

Illinois Labor History Society Reporter



Summer 2023
WWW.illinoislaborhistory.org

430 S. Michigan Avenue, Room 540AUD
Chicago, Illinois 60605

Labor Day! March proudly with your union!

Labor Day Events:

- Chicago Parade in Pullman
- Events Around Illinois

Reports:

- Haymarket Monument Defacing
- Joe Hill Performance
- Cook County Resolution
- May Day at Haymarket
- Coal Mining History
- Memorial Day Massacre Commemoration
- Pullman Railroad Days

Book Reviews:

- Memorial Day Massacre: Workers Die, Film Buried
- Girls Who Build
- Gilded Mountain

In Memoriam

At the ILHS Online Bookstore

Do You Know Your Labor History?

SAVE THE DATE! Union Hall of Honor — December 8, 2023



Bloomington, Illinois 2022 Labor Day Parade

All photo credits: Mike Matejka

Book Review

START THEM YOUNG – *GIRLS WHO BUILD* NEW CHILDREN’S BOOK

Girls Who Build

By Marisa L. Richards
BookBaby, New Jersey

Gracie is a glazier, Olive an operator, and Adeline an apprentice in a delightful new book aimed at younger readers, *Girls Who Build*, by Painters District Council 30’s Marisa L. Richards.



With two young girls, Marisa had been searching through the bookstore aisles and online sites – where was the book that could introduce her daughters to the trades? Her search was fruitless, so she decided to write her own book.

Girls Who Build is an easily accessible, brightly illustrated volume that shows diverse girls on the job,

in various trades, hard at work with inviting smiles while they practice their crafts.

Marisa serves on multiple committees and notes that often, the discussion centers on how to expand the construction trades’ diversity. She asks, “Why don’t we start the conversation earlier? We can show girls that they have agency and teach girls about construction. The need was so unmet in this space.”

Marisa is a University of Illinois graduate in Creative Writing with a minor in Gender and Women’s Studies. Since 2011, she has served as the Outreach and Engagement Program Manager for Painters District Council 30 in Aurora, Illinois.

In her position, she has worked on improving policies, and also on implementing sexual harassment training to ensure all are welcome and supported at the worksite. Outreach efforts are centered toward high school and middle school students, but Marisa saw value in exposing younger girls. Chicago Women in Trades (CWIT) is an organization she has worked with, and they have helped lead the sexual harassment training for the Council. She said that this active group “is an example for the nation.”

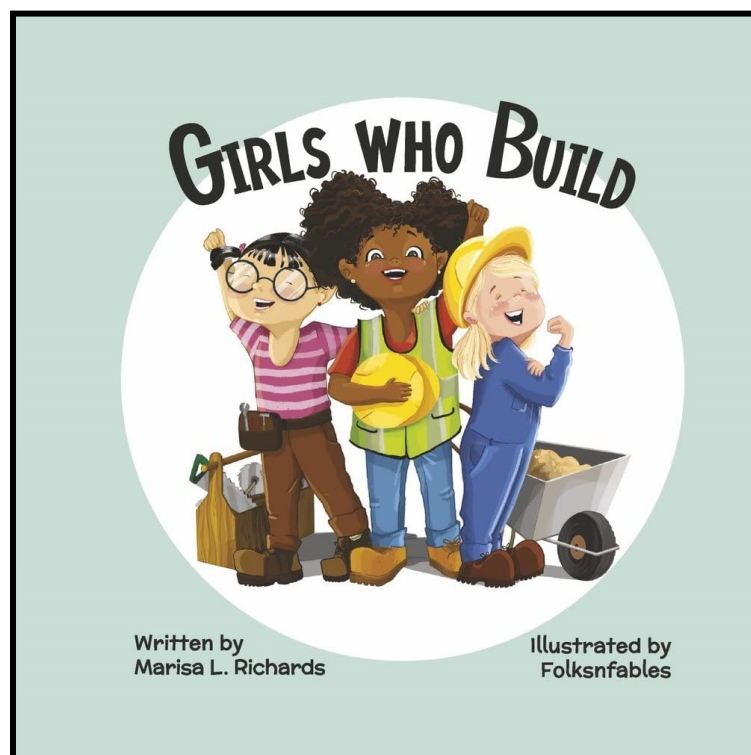
As the book reaches young readers, Marisa hopes that “at the very minimum, this story can inspire one girl just to see the possibilities that she is capable of. I had many strong females in my life and there were many strong females in the stories I was reading when I was young. This book might have the ability to impact one girl, like those books impacted me. I wanted to show young girls what the construction trades were and help them see themselves in those careers.”

Just as a building trades worker is proud when a project is completed, Marisa is enjoying the whirlwind with her book’s completion and the many positive comments.

If you have young girls of preschool through second grade age, this would be a most appropriate book to share. They will enjoy the bright colors, all the girls’ names that match with their trade, and the upbeat, positive attitude. Even if you don’t have young girls in your life, this would be a wonderful book for a local union or individuals to purchase for area kindergartens, grade schools, and day care centers.

Books can be ordered for \$22 for a hard cover edition, plus shipping at: <https://mrichards.squarespace.com>.

— ILHS VP Mike Matejka



Since 1969



Illinois Labor History Society

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Our Mission Statement

It shall be the Purpose of the Illinois Labor History Society to encourage the preservation and study of labor history materials of the Illinois Region, and to arouse public interest in the profound significance of the past to the present.

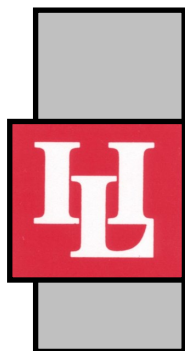
#ILHLives

Upcoming Events

Chicago Labor Day Parade — 12 p.m. 108th & Cottage Grove Ave, Chicago

Eddie Fest — 1-6 p.m. Pullman Historic District, Chicago

Labor Day Events Around Illinois — Please see pages 4 and 5 inside



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Or Current Resident

*"The day will come when our silence will be more powerful than the voices you are throttling today."
August Spies — 1855-1887*