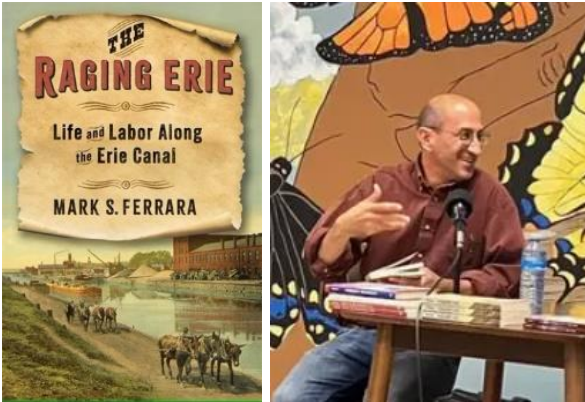


2025 Events



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 westward expansion. The **Erie Canal** turns 200 years old October 26. Dozens of events state-wide celebrate the canal -- and the prodigious effort of the workers who dug it.



Sat, **April 12**, 11 am - 12:30 pm

The Raging Erie: Life and Labor on the Erie Canal

Book Signing/Talk: Author **Mark S. Ferrara** (Prof. of English, SUNY Oneonta) explains that few of the laborers who toiled along the Erie Canal shared in the prosperity it brought. Ferrara tells stories of ordinary people who lived, worked & died along the banks of the canal, emphasizing the forgotten role of the poor, working class, & immigrant laborers in this epochal transformation. **Free.**

Kate Gleason Auditorium, Bausch & Lomb Bldg, **Central Library of Rochester & Monroe County**, 1st floor, 115 South Av, Rochester, NY 14604. (585) 428-7300.

Zoom registration: <https://calendar.libraryweb.org/event/14250627>



Sat, **April 12**, 2 – 4 pm

In the Footsteps of Dorothy Day

Walking Tour & Pilgrimage: Led by the **Dorothy Day Guild**, 2-mile tour starts at Union Sq., where, in 1933, the Catholic Worker newspaper was first distributed. Catholic Workers feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, & speak out on the needs of the poor & the rights of workers. Visit sites where Dorothy Day lived, prayed, demonstrated & was jailed. Tour concludes at **Maryhouse** on E3rd St, Dorothy's home for many years. **Free. Registration required:** [Dorothydayguild.org/walking-tour](https://dorothydayguild.org/walking-tour)



Brooklyn fast-food workers, New York, NY (2015) photo by Liz Cooke

Tues, **April 15**, 4:30 – 6 pm

Poverty Wages, We're Not Lovin' It: Gender, Race and Inequality Rising in the 21st Century

2025 Alice Cook - Lois Gray Distinguished Lecture: Annelise Orleck, Prof. of History, Co-Chair, Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies at Dartmouth College. In 2010, low-wage workers in service, retail, garment & farm work began organizing global labor actions of unprecedented scale involving workers on 6 continents. Led by women of color & queer people -- sparked by widespread discontent with poverty wages, sexual harassment, pregnancy discrimination, the gender wage gap, discrimination against queer & trans workers, & racial injustice. Labor uprisings resulted -- at Starbucks, Amazon, Google & on college campuses. Reflections on how peer-led labor history groups help workers analyze their current situations in light of past labor struggles -- at this moment when the labor laws Frances Perkins passed . . . are on the edge of extinction. **Free. ILR Conference Center**, 423 King-Shaw Hall, 140 Garden Av, Ithaca, NY 14853. <https://www.ilr.cornell.edu/events>



Wed, **April 16**, 2 - 3:30 pm

Waterway of Change: Women and the Erie Canal

Lecture: Erie Canal Museum Dir. of Interpretation Steph Adams connects the fight for women's rights to changes wrought by the **Erie Canal**. **Free**. Penfield Public Library, 1985 Baird Rd. Penfield, NY 14526. <https://calendar.libraryweb.org/event/14270653>



Thurs, **April 17**, 5 – 8 pm

The Life and Legacy of Lois Gray: Honoring Labor Innovation

Panel Discussion: Join the Cornell Worker Institute and the Cornell Climate Jobs Institute to honor Lois Gray, a pioneer in labor education and co-founder of **The Worker Institute at Cornell ILR**. Lois's Labor Innovation Initiative brings together labor leaders, union members, scholars, & other allies to advance innovative ideas for protecting & expanding workers' rights. **Tickets: \$125**. **Cornell University ILR School NYC Conference Center**, 570 Lexington Av, 12th floor, NYC 10022. www.ilr.cornell.edu/worker-institute/events



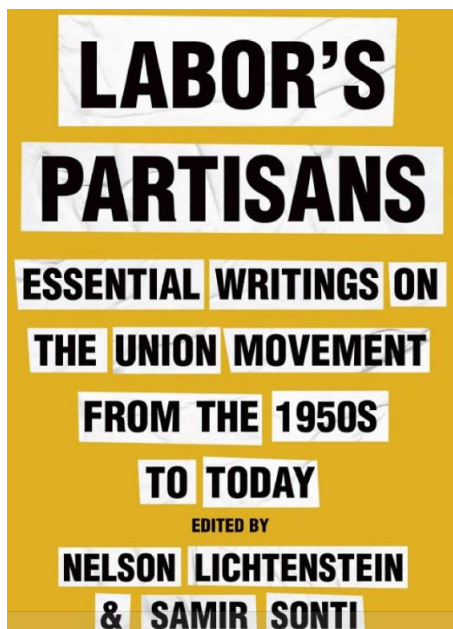
Wed, **April 23**, 11:45 - 12:45 pm

Disrupting DC: Big Tech and the Crisis of Urban Governance

2nd Annual Jane LaTour Memorial Lecture

Lecture: **Kafui Attoh**, Asst. Prof. of Urban Studies, CUNY School for Labor and Urban Studies.

Free. Poolside Café, E building, **LaGuardia Community College**, 31-10 Thomson Av, Long Island City, NY. Jane LaTour was a union activist & prize-winning journalist, author of "Sisters in the Brotherhoods," (2008) which tells the tale of union women breaking into non-traditional jobs. Jane's latest book -- on union democracy -- will be published later in the year.



Sun, **April 27**, 1 – 2:30 pm

NYLHA/Emergency Workers Organizing Committee Book Club

Bobst Library, NYU, 70 Washington Sq. So, NYC 10012. Reading assignment: Parts III & IV: *Labor Partisans*. **In-person registration required:**

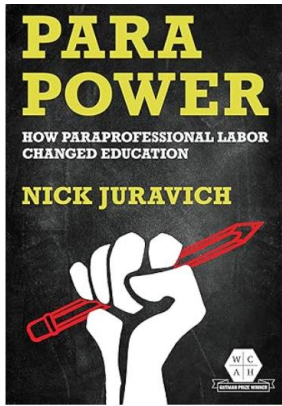
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1aTW6US3VovMESsL7uHKXzM7nFhDV4oaC5AzzeGQ9PKw/edit>

Zoom Registration: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89616933460?pwd=zPnm21jnUdbMDqYSHx4DQmYK0MBGnO.1>

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

Annual Individual Membership: **\$20**

Annual Contributing Membership: **\$50**



Thurs, **April 24**, 6:30 - 8 pm

Para Power: Education, Civil Rights, and the Forgotten Jobs Program of the War on Poverty

Webinar: Paraprofessionals entered American schools during the “crisis of care” in the late 1960s. Despite low pay and second-rate status, they often greatly improved systems of public education. In his new book, *Para Power: How Paraprofessional Labor Changed Education*, **Nick Juravich** (Asst. Prof. of History & Labor Studies, UMass Boston) details how this 1st generation of paras transformed NYC schools & relationships with the communities they served. Paraprofessionals created 100s of 1000s of jobs in working-class Black & Latino neighborhoods, funded by the Economic Opportunity Act (or “War on Poverty”), a pipeline for Black & Latino teachers in the 1970s & early 1980s, whose organizing helped drive the integration & expansion of public sector unions. **In conversation with Heather Lewis**, author, *New York City Public Schools from Brownsville to Bloomberg: The Community Control Movement and its Legacy*. **Gotham Center for NYC History**. **Free**.

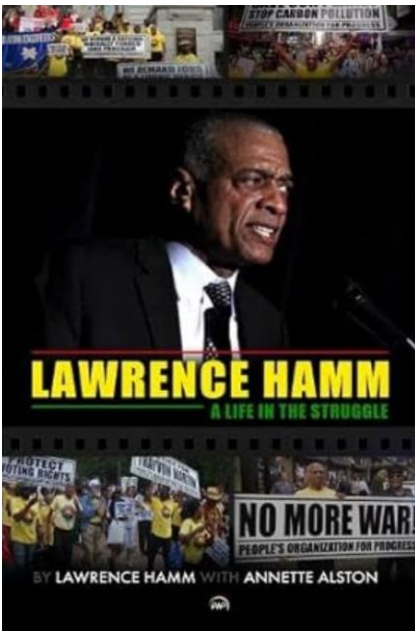
Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/para-power-education-and-the-war-on-povertys-forgotten-jobs-program-tickets-1310668477699?aff=oddtcreator>



Sat, **April 26**, 1 pm

Bean Pickers: American Immigrant Portraits

Presentation/Book Signing: by author **Karen Foresti Hempson** -- on family life & struggles among Cortland's 20th century Italian-American migrant workers who picked beans through the Depression & WWII. Refreshments served after the presentation. **Tkts: \$15; \$12** Srs, AAA members, veterans w/ID; **\$7** ages 6-18; free for AD Military & age 5 & under. **Homeville Museum**, CNY Living History Center, 4386 U.S. Rte. 11, Cortland, NY 13045. (607) 283-4875. homevillemuseumboard@gmail.com



Mon, **April 28**, 7 pm

Lawrence Hamm: A Life in the Struggle

Irwin Nack Workers' Memorial Day Observance

Book Talk: After the traditional candlelight vigil, author **Lawrence Hamm** discusses *Lawrence Hamm: A Life in the Struggle* (2024), written with Annette Alston. Hamm is a co-founder of the People's Organization for Progress (POP), headquartered in Newark & is a long-time social justice advocate. Hybrid in-person/Zoom program. **Donations welcome.** **American Labor Museum/ Botto House**, 83 Norwood St, Haledon, NJ 07508. For the ZOOM link, call: (973) 595-7953. labormuseum@gmail.com www.american-labor-museum.org



Wed, **April 30**, 6:30 - 8 pm

On the Eve of May Day: Labor Then and Now

Panel Discussion: Claudia Irizarry Aponte (moderator) Sr. Reporter, *THE CITY*. Panelists explain the work they do & reflect on why they do it. Panelists include **Nkosa Barrett**, Women's Comm. Pres. Plumbers Local 1; **Harry Donas**, 1st VP, Civil Service Technical Guild Local 375 (& alumnus of Cooper Union's Albert Nerken School of Engineering); **Christopher Erickson, Jr**, Bus. Mgr., IBEW Local 3; **Thelma-Louise Fernandes**, Exec. Bd., Sheetmetal Workers Local 28; & **Wing Lam**, Exec. Dir. & Founder, Chinese Staff & Workers' Association. Labor historian **Joshua B. Freeman**, Distinguished Professor of History (Emeritus), Queens College (CUNY) & the Graduate Center, will offer historical perspective. **Free.** **The Great Hall at Cooper Union**, 7 E7th St, NYC 10003. cooper.edu/events-and-exhibitions/events/eve-may-day-labor-then-and-now-0

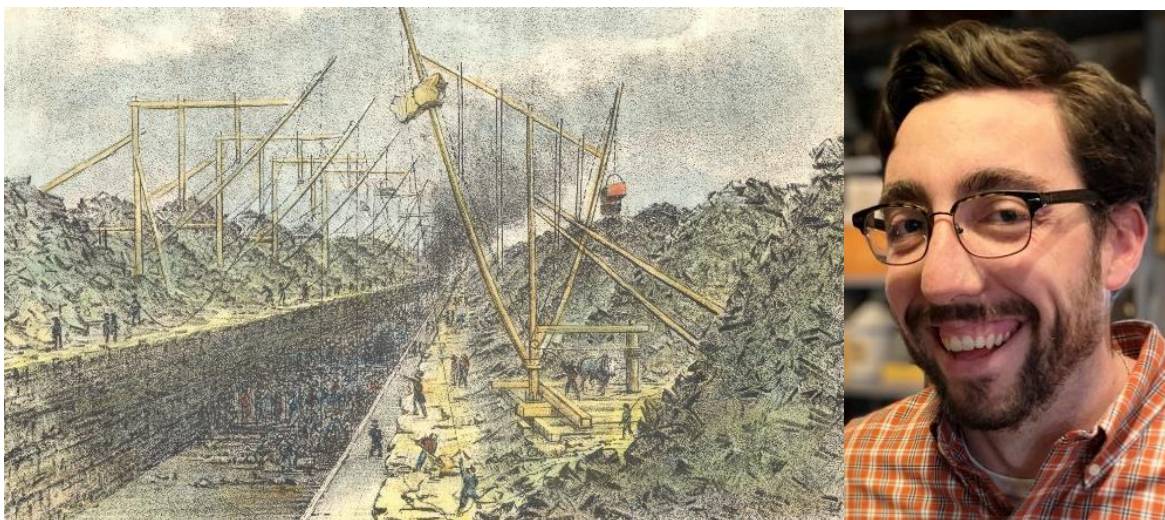
May is Labor History Month!



May Day Festival at the American Labor Museum

Thurs, **May 1**, 7 pm

Annual Outdoor Public Celebration: [moved indoors in case of inclement weather] Instrumental & vocal performances (part sing-along, part history lesson) by **George Mann, Marty Confurius & Al Podber**; lyric soprano **Annamaria Stefanelli** sings opera arias popular among immigrant workers of the early 1900s; Industrial Union Council's "**Solidarity Singers**." Museum open for browsing & shopping. **Admission: \$10. American Labor Museum/Botto House National Landmark**, 83 Norwood St, Haledon, NJ 07508. (973) 595-7953. www.american-labor-museum.org



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

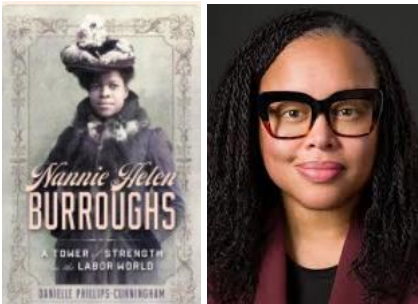
Lecture: [In-Person & Virtual] **Derrick Pratt**, Director, Education & Public Programming, **Erie Canal Museum**, explores the effort to expand the waterway & the labor organizing happening alongside the **Erie Canal**. Workers & their struggles to carve out a more equitable existence throughout the 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

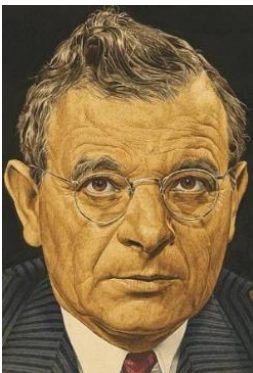


image: The New York Public Library Picture Collection

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:** Alex@HillmanFoundation.org.



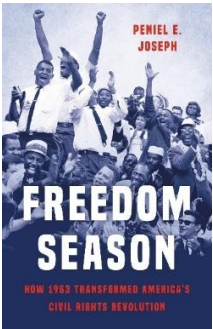
LABOR RESEARCH & ACTION NETWORK

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

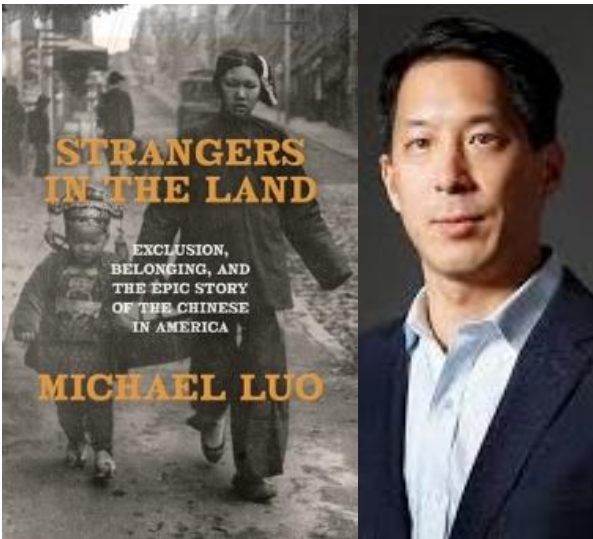
Book Talk: Author **Peniel E. Joseph** describes how the turbulent year 1963 forever altered the Civil Rights Movement & the future of America. **Douglas Brinkley**, historian, Rice University (moderator). **\$35. NY Historical Society**. 170 Central Park West @ 77 St, NYC. (212) 873-3400. www.nyhistory.org



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

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

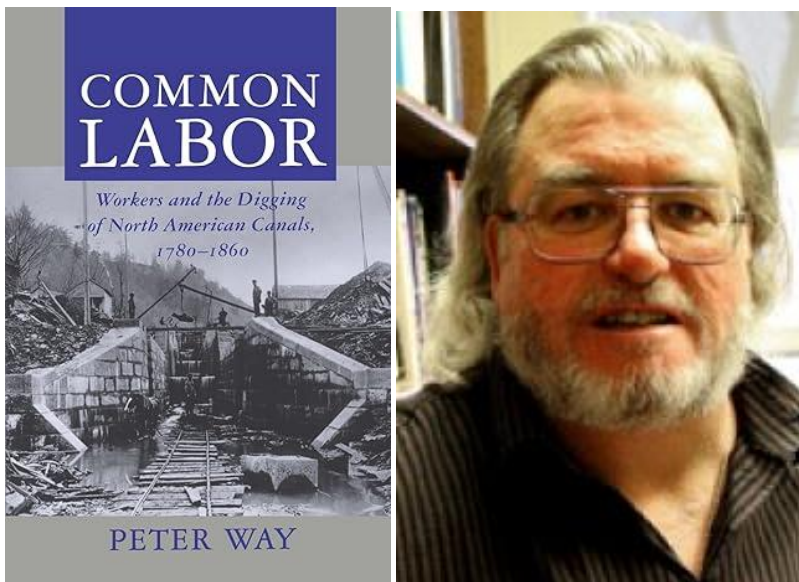
Lecture: **Joan C. Williams**, award-winning scholar of social inequality, author of *White Working Class*, Distinguished Professor of Law and Hastings Foundation Chair (emerita) at University of California College of the Law, San Francisco. **Free. Brooklyn Public Central Library**, Dweck Center, 10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

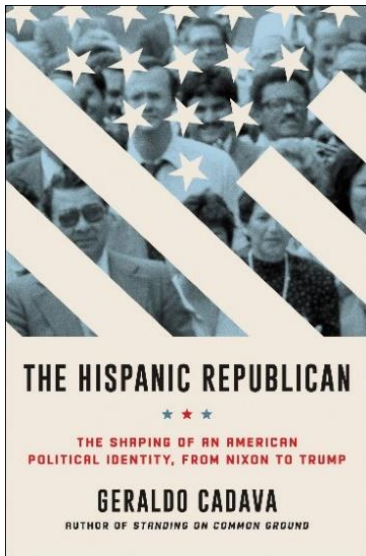
Lecture: **Michael Luo** details the complex history of Chinese Americans, from their codified exclusion -- to their place in our modern conception of a diverse democracy. **Radhika Jones** (moderator). **\$35. NY Historical Society**, 170 Central Park West @ 77 St, NYC. (212) 873-3400. www.nyhistory.org



Thurs, **May 22**, noon – 1 pm

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

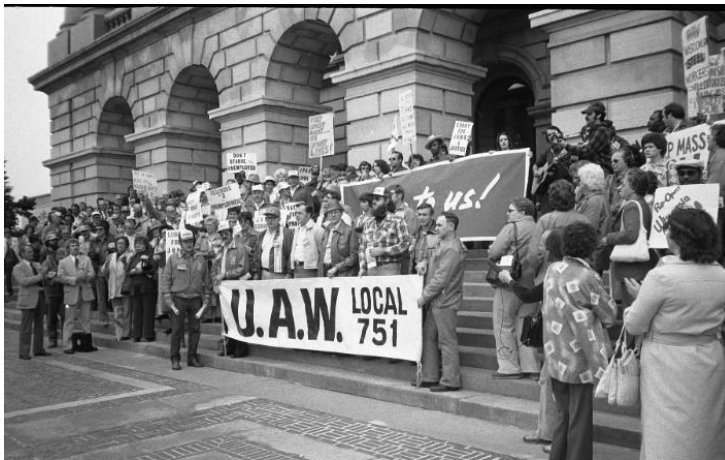
Lecture (in-person & virtual): Historian **Peter Way** (UWindsor, Canada) challenges conventional views of the part these workers played in the early Republic & the culture they created. *Common Labor* traces a dark picture of powerlessness, depravity, & rage in the lives of America's canal diggers. **\$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**, the 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). **Info:** newyorklaborhistory.org/activities/



<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

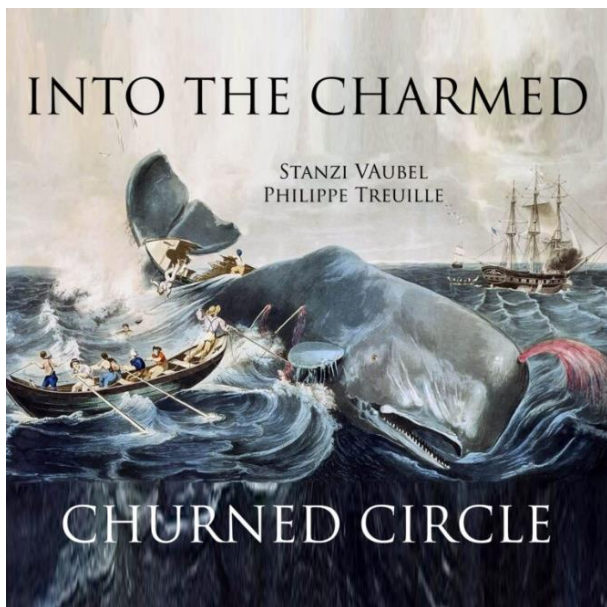


Fri, **June 6**, 7 - 8 pm

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-charmed-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:

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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**