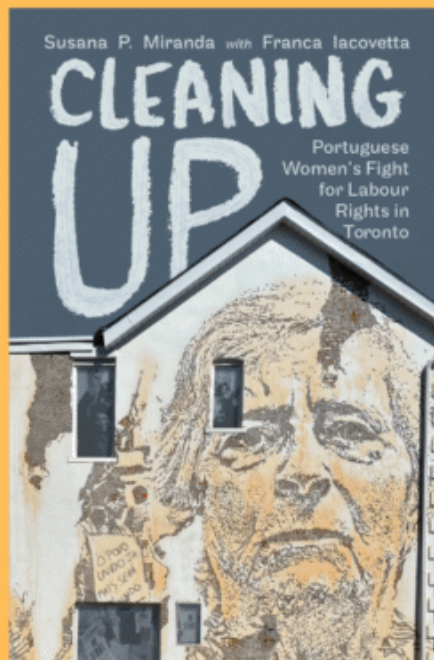




An Evening With The Authors

# CLEANING UP

Portuguese Women's Fight for  
Labour Rights in Toronto



Zoom

April 11th, 2023

7:00 PM  
(ET)

TWHP & RISE UP!  
a digital archive of feminist activism



# Labour Heroines: (r) Idalina Azevedo; Leopoldina Pimentel





# Mural by Vhils, Alexandre Farto







# Idalina Azevedo



# Leopoldina P; John Medeiros, comm. organizer, Comunidade



# Cleaners in Meeting, Queen's Park, 1975





# Cleaners getting TV coverage





# Sidney Pratt strategizing with cleaners, Queen's Park, 1975



# CA Newsletter 'Aug 78 Pratt & Gabriela Castro



## CLEANER'S ACTION NEWSLETTER

Canadian Textile & Chemical  
Union  
1331 1/2 St Clair W.  
Toronto, Ontario

ANO I VOL. I N.2 AGOSTO 1978  
TEL.: 533-1292



- \* ENTREVISTA COM ARMINDA SOUSA  
RECEIVED 3-1 PAG. 2
- \* AS NOSSAS REUNIÕES PAG. 4
- \* CHI DA L'APPOGGIO  
AL CLEANER'S ACTION ? PAG. 6
- \* L'IMPORTANZA DI ESSERE DELIGATO  
PAG. 6
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PAG. 7
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PAG. 7-8

### QUE SE PASSA NO QUEEN'S PARK?

No passado mês de Março foram encerradas as negociações do novo contrato entre o Sindicato S.E.I.U., local 204, e os trabalhadores da limpeza do Queen's Park.

De notar, no entanto, já lá vão 4 meses, que esse mesmo contrato ainda não foi dado aos trabalhadores que não sabem o que se passa no seu novo contrato.

Sabiam os trabalhadores que tinham direito a receber dinheiro retroactivo o qual, no entanto, só depois de muita pressão dos trabalhadores junto do sindicato conseguiram receber o dinheiro que lhes era devido.

Porém, quanto a dias de luto, direitos e aumentos previstos de ordenados, nada se sabe, na medida em que o contrato não se encontra na mão dos trabalhadores mas sim na mão do sindicato.

Perguntamos qual a razão que leva o sindicato, ou até mesmo os delegados sindicais a não pedirem o contrato.

Perguntamos qual a razão que leva os delegados sindicais a não pedirem cópias do con-

*continua na página seguinte.*

### WHO SPONSORS CLEANER'S ACTION?

A group of community workers got together several years ago to discuss the problems of people who do cleaning in the large buildings. They were brought together by community workers at The St. Christopher House. Most immigrants know The St. Christopher House from its work with Senior Citizens or from the work of the Portuguese Free Interpreter Service.

Cleaner's Action is one part of the Adult Services Department of The St. Christopher House. Other parts of our work include giving English classes at factories, teaching people how to read and write, doing research on working conditions, and understanding more about social communications.

Money for all of this work comes from a number of sources: from the Federal Government, the Department of the Secretary of State; from the Provincial Government, the Ministry of Culture and Recreation; from the United Appeal, which receives donations from corporations and private citizens for use in public-service agencies; from various agencies connected with Churches, from the City of Toronto; and from private donations from our clients themselves.

*See page 2*



Sidney Pratt e Gabriela Castro community workers at St. Christopher House and responsible for the project Cleaner's Action.

# '79 First Cdn Place cleaners meet w CFASU (later FASWOC)





'80 vote 1<sup>st</sup> c. CFASU; ratify coll.  
agreement CFASU & Federated





# FCP '84 strike image for mural, Aida Jordão's mother





# 1984 Strike, Children on the line



# Husbands on the line





# Union rep. Lucia Ferreira arrested for refusing leave lobby



ZORAN MILIC/TORONTO STAR

**Taken away:** Union executive Lucia Ferreira is put in a police van after picketers refused to leave the lobby of First Canadian Place. She and three others were charged and released.



# Support NDP Dan Heap





# Victory 1984

Office cleaners sing to thrill of victory



EDIN COMBS/TORONTO STAR



# Victory Party, *Casa do Benfica* strikers, kids, speeches, pride



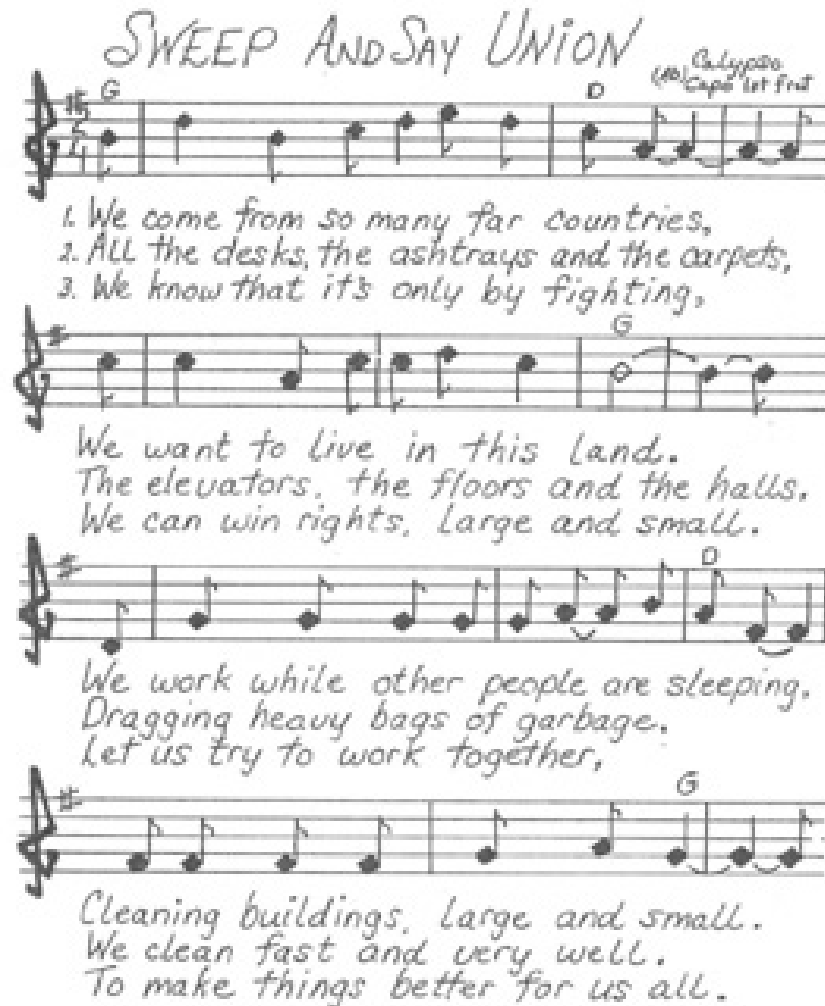






# Sweep & Say Union, ESL, Mary Ellen Nettle & Susan Howlett

*SWEET AND SAY UNION* Calypso (A) Cape' let first



1. We come from so many far countries,  
2. All the desks, the ashtrays and the carpets,  
3. We know that it's only by fighting,

We want to live in this land.  
The elevators, the floors and the halls.  
We can win rights, large and small.

We work while other people are sleeping,  
Dragging heavy bags of garbage.  
Let us try to work together,

Cleaning buildings, large and small.  
We clean fast and very well.  
To make things better for us all.