

PRIDE AND A PAYCHECK

Women's Guide to Blue Collar Jobs
News...Poetry...Art
Vol. 12, # 3, May/June 2010

TRADESWOMEN RISING

*(rise above) succeed in not being limited or constrained by
(a restrictive environment or situation)...Oxford Dictionary*

By Pat Williams, Vice President, Operating Engineers
Los Angeles, Local 501

October 1, 1979, I signed on the line to become an apprentice with Operating Engineers Local 501. I had no idea really what I was getting into nor what journey lay ahead of me. There were 2 other women 501 apprentices at the warehouse: I had no idea how RARE it would be to work with other women on the job site. I found that out really quickly. In 1979 there were no women in leadership. Not at 501 anyway. I seriously doubt in any other unions either. (If there were, **please** let me know so I can spread the word about them.) In 1979 there wasn't even a woman journey engineer yet. That was a few years out.

At that time the concept of me becoming an assistant chief engineer, much less Vice President of my local was about like heading to the moon.

The message was that I would be lucky to graduate the apprenticeship! There were constant stories of women who came and went within months and the guys took bets on how long I would last - in weeks, not years. Well, here we are 30 years later and things sure have changed. Women are in all types of leadership roles: business agents, vice presidents, presidents, foremen, construction managers, vocational instructors, financial secretaries, all phases of union leadership. IBEW even boasts woman Business Manager!

At the first Women Building California Conference I attended, Debra Chaplan, (State Building and Trades Council) asked for all those to stand who are in leadership roles and listed 1 by 1 different titles. I was then and continue to be in awe to see my sisters stand, women who have accepted and triumphed over the challenges that exist for us in the building and construction trades to become leaders and role models. The last few years I made note of a new trend. The first years it seemed that mostly those standing were those of us who have been in for *years*. Now I see those younger women stand up, women who didn't have to spend 20 years or more to somehow break the barrier. Now THAT is inspiring!

I think it is really important to honor our women who have transitioned into these roles. First it recognizes their personal accomplishment. None of these positions are attained without dedication, hard work, struggles and headaches and heartaches. None of us have the old time 'dad was foreman so I will be too' mentality. That doesn't exist for us.

Equally important, we need to make the information available to younger women that there are women leaders out here and offer encouragement for them to reach for what ever position they want. **All of these thoughts are what lead me to Tradewomen Rising.**



Pat Williams, Los Angeles CA



(Continued on page two.)

TRADESWOMEN RISING

By Pat Williams, continued from page one.

Tradeswomen Rising is a forum to celebrate and document the achievements, accomplishments, triumphs and efforts of tradeswomen. We would like this to become an ongoing documentation of women transitioning into various leadership roles. Below is a list of those that I know about. I know there are *many* more. Please send information about others so we can keep adding to this. I will send out information to the Blue Collar list a few times a year and Pride and a Paycheck will make a spot for it. With permission, all information I receive will be given to the Tradeswomen Archive at Cal State Dominguez Hills.

Completed apprenticeships to journey level:

Cheryl Hale - IUOE Local 501 - also named Outstanding Apprentice of her graduating class
Davi Jackson - IUOE Local 501
Jennifer Murphy - IBEW Local 11
June Quan - IBEW Local 11
Natalie Rojas - IBEW Local 11
Kristi Tuemmler - IUOE Local 3 - also named Outstanding Apprentice of her graduating class

Accolades:

Dee Soza- IBEW Local 551 - Distinguished Woman of Labor Award - State of California

Status Updates:

Suzanne Acone - IBEW Local 441 - Electrical Instructor, Long Beach City College
Beth Barton - Carpenters Local 1596 - Executive Board alternate, MOWIT Board President
Margarita Marquez - Pipefitters UA 393 - Recording Secretary
Heather Skopic - IUOE Local 501 - Los Angeles Training Center Instructor
Jane Templin - IBEW Local 11 - Vice President
Congratulations to you for RISING ABOVE and being an inspiration to us all!
More updates in future issues of Pride.

EQUAL RIGHTS ADVOCATES San Francisco. For questions about your legal rights call the Advice and Counseling Line: 1-800-839-4372. Leave a message at ANY time. A counselor will call back. Visit www.equalrights.org for more info. See bottom of ERA Home Page "Review ERA's Know Your Rights Brochures. Tradeswomen Legal Rights are at the end of the list on the right side of the page.

DEAR SISTERS By Jeanne Park Ironworker, Local 377



Jeanne Park

The weather's warming up and that usually means work in the trades is picking up as well. Many of us will be working outdoors in the heat and the sun. In recent summers, **reports of deaths of farm workers due to hyperthermia have increased.** The new Cal/OSHA regulation—Title 8, section 3395 (<http://www.dir.ca.gov/Title8/3395.html>) is now in place to prevent these tragedies.

On outdoor construction sites, long hours can intensify the effects of heat. Working around welding, decking (the galvanized sheets of metal that support concrete floors), and the intense physical requirements of some work all increase the dangers of heat. So if you know the day is going to be hot, dress appropriately! If you have no idea (like I often don't)—wear layers you can remove. Light colors are better in the sun because darker colors absorb heat. Loose clothing allows for better evaporation of sweat. Don't let a fashion statement get in the way of doing your job better **or surviving the day.**

You probably know that **wearing sunscreen prevents your skin** from being damaged from extended exposure to the sun. If you're a welder it's an extra good idea: the **ultraviolet** light from welding arc, even reflected light, can burn your skin even more intensely. Choose a sunscreen wisely—there's a lot out there. **I recommend** sweat-proof sunscreen that is hypoallergenic—you don't need to be sweaty AND breaking out in bumps and rashes. Reapply **sunscreen** if you can during your **breaks because** even sweat proof sunscreen wears off during hard work. There are also sunscreens that come in a convenient roll stick, which is super easy to carry around and apply.

I used to tease rodbusters for wearing those large hardhats that are shaped like cowboy hats. I still think they look silly. **But the main thing about them:** they have the largest brim available for a hardhat. Sometimes just that much more shade can make things bearable in the sun. If you can't bring yourself to wear anything other than a standard hardhat, there are liners and sweatbands that you can soak with water that work with hardhats or can be worn around your neck. But if you show up with one of those mini-fans attached to you, I will make fun of you.

Supposedly everyone knows that you should drink water when you're hot. The OSHA checklist suggests about 1 cup of water every 15 minutes. That seems like an awful lot of water—but you have **the** right to have that water available to you. Remember—as you sweat, you're also losing salts. Salt also helps you to absorb water—that's why a lot of sports drinks contain electrolytes. **That's also** why it's easier when you're super hot to drink cold sweet drinks than just plain water.

You've been waiting for the winter to be over forever: take care of yourself in the summer months! It will make that **after-work** barbecue and beer that much more fun.

Take care, work safe,
Jeanne Park, San Francisco CA

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Report from Justice for Bianca (JFB) www.justiceforbianca.info -- Update on the case of Bianca Wisniewski **GREETINGS FROM NEW YORK CITY**

Bianca, a pioneering female hardhat who was in the midst of bringing a \$20 million dollar sexual harassment & gender discrimination lawsuit against her employer and alleged harasser, was killed in a fire in her apartment (October 18, 2009), the day before she was to appear in court for hearings in her case. A group of NYC women in the trades have taken up her cause. Bianca's 18 year old daughter, Nicole, is going forward with the lawsuit. Back in November, when Bianca's attorney went to file papers we were there with signs for JFB, leafletting the area to bring public awareness to the case. Since then, we have contacted sister tradeswomen from NY and across the country informing them of JFB. Wherever they could/can they have been very helpful. We have developed Press Kits for the media. We have met with some NYC Council members. **SEXUAL HARASSMENT IS AGAINST THE LAW. We must hold the Unions and contractors accountable. JFB Members** had a sit-down meeting with the Council Speaker Christine Quinn's Liaison for Women's Issues and an attorney for the Council. Bianca's attorney has filed an update on the Amended Complaint for the trial to commence. We will be in the court room in our Hard Hats! You can be there too in spirit! We're asking all of you to go to **Face-book** and **join the JFB link**. Sisters everywhere must unite to "bring change" and make **contractors accountable to ENFORCE the law. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!**

..... Words of Inspiration by Raequel (Papillon) Smith....."OUR GREATNESS"

What is the matter with a little fear if it can be used for an energy to motivate ideas and energy to get through my tiresome day? Today my load as a laborer was 1100 pounds and I am grateful to have the stamina to do so. Lately I have had to put some effort forth to stay in a positive frame of mind, there have been letters of layoffs and my company is in the middle of negotiations. No matter what, we must push past the present circumstances to our greatness. When everything is going our way, it is much easier to be great and wise.



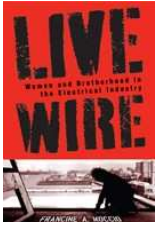
This is really the time of greatness to smile when the rain is coming down literally and to do my duty as a Civil Worker and to shine in dark unsure times. Our greatness is discovered when there are heaps of upheaval yet we shovel through the murk and then as tradesmen get to see our work piece by piece, "How rich is that". Our greatness is in the making not just in the aftermath of what work we have done but the work itself. **Continue to be great in day to day victories my Trades Sisters.**

Raequel (Papillon) Smith, San Pablo CA, Laborer, SF City worker.

PRIDE AND A PAYCHECK'S PHONE IS (510) 627-0063. Mailing Address is 484 Lake Park Avenue, #315, Oakland CA 94610. Contact us at: tradesis@aol.com Subs are FREE. Send your poetry and work stories to this address! Special thanks to **Madeline Mixer** for her indispensable support, funding and proofreading skills as well as topic ideas. Thanks to my railroad sister, Electrician **Penny Artis Nunes** and railroad brother, Locomotive Engineer **Ron Kaminkow** for their support. And thanks for special support to **Larry Robbin, Joycelyn Robinson-Hughes, Joe Mixer, Amy Reynolds, Jeanne Park, Raequel Smith, Susan Eisenberg, Jan Jenson, Lynn Shaw, Vicky Hamlin**, as well as the **WATT Woman Electricians of Houston Texas** and their **President Pat Burnham**. Also thanks to **Jane LaTour**, as well as the **New York Tradeswomen** and the **Justice For Bianca team**. Thank you **Pat Williams**, (our LA "connection") and **Melina Harris & Mercy Haley** from **Sisters in the Building Trades**. Thanks to **Meg Vasey** and **Judy Kurtz** from **Tradeswomen Inc** in **Oakland** for support and hard work! Thanks to **WINTER** for being our fiscal agent. **We also want to thank the Northern CA Drywall Lathing Apprenticeship for their consistent support and donations. Sue Doro**, the Editor of **Pride and a Paycheck** is a retired Railroad Machinist and member of the National Writers Union, Local 1981 (a UAW Affiliate). She is also a member of the United Association of Labor Education, Local 189 (an Affiliate of CWA), and the Working Class Studies Association (www.wcstudies.org), Railroad Workers United (www.railroadworkersunited.org) as well the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) and a retired member of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) and International Association of Machinists (IAM). **Sue** is a disabled worker, injured in a previous (white-collar) job and uses voice-activated computer technology to machine the newsletter. **Pride and a Paycheck** is produced by the Editor, with funds from a San Francisco Foundation private grant. The Editor is solely responsible for the content of this newsletter. Thanks to **Fastprint** on Lakeshore Avenue in Oakland CA for the printing and mailing.

Rosie's Girls is a summer hands-on blue collar training program for middle-school age young women in Richmond CA. A tool kit for each girl is \$100. The **Rosie the Riveter Trust** is raising money to buy the kit for girls whose parents are having a difficult financial time. To donate to Rosie's Girls send check to **Rosie the Riveter Trust**, 117 Park Place, Richmond CA 94801.

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TO WOMEN IN THE TRADES**



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*Women and Brotherhood in the
Electrical Industry* by Francine A. Moccio.
Review in upcoming issue of Pride.
Recommended by Gloria Steinem!
To order go to Temple University Press c/o
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FRANCINE WILL BE AT THE CONFERENCE!

Contact State Building and Construction Trades Council of CA
www.sbctc.org or 916-443-3302 for info on the May 15-16, 2010
Women Building CA Conference, Oakland CA
Downtown Marriott Convention Ctr

East Coast authors to present workshops at this years' conference!
New York authors Jane LaTour and Francine Moccio and
Boston's Susan Eisenberg!
& Bay Area author Molly Martin also presenting.

WANT A GREAT GUIDELINE FOR YOUR PROGRAM OR AGENCY TO HELP
RECRUIT AND RETAIN MORE WOMEN IN YOUR CLASSES? SURE YOU DO!
DOWNLOAD EDUCATOR AND FORMER TRADESWOMAN, LYNN SHAW'S
"TOOLS FOR SUCCESS" ON THE INTERNET AT
www.cccspecialpopulations.org & BE SURPRISED AND DELIGHTED AT THE
AMOUNT OF INFO THAT WILL HELP YOUR PROGRAM REACH OUT TO THE
OTHER 50% OF THE COMMUNITY...**WOMEN!!** PHOTOS BY VICKY HAMLIN!
HEAR MORE FROM "TOOLS FOR SUCCESS" IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF PRIDE.

WATCH FOR THE 2ND BOOK IN A SERIES
FROM THE BLUE JEAN POCKET WRITERS
WORKSHOPS: **"SAYING SOMETHING"**
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AUTHORS, SUE DORO AND RAEQUEL SMITH.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A WRITER TO SAY
SOMETHING! BE THERE AND BE PART OF A
MOVEMENT TO DOCUMENT YOUR OWN
HERSTORY! YOU CAN DO IT!
IT CAN BE DONE! SI SE PUEDE!

**SAYING
SOMETHING**



Poetry from
Blue Jean Pocket Writer's Workshop
2009 Women Building California Conference
Edited by Sue Doro, May 2010

FROM: Pride and a Paycheck, Sue Doro, Editor
484 Lake Park Ave. #315, Oakland CA 94610

**Working together
Trabajando juntos**

一齊工作

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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DRYWALL / LATHING APPRENTICESHIP in Hayward at (510) 785-5885. SISTERS IN THE BUILDING TRADES Chatter Page:
www.sistersinthebuildingtrades.org SISTERS IN THE BROTHERHOOD (Carpenters) www.sistersinthebrotherhood.info (New York Chapter of Sisters in the
Brotherhood: www.unionwomencarpenters.com Charity Cultural Services Center in San Francisco at (415) 989-8224. Youth Build San Jose in San Jose at (408)
918-1014. Youth Build in Richmond CA (510) 215-3306. RICHMOND WORKS (510) 307-8014 The California Women's Ventures Project in Watsonville at (831) 724-
0206. Ella Hill Hutch Community Center in San Francisco at (415) 921-6276. The Cypress Mandela/WIST Training Center in Oakland at (510) 208-7350. Chinese For
Affirmative Action in San Francisco at (415) 274-6750. Tradeswomen, Inc. Oakland at (510) 891-8773, ext. 315. www.tradeswomen.org Asian Neighborhood Design
in San Francisco at (415) 648-7070. Asian Neighborhood Design in Oakland at (510) 433-1370. Mission Hiring Hall in San Francisco at (415) 626-1919. BACAP (Build
a Career Project of Glide Memorial Church) in San Francisco at (415) 674-6176. City College of San Francisco Construction Training, (415) 550-4444 or 4440 or 4409.
College of Alameda Diesel and Truck Mechanic Program at (510) 748-2357. Alameda California. WINTER (Women In Nontraditional Employment Roles), Los Angeles and
Long Beach, CA at (562) 431-0302 www.winterwomen.org WEMA (Women Empowered to Move Ahead), in San Jose, CA at (408) 251-3165 or email Lori Ramos
Ehrlich: Lori.Ramos@cts.org REBUILDING TOGETHER OAKLAND (Volunteer experience) 510-625-0316. So California Tradeswomen information - Pat Williams:
Patjwilliams4@aol.com JOB CORPS INFORMATION www.jobcorps.gov (800)-773-JOBS. CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM - Lynn Garcia 415-750-
8689, garciaL@sfusd.edu San Francisco CityBuild Preapprenticeship. - Janan Howell, Employer Liaison (415) 581-2309. Sisters in the Building Trades Greater Bay
Area Chapter, contact Mercy Haley at mercyme007@yahoo.com National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) www.nawic.org Rosie the Riveter National
Historical Park (Richmond CA) martha_lee@nps.gov Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) www.cluw.org