

The Odyssey Bookshop

presents

Prospects for

a Workers Co-operative Economy

with State Rep. Paul Mark and Emily Kawano & Fred Rose, Wellspring Cooperative Corporation

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 7:00PM



Worker-owned co-operatives have been part of the U.S. economy since the founding, but they've been easily eclipsed by an economy driven by corporate behemoths. Today they could be the alternative to corporate power and are attracting much interest again among community and labor organizers and more generally.

In Springfield, Wellspring Cooperative Corporation is creating a network of worker-owned companies that will provide on-the-job training, employment, and wealth creation opportunities for low income and unemployed residents.

In the Legislature, Rep. Paul Mark has introduced An Act to Create and Sustain Jobs Through Development of Employee-Owned Businesses and Cooperatives and other measures relative to job creation through employee ownership.

Paul Mark began representing the 2nd Berkshire District

in the Massachusetts House of Representatives on January 5, 2011. Paul's district encompasses 16 communities in Berkshire and Franklin Counties, the largest geographical Representative district in the Commonwealth. While a telephone worker at Verizon, he earned a Master of Science degree at UMass Amherst and graduated from Suffolk Law and Northeastern University's Law and Public Policy Doctoral.

Emily Kawano and **Fred Rose** are founders and Co-Directors of the Wellspring Cooperative Corporation in Springfield, a community-based cooperative development organization with a mission to create a network of worker-owned companies in Springfield that will provide on-the-job training, employment, and wealth creation opportunities for low income and unemployed residents. **Emily** is on the Board of the United States Solidarity Economy Network, which she helped start. She has a PhD in economics from UMass Amherst and served as the Director of the Center for Popular Economics for nine years. **Fred** also lectures at the UMass Amherst Center for Public Policy and Administration. He studies public administration and public policy formulation, political science, and social movements. He was a co-founder and lead organizer of the Pioneer Valley Project, a faith-congregations-based community organizing project in Springfield.



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