10 Highlights of Harry Kelber’s Unique Career

1. During the Great Depression, Harry led a four-month strike at a major food market in Brooklyn, N.Y., that ended with a good union contract.

2. At age 25, Harry was editor of two independent weekly labor newspapers that covered CIO organizing campaigns, as well as the activities of teamster and construction unions.

3. At age 50, Harry earned a B.A. from Brooklyn College and an M.A. and PhD. from New York University — all within 5-1/2 years.

4. In the 1962-63 printers’ strike that shut down New York City’s daily newspapers for 114 days, Harry was editor of the Daily Strike Bulletin.

5. As the legislative director of the Physicians Forum, Harry played a key role in winning social security for the nation’s doctors.

6. In 1968, Harry created and became the first director of Cornell University’s Two-Year Labor/Liberal Arts Program.

7. In recognition of his distinguished teaching career, Empire State College created the Dr. Harry Kelber Endowment in Labor Studies.

8. At age 70, Harry became the Educational and Cultural Director of Electrical Workers Local 3, I.B.E.W., a position he held for nearly six years.

9. In 1992, Harry led a week-long seminar in Moscow for 145 labor leaders of the former Soviet Union on the theme, “Democratic Unions in a Market Economy.”

10. In 1995, at age 81, Harry ran for a vice president seat on the AFL-CIO Executive Council to force the first election ever, in which a rank-and-filer challenged incumbent officers.

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