

**WORKING WOMEN** on the professional, service sector and blue collar levels are increasingly recognizing that unions and community-based labor associations can help them achieve such equal rights in the workplace as pay equity, child care support, health care coverage, flexibility at work, job security, pensions, among many other workers' rights. In addition, women workers and organizers are vital constituents for building power in labor organizations which aim to influence social change and workplace equality. Join us for this historic conference on organizing women and building power in the new millennium.

### Sisters on the Frontline will:

- ▶ Generate ideas and methods for overcoming barriers to organizing women in unions and in the community;
- ▶ Identify challenges to recruit and retain women organizers and discuss approaches to meeting those challenges.
- ▶ At this conference, participants will:
- ▶ Have the opportunity to share their organizing experience and hear from others' experiences;
- ▶ Have the opportunity to network with other women organizers;
- ▶ Be able to identify new ideas and methods for organizing; and
- ▶ Provide information and training to enable labor organizations to better recruit and retain women organizers.

### Who should attend?

Women organizers, officials and staff from labor organizations who are interested in learning and sharing organizing experiences and hearing about latest research on organizing women.

### Cultural Highlights

Film: *Transnational Tradeswomen*  
a film by Vivian Price  
2006, 62 minutes, Color

Inspired by organizers at the Beijing Conference on Women, former construction worker Vivian Price spent years documenting the current roles of women organizers in the Asian construction industry.

Bev Grant ([www.bevgrant.com](http://www.bevgrant.com)) labor singer, songwriter and performer

Sisters On the Frontline Conference  
c/o JSM Center for Labor, Community & Policy Studies  
City University of New York  
25 West 43rd Street, 18th floor  
New York, New York 10036-7406



*Sponsored by:*

Cornell University's  
Institute for Women and Work  
The Cornell Labor Program

*and*

The Joseph S. Murphy Center for Labor  
Community & Policy Studies  
City University of New York

*present*

**SISTERS ON THE FRONTLINE:  
ORGANIZING WOMEN  
and BUILDING POWER**

**March 30, 31 and April 1, 2007**

**25 West 43rd Street  
New York City**

THE FIRST WOMEN ORGANIZERS' conference in the United States bringing together women organizers, scholars, journalists, officials and leaders of labor organizations from around the country to share organizing experiences, learn the latest research, techniques and strategies for organizing women workers.

*\*Special thanks to the New York State AFL-CIO for their sponsorship of this conference, printing the brochure and their overall advice and support.*

## Plenary Topics

The Berger Marks Report: How to Rock The Boat Without Getting Thrown Off

Organizing Women: Labor's Bottom Line

Women Organizing With New Strategies and Techniques

The New Double Burden: Immigrant Women Organizers

Women Transforming American Labor: Retrospect and Prospect

Mentoring Women Organizers and Setting Up

A National Network

## Speakers and Panelists

Marisol Alcantara, *SEIU Building Services Local 32 B-J (invited)*

Nahar Alam, *ANDOLAN: Organizing South Asian Women*

Rina Ali, *ANDOLAN: Organizing South Asian Women*

Sally Alvarez, *Cornell University*

Susan Borenstein, *The New York State AFL-CIO*

Laurel Brennan, *The New Jersey State AFL-CIO*

Kate Bronfenbrenner, *Cornell University*

Legna Cabrera, *Cornell University*

Dorothy Sue Cobble, *Rutgers University*

Bhairavi Desai, *The New York Taxi Workers' Alliance*

Maria Elena Durazo, *Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO*

Cheryl Farrell, *International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 3*

Maria Figueroa, *Cornell University*

Janice Fine, *Rutgers University*

Earline Fisher, *Carpenter, United Brotherhood of Carpenters*

Miriam Frank, *The Empire State Pride Agenda*

Jeannette Gabriel, *Joseph S. Murphy Institute for Labor, Community & Policy Studies*

Colleen Garndner, *The New York State AFL-CIO*

Lois Gray, *Cornell University*

Elena Herrada, *Centro Obrero de Detroit*

Sonia Ivany, *NYC Labor Council for Latin American Advancement*

Carolyn Jacobsen, *Coalition of Labor Union Women*

Julie Kushner, *United Auto Workers*

Yanira Merino, *Laborers' International Union of North America (invited)*

Priscilla Murolo, *Graduate Program in Women's History, Sarah Lawrence College*

Karen Nussbaum, *AFL-CIO*

Ai-jen Poo, *Domestic Workers' United*

Katie Quan, *University of California, Berkeley*

Heddy Rosenstein, *Communication Workers' of America, Local 1037 (invited)*

Monica Russo, *SEIU Florida Healthcare Union (invited)*

Lorene Scheer, *SEIU Public Employees Local 503, Oregon*

Sue Schurman, *National Labor College, AFL-CIO*

Fran Streitch, *Communication Workers of American, New Jersey*

Amy Sugimori, *La Fuente: A Tri-State Worker and Community Fund, Inc.*

Abbie Swanson, *SEIU Building Services Local 32 B-J*

Cathy Thomas, *SEIU Building Services Local 32 B-J*

KC Wagner, *Cornell University*

In addition to:

Many more representatives and organizers from national and regional labor and community organizations.

## Conference Sessions

- ▶ Undocumented Organizing:  
No Match Terminations, Raids and Deportations
- ▶ Women Organizing with New Strategies and Tactics
- ▶ Pride At Work:  
Issues for Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender Organizers
- ▶ Strategic Campaigns: Community, Politics and Research
- ▶ The First Shift:  
Immigrant Women's Workplace Organizing
- ▶ Setting Up A Women Organizers' Network
- ▶ Domestic Violence and Organizing  
Women Workers
- ▶ Organizing Women in Nontraditional Jobs
- ▶ Child Care Worker Organizing
- ▶ Women Organizing Around Public Policy
- ▶ Among many other topics

## Co-sponsors:

Association for Advancing Women's Equality, Inc.  
The Berger Marks Foundation  
Center for Women and Work, Rutgers University  
Chinese Staff and Workers' Association, CSWA  
Coalition of Labor Union Women, CLUW  
Cornell University Press  
Domestic Workers' United, DWU  
The Empire State Pride Agenda  
Feminist, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Cornell University  
Graduate Program in Women's History, Sarah Lawrence College  
Inter-Faith Workers' Justice  
The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local Union #3, Amber Light Society  
National Council for Research on Women  
The New Jersey State, AFL-CIO  
The New York City Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO  
The New York State, AFL-CIO  
The New York State Family and Medical Leave Coalition  
NYC Labor Council for Latin American Advancement  
Pride At Work, AFL-CIO  
Rutgers University, Center for Women and Work  
And many more.

## Registration Form

YES, I want to register for **Sisters On the Frontline conference**, March 30 – April 1, 2007

*Do you speak another language?*

*What language?* \_\_\_\_\_

**Send me more information:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Registration . . . . . \$50

Early Registration\* (March 2, 2007) . . . . \$40

registration  early registration

student  senior  sponsor

\*Early registration is advised as space is limited

Students and seniors . . . . . \$25

Sponsor (registration for one and sponsor of another) . . . . . \$95

(Some scholarships available based on need.)

Make checks payable to: **Cornell University, IWW**

Mail to: **Sisters On The Frontline Conference  
c/o JSM Center For Labor, Community & Policy  
Studies (CUNY)  
25 West 43rd Street, 18th Floor  
New York, New York 10036-7406**

The conference will take place at:

**The JSM Center (CUNY)  
25 West 43rd Street, 18th Floor  
New York, New York**

For more information contact:

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Email: fam5@cornell.edu or moccio01@aol.com  
www.frontlinesisters.org

Or Jeannette Gabriel, Conference Co-coordinator  
JSM Center (CUNY)  
Phone: (office) 212-642-2026  
Email: jeannette.gabriel@mail.cuny.edu