

# NAIBAhood News

August 27, 2007

## HAPPY LABOR DAY! NOW GET BACK TO WORK.

**Another Idea You Can Use** by Joe Drabyak, Chester County Book & Music Co., & NAIBA President

**WORK** - noun - **1.** Physical or mental effort or activity directed toward the production or accomplishment of something. **2a.** A job; employment. **b.** A trade, profession, or other means of livelihood. **3a.** Something that one is doing, making, or performing, especially as an occupation or undertaking; a duty or task. **b.** An amount of such activity either done or required. **4a.** The part of a day devoted to an occupation or undertaking. **b.** One's place of employment. (The American Heritage Dictionary)

We are very much defined by our work. Drop into any gathering and eventually someone will ask, "So, what do you do?" I always answer emphatically, "I'm a bookseller, and if you are interested in occupations, do I have some recommendations for you!"

In celebration of LABOR DAY, here's a list of some of my favorites. Gather them together in workmanlike fashion and create a nifty end-cap, window, or table display. Don't forget to dress up your display with some blank applications, W-2 forms, a variety of tools, maybe a hard hat, the employment ads from the newspaper, and a few images of laborers downloaded from the internet.

- **WORKING** by Studs Terkel - The classic work within which men and women representing a variety of occupations describe their daily routines.
- **FIREFIGHTERS** by Dennis Smith - An unforgettable journey through the daily lives of the brave men and women who have made saving lives their profession.
- **RIVETHEAD** by Ben Hamper - An irreverent look inside the world of American auto workers and life on and off the assembly line for blue-collar America.
- **LIFE ON THE LEDGE** by Ivor Hanson - A tale of risk, punk music, voyeurism, identity, and clean windows.
- **SHELF LIFE** by Suzanne Strempek Shea - Romance, mystery, drama, and other page-turning adventures from a year's employment in a bookstore.
- **DISHWASHER** by Pete Jordan - One man's quest to wash dishes in all 50 states.

- **DON'T TELL MOM I WORK ON THE RIGS (SHE THINKS I'M A PIANO PLAYER IN A WHOREHOUSE)** by Paul Carter - One man's wild adventures in the oil trade and the business of drilling for black gold on an offshore platform.
- **ANOTHER DAY IN THE FRONTAL LOBE** by Katrina Firlik - An engaging tour of human brains and the doctors who cut into them.
- **THE WORKING POOR: INVISIBLE IN AMERICA** by David K. Shipler - This volume, a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, provides an intimate portrait of ethnically diverse, poverty-level, working families and the legacy of problems inherent to their condition.
- **WAITING** by Debra Ginsberg - A veteran waitress dishes up a spicy and robust account of life as it really exists behind kitchen doors.
- **WORKING ON THE EDGE** by Spike Walker - A harrowing account of survival in the world's most dangerous profession - King Crab fishing on Alaska's high seas.
- **HACK** by Melissa Plaut - This entertaining memoir describes the author's two years behind the wheel of a yellow cab on the streets of Manhattan.
- **NEWJACK** by Ted Conover - The author, a former guard at the Sing Sing prison, looks back on his rookie year employed at the correctional facility.
- **YOU'LL NEVER NANNY IN THIS TOWN AGAIN** by Suzanne Hansen - The true adventures of a Hollywood nanny.
- **CANDY GIRL** by Diablo Cody - A year in the life of an unlikely stripper.
- **THE ESCAPE ARTISTS** by Joshua Piven - True stories of people who turned their obsessions into professions.
- **HERE IF YOU NEED ME** by Kate Braestrup - This beautifully written volume chronicles the work of the author, a Unitarian Universalist minister, serving as chaplain for the Maine Warden Service.

A more industrious soul would go on to recommend additional books about occupations in science, education, business, health care, and more. But I'm not that industrious. May I suggest that you roll up your own sleeves and get busy on a display? Competent workers will, no doubt, also include some volumes on resume writing, cover letters, interviews, the job search, and career opportunities in their display. Work! Work! Work!

HAPPY LABOR DAY!