

May is Labor History Month!

2024 Events:



Written Work: Poetry, Labor, and the Global City

Mon, **April 15**, 6:30-8 pm

Poetry readings by **Camonghne Felix, Dorothea Lasky, & Emanuel Xavier**. **Helena de Groot** moderates a lively discussion about poetry, language, and labor, exploring the way poetry embodies work, using our multicultural city's rich labor history as the backdrop. Special musical performance by **Linda Smith**. Free. Stavros Niarchos Fndt. Library (SNFL), Event Center, 455 Fifth Av, NYC 10016. (212) 340-0863. [Written Work: Poetry, Labor, and the Global City | The New York Public Library \(nypl.org\)](https://www.nypl.org/programs/education-and-training/2024/04/15-written-work-poetry-labor-and-the-global-city)



Labor History Workshop

Mon, **April 15**, 12 noon to 2 pm

Workshop: Free. CSEA Local 1000, 143 Washington Av, Albany, NY 12210. (315) 728-3360.

Workshop will be conducted Tu, April 16, noon-2 pm, as well. <https://cseany.org/education-and-training-webinars>

CAFECITO
CON...

**JORELL
MELÉNDEZ-
BADILLO**

AUTHOR OF "PUERTO RICO: A
NATIONAL HISTORY"



Aurora Santiago Ortiz

Mon, **April 15**, 6 pm

Virtual Book Talk: sheds light on the vibrant cultures of the archipelago in the centuries before the arrival of Columbus and captures the full sweep of Puerto Rico's turbulent history in the centuries that followed, from the first indigenous insurrection against colonial rule in 1511—led by the powerful chieftain Agüeybaná II -- to the establishment of the Commonwealth in 1952. Meléndez-Badillo deftly portrays the contemporary period and the intertwined though unequal histories of the archipelago and the continental U.S. Free. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cafecito-con-jorell-melendez-badillo-puerto-rico-a-national-history-tickets-857068574177?>



Working Theater Production: *Fish*

Tu, **April 16**, 7 pm

Through April 20

Play: Between acting as guardian to her little brother and losing her best friend to the charter school on the upper floor, Tree is just trying her best to get through senior year at her underfunded public school. Ms. Harris, the new English teacher, has grown embittered over budget cuts and standardized testing – keeping every student afloat is proving easier said than done. When questions arise that no textbook can answer, both student and teacher will face their most challenging assignment to date. Kia Corthron's *Fish* is a frank, funny, and fearless new play about the everyday people who make up America's education system. Tickets: sliding scale \$0-\$130. 2 pm matinees 4/17 & 4/20. Theater Four in Theatre Row, 410 West 42nd St, NYC. [Fish - Working Theater \(theworkingtheater.org\)](https://www.theworkingtheater.org)



Mulberry Bend in the Five Points neighborhood
photo: Jacob Riis c. 1896.

Explore the Five Points

Sun, **April 21**, 1:30-3:30 pm

Walking Tour: Irish and Nativist gangs that battled for neighborhood dominance in the 1850s and 60s. The Five Points neighborhood was also one of the first Jewish neighborhoods in New York City (before the great Eastern European migration to the Lower East Side from 1880 to 1920). Jewish immigrants, predominantly from Eastern Europe, settled, suffered, and built their synagogues within the confines of the squalid and unsanitary conditions of the Five Points neighborhood. Learn about the first Jewish garment district. Explore how the neighborhood came about, the communities who lived here, and the different Jewish congregations that sprouted up. \$25; \$20 Srs, Students. Meet at 217 Park Row, NYC 10038. (212) 219-0302. [Booking Walking Tour: Explore The Notorious Five Points for 4/21/24 - Museum at Eldridge Street \(fareharbor.com\)](#)



Poverty and Wealth on Postwar Long Island

Mon, **April 22**, 6:30-8 pm

On-Line Book Talk: Focusing on Long Island, America's richest postwar suburb, **Tim Keogh**, author of *In Levittown's Shadow* reveals how the U.S. government created both prosperity – and poverty -- after World War II. The GI Bill and other federal mortgage programs fueled postwar middle-class wealth for some suburbanites -- allowing them to buy single-family homes and leave the working class – while cramming others into suburban attics, basements, and sheds. Not covered by New Deal labor law, a large, diverse cohort of suburbanites remained impoverished. They mowed lawns, constructed houses, scrubbed kitchen floors, and stocked retail shelves. Policymakers ignored the negative features of suburbia -- depicting housing segregation as the cause of inequality and dispersing the poor as the solution, even as suburbs began to outpace urban and rural areas in terms of poverty. Free. [Poverty and Wealth on Postwar Long Island Tickets, Mon, Apr 22, 2024 at 6:30 PM | Eventbrite](#)

Interpretive Center Groundbreaking

Mon, **April 22**, 2-3 pm



Groundbreaking Celebration: Underground Railroad Education Center is holding the groundbreaking for its Interpretive Center on Earth Day. The planned 14000 square foot facility will tell the story of the Underground Railroad. Free. The Stephen and Harriet Myers Residence, 194 Livingston Av, Albany, NY 12210. (518) 621-7793.



Workers' Memorial Day

Thurs, **April 25**, 12 noon

Memorial: Join the New York City Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, and the New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health (NYCOSH) for our annual Workers' Memorial Day event to honor those who have died or suffered injuries or illnesses while on the job, to recognize the sacrifices made by all essential workers on the front lines, and to renew the fight for strong safety and health protections. Free. City Hall Park, Manhattan. (212) 604-9552. info@nycclc.org



Soaring Spirits for Freedom: Harriet Tubman and Fannie Lou Hamer

Sat, **April 27**, 2-3 pm

Lecture: Best-selling author **Kate Clifford Larson**, *Walk With Me: A Biography of Fannie Lou Hamer* (Oxford, 2021); *Bound For the Promised Land: Harriet Tubman, Portrait of an American Hero* (Penguin, 2004). Born a century apart – one in slavery, the other in Jim Crow Mississippi – **Harriet Tubman** and **Fannie Lou Hamer** battled subjugation and racism to ensure equality for all Americans. Their lives and legacies are a testament to the soaring power of freedom that inspires leaders to rise up from the most unexpected places. \$12. (518) 621-7793. [REGISTER FOR THIS PRESENTATION](#)



I'll Find a Way or Make One – a Rosie Story.

Wed, **May 1**, 6:30 pm

Screening with Filmmaker Rebecca Fasanello: **Viola Hippert** grew up a child of Serbian immigrants in the shadow of the Bethlehem Steel plant in Lackawanna, New York. Her family's strong work ethic laid the groundwork for "Vi" to become a Rosie the Riveter at Bell Aircraft Corporation during WWII. Now in her late 90s, Vi reflects on her life. Free. Steel Plant Museum Heritage Discovery Center, 100 Lee St, Buffalo, NY 14210. (716) 821-9361.

steelplantmuseumwny@gmail.com



photo: 1199SEIU

Labor History in the Bronx

Wed, **May 1**, 4 pm

Lecture: Lydia Howrilka from NYPL speaks on the development of labor activism in the Bronx from the 19th century through the present day. The Bronx History and Activism Project (BxHAP) is a bi-weekly virtual history and civic program that introduces participants to a topic in local history and utilizes local primary and secondary sources to help bring the topic to life. Free. Soundview Library, 660 Soundview Av, Bronx, NY 10473. (718) 589-0880. [Bronx History and Activism: Labor History in the Bronx | The New York Public Library \(nypl.org\)](https://www.nypl.org/programs/bronx-history-and-activism)



Workers Unite Film Festival

Wed, **May 1**, 10 am–10 pm

Online May Day Celebration: Films TBA. Free. Additional screenings May 2 & 3. bit.ly/WatchWUFF13 (212) 675-5518. melanie@workersuniteff.org



May Day Festival at the American Labor Museum

Wed, **May 1**, 7 pm

Musical Celebration: Screening of award-winning 30-minute documentary *The Internationale*. Performances by **George Mann**, accompanied by **Marty Confurius & Al Podber**; **NJ Industrial Union Council Solidarity Singers**. Lyric soprano **Annamaria Stefanelli** will sing opera arias popular among immigrant workers. Tribute to the late trade-union-activist-turned-folksinger, Julius Margolin. \$10. Refreshments will be served. American Labor Museum/Botto House National Landmark, 83 Norwood St, Haledon, NJ 07508. (973) 595-7953. labormuseum@aol.com



Landing Negroes from
a Dutch Man-of-War,
Jamestown, 1619.
NYPL Digital Collection.

Slavery in New Netherland and the Dutch Atlantic World, Day 1

Fri, **May 3**, 9-5

2-day conference: 9:15 panel: **The Slave Trade in New Netherland and the Dutch Atlantic World**. Afternoon Panel: **Dutch Slavery in North America:** **Evan Haefeli**, Texas A&M Univ. *New Netherland and Indigenous Slavery*; **Jeroen Dewulf**, U.C. Berkeley, *The Captives of the Bruynvisch: New Insights into the Origins and Identity of Manhattan's First Enslaved Africans*; **Jennifer Tosch**, Black Heritage Tours: *New York State & Amsterdam, the Netherlands, Transatlantic Narratives Connecting Dutch, African and Native American Histories*. Free. Langston Hughes Auditorium, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, 515 Malcolm X Blvd, NYC 10037. (212) 491-2265. [Slavery in New Netherland and the Dutch Atlantic World \(Day 1\)](#)

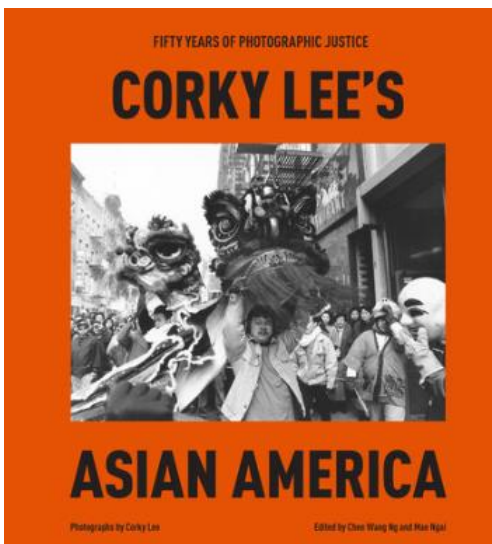


Enslaved and Free Africans in
New Netherland/Dutch New York.
PBS LearningMedia

Slavery in New Netherland and the Dutch Atlantic World, Day 2

Sat, **May 4**, 9-5

Conference: 9:15 panel: Women and Slavery: **Susanah Romney**, NYU, *Reytory, Palesa, and Lysbeth: Building Biographies of Black Women in New Amsterdam*; **Nicole Maskiell**, Univ. of South Carolina, *Fifty Bevers: The Gender of Slavery in New Netherland*; **Andrea Mosterman**, Univ. of New Orleans, *"I was their midwife": Enslaved Women, Pregnancy, and Motherhood on Dutch Slave Ships*. Free. Robert H. Smith Auditorium, New-York Historical Society, 170 Central Park West, NYC 10024. (212) 485-9268. [Slavery in New Netherland and the Dutch Atlantic World \(Day 2\)](#)



Corky Lee's Asian America

Sat, **May 4**, 2024, 4-6 pm

Book Launch Party/Panel Discussion: led by Book Editor **Mae Ngai**, Photographer **Alan Chin**, and Pearl River Mart President **Joanne Kwong** introduce this collection of never-before-seen photographs alongside **Corky Lee's** most renowned images of Asian American history and activism, documenting moments of inclusion, resistance, and ethnic pride. Program includes a lion dance performance by the Chinatown Community Young Lions. Purchase the book from Chinatown's beloved bookstore, Yu and Me, and explore a pop-up exhibition showcasing Corky's iconic photos with refreshments. Delve deeper: www.corkylee.org Free. Manny Cantor Center, 197 E Broadway, NYC 10002. [Asian American Arts Alliance \(neoncrm.com\)](http://neoncrm.com)



Emma Goldman soapboxing at Union Square, May 21, 1916.
photo: Corbis Images for Education

Our Remarkable Lower East Side Women

Sun, **May 5**, 1:30 pm

Walking Tour: See Straus Square, where activists **Emma Goldman**, **Clara Lemlich**, **Rose Schneiderman**, and **Pauline Newman** fought for workers' and women's rights. Visit the site of the mikvah (ritual bath house) owned and operated by entrepreneur **Gittel Natelson**. See the Educational Alliance where **Julia Richman** taught English to immigrant students and **Louise Nevelson** developed her site-specific artwork. \$25; \$20 Srs, Students. 12 Eldridge Street, NYC 10002. (212) 219-0302. [Walking Tour: Our Remarkable Lower East Side Women | Museum at Eldridge Street \(fareharbor.com\)](#)



74th Annual Hillman Prizes for Journalism

Tu, **May 7**, 6 pm

Awards Ceremony: Honoring excellence in journalism in service of the common good. Free. Seating capacity is limited, RSVP: Alex@HillmanFoundation.org.



A New Political Generation and the 21st Century U.S. Labor Movement

Thurs, **May 9**, 2:15 pm

Lecture: **Ruth Milkman** (above), Distinguished Professor of Sociology and History at the CUNY Graduate Center and Professor of Labor Studies at the School of Labor and Urban Studies (CUNY) will speak on the hope for the U.S. labor movement a new political generation brings. Milkman most recent books are: *Immigration Matters* (co-edited with Deepak Bhargava and Penny Lewis, New Press, 2021), *Immigrant Labor and the New Precariat* (Polity, 2020) and *On Gender, Labor and Inequality* (Illinois, 2016). The hour-long program will include a tribute to **Jane LaTour** (1946-2023) and her work, by Joe Doyle – and a short presentation about a transfer program for community college students to the School for Labor and Urban Studies at CUNY (SLU). Free. LaGuardia Community College, Rm. E-500, 31-10 Thomson Av, Long Island City, NY 11101.
kamiller@lagcc.cuny.edu

The New York Labor History Association

Presents

AN OVERVIEW OF THE WAGNER ACT AND THE NLRB

**As they approach their 90th anniversary and are
under attack as “unconstitutional”**

Thursday May 9, 2024

7:00 pm-8:30 pm (ET) via Zoom

FREE program

PANELISTS:

ELLEN DICHNER, Attorney
Former Chief Counsel to NLRB Chairman

STEVE GOLIN, Historian
Emeritus Professor of History, Bloomfield College

GRACE RECKERS, Organizer
Senior Organizer, OPEIU



Thurs, **May 9**, 7 pm

Zoom Panel Discussion: co-sponsored by the School of Labor and Urban Studies (CUNY), NY State Bar Association, & Tamiment Library/Robert F. Wagner Labor Archives. Free.

Register: NLRB@newyorklaborhistory.org



An American Soldier

Sun, **May 12**, 3 pm

Through **May 19**

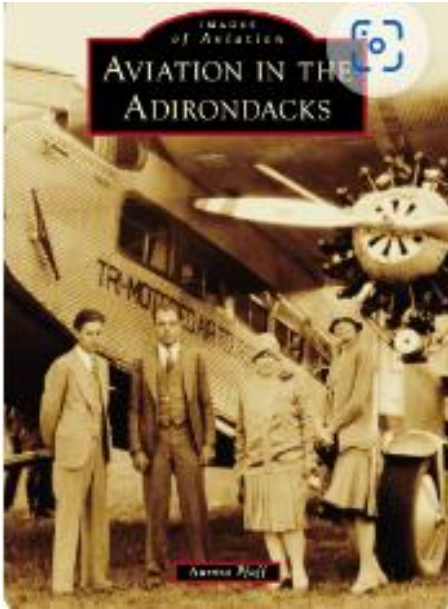
Opera: On October 3, 2011, Chinese American Army Pvt. Danny Chen was found dead in a guard tower at his base in Afghanistan. Based on his story and the ensuing courts-martial of Chen's fellow soldiers, this NYC premiere opera tells the powerful true story of a young soldier from Manhattan's Chinatown who sought to serve his country, only to find his biggest threat was the very people who swore to protect him. \$54-\$134. Perlman Performing Arts Center, 251 Fulton St, NYC 10007. (212) 266-3000. <https://pacnyc.org/whats-on/an-american-soldier/>



Mother's Day Music in the Garden: Quintet of the Americas

Sun, **May 12**, 3-4:30 pm

Concert: Quintet of the Americas, a Queens-based woodwind quintet, presents a Mother's Day celebration with select works by women composers. Pieces will include *On Seven-Star-Shoes* by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Julia Wolfe, *Caprice for Woodwind Quintet* by New Yorker Peri Mauer, *Five Frogs* by Jenni Brandon, and others. \$6; \$4 Srs, Students, Individuals with Disabilities; \$2 ages 4-12; 3 & under free. Queens Botanical Garden, 43-50 Main St, Flushing, NY 11355. Contact: Manika Tolentino (718) 886-3800. queensbotanical.org



Aviation in the Adirondacks

Mon, **May 13**, 7 pm

Webinar Book Talk: Through a range of historic images and postcards, author **Aurora Pfaff** tells the story of pilots who linked communities by air, transported goods and people, and the small towns and airfields that they called home. From the novelty of planes landing on skis and daredevil flying circuses to forest fire patrols, exploration of the vast backcountry, and toy deliveries by Santa, airplanes have opened the Adirondack wilderness and made remote communities more easily accessible for tourists and adventurers. Free. (518) 352-7311. [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)



One of last year's honorees,
prison reform organizer
Barbara Martinsons

Clara Lemlich Awards for Social Activism

Mon, **May 13**, 4-5:30 pm

Awards Ceremony: Honoring unsung activists, women who have been working for the larger good all their lives, in the tradition of those who sparked so many reforms in the aftermath of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire. Free. Museum of the City of New York 1220 Fifth Av @103 St, NYC 10029. (212) 966-4014. LaborArts.org/Lemlich



A scene from the 2014 Russell Sage College production of Ruth Henry's musical about Kate Mullany and the 1864 Troy Collar Laundry Union strike, *Don't Iron While the Strike Is Hot*.

Kate Mullany House Awards Ceremony

Tu, **May 14**, 6 pm

Awards Ceremony: This year's honorees: the Labor and Working Class History Association (LAWCHA) and Mullany House landscaper/volunteer Patty O'Hare. \$50. NY State United Teachers, 800 Troy-Schenectady Road, Albany, NY 12110. [2024-ALSC-Reception-Invitation1.pdf \(labor-studies.org\)](#)



One of last year's Diversity in Labor scholarship recipients at her graduation from the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies. photo: Aaron Lenchner/CUNY SLU

Joseph S. Murphy Scholarship for Diversity in Labor Awards and Reception

Thurs, **May 16**, 5:30–7 pm

Awards Ceremony: Honoring today's rising leaders for Labor's future and introducing the 2024 Scholarship Recipients. \$125. CUNY School for Labor and Urban Studies, 25 West 43rd St, 18th Floor, NYC 10036. (646) 313-8514. rose.imperato@slu.cuny.edu



Ships in Distress off a Rocky Coast
by Ludolf Backhuysen, 1667

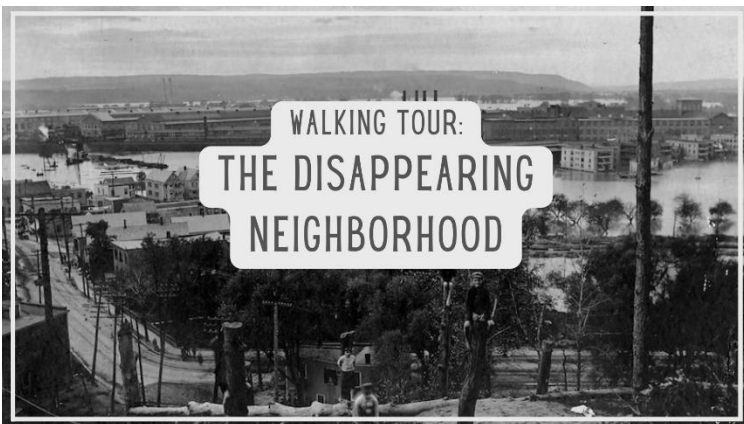
Shipwreck and Salvation - The Wreck of the Prince Maurice 1657

Thurs, **May 16**, 1-2:30 pm

Lecture/Q&A: March 8, 1657, a Nor'easter wrecked The Prince Maurice on the shoals of Fire Island. Every one of her 129 passengers, crew and Dutch West India Company soldiers were saved by local Unkechaug people. Through 3D models, interactive maps and documents, **Toya Dubin**, Mapping Early NY Project Director, and **Drew Shuptar-Rayvis**, Algonkian Historical Consultant, recount the harrowing shipwreck and sublime rescue on an ice-laden beach. Free. Shelter Island Historical Society, 16 South Ferry Road, Shelter Island, NY 11964. (212) 874-4702. info@shelterislandhistorical.org

Lecture/Q&A will also be given 7-8:30 pm, May 17, at the Port Washington Public Library, 1 Library Drive, Port Washington, NY 11050. (516) 883-4400. <https://portwashington.librarycalendar.com/event/shipwreck-and-salvation-wreck-prince-maurice-1657-66675> – and on May 18, 11 am – 12:30 pm at the Rogers Mansion, 17 Meeting House Lane, Southampton, NY 11968. (631) 283-2494.

<https://www.southamptonhistory.org/event-details/shipwreck-and-salvation-the-wreck-of-the-prince-maurice-1657>



The Disappearing Neighborhood

Fri, **May 17**, 6-7 pm

Walking Tour: In the early 19th century, a large and remarkable neighborhood of newly freed, Black Schenectadians existed on what was then the outskirts of town. In a matter of decades, this Black community would almost completely vanish. In this tour, we explore these streets and rediscover some of what was lost all those years ago. \$13. Tour meets outside the Schenectady Public Library Central Branch, 99 Clinton St, Schenectady, NY 12305. (518) 388-4500.

<https://schenectadyhistorical.org/event/disappear/>



"A Group of Peddlers" (The Ghetto), color postcard, William A. Rosenthal Judaica Collection Postcards.

The Jewish Lower East Side

Sun, **May 19**, 11:30 am

Walking Tour: A century ago, the Lower East Side saw unparalleled growth as waves of immigrants settled, prayed, played, worked, shopped, and attended school in this neighborhood as they built their new lives in a new land. Visit Straus Square and learn about its history and its significance during the heyday of Jewish immigration. See *The Forward* building and learn the role of this important Jewish newspaper and its Yiddish advice column *A Bintel Brief*. \$25; \$20 Srs, Students. 12 Eldridge Street, NYC 10002. (212) 219-0302. [Booking Walking Tour: Jewish Lower East Side for 5/19/24 - Museum at Eldridge Street \(fareharbor.com\)](https://fareharbor.com/bookings/walking-tour-jewish-lower-east-side-for-5-19-24)



Elizabeth Gloucester: The Lost Story of NY's Most Powerful Black Woman

Mon, **May 20**, 6:30 pm

Lecture: Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times editorial writer **Brent Staples** tells the story of Elizabeth Gloucester, born into slavery around 1817 in Virginia, raised in Philadelphia, preacher's daughter, phenomenally successful real estate broker, leading member of 19th century Brooklyn's prosperous Black community, and an abolitionist who regularly hosted John Brown in her home. \$35. (212) 485-9268. <https://3256.blackbaudhosting.com/3256/tickets?tab=2&txobjid=4c06df7b-aa19-449d-95bc-11b1426fd453>



Natalie Foster and Tressie McMillan Cottom Discuss *The Guarantee*

Tu, **May 21**, 6:30 – 8 pm

Book Talk: Author **Natalie Foster's** *The Guarantee* asks us to imagine an America where housing, health care, a college education, dignified work, family care, an inheritance, and an income floor are not only attainable by all but guaranteed, by our government, for everyone. Pie-in-the-sky thinking? Foster argues our current economic system is chock full of government-backed guarantees, from bailouts to bankruptcy protection, to keep the private sector in business. So why can't the same be true for the rest of us? In conversation with University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill & MacArthur Fellow **Dr. Tressie McMillan Cottom**. Center for Brooklyn History, 128 Pierrepont St, Brooklyn, NY 11201. Free. Register: <https://www.bklynlibrary.org/calendar/cbh-talk-natalie-foster-center-for-brooklyn-20240521>



Chopped Liver and Unions

Wed, **May 22**, 7:30 pm

Through June 7

Play: One-person show about Sara Wesker, ardent trade unionist & needle-trades organizer in the East End of London in the 1920s & 1930. Wesker galvanized a traditionally compliant workforce. She marched in 1936, sang on the picket lines, and took part in the Battle of Cable Street against Oswald Mosley's Fascist Blackshirts. Featuring protest songs sung by the "Singing Strikers of 1928." \$32. 59 East 59 Street Theaters. Sat. & Sun. matinees at 2:30 pm.

<https://www.59e59.org/shows/show-detail/chopped-liver-unions/#show-info>.



CRT and the Battle Over Curriculum

Sat, **May 25**, 2-3 pm

On-Line Lecture: Alan Singer, Director, Secondary Education Social Studies, Hofstra University discusses the impact of 18 states banning the teaching of Critical Race Theory. Will it mean editing out of history any classroom discussion of slavery, racism, anti-Semitism, genocide, gender bias, and the treatment of indigenous people, immigrants, and religious minorities. \$12. (518) 621-7793.

[REGISTER FOR THIS PRESENTATION](#)



Silk Walk Reception/General Membership Meeting

Sun, **June 2**, 1 pm

Free. American Labor Museum/Botto House National Landmark, 83 Norwood St, Haledon, NJ 07508. (973) 595-7953. labormuseum@aol.com



Hex Workers United celebrating their Nov. 2023 election victory at Hex and Co.
photo: Debra Bergen-Koster

New Trends in Organizing: From 9 to 5 to the Emergency Workplace Organizing Committee (EWOC)

Wed, **June 5**, 7-8:30 pm

Zoom Panel Discussion: Panelists **Ellen Cassedy**, founder/leader of the 9 to 5 movement; **Prof. Eric Blanc**, Rutgers University, “How Worker-to-Worker Organizing Can Transform America”; & **Patrick Cate**, National Organizing Coordinator, EWOC, will examine the roots of the new wave of worker-to-worker organizing and the labor movement’s resurgence among a new generation of workers. Sponsor: NY Labor History Association. To register, contact Debra Bergen at DebBergen514@gmail.com (347) 209-8898.



The Rapp Road Community – Flight to Freedom

Sat, **June 22**, 2-3 pm

On-Line Lecture: **Jennifer A. Lemak**, Chief Curator of History, NYS Museum on the history and legacy of A Members of the Rapp Road Community moved from Mississippi during the first half of the 20th century. \$12.
[FOR THIS PRESENTATION](#)

The New York Labor History Association (NYLHA) was founded in 1976 by trade unionists, academics, students, archivists, educators, labor editors, attorneys, and retirees, mostly from New York State. NYLHA encourages the study of workers and their organizations and serves as a bridge between past and present labor unionists and academics.

NYLHA OFFICERS:

President – Irwin Yellowitz / iyellowitz@aol.com

Vice-President – Robert Parmet **Secretary** – Abbe Nosoff **Treasurer** – Peter Filardo

Calendar Committee: Joe Doyle (chair), Deborah Green, Arieh Lebowitz, Susan Wilson