

UCU New Arrivals



Congratulations everyone!

From left: **Juniper Karanovic Poff**, born December 18th, 2010 to Zach Poff (Film/Video); **Aaliyah Rodriquez** born July 9th, 2010 to Kelly Garcia (Financial Aid); **Jaylene and Skylyn DelValle**, born 2011 to Willie DelValle (Buildings and Grounds); **Eva Maxine Gemmill**, born May 31st 2010 to Kressent Pottenger (Public Programs)

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The Cooper Advocate

What we've been doing

It wouldn't be news to tell you that we've been enduring a lengthy negotiations that hopefully (by the receipt of this newsletter) will have finally drawn to a close. Amidst negotiations, the UCU ball keeps rolling. Here is a recap of our activities and accomplishments:

President Betsy Alwin attended the Higher Education Council meeting in January at FIT. Meeting with NYSUT officials and other labor leaders, the discussion involved navigating some of the new precedents set by high court cases between unions and management.

Several Arbitrations have been held. Two arbitrations were settled in favor of the union members. The UCU had to call an arbitration off, but an agreement was still reached. Another arbitration took place and is still being decided upon by the arbitrator. One more arbitration has yet to occur. We have settled one grievance for back-pay.

In mid-March, Leah Hebert, UCU Treasurer, left the Cooper Union to work as a Legislative Aid in the office of a State Assemblyman. Her duties as Treasurer are currently being handled by the President and the Secretary.

On March 24th, members of the UCU marched in the rally to Wall Street, standing in solidarity with our public workers, community and students to protest state budget cuts.

On the 25th of March, President Betsy Alwin introduced the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire 100th Anniversary program in the Great Hall. There were many wonderful contributors to the event, held to commemorate the historical tragedy that catapulted the Labor Movement into action. Cecil Roberts, President of the United Coal Miners of America was a surprise speaker. You can hear an excerpt of his inspiring speech at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pZj5iCDe9eQ>

The Importance of Being Union

Labor unions have been getting somewhat of a bad rap lately for wanting "too much," for "bringing down the economy." Labor unions were formed to protect workers and demand equal treatment. These rights are procured in a contract - a negotiation between two parties. It is important to remember that whatever benefits union members receive, they were agreed upon by management. Amidst the news stories of recent attacks on bargaining rights, it may be difficult to remember what the larger goals and issues of Labor are. We can take a look at what the Labor movement has achieved in labor law thus far - even folks who don't belong to a union



March 24th, 2010: UCU members rally at City Hall and march to Wall St.

UCU MEMBERSHIP MEETING

April 29th 12 - 2pm
in the Peter Cooper Suite

Agenda: Contract Negotiations, Elections, Grievance Committee update, Financial Report and general information.

