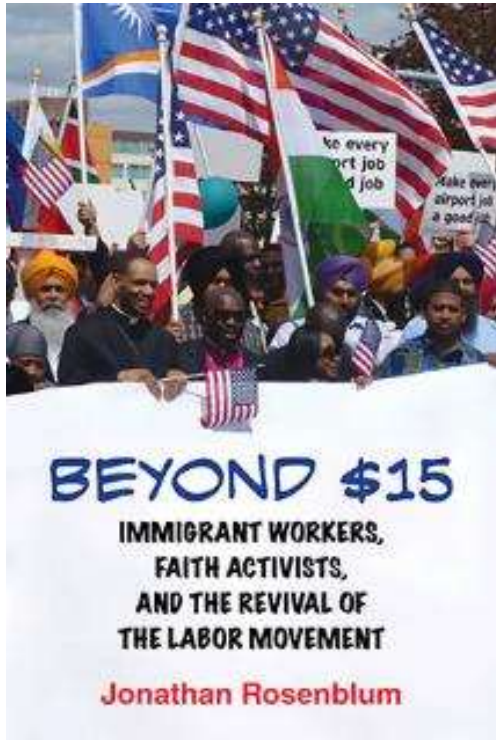


## “Beyond \$15, The story of the Seatac living wage battle” by Jonathan Rosenblum

Jonathan Rosenblum, a lifelong union organizer, [weaves a story](#) about trying to get fair wages for the airport workers. They attempted to organize a union, but there were obstacles, first being that airports are regulated by the Railroad Labor Act, which prevented them from organizing. The SeaTac port authority is a corporate tool, although officials are elected by citizen votes.



It used to be when corporations went bankrupt, leadership was fired. Now leadership is retained, union contracts are void and labor is at the mercy of any challenge in the airline business. Corporate leaders use bankruptcy to keep labor union free and in line.

The underlying problem is that labor has lost all of their traditional power and corporations have amassed power. What the organizers figured out is there's more than one way to get power--so the airport workers took their fight to the voters. Out of over 6000 votes cast, \$15 won by just 77 votes. The power people gave them many battles--including several lawsuits. Working class people didn't fall in line--with largely brown people asking for more. This book reads like a whodunit, except you know that \$15 won.

They won because they included everyone--Muslims, Jews, Christians and non-believers. They won because they included black, white, brown and all shades. They won because they included Mexicans, Arabs, Indians and

Europeans. And without all those people, they would have lost--which is what polling experts told them would happen with such thin support--less than 50% to start out.

This is a Beacon Press book, our UU publisher. 170 years ago, Beacon Press started out as our Unitarian missionary effort--educating people for our Unitarian values. Beyond \$15 release date March 14, 2017

[Terry Lowman, UUJEC Co-Chair]