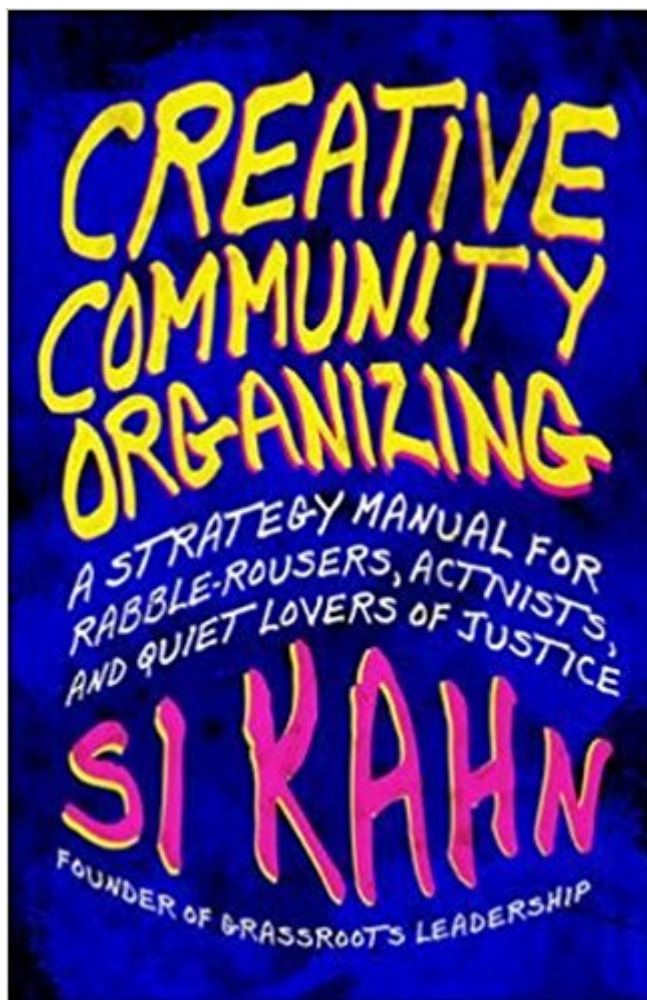


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Creative Community Organizing: A Guide For Rabble-Rousers, Activists, And Quiet Lovers Of Justice



Synopsis

With a Little Creativity, Everyday People Can Change the World – If you yearn to help make the world a better place but wonder how to do it, look no further. In this unique book, legendary organizer and musician Si Kahn regales us with entertaining, funny, sad, dramatic, and inspiring tales of his work in some of the most important progressive struggles of the past fifty years – the Southern civil rights movement, the Harlan County coal miners’ strike, the fights to abolish prison privatization and immigrant family detention. Si addresses not just strategies and tactics but how creative community organizing can prod us to learn new skills, encourage us to take risks, and transform us into practical visionaries for justice.

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Customer Reviews

“Democracy is not a gift bestowed by the powerful on the rest of us. If we want democracy now, we have to be willing to fight for it – and we need to know how. Si Kahn’s passionate new book, based on a lifetime of organizing for justice, offers hope for all of us who will not compromise the dream of democracy.” – Amy Goodman, host of Democracy Now! and author of Breaking the Sound Barrier “Si Kahn has spent a lifetime as a rabble-rouser, an organizer and a transcendent storyteller. His book is a blueprint for those who really want to make a difference. Read it. Have fun. And change the world.” – Donna Red Wing, Chief of Staff, Interfaith Alliance

Si Kahn has worked for forty-five years as a civil rights, labor, and community organizer. He is the founder of the national progressive organization Grassroots Leadership, coauthor with feminist/public philosopher Elizabeth Minnich of *The Fox in the Henhouse: How Privatization Threatens Democracy*, and a Distinguished Senior Fellow at Demos. Si's fifteenth CD of original songs, *Courage*, about the quiet heroism of everyday people, is being released concurrently with *Creative Community Organizing*.

Ordered this book for a class I took. It was really interesting and gave me a great perspective on what community organizing really looks like. It made me feel like it was something that I could do. The author wrote in a way that makes it easy to relate to. It was a nice change to read this for a class instead of just a textbook too.

There's a little something for just about everybody in Si Kahn's delightful little memoir, *Creative Community Organizing*. In the space of a couple of hours of reading, you can gain a front-row seat on history from the vantage-point of SNCC (the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, one of the most militant elements in the civil rights struggle) to the UMWA (the Mineworkers Union) to the recent nationwide campaign to end immigrant family detention. You'll learn about music and art and their central role in what Kahn calls "creative community organizing," with folksong lyrics prefacing every chapter. You'll learn about Si's remarkable rabbi father and radical mother. You'll even learn the meaning of the puzzling word "hod," as in "hod carrier." Si is a 45-year veteran of organizing in the civil rights movement, the labor movement, and through the scrappy little nonprofit organization he founded 30 years ago to work for social and economic justice in the South and Southwest, Grassroots Leadership. He is also a writer and singer of folksongs, most of them on radical themes tied to his organizing work. Oh, and by the way: he's a really nice guy. This book, subtitled *A Guide for Activists, Rabble-Rousers, and Quiet Lovers of Justice*, can also be read as a primer on creative community organizing. The material is organized into chapters that correspond to the guiding principles of Si's craft. And I can testify to the wisdom of those principles, having worked as a community organizer myself for several years in the 1970s -- operating more from the seat of my pants rather than the solid experience Si has gained through a lifetime of organizing. Note well: Si hasn't just organized and run campaigns. He has helped win a number of notable victories over the years. He knows whereof he writes. And our country is much the stronger for Si's tireless efforts on behalf of justice, equality, and freedom. (From Mal Warwick's Blog on Books)

Si Kahn gives us some great insight on organizing a community and spreading awareness on a multitude of issues. With a story one chapter, a song in the next, and a poem after that, you stay interested. His personal narratives opened my eyes to issues and solutions I never knew existed. He also gives you 10 guidelines to being a creative community organizer, and as a student in the environmental field, I found these most helpful.

well written and interesting, but not as instructive as I hoped. more informative than instructive. The author is likable though.

Interesting book I ordered for my daughters psych class

This is a wonderful book for anyone interested in making the world a better place, or their nation, or their neighborhood, or just a reason to be optimistic about the future. The themes are lofty and sophisticated, and the lessons practical and down to earth. By the way, just after finishing the book I saw Athol Fugard's play, *My Children, My Africa*, about the moral dilemmas and practical realities of the fight to end apartheid in South Africa - it's playing now at the Signature Theater in New York City. The play is engrossing and powerful, and it is quite amazing how the themes and literary devices overlap with Si Kahn's book - the nitty-gritty of organizing, the power of stories and poetry, the unintended consequences of moral decisions - I can only imagine that Athol Fugard and Si Kahn had dinner, shared ideas and then Athol said, OK, I'll write the play and Si said, OK, I'll write the book.

Good stories of organizing

This book was interesting to me because it gave me a different view of what organizing actually is. Si Kahn explained concepts and the steps that he had to take to organize in a way that I could understand. The author did a very good job with making me feel as though I was there in the midst of what they were attempting to organize. I would recommend this book for people who are thinking about beginning an organization.

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