



2025 Events

Completion of the **Erie Canal** in 1825 was a monumental achievement, linking the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean. It transformed NYC into a hub of international trade, drove the rise of industrial cities like Rochester & accelerated the westward expansion of the U.S. The **Erie Canal** turns 200-years-old this year, with dozens of events state-wide celebrating its bicentennial – and the prodigious effort of the workers who dug it.



Earth moving operations at the deep cut, near Lockport, NY, c/o Smithsonian Libraries, Washington, DC

Fri, **May 2**, 6 pm

Determined Not to Enter the Ditch Again: Labor Struggles of the Erie Canal

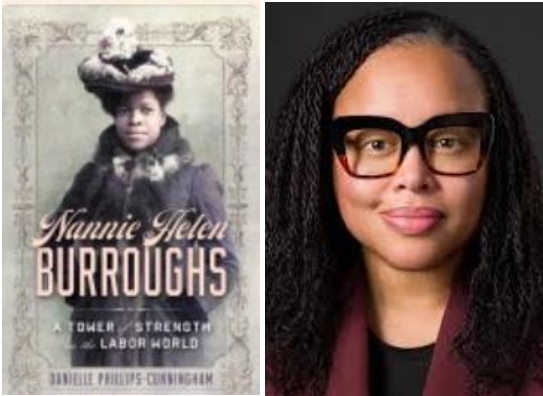
Lecture: [In-Person & Virtual] **Derrick Pratt**, Director, Education & Public Programming, **Erie Canal Museum**, explores the effort to expand the waterway & the labor organizing happening alongside the **Erie Canal**. Workers & their struggles to carve out a more equitable existence throughout the Canal Corridor. **\$10 donation requested.** **Erie Canal Museum**, 318 Erie Blvd, East Syracuse, NY 13202. (315) 471-0593. eriecanalmuseum.org 2025 Sloan Lecture Series Tickets | Erie Canal Museum



Sat, **May 3**, 4:30 – 6 pm

Concert for Peace and Justice

Concert: The **NYC Labor Chorus** performs powerful songs championing labor rights, civil rights, women's rights, & environmental justice, the **NYC Labor Chorus** continues its 30-year tradition of using music to inspire & mobilize for change. **Tickets: \$25: richandluce@yahoo.com**
The People's Forum, 320 W37th St, NYC, 10018. **Info:** nyclaborchorus.org



Mon, **May 5**, Noon

Nannie Helen Burroughs: A Tower of Strength in the Labor World

Virtual Book Talk: by author Danielle Phillips-Cunningham, Assoc. Prof, Labor Studies & Employment Relations, Rutgers University. **George Washington University Museum. Free.**

Registration required: <https://museum.gwu.edu/dc-mondays-nannie-helen-burroughs>



Tues, **May 6**, 4 - 5:30 pm

Clara Lemlich Social Activist Awards

Awards Ceremony: Honoring unsung activists, women who worked 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. This year's honorees include historian **Blanche Wiesen Cook** & playwright **Clare Coss**, poet **Rashidah Ismaili**, musician **Bev Grant**, & author **Rudean Leinaeng**. Reception will follow. **Free. Ethical Culture Society**, 2 W64th St, NYC 10023. (212) 874-5210. LaborArts.org/Lemlich <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-fifteenth-annual-clara-lemlich-awards-tickets-1284316779059>

Sat, **May 7**, 6 – 7:30 pm

Washington Square Neighborhood – Rochester, NY

Walking Tour: Washington Square is one of the oldest neighborhoods on Rochester's east side. The area serves as something of a microcosm of the city's history. Here, one finds echoes of Rochester's early years as a milling village, its Erie Canal boomtown days, and its rise as a site of technological innovation. **Meet on the north side of the Rundel Memorial Building** for this one mile tour.

Central Library of Rochester & Monroe County, 115 South Av, Rochester, NY 14604

<https://eriecanalway.org/explore/events/local-history-walking-tour-washington-square-neighborhood/2415>



image: @annabelleheckler Betty Pringle Bhairavi Desai Robin D.G. Kelley SungHee Oh

Thurs, **May 8** & Fri, **May 9**

Labor and the Crisis of Democracy: Working-Class Politics in an Age of Authoritarianism

Two-Day Conference: Join the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies & the Cornell Worker Institute to examine labor's role in defending & advancing democracy. Participants will engage in academic & practitioner panels on topics including strikes, organizing in repressive contexts, navigating US political context, intersectional approaches to organizing, & learning from labor history. Strategy workshops will focus on key labor challenges in immigration, labor education, federal workers, higher education, & more. **Free.** **CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies**, 25 W43rd St, 18th floor, NYC. **Register:** slucuny.swoogo.com/8May2025/register



Sat, **May 10**

Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive

Food Drive: Every 2nd Saturday in May, letter carriers across America collect the goodness & compassion of their postal customers, who participate in the [NALC Stamp Out Hunger National Food Drive](https://nalc.org/community-service/food-drive) — the largest one-day food drive in the nation. Led by the National Association of Letter Carriers (AFL-CIO), with help from rural letter carriers, other postal employees & other volunteers, carriers collect non-perishable food donations left by mailboxes and in post offices and deliver them to local community food banks, pantries and shelters. To donate, just place a box or can of non-perishable food next to your mailbox before your letter carrier delivers mail on the second Saturday in May. The carrier will do the rest. The food is sorted, and delivered to an area food bank or pantry, where it is available for needy families. nalc.org/community-service/food-drive



Tues, **May 13**, 6 pm

75th Annual Hillman Prizes for Journalism

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



Thurs, **May 15**, 6 – 7:30 pm

Building the Metropolis with Alexander Wood

Book Party: In the early 1900s, NYC built dozens of bridges, tunnels, train stations, & miles of subway track. In *Building the Metropolis: Architecture, Construction, and Labor in New York City, 1880–1935*, scholar **Alexander Wood** explores infrastructure contractors, specialized trades that made subway construction possible, & laborers taking on some of the most dangerous jobs in city history. **Alexander Wood** shares vivid historical accounts & striking archival photographs from the Transit Museum's collection. **Admission: \$15.** Transit Museum, 99 Schermerhorn St, Brooklyn, 11201. **Info:** hilary.goldstein@nyct.com nytransitmuseum.org/program/metropolis/



Sat, **May 17**

Labor Mobilizes - New Americans Initiative

Voter Registration: NYC Central Labor Council, NYC unions & CUNY Citizenship Now! help eligible permanent residents navigate the path to U.S. citizenship. See if you're eligible for naturalization. Get assistance completing the N-400 citizenship application; determine if you're eligible for a fee waiver or reduction. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdvUoB3VfqnrWB0e9WpK4m5cIN-aXu9ixQgE81Z_CxHtjRg/viewform



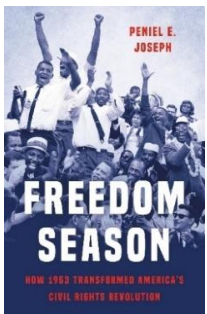
LABOR RESEARCH & ACTION NETWORK

Wed, **May 14**, 6 – 8 pm

Annual Awards Ceremony: The American Labor Studies Center

2025 Awardees: Stacy Caruso Sharpe (above) & the Labor Research & Action Network (LRAN)

Program ads: Gold Page \$5,000; Silver Page \$2,000; Full Page (7.5" w x 10" h) \$1,000; 1/2 Page (7.5" x 4.75") \$500; 1/4 Page (3.75" x 4.75") \$250; Business Card (3.75 x 2.5) \$100; Patron listing \$50. **Venue:** **NYS United Teachers**, 800 Troy-Schenectady Road, Albany, NY. **Tickets \$50:** Slocum & DeAngelus, 974 Albany Shaker Rd., Latham, NY 12110.



Thurs, **May 15**, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Freedom Season:

How 1963 Transformed America's Civil Rights Revolution

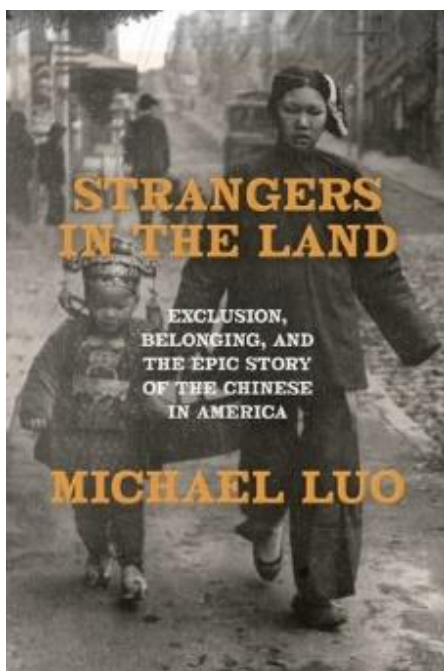
Book Talk: Author **Peniel E. Joseph** describes how the turbulent year 1963 forever altered the Civil Rights Movement & the future of America. **Douglas Brinkley**, historian, Rice University (moderator). **\$35. NY Historical Society**. 170 Central Park West @ 77 St, NYC. (212) 873-3400. www.nyhistory.org



Wed, **May 21**, 7 - 8:30 pm

Outclassed: How the Left Lost the Working Class and How to Win Them Back

Lecture: Joan C. Williams, award-winning scholar of social inequality, author of *White Working Class*, Distinguished Professor of Law and Hastings Foundation Chair (emerita) at University of California College of the Law, San Francisco. **Free.** **Brooklyn Public Central Library**, Dweck Center, 10 Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn, NY 11238. (718) 230.2100. www.bklynlibrary.org

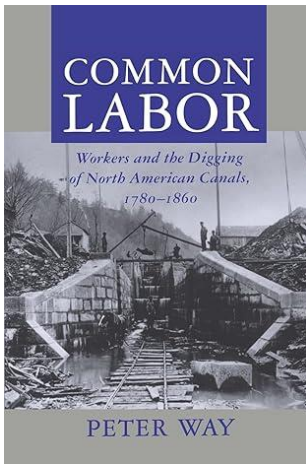


Wed, **May 21**, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Strangers in the Land: Exclusion, Belonging, and the Epic Story of the Chinese in America

Lecture: Michael Luo details the complex history of Chinese Americans, from their codified exclusion -- to their place in our modern conception of a diverse democracy. **Radhika Jones** (moderator). **\$35.** **NY Historical Society**, 170 Central Park West @ 77 St, NYC. (212) 873-3400. www.nyhistory.org

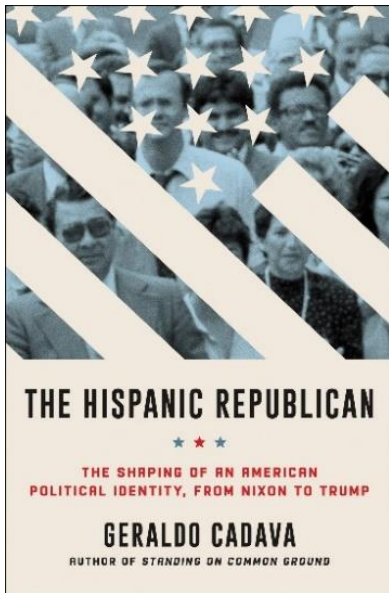
Join the NY Labor History Association: <https://newyorklaborhistory.org/join/>
Annual Individual Membership: **\$20** Annual Contributing Membership: **\$50**



Thurs, **May 22**, noon – 1 pm

“Who Else Would Dig, and Delve, and Drudge”: Common Labor on the Erie Canal (Then and Now)

Lecture (in-person & virtual): Historian **Peter Way** (UWindsor, Canada) challenges conventional views of the part these workers played in the early Republic & the culture they created. *Common Labor* traces a dark picture of powerlessness, depravity, & rage in the lives of America's canal diggers. **\$15 donation requested**. **Erie Canal Museum**, 318 Erie Blvd, East Syracuse, NY 13202. (315) 471-0593. <https://eriecanalmuseum.org/events/#smtx-click>



Mon, **May 23**, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

The Hispanic Republican: The Shaping of an American Political Identity, from Nixon to Trump

Book Talk: Author **Geraldo Cadava** explains the history and development of the Hispanic Republican voting base & the significant role they play in American politics. **David M. Rubinstein** (moderator). **\$35**. **NY Historical Society**. 170 Central Park West @ 77 St, NYC. 212-873-3400. www.nyhistory.org



Wed, **May 28**, 7 pm

The Last Pullman Car

Zoom film screening/Q&A: In 1981, Pullman workers found themselves in a fight not only for their jobs but the future of the American rail car industry. The **NY Labor History Association** will present a free online screening of Kartemquin Films' **The Last Pullman Car** (1983), a still-timely documentary about Illinois steelworkers whose company gradually stopped building rail passenger cars. Q & A following the screening with **Gordon Quinn**, co-founder of Kartemquin Films & this film's co-director & writer & **Pat Aufderheide**, University Prof., School of Communication, American University & the author of *Kartemquin Films: Documentaries on the Frontlines of Democracy* (2024).

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88273539268?pwd=97ingdpyiM419zVgvjxGBFH2DKGyKl.1>



<https://www.rochestersubway.com/topics/2012/09/snapshots-of-rochesters-labor-days/>

Wed, **June 4**, 6 - 7:30 pm

Beyond Flour and Flowers: Industry in Rochester

Local History Walking Tour: Hosted by **Dan Cody**. Rochester's logo, a blue lilac combined with a water wheel, is telling of the city's industrial history. Flour & Flower City -- evoke two major industries that fueled the city's early development. Myriad other local industries & inventions put Rochester on the map. **Free. Meet:** north side of the **Rundel Memorial Building** 115 South Ave, Rochester, NY 14604, to explore Rochester's industrial history on this 1.2-mile walking tour. [In case of inclement weather, tour may be canceled.]

Register: <https://calendar.libraryweb.org/event/14208868>



Thurs, **June 5**, 5 pm

The Lockout of the 20,000

LITTLE FALLS' response to the 1886 closure of 50 Knitting Mills in New York's Mohawk Valley
New York Labor History Association's Spring Conference

Co-Sponsor: Little Falls Historical Society

In person & via Zoom: Locked out for 3 months by their employers, 20,000 brave NY mill workers supported each other & their union, the Knights of Labor-- to protect their right to organize. Little Falls' role in NY's economy, Knights of Labor history, survival strategies, & excerpts from an 1886 Knights of Labor minute book documenting the lockout. **Free. Little Falls Public Library**, 10 Waverly Place, Little Falls, NY, 13365. (929) 754-0774. NYLHAinfo@gmail.com newyorklaborhistory.org

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88299143915?pwd=FBcAiBewy-rOc2qe8nnNy81FT4Sg21M.1>

Meeting ID: 882 9914 3915 Passcode: 196090

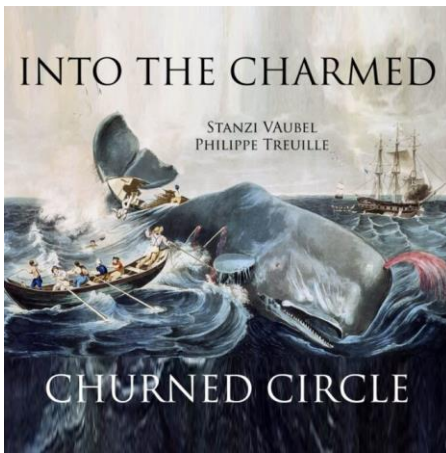


Fri, **June 6**, 7 - 8 pm

Pathway of Resistance:

The Erie Canal and the Underground Railroad

Book Talk: examines the experience of African Americans along the **Erie Canal** Corridor, with particular focus on the struggle for abolition. While parts of this story are grim, slavery, racism & resistance are critical to understanding our society today. Presentation by **Derrick Pratt**, Director, Education & Public Programming, Erie Canal Museum, Syracuse NY. **\$5. Great Swamp Conservancy**, 8375 N. Main St, Canastota, NY 13032. (315) 697-2950. greatswampconservancy@gmail.com



Sat, **June 14**, 7:30 – 10:30 pm

Into the Charmed Churned Circle

Immersive performance piece: multi-discipline, multi-generational performance composed by **Stanzi Vaubel & Philippe Treuille**. Draws inspiration from the architectural motifs of the Newhouse Center at Snug Harbor & Herman Melville's epic seafaring story *Moby Dick*. **\$30; \$20** Students, Srs. **Newhouse Center for Contemporary Art**, Main Hall Gallery, Bldg C, **Snug Harbor Cultural Center**, 1000 Richmond Terrace, Staten Island, NY 10301. (718) 425-3504.
<https://snug-harbor.org/event/indeterminacy-festival-into-the-armed-churned-circle/>



c0003135 City Hall Photo Lab contemporary collection

Wed, **June 18**, 6 - 7:30 pm

Douglass, Anthony & Beyond: Activism and Social Justice in Rochester

Local History Walking Tour: Hosted by **Emily Morry**, tour focuses on Rochester's rich history of social justice activism: sites related to Rochester's most famous agitators, Frederick Douglass & Susan B. Anthony, plus other forms of local activism: the labor movement, anti-draft movement, Gay Rights movement. **Free**. Meet: north side of the **Rundel Memorial Building Building**, 115 South Av, Rochester, NY 14604, for this 1.1. mile tour. In case of inclement weather, tour may be canceled.
Register <https://calendar.libraryweb.org/event/14208893>



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

New York Labor History Association

OFFICERS:

President – Irwin Yellowitz / iyellowitz@aol.com

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

Calendar Committee: Joe Doyle (chair), Martha Foley, Deborah Green, Arie Lebowitz, Gail Malmgreen, Robert Wechsler, Susan Wilson

Join the NY Labor History Association: <https://newyorklaborhistory.org/join/>

Annual Individual Membership: **\$20**

Annual Contributing Membership: **\$50**