



April 2014—The Newsletter of the Battle of Homestead Foundation—vol. 1 no. 15

BHF SCHEDULE OF 2014 PUMP HOUSE EVENTS (See Inside)

APRIL 24, 2014, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. SACCO AND VANZETTI (2006). 82 mins.

APRIL 26, 2014, Saturday, 1:30 p.m. “THE FIGHT FOR MEANINGFUL IMMIGRATION REFORM.”

MAY 3, 2014, Saturday, 1:30 p.m. “WHISKEY AND LIBERTY: WHEN PENNSYLVANIANS RESISTED THE NATION’S FIRST BAILOUT.”

MAY 12 , 2014, Monday, 5:30 p.m--8:30 p.m. The BHF will visit the Wigle Distillery.

MAY 24, 2014, Saturday, 1:30 p.m. GHOSTS OF *AMISTAD*: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE REBELS, (2014). 60 mins.

JUNE 14, 2014, Saturday, 1:30 p.m. “THE JAZZ WORKSHOP, INC. BAND CONCERT.”

JUNE 19, 2014, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. ANTHOLOGY: LOCAL #471 MUSICIANS’ UNION. Film.

JULY 19, 2014, Saturday, 1:30 p.m. “MANUFACTURING MATTERS.” Dan Swinney delivers the Bernie Kleiman Lecture.

JULY 31, 2014, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. INEQUALITY FOR ALL (2013). 88 mins.

AUGUST 23, 2014, Saturday, 1:30 p.m. “SAVING THE PLANET: WHERE ARE WE IN MOVING AWAY FROM FOSSIL FUELS?”

AUGUST 28, 2014, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. MADE IN DAGENHAM (2010). 113 mins.

SEPTEMBER 13, 2014, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. Tour. “THE WESTINGHOUSE STRIKE OF 1914.”

SEPTEMBER 25, 2014, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. 10 DAYS THAT UNEXPECTEDLY CHANGED AMERICA: THE HOMESTEAD STRIKE (2006). 60 mins.

OCTOBER 18, 2014, Saturday, 1:30 p.m. “POETRY AT THE PUMP HOUSE: TAMEKA CAGE CONLEY AND ROBIN CLARKE.”

OCTOBER ?, 2014, TBA. BRADDOCK, AMERICA (2013). 100 mins.

MOVIE SERIES AT THE PUMP HOUSE

APRIL 24, 2014, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. SACCO AND VANZETTI (2006). 82 mins. This documentary tells the story of Nicolo Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, two Italian-born anarchists who were arrested for murder in Boston in 1920. Their subsequent widely publicized trial and conviction came to symbolize the extreme nativist prejudice that was directed against southern and eastern Europeans in the U.S. and the disfavor in which political dissent was held. An international crusade to save the men failed; they were executed in 1927. Tony Shalhoub and John Turturro read the men's writings; Arlo Guthrie and Studs Terkel comment.

MAY 24, 2014, Saturday, 1:30 p.m. GHOSTS OF AMISTAD: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE REBELS, (2014). 60 mins. This film, made by Tony Buba, is based on Marcus Rediker's book about the famous slave revolt of 1839, *The Amistad Rebellion: An Atlantic Odyssey of Slavery and Freedom* (Penguin, 2012) and is about a trip made by historians and a film crew to Sierra Leone in May 2013. All of the *Amistad* rebels were from southern and eastern Sierra Leone, so the filmmakers went to their villages of origin to interview elders about surviving local memory of the case. They also searched for the long lost ruins of Lomboko, the slave trading factory where the *Amistad* Africans were loaded onto a slave ship bound for the New World. This hour-long documentary chronicles a quest for a lost history from below.

JUNE 19, 2014, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. ANTHOLOGY: LOCAL #471 MUSICIANS' UNION. Film. About 60 mins. This documentary history of Local 471 of the Musicians' Union, an African-American local based in Pittsburgh, is a story of triumph and tragedy. It describes what this union meant to the musicians during an era of segregation, and what it has meant to jazz fans and especially to the African American community. It documents the sad demise of the local when integration came about, and celebrates the talent, fellowship, and persistence of African-American jazz artists in Pittsburgh. Dr. Harry Clark, President of the African American Jazz Preservation Society of Pittsburgh, Inc., will introduce it, comment, and lead a discussion.

JULY 31, 2014, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. INEQUALITY FOR ALL (2013). 88 mins. Directed by Jacob Kornbluh. In an engaging and entertaining manner, Robert Reich, an economist and a former U.S. Secretary of Labor, under Bill Clinton, presents basic information about inequality in the U.S. in a clear way that ordinary people can understand. Using interviews, snippets of lectures, and other material, the existence of the 1% and the 99% becomes a reality with 400 of the richest Americans owning as much income as another 150 million combined do. The middle class is increasingly threatened. Is inequality good for a society, or does it have dire consequences for the nation, the U.S. economy, and the future of democracy?

AUGUST 28, 2014, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. MADE IN DAGENHAM (2010). 113 mins. Directed by Nigel Cole. This documentary tells the story of a strike by British women who worked as sewing machinists who made seat covers for cars under sweatshop conditions at a Ford plant in Dagenham in 1968. That the pay of the women in this factory where men prevailed was grossly unequal was routinely accepted by male workers, their union, management, and the government. Eventually, the women took action, walked out, and demanded "equal pay for equal work" and an end to sexual discrimination. The fascinating glimpse into the complex lives of the strike leader, Rita O'Grady, and others, is powerful. Their strike eventually led to the passage of the Equal Pay Act and changed Ford policy.

SEPTEMBER 25, 2014, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. 10 DAYA THAT UNEXPECTEDLY CHANGED AMERICA: THE HOMESTEAD STRIKE (2006). 60 mins. Martin Sheen narrates this History Channel documentary produced by Rory Kennedy. It tells the basic story of the Homestead strike and lockout, with photos, commentaries, interviews. It is often cited as *the* film to see about the famous strike and is advertised as good

American history that schools can use to introduce the study of U.S. industrial history. Yet critics point out various inaccuracies in the story and the fact that very little film footage was shot in Homestead. Steffi Domike of the United Steel Workers and producer of *The River Ran Red*, will introduce it, provide analysis, and lead a discussion.

OCTOBER ?, 2014, TBA. BRADDOCK, AMERICA (2013). 100 mins.

Two French filmmakers, Jean Loïc Portron and Gabriella Kessler produced this lively and thoughtful documentary history of Braddock. Although they mention what happened in Braddock during the French and Indian War, their primary focus is on what deindustrialization has done to the community and its people and how they have responded. Portron and Kessler spent months at a time over several years doing interviews, shooting regional events, collecting information. For them, the impact of deindustrialization, as pictured here “from below,” was not limited to Braddock or the Mon Valley or the U.S. They say: “Nous sommes tous des habitants de Braddock.” [“We are all residents of Braddock.”]

SATURDAY PRESENTATIONS AT THE PUMP HOUSE

APRIL 26, 2014, Saturday, 1:30 p.m. “THE FIGHT FOR MEANINGFUL IMMIGRATION REFORM.” United Steel Workers Guillermo Perez and Steffi Domike are organizing a program that describes our current dysfunctional immigration policy and focuses attention on the movement to create an immigration policy that works for working people--native-born, foreign-born, documented and undocumented. They remind us that immigrants have revived the labor movement in the past and may well revive it in the future.

MAY 3, 2014, Saturday, 1:30 p.m. “WHISKEY AND LIBERTY: WHEN PENNSYLVANIANS RESISTED THE NATION’S FIRST BAILOUT.” Peter Gilmore will speak about the regional, national, and transatlantic significance of the Whiskey Rebellion in terms of radical currents and popular resistance. Already, in the 1790s in the U.S., a popular struggle pitted the well-to-do against those with little or nothing in a manner that bore some resemblance to the recent “Occupy” movement and some resemblance to the “Tea Party.” Joel Woller and Dan Beeton will comment, and a discussion will follow.

MAY 12 , 2014, Monday, 5:30 p.m--8:30 p.m. p.m. The BHF will visit the Wigle Distillery, where the Whiskey Rebellion will be commemorated with reading, music, and more. Come sample Wigle whiskey and hear from voices on both sides of the conflict as actors perform dramatic readings of poetry and prose from three of the central figures in the Whiskey Rebellion. The band Smokestack Lightning will perform as well.

JUNE 14, 2014, Saturday, 1:30 p.m. “THE JAZZ WORKSHOP, INC. BAND CONCERT.” The Jazz Workshop, Inc., will perform a concert at the Pump House. “This non-profit organization has been providing quality music education in the Pittsburgh area since 1973. Founded by Harold Young, the organization has motivated countless young people to vision their musical possibilities and master the talents that help keep jazz alive in the minds and hearts of the global following.” (Jazz Workshop, Inc. web site)

JULY 19, 2014, Saturday, 1:30 p.m. “MANUFACTURING MATTERS.” Dan Swinney, Executive Director of Manufacturing Renaissance in Chicago, will deliver the United Steel Workers’ annual Bernard Kleiman Lecture. After having confronted waves of plant closings in Chicago, Swinney, a former machinist, decided to work in innovative ways to further technical education, community development, and advanced manufacturing. Chicago has set an example for other cities, and Swinney is a leader in the national Manufacturing

Renaissance Campaign. Of special interest is the founding of a public high school in Chicago—Austin Polytechnical Academy, where poor and disadvantaged students prepare themselves to take careers in advanced manufacturing and where the school helps its graduates find related jobs. Fred Redmond, Vice President for Civil Rights of the United Steelworkers who worked with Swinney in Chicago, will add his analysis of the challenges facing a rebirth of manufacturing in the United States.

AUGUST 23, 2014, Saturday, 1:30 p.m. “SAVING THE PLANET: WHERE ARE WE IN MOVING AWAY FROM FOSSIL FUELS?” What are realistic alternatives to burning carbon for energy to support the needs of families, communities, and nations? How are we impacted by economic and public policy options? What new “green” technologies and products are on the market that could assist in the Movement? These and other questions will be addressed by an expert panel featuring wind energy entrepreneur Ron Gdovic, CEO of WindStax, a Pittsburgh manufacturing company of vertical wind turbine systems, and Evan Endres, project coordinator for Citizens for Pennsylvania’s Future (Penn Future), a state-wide advocacy organization for safe and clean energy policies. Local vendors of home solar and wind systems and products will be invited to display their wares.

SEPTEMBER 13, 2014, Saturday, 10:00a.m. Tour. “THE WESTINGHOUSE STRIKE OF 1914.” The Battle of Homestead Foundation will collaborate with the Pennsylvania Labor History Society to sponsor a labor tour of Braddock and the Turtle Creek Valley to commemorate the 1914 Westinghouse Strike. We will meet at 10 AM on Saturday September 13 at the Pump House and then proceed in a car caravan to Braddock to visit the site of the violent 1916 Westinghouse Strike (the gate of US Steel's Edgar Thomson Works). After a lunch in Turtle Creek honoring labor union women, we will go on a walking tour of the East Pittsburgh-Turtle Creek Westinghouse Electric site. Charles McCollester will give a presentation based on his "Turtle Creek fights Taylorism" article in *Labor's Heritage*.

OCTOBER 18, 2014, Saturday, 1:30 p.m. “POETRY AT THE PUMP HOUSE: TAMEKA CAGE CONLEY AND ROBIN CLARKE.” Literary artist Tameka Cage Conley is completing a poetry collection about social displacement in her native Shreveport, Louisiana and an historical novel about the effects of the loss of the Black father on the Black family. In *Lines of Quarry*, Robin Clarke probes issues of exploitation and resistance, including ecological devastation, the Troy Davis death penalty case, workplace injuries, and the promise of labor’s radical past. Each will read selections from her various works.

ASKING FOR DONATIONS: A SPECIAL PROJECT⁷⁷

The BHF is asking for donations (tax deductible) to make a special project possible. Outside the Pump House lies a bronze plaque that depicts the Battle of Homestead on July 4, 1892, and carries the workers’ Advisory Committee’s “An Address to the Public” on its public position on the strike.

In retrospect, we realize that visitors and the general public may need more explanation to understand this historic event and why the battle, the strike, and the Pump House are so important. We plan to add an extension to the plaque with new wording that includes: 1) a brief general description of the Battle of Homestead that clarifies the context, the issues, and the outcome, along with the short and long term significance of the event and the site; 2) the list of the specific names of the seven workers and three Pinkerton agents who died as a result of the battle; and 3) the names of the organizations, including the BHF and the USW, that sponsored and erected the original plaque and the new extension.

If you wish to contribute to this special project, please tell us or write “plaque” on a check. Make checks payable to the Battle of Homestead Foundation. They can be mailed to P.O. Box 60104, Pittsburgh, PA 15211.

Of course we also welcome donations to our general fund to defray the cost of our programs.