News for Educational Workers

By Leonard Vogt

News for Educational Workers has been a featured column of *Radical Teacher* almost since the journal’s conception. With this and the previous issue of the journal, however, news items of interest to progressive and radical educators will be posted on the new *Radical Teacher* blog at [http://www.radicalteacher.net/](http://www.radicalteacher.net/).

Other less time-bound items, such as books, film, journals, articles, and resources will continue to be featured in this newer, abbreviated News for Educational Workers column which will continue to be published with each of our forthcoming online issues.
Film

From This Day Forward tells the story of a love, and family, that survived the most intimate of transformations.

With her own wedding just around the corner, filmmaker Sharon Shattuck returns home to examine the mystery at the heart of her upbringing: How her transgender father Trisha and her straight-identified mother Marcia stayed together against all odds. From This Day Forward is a moving portrayal of an American family coping with the most intimate of transformations.

As the film evolves into a conversation about love and acceptance in a modern American family, it raises questions relevant to all of us. As individuals how do we adapt to sustain long-term love and relationships? Where do sexuality and gender intersect? And how do families stay together, when external forces are pulling them apart? For more information, go to http://www.bullfrogfilms.com/catalog/ftdf.html.

Books

Introducing a New Children’s Christmas Story for Labor from Hard Ball Press!

Imagine if young children could read a book about a union that wins back the job of a worker unfairly fired for taking toys out of the trash. That’s what they will discover in the sweet, inspiring story of Good Guy Jake, by Teamster Brother Mark Torres.

Take this new Christmas classic to your local schools, libraries, bookstores, daycare centers and pediatrician offices, ask them to offer the book to the children they serve. The children will learn the real union story: advocating for social justice for working people. Help defeat the anti-union, anti-working class propaganda put out by right wing media and political hacks.

For years, sanitation worker Jake has repaired and painted broken toys he pulled from the trash on his rounds and given them to the children in the local shelter at Christmas. But one wintry day an angry motorist turns Jake in to the sanitation company for collecting toys. When Jake is fired for breaking city regulations, his union takes the case to arbitration. There, the union brings in a group of children, who show the judge the toys Jake gave them. They testify that the gifts taught them the true meaning of Christmas. The judge reinstates Jake, and the union announces a city-wide toy collection for all the children in all the shelters: the Good Guy Jake Toy Drive.

Good Guy Jake was written by Mark Torres, General Counsel with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 810 in New York.

Release date: August 5, 2017; Price: $12.50 paperback, $20.00 hardcover; Age 4-10; 56 pages; ISBN: Paperback – 978-0-9979797-4-9; Hardcover - 978-0-9991358-0-8

Available from Ingram (with full return rights for booksellers), Hardballpress.com, and booksellers everywhere. Generous discounts are available to unions and other social justice organizations. 15% discount for orders of 10 or more.

Journals and Magazines

Rethinking Schools (Summer 2017 Vol. 31, No. 4) highlights a cover story on “Teaching Big Ideas with Little Children.” The “Big Ideas” include articles on teaching young children about climate change, the trauma of war in Syria, sacred spaces, storytelling to build community, and the Vietnam War. The editorial introduction to this issue, “Teaching Social Issues and Global Conflicts with Young Children” is an excellent source of guidelines for how to make current issues developmentally appropriate and engaging for young students.