

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## “TEACH YOUR CHILDREN WELL”

Labor and community leaders will join together with 500 students from the Tilden Middle School at Elmwood Park, 71<sup>st</sup> and Buist Ave., to celebrate the long forgotten International Labor Day on Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, from 12:00 to 2:00 P.M.

Cathy Brady of the Friends of Elmwood Park and the Service Employees International Union (SIEU) will announce a project to build a Labor Monument in the Park that will honor past Labor Leaders and events in Labor History.

Jim Moran, of the PA Labor History Society, will explain to the students, Labor and Community residents the significance of May Day, its roots in America, and its role in the struggle for the 8-hour day.

“During the fight for the 8-hour day in the 1880’s, 4 men were shot to death on the picket line in a strike for a shorter working day. Later four were hanged for organizing a rally in Haymarket Square in Chicago Illinois to protest the killing of the four picketers. Someone (never identified) threw a bomb at the end of the rally and a policeman was killed. Police opened fire into the crowd killing several people including members of their own police force.”

“This rally, referred to as the Haymarket Riot, led to the conviction of 8 men who organized the rally. 4 were hanged and all 8 were later pardoned by the governor of Illinois. The 8 men are referred to as the Haymarket Martyrs and on May 1<sup>st</sup>, in countries all around the world as diverse as South Africa, Australia, India, Scotland, Mexico and Sweden, organized labor recognizes, celebrates and honors the Chicago Martyrs.”

This May 1<sup>st</sup> will mark the first celebration of May Day USA in Philadelphia. Music will be provided by the band “Unskilled Labor”.

For more information go to the website [www.maydayusa.org](http://www.maydayusa.org) or call 215-301-2633.