

# LABOR

BROOKLYN FOOD CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS SATURDAY MAY 2<sup>ND</sup> 2009



## **Labor Rights for Workers in the Food Chain**

One billion people on this planet are workers in the food chain: agricultural, food processing, retail, and restaurant workers—and almost all of them live in poverty. Unions have led the struggle for the livelihoods and right of these workers. The founding of a “Food Chain Workers Alliance” is a major step forward in bringing workers rights into the food movement as a centerpiece of social justice.

**Fekkak Mamdouh**, Co-coordinator and co-director, Restaurant Opportunities Center.

**Jose Schiffino**, organizer, Civil Service Employees Association of AFSCME.

**Elizabeth Alvarez**, organizer for Local 342 of the United Food and Commercial Worker Union.

**Jean Weisman**, moderator, elected leader in the Professional Staff Congress of CUNY.

## **Union Organizing: Local, National and Global Strategies for Transforming the Food System**

This workshop will examine how union organizing of farm, processing, retail and restaurant workers is central to the social justice agenda of transforming the local, US and world food systems. We will address the question: Why should the “food movement” include “social justice” in its mission? Why is “collective prosperity” a way of securing good food for all of us?

**Rekha Eanni** co-director of the Restaurant Opportunities Center of New York.

**Mo Kinberg** Food Policy Coordinator for the UFCW Local 1500.

**Sean Sweeney** director of the Global Labor Institute, Cornell University.

## ***Food Workers Closer to Home***

This workshop will discuss organizing for labor rights in the NYC metropolitan area, focusing particularly on the idea that the people who produce the food should be able to buy the food themselves.

**Daniel Gross** founding director of Brandworkers.

**Domestic Workers Union representatives** have been invited to speak on creating a code of conduct of employment for one of the most exploited and invisible groups of food workers in the food chain.

**Representatives of Stella D'Oro Workers.**

**Marina Saenz-Luna**, Just Harvest Organizer OR worker from Coalition of Immokalee Workers (Florida anti-slavery campaign).

**Laura McSpedon**, moderator, Northeast Regional Organizer for National Jobs with Justice.