar, no quiero participar en tu revolución.” Sus gustos musicales eran amplios y detallados, incluyendo familiaridad con artistas desconocidos de la música blues de la delta fluvial de Mississippi, Memphis, Kansas City y Chicago. Conocía la música de artistas de África Occidental y de Cuba, Puerto Rico y Brasil. Tenía un gran amor por todos los tipos de música afroamericana, incluso la música “gospel,” “soul,” “rhythm and blues” y “funk”, pero era devoto del jazz y tenía un conocimiento extenso de los músicos además de una colección enorme de grabaciones, que donó junto con sus instrumentos y equipo musicales al programa de jazz de Oaktown que forma y asesora a los jazzistas jóvenes en Oakland.

Reconocimiento y reflexión

A Pecker le diagnosticaron el cáncer pancreático avanzado en la primavera de 2018 y se le inscribió en los ensayos de fármacos experimentales, pero dio por terminada la quimioterapia cuando el cáncer no respondió. Recibió a decenas de amigos en su hogar de St. Francis Square en San Francisco, un conjunto de vivienda cooperativa consistente de 300 viviendas patrocinado por ILWU en 1963 que fueron las primeras viviendas en las que se aceptaban personas de todas las razas en San Francisco. Permaneció en su hogar durante sus últimos meses y días, viviendo con su esposa Susan, su hijo Herschel e hija Naomi.

Pecker no pudo asistir a la 37a. Convención de ILWU en junio de 2018 en la que los delegados de Portland unánimemente aprobaron una resolución para “honrar, reconocer y celebrar su singular determinación, gracia, buen humor e interés por el bienestar de los demás. Tú nos has apoyado a nosotros, compañero Pecker, y ahora nosotros nos unimos a ti y a tu familia en estos momentos difíciles.”

El Consejo Laboral de San Francisco honró a Pecker unos días después con su propia resolución, halagando su servicio al movimiento sindical que prestó por décadas. Asimismo, fue galardonado por funcionarios de San Francisco que lo recibieron en la Alcaldía el 4 de diciembre de 2018

continued on page 8

Fred Pecker: passionate “rebel with a cause”

continued from page 5

in San Francisco. He remained at home during his final months and days, living with his wife Susan, son Herschel and daughter Naomi.

Pecker was unable to attend the ILWU 37th Convention in June, 2018, where delegates in Portland unanimously passed a resolution to “honor, recognize and celebrate his characteristic determination, grace, good humor and concern for others. You have stood strong with us, Brother Pecker, and we now stand with you and your family during this challenging time.”

San Francisco’s Labor Council honored Pecker a few days later with their own resolution praising his decades of service to the labor movement. Similar honors were bestowed by San Francisco officials who welcomed him to City Hall on December 4, 2018, during a meeting of the Board of Supervisors, who presented a special resolution praising Pecker’s decades of devotion to worker justice. It was his final public

appearance; he passed peacefully surrounded by family on December 20, 2018.

Celebrating his life

A celebration of Pecker’s life brought hundreds to Local 10’s Memorial Hall on February 23, 2019. The event reflected the breadth and depth of his many friends and followers. Musicians from the Oaktown Jazz project played and sang. Family and friends shared stories, honored his many contributions, and shed a few tears. ILWU International President Willie Adams attended the event and praised Pecker as “a man of courage and principles who helped transform Local 6 and got it on track.”

Pecker is survived by his wife and lifelong partner, Susan Anne Solomon, son Herschel Simon Pecker and his partner Courtney Elise Hight, and daughter Naomi Clara Solomon and son-in-law Bradley Ryan Allen – in addition to many loving aunts uncles, cousins, cousins-in-law, and chosen family, without whom his family tree would have been incomplete.

Fred Pecker: un apasionado “rebelde con causa”

continued from page 7

durante una reunión de la Junta de Supervisores, quienes presentaron una resolución especial halagándolo por su dedicación a la justicia laboral a lo largo de varias décadas. Fue su último acto de presencia; falleció tranquilamente en compañía de su familia el 20 de diciembre de 2018.

Se realizó una celebración de la vida de Pecker en el Pabellón Conmemorativo del Local 10 el 23 de febrero de 2019. El evento reunió a los muchos y variados amigos y seguidores de Pecker. Los músicos del proyecto de jazz de Oaktown tocaron y cantaron. Los familiares y amigos compartieron

historias, haciendo honor a sus muchas contribuciones y se acompañaron en su duelo. Willie Adams, Presidente Internacional de ILWU, asistió al evento, halagando a Pecker como “un hombre de coraje y principios que ayudó a transformar y encauzar al Local 6.”

A Pecker le sobrevive su esposa y compañera de toda su vida, Susan Anne Solomon, su hijo Herschel Simon Pecker y su compañera Courtney Elise Hight, su hija Naomi Clara Solomon y yerno Bradley Ryan Allen, además de muchos tíos, tías, primos, primos políticos y familiares, sin los cuales su árbol genealógico hubiera quedado incompleto.

TRANSITIONS

NEW PENSIONERS:

Local 8: Curtis C. Meuler; Dwayne D. Wamsher; Jon P. Hollingsworth; Elizabeth A. Torres; **Local 13:** Jack Bagliazio; Charles L. Ponce; Maria A. Pisano; Raymond A. Mejia; Ruth Brown; Sotero Martinez; Javier C. Diaz; Kevin D. Deshon; Felix Aguirre; Dolores Velasco; Winifred B. Perez; Anthony R. Matas; Robert M. Shiraki; Lois L. McIntyre; **Local 19:** Milton L. Britts; **Local 29:** Michael Miramontes; Jackie Givens; **Local 34:** Samuel P. Smith;

DECEASED PENSIONERS:

Local 4: Teddy M. Hauser; **Local 8:** Thomas E. Daw; Edward Elbersen (Sheila); **Local 10:** Roosevelt Calhoun; Earnest Oliver; Jesse G. Griffin; Larry Malliett; **Local 13:** Howard E. Dempsey; Piligrino Barriga (Alice); Tony Diaz; Gordon L. Foley Alan D. Arian; Ernest L. Garcia (Dorinda); Isaiah S. Moore, Jr.; Timothy A. Wade; Samuel F. Tauaefa; Antonio Palma; **Local 21:**

Lon A. Ylonen; **Local 23:** Melvin L. Hayward; James M. Ulianich; James E. Dubacher; David H. Vaver; **Local 24:** Richard A. Frost (Constance); **Local 27:** Robert G. Caso; **Local 29:** Jerry U. Roiz (Sharon); **Local 34:** Patrick E. Cooley; **Local 92:** Donnie R. Brown; Jerrold K. Wyatt; **Local 98:** Rebecca S. Edson; Robert C. Arnestad;

DECEASED SURVIVORS:

Local 8: Lena M. Thorud; **Local 10:** Wilda Malbreau; **Local 12:** Mary J. Johnson; **Local 13:** Miranda I. Mussa; Kathleen Marino; Estela G. Arreola; Anita P. Mendoza; Mary Mirkovich; Debora E. Lescoe-Kaufman; **Local 19:** Iva N. Jennings; **Local 40:** Doris Smith; **Local 46:** Soledad F. Hernandez; **Local 52:** Ruth J. Morse; Frances Tracy; **Local 63:** Mary T. Higashi; **Local 91:** Bernice C. Stone; Jacqueline Carr; **Local 98:** LaVerne Ventoza;

A Helping Hand...

...when you need it most. That’s what we’re all about. We are the representatives of the ILWU- sponsored recovery programs. We provide professional and confidential assistance to you and your family for alcoholism, drug abuse and other problems—and we’re just a phone call away.

ILWU LONGSHORE DIVISION

ADRP—Southern California
Tamiko Love
29000 South Western Ave., Ste 205
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275
(310) 547-9966

ADRP—Oregon
Brian Harvey
5201 SW Westgate Dr. #207
Portland, OR 97221
(503) 231-4882

ADRP—Northern California
Hunny Powell
HPowell@benefitplans.org
400 North Point
San Francisco, CA 94133
(415) 776-8363

ADRP—Washington
Donnie Schwendeman
3600 Port of Tacoma Rd. #503
Tacoma, WA 98424
(253) 922-8913

ILWU WAREHOUSE DIVISION

DARE—Northern California
Teamsters Assistance Program
300 Pendleton Way
Oakland, CA 94621
(510) 562-3600

ILWU CANADA

EAP—British Columbia
John Felicella
3665 Kingsway, Ste 300
Vancouver, BC V5R 5WR
(604) 254-7911

ILWU BOOK & VIDEO ORDER FORM

ORDER BY MAIL

___ copies of **Solidarity Stories** @ \$17 ea. = \$____

___ copies of **A Spark Is Struck** @ \$13.50 ea.= \$____

___ copies of **The Legacy of 1934** @ two for \$5 = \$____

___ copies of **Harry Bridges** @ \$10 ea.= \$____

___ copies of **ILWU Story** @ \$5 ea. = \$____

___ copies of **The Big Strike** @ \$9.00 ea. = \$____

___ copies of **The Union Makes Us Strong** @ \$20 ea. = \$____

___ copies of **Eye of the Storm** DVD @ \$5 ea. = \$____

___ copies of **We Are the ILWU** DVD @ \$5 ea. = \$____

___ copies of **A Life on the Beam** DVD @ \$5 ea. = \$____

Total Enclosed \$____

No sales outside the U.S.

We regret that U.S. Customs and postal regulations create too great a burden for our staff to maintain book sale service to our members and friends outside the United States.

Name _____
Street Address or PO Box _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make check or money order (U.S. Funds) payable to “ILWU” and send to

ILWU Library, 1188 Franklin Street, San Francisco, CA 94109

Prices include shipping and handling.

Please allow at least four weeks for delivery. Shipment to U.S. addresses only