

Congregation Based Community Organizing Bibliography

- Alinsky, Saul D. *Rules for Radicals: A Practical Primer for Realistic Radicals.*** New York: Vintage Books, 1971. This primer tells the "have-nots" how they can organize to achieve real political power for the practice of true democracy.
- Alinsky, Saul D. *Reveille for Radicals.*** New York: Random House, 1969. Like Thomas Paine before him, Saul Alinsky, through the concept and practice of community organizing, was able to embody for his era both the urgency of radical political action and the imperative of rational political discourse. His work and writing bequeathed a new method and style of social change to American communities that will remain a permanent part of the American political landscape.
- Betten, Niel and Michael J. Austin. *The Roots of Community Organizing, 1917-1939.*** Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1990. An illustration of pioneering community organizers. Today's community organizers and social planners have a tendency to ignore their antecedents and to "reinvent the wheel." Offers an historical analysis of the intellectual and practical roots of community organizing in the United States.
- Chambers, Edward T. with Michael A. Cowan. *Roots for Radicals: Organizing for Power, Action, and Justice.*** New York: Continuum, 2003. Presents a distillation of the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) philosophy and its approach to community organizing and encourages reflection about public life and ideals.
- Fisher, Robert. *Let the People Decide: Neighborhood Organizing in America.*** Updated Edition. New York: Twayne, 1995. Insightfully traces the history of neighborhood organizing in the U.S., probably with broader sweep and in greater detail than any other. The book has been regarded by many activists, funders and historians as an indispensable resource for those who want to understand community organizing. Fisher's bibliographic essay that is appended to the narrative is in itself worth far more than the cover price of the book.
- Gecan, Michael. *Going Public.*** Boston: Beacon Press, 2002. Reflections of a well-traveled community organizer on relationships, power, effective organization and "public cultures." A good conversational read.
- Greider, William. *Who Will Tell the People: The Betrayal of American Democracy.*** New York: Touchstone, 1993. Greider calls on us to reclaim democracy from the special interests. In discussing his wide ranging views on what has gone wrong with democracy, the author points to community organizing as a route to making government work for the people. Based on an investigation of community organizing groups in Texas affiliated with the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF).
- Jacobsen, Dennis A. *Doing Justice: Congregations and Community Organizing.*** Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2001. A book "written on the run" by a Milwaukee minister deeply and personally involved in community organizing. This book speaks clearly and personally to clergy interested in involving their congregations in community organizing.

Kretzmann, John P. and John L. McKnight. *Building Communities from the Inside Out: A Path Toward Finding and Mobilizing a Community's Assets*. Chicago: ACTA Publications, 1993. For visual learners, many diagrams are provided illustrating capacity building.

Warren, Mark R. and Richard L. Wood. *Faith-Based Community Organizing: The State of the Field*. Jericho, NY: Interfaith Funders, January 2001. <http://comm-org.utoledo.edu/papers2001/faith/contents.htm>. Basic concepts and definitions concisely presented. A must read.

Web Sites

Many valuable resources are linked to the following sites:

American Prospect
<http://www.prospect.org/>

Annie E. Casey Foundation
<http://www.aecf.org/>

Aspen Institute
<http://www.aspeninstitute.org/>

Asset-Based Community Development Institute (ABCD), produces practical resources and tools for community builders to identify, nurture, and mobilize neighborhood assets.
<http://www.northwestern.edu/ipr/abcd.html>

Center for Community Change: includes *Organizing* newsletter
<http://www.communitychange.org/>

COMM-ORG: The On-Line Conference On Community Organizing and Development
<http://comm-org.utoledo.edu/papers.htm>

Community Based Resource Exchange
<http://www.commbuild.org/>

National Housing Institute and *Shelterforce: The Journal of Affordable Housing and Community Building*
<http://www.nhi.org/>

Neighborhood Funders Group
<http://www.nfg.org/>

Video

Baldwin, Alec, Bob Hercules; Bruce Orenstein. *The Democratic Promise: Saul Alinsky and his Legacy*. Berkeley: U of CA Extension Center for Media & Independent Learning, 1999 or Independent Television Service, 501 York Street, San Francisco, CA 94110; <http://www.itvs.org/>. The story of the Industrial Areas Foundation and Alinsky from 1940 to the present.