Work. It’s what most of us have to do to earn the money we need to live. Ideally, it’s also what we enjoy doing. For some of us, it defines who we are and aspire to become.

The poets, lyricists, authors and union leaders you’ll find in the 2016 CUNY/New York Times in Education calendar and website expand upon the changing interpretations of work throughout the history of the United States.

Working People is the 13th such collaboration between The City University of New York and The New York Times in Education. This year we’re pleased to welcome a new partner, the New York City Central Labor Council, whose president, Vincent Alvarez, and policy associate, Alexander Gleason, enthusiastically joined in developing this project.

There’s a good deal of practical wisdom in these pages, whose underlying theme is that all workers need to be valued, respected and treated with dignity.

For example, the month on selling reminds us that being a sales person – like being a chancellor, for that matter – that “listening is the most important part of the job.”

Turn to the month on health care and you’ll find a dedicated nurse who says, “When you are a nurse” – and I would add, when you are a teacher – “you know that every day you will touch a life or a life will touch yours.”

This Working People calendar and website were guided by Jay Hershenson, the University’s Senior Vice Chancellor for University Relations and Secretary of the Board of Trustees, and by President Gail O. Mellow of LaGuardia Community College. As always, they turned to Richard K. Lieberman, director of the LaGuardia and Wagner Archives at LaGuardia Community College, to implement their vision, develop the calendar and help plan appropriate outreach.

Published as technology, globalization and, yes, higher education are helping to change the very nature of work in America, this calendar offers a timely and welcome opportunity to review the complex, pervasive and often forgotten role of all the workers in our country and to celebrate their achievements, sacrifices and triumphs.

James B. Milliken
Chancellor
Milestones for WORKING PEOPLE: A history of labor in the United States

1600s

December 23, 1662 Slave labor is codified as an inherited condition in Virginia, establishing race-based slavery as a perpetual labor system in America.

October 17, 1667 The first recorded prosecution against strikers sees 12 carmen in New York City lose their right to cart goods until they pay a fine for “not obeyeing Comand and Doing their Dayes as becomes them in their Places.”

1700s

January 28, 1734 First colonial women’s labor organization is formed by New York maidenservants to protest against abuses from employers.

May 31, 1734 Philadelphia printers resist an attempt by employers to reduce their wages and pledge to support their fellow tradesmen who lose their jobs as a result. It is the first strike for better wages by employers against employers in the United States, and the first “strike fund” commitment.

May 1791 Philadelphia carpenters strike for a 10-hour day; the beginning of the movement of skilled workers to organize for increased wages and the right to do work at a pace commensurate with the standard at the time.

1800s

November 1, 1805 Grand jury indicts Philadelphia shoemakers on charge of conspiracy “to raise wages.” Similar charges leveled against organized workers in 1820 in New York City and in 1825 in Pittsburgh.

January 3, 1837 Benjamin W. M'Cready publishes On the Influence of Trades, Professions, and Occupations in the United States in the Production of Disease, introducing the medical community for the first time.

March 31, 1840 President Van Buren establishes 10-hour workday for federal employees.

March 1842 In Commonwealth v. Hunt, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court declares for the first time that workers organizing to promote their own interests does not necessarily constitute a conspiracy, freeing unions from certain prosecution.

May 5, 1852 The National Typographical Union (renamed the International Typographical Union) is founded. It introduces the 48-hour work week in 1897 and the 40-hour work week in the 1930s. Upon its demise in 1968 it is the nation’s oldest lasting union.

October 1852 Longshoremen’s Union Benevolent Society acts to secure waterfront jobs for its mostly white and Irish membership, thereby limiting job opportunities for African Americans and increasing tensions between blacks and Irish in New York City. By 1855 Irish men and women largely displace African American workers in New York on the docks and in service work.

November 10, 1853 The New-York Tribune first uses the moniker “Know Nothing” to refer to the emergent anti-immigrant political movement embraced by many native-born workers. The “Know Nothing” blame immigrants for lowering wages and destroying the artisan trades by engaging in “slop” work in the nation’s growing factories.

November 5, 1857 15,000 unemployed workers gather in Tompkins Square demanding New York City create public works jobs and other relief from the Panic of 1857. Although the City Council rejects Mayor Fernando Wood’s call for direct relief, the city employs thousands over the next year on new construction projects.

January 10, 1860 Pemberton Mill in Lawrence, Mass., collapses, killing 91 and injuring 120. It has been called the “First major industrial accident in the United States.”

February 22, 1860 Merchant capitalists seeking cheaper labor in rural villages precipitates the Great Shoe Strike among skilled shoemakers in Lynn, Mass., and across New England. By the end of the month more than 20,000 strike.

January 1, 1863 President Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation, the first step on the path to the end of slave labor in the United States.

June 18, 1866 Freed black women working as laundresses in Jackson, Miss., form the Women’s Land Army to establish a unified national voice. Before the NTU, skill-based labor unions had banded together only at the citywide level.

Rolling Mills, inaugurating an American industrial revolution. The cities of Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Detroit and Chicago would soon anchor the new industrial heartland of the nation.

December 6, 1869 Colored National Labor Union formed — the first national organization of black labor.

Nat King Cole and his trio performing at the Zanzibar in New York City, 1946.

New York City street sweeper, 1896.

Rag Pickers, New York City, 1896.

Unloading bananas from boat, Pier 13, East River, New York City, c. 1941.


Building the first post-war Emerson Radios, New York, 1945.
1800s

December 28, 1869 Philadelphia tailor found the Knights of Labor (KoL) in Philadelphia, the first labor organization uniting skilled and unskilled workers in mixed assemblies. By 1868, the KoL has over 700,000 members. Unlike many unions, the KoL accepts women and, after 1874, blacks, although southern branches are segregated.

March 22, 1872 First equal employment law passes in Illinois, declaring “no person shall be precluded or debarred from any occupation or employment (except military) on account of sex....”

1874 San Francisco cigar makers create the first “union label” to differentiate their “white labor” cigars from those made by the Chinese.

January 13, 1874 In the Tompkins Square “Blood or Bread Riot” thousands of unemployed protesters clash with 1,500 police in the wake of the Panic of 1873. The riot establishes a precedent of government violence for public protests not pre-approved by authorities.

November 29, 1874 The “Battle of Buena Vista” is the first large-scale armed battle between strikers and scabs. Twelve are killed and thirty wounded at the Armstrong Works coal mine in Elizabeth Township, Pa.

1875 The American Express Company establishes the first pension plan for workers in the U.S.

July 14, 1877 A third wage cut by the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad sparks the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen to initiate the Great Railroad Strike of 1877. Spreading from West Virginia to Maryland, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Missouri, this first nationwide strike shut down about two-thirds of the rail lines in the country until federal troops help state militias and local authorities to break the strike. April 30, 1879 Massachusetts passes the first factory inspection legislation and the governor appoints a district policing force to serve as inspectors.

November 15, 1881 Pittsburgh convention of trade unionists establishes the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions, which becomes the American Federation of Labor (AFL) in 1884. Samuel Gompers promotes including only skilled trade members, winning out over the more inclusive mass labor movement model favored by the representatives of the Knights of Labor.

May 6, 1882 President Chester A. Arthur signs Chinese Exclusion Act, the first immigration restriction in U.S. history, as West Coast white workers blame Chinese immigrants for falling wages and unemployment.

September 5, 1882 First Labor Day is celebrated in New York City as 50,000 workers parade. President Grover Cleveland signs legislation June 28, 1894 declaring it a national holiday.

June 27, 1884 Bureau of Labor Statistics begins collecting employment data. Its first annual report in 1886 contains a study on industrial depressions. The BLS is transferred in 1913 to the newly formed Department of Labor.

March 7, 1886 Great Southwest Railroad strike (Union Pacific and Missouri Pacific RR) precipitates the rapid decline of the Knights of Labor over the next decade. Railroad magnate Jay Gould allegedly boasts, “I can hire one half of the working class to kill the other half.”

May 4, 1886 A peaceful protest at Haymarket Square in Chicago ends in a tragic bombing. The incident is blamed on anarchists, triggering a panicked repression some have called the first red scare.

December 8, 1886 The American Federation of Labor is established in Columbus, Ohio, comprising 25 labor groups representing 150,000 members.

May 14, 1887 Massachusetts law makes employers liable for injuries to workers while in their employ.

July 4, 1887 A third wage cut by the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad sparks the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen to initiate the Great Railroad Strike of 1877. Spreading from West Virginia to Maryland, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Missouri, this first nationwide strike shut down about two-thirds of the rail lines in the country until federal troops help state militias and local authorities to break the strike. April 30, 1879 Massachusetts passes the first factory inspection legislation and the governor appoints a district policing force to serve as inspectors.

November 15, 1881 Pittsburgh convention of trade unionists establishes the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions, which becomes the American Federation of Labor (AFL) in 1884. Samuel Gompers promotes including only skilled trade members, winning out over the more inclusive mass labor movement model favored by the representatives of the Knights of Labor.

May 6, 1882 President Chester A. Arthur signs Chinese Exclusion Act, the first immigration restriction in U.S. history, as West Coast white workers blame Chinese immigrants for falling wages and unemployment.

September 5, 1882 First Labor Day is celebrated in New York City as 50,000 workers parade. President Grover Cleveland signs legislation June 28, 1894 declaring it a national holiday.

June 27, 1884 Bureau of Labor Statistics begins collecting employment data. Its first annual report in 1886 contains a study on industrial depressions. The BLS is transferred in 1913 to the newly formed Department of Labor.

March 7, 1886 Great Southwest Railroad strike (Union Pacific and Missouri Pacific RR) precipitates the rapid decline of the Knights of Labor over the next decade. Railroad magnate Jay Gould allegedly boasts, “I can hire one half of the working class to kill the other half.”

May 4, 1886 A peaceful protest at Haymarket Square in Chicago ends in a tragic bombing. The incident is blamed on anarchists, triggering a panicked repression some have called the first red scare.

December 8, 1886 The American Federation of Labor is established in Columbus, Ohio, comprising 25 labor groups representing 150,000 members.

May 14, 1887 Massachusetts law makes employers liable for injuries to workers while in their employ.

1892 The Workmen’s Circle, a mutual aid society for Jewish workers founded on socialist principles, holds its first meeting; by 1905 the group boasts 85,000 members.

July 6, 1892 Armed battle between strikers and Pinkerton strike breakers at Homestead, Pa. results in ten deaths and many wounded.

September 30, 1892 Twenty-nine leaders of the Homestead Strike are charged with treason against the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, marking the end of unions in the steel industry for more than four decades.

May 1, 1894 The Panic of 1893 sees Populist Jacob Coxey and an “army” of about 500 unemployed men march on Washington and demand jobs.

May 11, 1894 Strike against the Pullman Palace Car Company leads to a general boycott by the American Railway Union, crippling railroad service nationwide. The federal government acts to end the strike by issuing an injunction against the boycott, resulting in the arrest of union leader Eugene V. Debs.

1895 National Association of Manufacturers is established and becomes one of the most active anti-labor organizations by lobbying against unions and promoting open shop drives.

June 1, 1898 The Erdman Act prohibits discrimination against unionized railroad workers and provides for government mediation of labor disputes involving interstate commerce.

July 19, 1899 New York City newsboys strike against the World and the Journal when the wholesale prices of the papers increase by twenty percent. The newsboys form a trade union, a strike committee and a committee on discipline and reach a settlement in two weeks.

1900s

June 3, 1900 International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU) is formed by the amalgamation of seven local unions. Most workers are Jewish and Italian women immigrants.

September 12, 1900 United Mine Workers successfully strike the entire anthracite coal region, establishing it as a powerful player in one of the most contested industries in the nation. Union membership grows from 8,000 to 100,000.
1900s

July 29, 1901  Socialist Party of America is founded with Eugene V. Debs among its leaders. Debs is put forward five times as the party candidate for president of the United States.

September 24, 1901  The Flint Vehicle Factories Mutual Benefit Association is formed, providing General Motors workers with medical and industrial accident insurance issued by the workers’ own mutual company. This association provides benefits until 1928, when the company switches to group health insurance.

October 3, 1902  The federal government acts as arbitrator instead of strike-breaker for the first time and helps settle the 163-day anthracite coal strike in Pennsylvania. Workers receive a ten percent wage increase and a nine-hour workday.

July 9–29, 1903  “March of the Mill Children” sees Mary “Mother” Jones lead 200 children from Philadelphia to New York and on to Theodore Roosevelt’s estate at Oyster Bay to raise the issue of child labor. President Roosevelt refuses to see the children, but the visibility pressures Pennsylvania to pass an effective child labor law.

November 19, 1903  The Women’s Trade Union League is formed by labor and settlement house leaders. The New York branch holds meetings at University Settlement and organizes garment workers to fight for better working conditions.

April 5, 1904  Nine Aldermen backed by the Social Democratic Party in Milwaukee are elected to the city’s Common Council, marking one of the strongest electoral showings of socialist candidates in American history. By 1910 the socialists in Milwaukee win the majority and send Victor Berger to Congress.

April 17, 1905  The Supreme Court rules in Lochner v. New York (1905) that a New York law setting maximum working hours for bakers is unconstitutional.

June 27, 1905  Led by mine union leader “Big Bill” Haywood, the Industrial Workers of the World holds its founding convention in Chicago to challenge the more conservative craft- or-orientation of American Federation of Labor.

1906  The Rand School of Social Science is established as a center for socialist and labor education in New York. The school operates until 1956 after which its library becomes the New York University Tamiment Library.

January 1, 1906  Homestake Mining Company eliminates worker contributions to its hospital department; the first company to provide full medical services to its employees and dependents at no cost.

December 6, 1907  The worst coal mine disaster in U.S. history kills 367 miners at the Fairmont Coal Co.’s Monongah Mine in W.V. The United States Bureau of Mines is created three years later with the power to inspect mines for safety.

February 3, 1908  The Supreme Court rules in Lowe v. Iowa that unions are a “conspiracy in restraint of trade” under the Sherman Anti-Trust Act.

February 24, 1908  The Supreme Court in Muller v. Oregon upholds a 10-hour Oregon law as applied to women, arguing that women deserve such special protection as “bearers of the race.”

November 22, 1909  Clara Lemlich mobilizes her fellow garment workers in the Uprising of the 20,000 to strike for better wages, better working conditions and union recognition. The strike lasts thirteen weeks and results in higher wages.

March 25, 1911  The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in New York City kills 146 women. The ensuing public outrage makes the fire a turning point for better working conditions. New York State establishes its first Factory Inspecting Commission three months later.

January 11, 1912  Women walk out of the Everett Mill in Lawrence, Mass., in what becomes known as the “Bread and Roses Strike.” Over the next few months, the IWW helps organize 23,000 textile workers to participate. By the end of March, all the mills submit to the workers’ demands.

March 4, 1913  President Taft signs the bill creating the Department of Labor declaring, “The purpose of the Department of Labor shall be to foster, promote, and develop the welfare of the wage earners of the United States, to improve their working conditions, and to advance their opportunities for profitable employment.”

December 1, 1913  Ford introduces the moving assembly line for the mass production of autos in Highland Park, Mich., a concept borrowed from the canning industry. Workers perform a single task rather than master whole portions of automobile assembly.

April 20, 1914  In what became known as the Ludlow Massacre, the National Guard and company gunmen attack a tent village of families striking at a Rockefeller-owned Colorado coal mine, killing eleven women, seven men and two children.

October 15, 1914  In signing the Clayton Act, President Wilson declares: “The labor of a human being is not a commodity or article of commerce.” The Act exempts unions from anti-trust prosecution and limits the use of injunctions for peaceful labor actions like boycotts, strikes, picketing and collective bargaining.

May 1915  Idaho law entitles every state resident to public employment for ninety days a year.

1915  “Great Migration” of black workers from the agricultural South to the urban North begins.

1916  Teachers Union of the City of New York founded; Dr. Herbert Linsville is president.

July 22, 1916  Labor leaders Tom Mooney and Warren Billings are arrested for bombing that kills ten at San Francisco’s pro-war Preparedness Parade during World War I. The bombing reflects anti-war sentiment among many in the labor movement. Mooney and Billings remain in prison until 1939.

September 7, 1916  The Federal Compensation Act establishes the Office of Workers’ Compensation Programs that provides benefits to all federal workers injured or killed in the workplace.

June 15, 1917  Congress passes the Espionage Act. Federal roundups, mass trials of IWW members and fines totaling $2,500,000 virtually destroy the organization. The IWW strongly opposed American involvement in World War I.

March 29, 1918  During World War I the National War Labor Board uses arbitration, mediation and conciliation to settle labor disputes. The Board created a model for labor peace based on the eight-hour day, equal pay for women and the right of workers to organize, in return for a ban on strikes and other delays of production.

May 7, 1918  The Sedition Act amends the Espionage Act. Federal agents target union leaders and the Socialist Party, prosecuting over 2,000 and convicting over 900 for their dissent against U.S. involvement in World War I. Eugene V. Debs is among them.
1900s

June 3, 1918 The United States Supreme Court decides *Hammer v. Dagenhart*, declaring unconstitutional the federal Keating–Owen Act of 1916 that prohibited interstate shipment of goods made by child labor.

June 2, 1919 Anarchists bomb the home of Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer, precipitating the Palmer Raids. In New York the Lok Committee targets active unionists along with suspected anarchists, socialists and communists. Thousands are rounded up amidst a wave of vigilante violence known as the “Red Scare.” Many are proscribed or deported and government-imposed loyalty oaths are demanded of a number of unions, including New York City’s teachers.

August 30, 1919 Two communist parties are formed in the wake of a failed attempt by left wing activists to take control of the Socialist Party of America. They merge in May 1920 to form what becomes known as the Communist Party of the United States (CPUSA).

September 9, 1919 In Boston 1,107 policemen (72 percent of the force) strike to form a union. Police Commissioner Edwin Curtis fires the strikers and hires unemployed servicemen as replacements. The Boston Police Strike is part of the Great Strike Wave of 1919, a series of 3,600 walkouts involving one of every five working Americans.

June 5, 1920 The Department of Labor establishes the Women’s Bureau to “formulate standards and policies which shall promote the welfare of wage-earning women, improve their working conditions, increase their efficiency, and advance their opportunities for profitable employment.”

1923 The Amalgamated Clothing Workers opens the Amalgamated Bank of New York, one of a number of labor banks started at that time and the only one that still exists.

April 9, 1923 Supreme Court strikes down a minimum wage law for women in *Adkins v. Children’s Hospital*, arguing that women have a “right to make their own bargains.”

August 25, 1925 A. Philip Randolph organizes the first national black labor union, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, in Harlem.

March 4, 1927 The Longshore and Harbor Workers Compensation Act provides for compensation in cases of workplace injury or death of seamen in domestic waters or among dock and harbor workers, extending such protections beyond government employees.

August 23, 1927 Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti are executed for murder. As anarchists and foreigners, they were virtually guaranteed conviction in one of the most infamous trials in American history.

November 1, 1927 “Co-operators” move into the Amalgamated Houses in the Bronx, the first large scale housing project constructed by a union in the United States. Using union pension funds and other sources of capital, unions and their United Housing Foundation (founded in 1923) build thousands of modern housing units for middle class New Yorkers over subsequent decades, making the “co-op” a standard form of housing in New York City.

October 22, 1928 Herbert Hoover announces in his “Rugged Individualism” speech that Americans were “nearer to the abolition of poverty, to the abolition of fear and want, than humanity has ever reached before.”

1930 Over one million people join in Hunger Marches around the country, many organized by the CPUSA.

July 7, 1930 The Federal government begins collecting unemployment data as the Great Depression deepens.

March 3, 1931 Congress passes the Davis-Bacon Act, requiring prevailing wages be paid on all publically funded construction projects.

March 23, 1932 The Norris-LaGuardia Act allows workers to organize unions, restricts the use of injunctions against labor activities and declares yellow-dog contracts (promise to employers not to join a union) unenforceable.

July 22, 1932 The AFL abandons its traditional opposition to unemployment insurance, once decried by Samuel Gompers as a paternalistic intrusion of government.

July 28, 1932 In the Battle of Anacostia Heights, President Hoover orders the Army to drive 35,000 unemployed veterans from their encampment outside Washington. The so-called “Bonus Army” had gathered to demand early payment of the cash bonus promised to them for their service in WWI.

March 4, 1933 Frances Perkins becomes Secretary of Labor, the first woman to hold a cabinet position in the U.S.

June 6, 1933 President Roosevelt signs the Wagner–Peyser Act to match unemployed workers with available jobs. The Act revives the U.S. Employment Service, a temporary system of offices nationwide to connect workers and employers first developed during World War I.

June 16, 1933 President Roosevelt signs the National Industrial Recovery Act. Section 7a declares “employees shall have the right to organize and bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing, and shall be free from the interference, restraint, or coercion of employers of labor....” The Supreme Court declares the law unconstitutional two years later.

July 5, 1935 President Roosevelt signs the National Labor Relations Act (Wagner Act), the keystone of federal recognition of unions. The Act defines and protects workers’ “right to self-organization, to form, join, or assist labor organizations, and to bargain collectively.”

August 14, 1935 Congress passes the Social Security Act, establishing for the first time a government safety net for unemployed workers, the elderly (those beyond their prime working years), and dependent children (those before their prime working years and who have “been deprived of parental support or care”). By excluding workers in the home (domestic servants, nurse companions and home-makers), the New Deal largely disregards many female and minority workers.

March 23, 1936 The La Follette Committee uncovers widespread and violent anti-labor and anti-union activity by employers.

July 16, 1936 New York union leaders form the American Labor Party to support New Deal Democrats and win a majority of the vote in the 1936 election from Italians, Puerto Ricans and African Americans in East Harlem. The party remains an important force in New York politics until 1944 when the party’s most conservative socialists split from the communists to help form the Liberal Party.
The 1940s

December 30, 1936 The 44-day sit-down strike against General Motors in Flint, Mich., begins, establishing the United Auto Workers (UAW) as a major force in American labor. The UAW wins union recognition and membership grows from 30,000 to 500,000 in one year.

March 29, 1937 In West Coast Hotel v. Parrish, the Supreme Court rules states can establish minimum wage laws, officially recognizing for the first time that employee and employer did not have equal negotiating power. The decision directly overturns the Court’s earlier decision in Adkins v. Children’s Hospital (1923).

April 12, 1937 The Supreme Court upholds the National Labor Relations Act (Wagner Act) in its National Labor Relations Board v. Jones and Laughlin Steel Co. decision, securing congressional authority to protect workers’ right to organize.

May 30, 1937 In what becomes known as the Memorial Day Massacre, men and their families striking against Republic Steel are gassed, clubbed, shot, and jailed by Chicago police, resulting in 10 deaths. U.S. Steel had recently agreed to a union contract, but smaller producers like Republic refused to do so.

August 25, 1937 Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters wins contract with Pullman Co., the first agreement between organized black workers and a major American corporation.

May 15, 1938 Congress passes the Fair Labor Standards Act, which bans child labor and establishes a standard forty-hour workweek and minimum wage regulations of twenty-five cents an hour.

November 14, 1938 Led by John L. Lewis, thirty-four national unions and over a hundred local unions meet in Pittsburgh, breaking from the AFL to form an independent Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO).

March 31, 1940 In Puerto Rico, labor activists establish a new labor federation — the Confederación General de Trabajadores (CGT). By 1948, the CGT is participating in Operation Bootstrap, the U.S. government’s program to transform the Puerto Rican economy, even while the organization refuses to comply with the new Taft-Hartley restrictions on labor unions.

June 25, 1941 To head off a planned march on Washington led by African American trade union leader A. Philip Randolph, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt creates the Fair Employment Practice Committee (FEPC). During World War II, 800,000 industrial jobs are brought to the South.

December 30, 1941 AFL and CIO pledge a “no lockout, no strike” policy for the duration of the American involvement in World War II. Despite the pledge, more than 3,000 wildcat strikes involving over two million workers break out across many industries in 1943.

1942–1945 During World War II the Brooklyn Navy Yard employs 75,000 men and women around the clock in three shifts.

August 4, 1942 The Bracero program begins; by 1964, 4.6 million Mexican farm workers have come to the United States as temporary contracted laborers though the structure of the program allows for exploitation.

August 31, 1942 Federal government begins to establish hundreds of day care centers for the children of women working in defense industries. Personified by “Rosie the Riveter,” six million women (seventy-five percent of whom were married) enter the paid labor force during World War II.

June 25, 1943 Congress enacts the Smith-Connally War Labor Disputes Act over President Roosevelt’s veto. The law requires unions in war industries to announce any intent to strike 30 days in advance, establishing the idea of a thirty-day cooling-off period.

June 22, 1944 President Roosevelt signs the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act. Popularly known as the GI Bill of Rights, the law provides twenty dollar weekly unemployment allowance in addition to counseling, placement services, education, and on-the-job training. Nearly half of all WWII veterans had taken advantage of the education and training provisions by 1956 when the law expired.

August 3, 1944 A “Hate-strike” shuts down the streetcar system in Philadelphia for five days as thousands of white workers frantically protest promotion of eight black porters to motormen. With 500,000 man-hours of war production lost, President Roosevelt calls upon 8,000 army troops to restore the city to normalcy.

January 21, 1945 The United Steel Workers mobilize 800,000 and close down the entire U.S. Steel Corporation in the largest strike to date in the United States. The U.S. Steel strike is part of a wave of 8,000 post-war walkouts involving five million workers.

November 21, 1945 UAW wins ninety-two GM plants in fifty cities and rejects Truman’s order to return to work. The issue centers on the UAW’s demand for a wage increase (without an increase in prices) which they believed GM could afford. When the UAW got the wage increase, GM let the public know that it resulted in higher prices to the consumer.

March 1946 CIO undertakes Operation Dixie to organize southern industrial workers to transform southern politics and to prevent the undercutting of gains won by northern workers. Failure of the project weakens CIO’s more radical political agenda, setting the stage for re-unification with the more conservative AFL in 1955.

June 23, 1947 Congress passes the Taft–Hartley Act, backed by the National Association of Manufacturers and other anti-labor groups. The Act outlaws the closed shop (in which only union members can be hired by the company), sanctions state-level “right to work” laws that prohibit union shops (where all company workers must join the union) and forbids secondary boycotts, limiting labor solidarity across industries. The law also requires union leaders to certify that they are not members of the Communist Party.

May 25, 1948 Contract agreement between the UAW and GM recognizes employee’s claim for both a cost of living adjustment to account for inflation and a fair share in the steady improvement of “the nation’s industrial efficiency,” though the union fails to win a say in factory production levels.

May 24, 1949 The United States Court of Appeals First Circuit upholds a National Labor Relations Board ruling that health benefits can be part of collective bargaining, thereby cementing labor’s role in health care.

October 31, 1949 At its national convention in Cleveland, the CIO votes to bar Communists and Fascists from its executive board and begins expelling “Communist-dominated” unions. Eleven unions representing over a million workers are drummed out of the organization.

September 22, 1953 The International Longshoremen Association is expelled from AFL for corruption, following revelations by the New York Anti-Commitee. Even today, all longshoremen in New York must register with the Waterfront Commission and be cleared of any ties to organized crime in order to work on the docks.

December 5, 1955 AFL and CIO merge, healing a twenty-year-old schism and uniting craft and industrial workers under a common banner.
1900s

1956 AFL-CIO’s membership reaches its peak of 16.5 million members.

April 26, 1956 First container ship leaves Port Newark bound for Houston, beginning the “containerization” revolution of dock work worldwide. In the mid-1950s, 40,000–50,000 longshoremen “shaped-up” for work in the Port of New York harbor; by 2012 there were only 3,500.

February 26, 1957 The McClellan Committee (Senate Select Committee on Improper Activities in the Labor and Management Field) exposes corruption and infiltration by organized crime in many unions, fostering negative public opinion of unions.

March 31, 1958 New York Mayor Robert F. Wagner, Jr., issues Executive Order 49, making it policy for the city to recognize and collectively bargain with municipal unions. The following year, District Council 37 negotiates the first collective bargaining agreement with the city resulting in wage increases for thirty-three civil service titles.

January 17, 1962 President Kennedy issues Executive Order 10988, empowering federal employees to bargain collectively.

March 15, 1962 President Kennedy signs the Manpower Development and Training Act, creating the first major federal job training program. It focuses on training and retraining individuals who lose jobs due to automation and technology.

September 30, 1962 Cesar Chavez calls a convention in Fresno, Calif., of mostly Spanish-speaking agricultural workers, creating the National Farm Workers Association.

June 10, 1963 The Equal Pay Act promises women that they will be paid equally to men for equal work and forbids employers from reducing the wages of one sex to achieve this goal. The concept proves difficult to measure and enforce.

August 28, 1963 Martin Luther King delivers his famous “I Have a Dream Speech” at the March for Jobs and Freedom held in Washington, D.C., by the Negro American Labor Council, civil rights organizations and a number of labor unions.

July 2, 1964 Congress passes the Civil Rights Act, which forbids discrimination on the basis of sex as well as race and religion in hiring, promoting and firing. Title VII of the Act establishes the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

August 20, 1964 President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Economic Opportunity Act, establishing a series of programs targeted to the problems of unemployment and opportunities for Americans living in poverty.

January 1965 The Mississippi Freedom Labor Union organizes plantation workers.

September 16, 1965 Cesar Chavez joins Hispanic farmers with Filipino workers striking against grape growers in California. They merge the following year to form the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, challenging growers’ strategy of hiring one ethnic group to break labor organizing by another.

September 24, 1965 President Johnson signs Executive Order 11246, enforcing the concept of “affirmative action” for the first time among federal contractors and subcontractors.

1966 Mexico opens first industrial park in Ciudad Juarez as part of its maquiladora program to attract foreign industrial capital. By 1973, 686 electronics plants, including those of RCA, Texas Instruments, GM, and Motorola open just over the border to take advantage of cheaper Mexican labor. The 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement accelerates the trend.

January 1, 1966 Led by Mike Qall, the Transports Workers Union shuts down buses and subways for two weeks, paralyzing New York City in the greatest urban transportation strike in American history.

September 1, 1967 Taylor Law becomes effective, reaffirming New York State’s ban on strikes by public sector employees. The law improves on the 1947 Condon–Wadlin Act by requiring government to recognize unions, engage in collective bargaining and by establishing procedures to deal with negotiating impasses.

April 4, 1968 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is assassinated while supporting striking sanitation workers in Memphis, Tenn.

December 30, 1969 President Nixon signs the Coal Mine Health and Safety Act setting mandatory standards, requiring regular mine inspections, increasing federal enforcement power and providing funds to support coal miners disabled by “black lung” disease.

July 29, 1970 Grape growers sign contracts with Cesar Chavez’s UFWOC, the first collective bargaining agreement in U.S. agriculture. A nationwide grape boycott and five-year strike eventually pressured growers to reach a deal.

December 29, 1970 President Nixon signs the Occupational Safety and Health Act, establishing in law workers’ right to a safe and healthy workplace.

July 18, 1971 Delegates at the first national conference of the National Council of Household Employees demand extension of labor laws to cover domestic workers.

October 1972 CEOs of America’s biggest corporations form the Business Roundtable in a concerted effort to advance a pro-business and anti-labor legislative agenda.

March 12, 1974 Twelve hundred union women meet in Chicago forming the Coalition of Labor Women to “address the critical needs of millions of unorganized working women and make unions more responsive to the needs of all working women.”

September 2, 1974 President Ford signs the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), setting standards for pension and health benefits in private industry as well as duties of private employers administering such plans.

1977–1980 The Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers’ Union (ACTWU) campaigns to organize the J.P. Stevens Company’s southern textile mills spearheads labor’s efforts to organize in the mostly non-union South. The union’s campaign was later dramatized by Martin Ritt’s movie, Norma Rae.

October 14, 1978 Congress passes the Airline Deregulation Act, removing government control of civilian aviation. A wave of such industry deregulation in the 1970s and 1980s increases corporate power and destabilizes employment in the affected industries.

1979 Bread and Roses, an innovative cultural program, is launched by Local 1099 of the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees. It includes free luncheon performances in hospitals, art and photography exhibits in Gallery 1999 and original musical revues based on workers’ experiences and more.

August 4, 1979 U.S. Steel announces closure of two plants in Illinois, the first of fifteen mills in eight states the company will close this year. Between 1979 and 1995 amidst a national trend of deindustrialization, more than 400,000 steel workers lose their jobs.
1900s

**August 5, 1981** Air traffic controllers strike when the Federal Aviation Administration refuses to address job stress and other safety issues. President Reagan demobilizes the PATCO union, firing 11,000 striking air traffic controllers and hiring replacement workers. Although technically illegal, work stoppages by federal employees were not uncommon before 1981. It is a turning point in labor history, as private employers including Phelps Dodge and International Paper choose to replace striking workers rather than negotiate with unions.

**April 7, 1986** President Reagan signs the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA), allowing workers who lose their jobs to maintain health insurance for themselves and their families through their former employer.

**June 15, 1990** Four hundred janitors demonstrating for better wages and benefits under the banner “Justice for Janitors” are beaten by police in Los Angeles. The incident echoes labor strife of the industrial era as unions struggle to organize service workers in a changing economy.

**February 5, 1993** President Clinton signs the Family and Medical Leave Act, ensuring job security for workers to take leave from their jobs to care for newborn babies or for injured or ill relatives.

**December 8, 1993** President Clinton signs the law implementing the North American Free Trade Agreement. By 2004, over 900,000 lost jobs are linked to furthering economic globalization. In December 1999, WTO talks in Seattle fail ensuring job security for workers to take leave from their jobs to care for newborn and Caterpillar, but the plants continue to operate. More than 4,000 workers walk out at Staley, Bridgestone, and numerous other facilities in Decatur, Ill.

**October 25, 1995** In the first contested election in AFL-CIO history, John Sweeney, former head of SEIU, becomes AFL-CIO president and calls for militant organizing.

**August 22, 1996** President Clinton signs the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act, fulfilling his campaign promise to “end welfare as we have come to know it.”

**September 22, 1997** Pride at Work, a national coalition of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender workers and their supporters, becomes an AFL-CIO constituency group.

**1999** In the largest labor organizing victory since the Great Depression, 74,000 California home-care workers vote to join the Service Employees International Union (SEIU). The move highlights the shift from industrial to service employment.

**2000s**

**July 26, 2002** President Bush demands the 170,000 workers in the proposed Department of Homeland Security be stripped of standard civil service and union protections, including (at the president’s discretion) collective bargaining rights.

**July 12, 2004** The first National Day of Action at the Wisconsin State Employee’s Union is a resounding success, as unions fight declining membership by merging across industries. The united union has 450,000 members.

**July 13, 2004** NLRA rules 3–2 in favor of Brown University, reversing the 2001 NYU decision and declaring that graduate student teaching and research assistants are “primarily students” and not workers protected by the NLRA.

**September 26, 2005** Arguing that the AFL no longer adequately prioritizes organizing new workers or addresses the needs of a changing workforce, seven major unions, led by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and the Teamsters, leave the AFL-CIO to form the Change to Win coalition.

**September 29, 2006** In the Kentucky River Decisions, the NLRB makes it easier for an employer to classify certain workers as “supervisor” and thereby not eligible for union representation.

**September 15, 2008** Lehman Brothers files for bankruptcy, precipitating the Great Recession and establishing a “too big to fail” doctrine that leads to government bailouts of many Wall Street financial institutions.

**December 11, 2008** Following a fifteen-year battle, workers at the Smithfield Foods pork processing plant in Tar Heel, N.C., the largest of its kind in the world, vote to unionize. It is one of the largest successful union organizing efforts of the 21st century.

**January 29, 2009** President Obama signs the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009, reversing a Supreme Court decision declaring discrimination claims must be filed within 180 days from the initial incident of discrimination.

**March 23, 2010** President Obama signs the Affordable Care Act, commonly known as Obamacare.

**April 5, 2010** An explosion of methane gas kills twenty-nine miners in Massey Coal’s Upper Big Branch Mine in West Virginia.

**March 7, 2011** Governor Scott Walker signs Wisconsin’s Budget Repair Act, limiting public-sector unions’ contract negotiations to base pay only, eliminating pensions, health insurance, safety, hours, sick leave and vacations as items of discussion. Thousands of state employees protest, but the law is ruled constitutional in 2014. By that year, membership in the Wisconsin State Employer’s Union is down sixty percent.

**June 20, 2011** In Wal-Mart Stores v. Dukes, the Supreme Court throws out the employment discrimination class-action suit against Wal-Mart that had sought billions of dollars on behalf of as many as 1.5 million female workers.

**September 17, 2011** The Occupy Wall Street movement begins as several hundred people march through Wall Street and encamp at Zuccotti Park in Lower Manhattan. The long-lived protest spurs the Occupy movement in many cities around the country, protesting wealth and power inequities in American society.
I would like to see a building, say, the Empire State. I would like to see on one side of it a foot-wide strip from top to bottom with the name of every bricklayer, the name of every electrician, with all the names. So when a guy walked by, he could take his son and say, “See, that’s me over there on the forty-fifth floor. I put the steel beam in.” Picasso can point to a painting. What can I point to? A writer can point to a book. Everybody should have something to point to.

— Mike Lefevre, steel mill worker
### January

#### 1 January
- **NEW YEAR'S DAY**
- **KWANZAA ENDS**
- **SOLEMNITY OF MARY**

#### 2 January
- **THREE KINGS DAY, FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY**
- **ORTHODOX CHRISTMAS**

#### 3 January
- **1912** Women walk out of the Everett Mill in Lawrence, Mass., in what becomes known as the "Bread and Roses Strike." The IWW helps organize 23,000 textile workers; all the mills submit to the workers’ demands.

#### 4 January
- **1874** In the Tompkins Square "Blood or Bread Riot" thousands of unemployed protesters clash with in the wake of the 1873 Panic.

#### 5 January
- **1962** President Kennedy issues Executive Order 10988, empowering federal employees to bargain collectively.

#### 6 January
- **2009** President Obama signs the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009, reversing a Supreme Court decision declaring discrimination claims must be filed within 180 days from the initial incident of discrimination.

---

**Chinese laborers building the Central Pacific Railroad, painting by Jake Lee, c. 1950.**

**Fred Brusati astride a tower on the Golden Gate Bridge during its construction, c. 1935.**

**Ironworker Joe Regis erecting the Chase Manhattan Bank building in New York City, c. 1960.**

**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY (OBSERVED)**

**TU B'SHVAT**

**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF COMMEMORATION IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST**

---

**LaGuardia Community College**

**The New York Times in Education**

---

**DECEMBER 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FEBRUARY 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**LaGuardia and Wagner Archives**

This world is but a canvas to our imagination.

– Henry David Thoreau, poet and philosopher
The Supreme Court in *Muller v. Oregon* upholds a 10-hour Oregon law as applied to women, arguing that women deserve such special protection as “bearers of the race.”

1993 President Clinton signs the Family and Medical Leave Act, ensuring job security for workers to take leave from their jobs to care for newborn babies or for injured or ill relatives.

1908 The Supreme Court rules in *Loewe v. Lawlor* that unions are a “conspiracy in restraint of trade” under the Sherman Anti-Trust Act.

1813 Francis Cabot Lowell founds the Boston Manufacturing Company textile mills in Waltham, Mass., the first industrial manufacturing plants in the U.S.

1898 The Supreme Court in *Muller v. Oregon* upholds a 10-hour Oregon law as applied to women, arguing that women deserve such special protection as “bearers of the race.”

1813 Francis Cabot Lowell founds the Boston Manufacturing Company textile mills in Waltham, Mass., the first industrial manufacturing plants in the U.S.
TEXTILES

She took a bundle and she cut the string. And when you open the bundle, it is a thousand pieces. And all these pieces, you put them together and you make a beautiful dress. The operator on dresses is an engineer. — Julia Benicci, garment worker

As we come marching, marching in the beauty of the day, A million darkened kitchens, a thousand mill lofts gray, Are touched with all the radiance that a sudden sun discloses, For people hear us singing, Bread and roses! Bread and roses!

— James Oppenheim, Bread and Roses, 1912

**MARCH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**1807** Congress passes legislation banning importation of African slaves to the United States. The law goes into effect January 1, 1808.

**1911** Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in New York City kills 146 women. The ensuing outrage makes the fire a turning point, propelling popular and political support for better working conditions.

**1933** Frances Perkins becomes Secretary of Labor; the first woman to hold a cabinet position in the U.S.

**1937** In West Coast Hotel v. Parrish, the Supreme Court rules states can establish minimum wage laws, officially recognizing for the first time that employees and employers did not have equal negotiating power.

**1958** New York Mayor Robert F. Wagner, Jr issues Executive Order 49, making it policy for the city to recognize and collectively bargain with municipal unions.

---

**FEBRUARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**APRIL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**LENT (ORTHODOX)**

**MAHA SHIVARATRI (HINDU OBSERVANCE)**

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY**

**ST. PATRICK’S DAY**

**EASTER**

**PURIM (BEGINS AT SUNDOWN)**

**GOOD FRIDAY**

**VERNAL EQUINOX (SPRING BEGINS)**

**Palm Sunday**

**HOLY THURSDAY**

**Holi (Hindu Observance)**

---

**LEFT** May Chen, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance founding member, n.d.

**RIGHT** Navajo rug weavers, n.d.

---

**LEFT** Young David Dubinsky, labor organizer, cutting fabric, n.d.
John Henry was a railroad man,
He worked from six 'till five,
"Raise 'em up bullies and let 'em drop down,
I'll beat you to the bottom or die."

John Henry said to his captain:
"You are nothing but a common man,
Before that steam drill shall beat me down,
I'll die with my hammer in my hand."

John Henry said to the Shakers:
"You must listen to my call,
Before that steam drill shall beat me down,
I'll jar these mountains till they fall."

John Henry's captain said to him:
"I believe these mountains are caving in."
John Henry said to his captain: "Oh, Lord!"
"That's my hammer you hear in the wind."

John Henry he said to his captain:
"Your money is getting mighty slim,
When I hammer through this old mountain,
Oh Captain will you walk in?"

John Henry's captain came to him
With fifty dollars in his hand,
He laid his hand on his shoulder and said:
"This belongs to a steel driving man."

John Henry was hammering on the right side,
The big steam drill on the left,
Before that steam drill could beat him down,
He hammered his fool self to death.

— John Henry, African-American folk hero
and "steel-driving man"
The Supreme Court upholds the National Labor Relations Act (Wagner Act) in its *National Labor Relations Board v. Jones and McLaughlin Steel Co.* decision.

The Supreme Court rules in *Lochner v. New York* that a New York law setting maximum working hours for bakers is unconstitutional.

In the Ludlow Massacre, the National Guard and company gunmen attack a tent village of families striking at a Rockefeller-owned Colorado coal mine, killing 11 women, seven men and two children.

Massachusetts passes the first factory inspection legislation.

Massachusetts passes the first factory inspection legislation.
ORGANIZING

WE MEAN TO MAKE THINGS OVER.
WE'RE TIRED OF TOIL FOR NAUGHT
BUT BARE ENOUGH TO LIVE ON.
NEVER AN HOUR FOR THOUGHT.

WE WANT TO FEEL THE SUNSHINE;
WE WANT TO SMELL THE FLOWERS.
WE'RE SURE THAT GOD HAS WILLED IT,
AND WE MEAN TO HAVE EIGHT HOURS.

WE'RE SUMMONING OUR FORCES
FROM SHIPYARD, SHOP AND MILL:
EIGHT HOURS FOR WORK,
EIGHT HOURS FOR REST,
EIGHT HOURS FOR WHAT WE WILL!

— G. BLANCHARD & JESSE HENRY JONES, EIGHT-HOURS

WORDS & MUSIC
BY JOE HILL

The Rebel Girl, written by Joe Hill for WWI organizer Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, 1915
1 **PASCHA (ORTHODOX EASTER)**

2 **MAY DAY**

3 **WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY**

4

5 **YOM HA'SHOAH (HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY)** **CINCO DE MAYO**

6

7

8 **V.E DAY**

9 **MOTHER'S DAY**

10

11

12 **YOM HA'ATZMA'UT (ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY)**

13

14

15 **PENTECOST**

16

17

18

19

20 **WESAK (BUDDHA'S BIRTHDAY)**

21 **ARMED FORCES DAY**

22

23

24

25

26 **FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI**

27

28

29

30 **MEMORIAL DAY (OBSERVED)**

31

---

**1786** Philadelphia printers conduct the first strike for better wages by employees against employers in the United States.

**1886** A peaceful protest at Haymarket Square in Chicago ends in a tragic bombing. The incident is blamed on anarchists, triggering a panicked repression some have called the first red scare.

**1882** President Chester A. Arthur signs Chinese Exclusion Act, the first immigration restriction in U.S. history, as West Coast white workers blame Chinese immigrants for falling wages and unemployment.

**LaGuardia and Wagner Archives**
The miners lost because they only had the Constitution. The other side had bayonets. In the end, bayonets always win.

— Mother Jones, labor organizer

You load sixteen tons, what do you get
Another day older and deeper in debt
Saint Peter don’t you call me ‘cause I can’t go
I owe my soul to the company store

— Merle Travis, *Sixteen Tons*, 1946
**June**

1. **1** President Roosevelt signs the National Industrial Recovery Act. Section 7a declares "employees shall have the right to organize and bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing."

2. **5** President Roosevelt signs the G.I. Bill of Rights, which provides weekly unemployment allowance, counseling, placement services, education, and on-the-job training.

3. **12** First Day of Shavuot

4. **13** Philippines Independence Day

5. **14** Flag Day

6. **15** First Day of Shavuot

7. **19** Father's Day

8. **20** World Refugee Day

9. **21** Summer Solstice/Summer Begins

10. **22** 1946 President Roosevelt signs the G.I. Bill of Rights, which provides weekly unemployment allowance, counseling, placement services, education, and on-the-job training.

11. **23** 1947 The federal Taft-Hartley Act outlaws the closed shop and sanctions state-level "right to work" laws.


13. **27** Louis Tikas, Greek-American union mining leader and martyr of the Ludlow massacre, n.d.
People really admire firefighters. People look up to us. They want their kids to talk to us. We’re the ones who help everyone. It doesn’t matter what time of day or night, how rich or how poor they are, what color they are. We go into their houses and risk our lives to save them… When you finish up, you know you have helped people.

— Brenda Berkman, Lieutenant, Ladder 12, Manhattan

The policeman on the beat or in the patrol car makes more decisions and exercises broader discretion affecting the daily lives of people every day and to a greater extent, in many respects, than a judge will ordinarily exercise in a week.

— Supreme Court Justice Warren E. Burger
1877 The Great Railroad Strike of 1877 spreads from West Virginia to Maryland, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Missouri, shutting down about two-thirds of all rail lines in the country.

1935 The National Labor Relations Act (Wagner Act) defines and protects workers’ “right to self-organization, to form, join, or assist labor organizations, [and] to bargain collectively.”

1970 Grape growers sign contracts with Cesar Chavez’s UFWOC, the first collective bargaining agreement in U.S. agriculture.
Teaching is our heart. Our students are our soul. And the union is our spine.

- President Randi Weingarten, AFT

Helping people is what we do; it’s the very essence of our work. We want to help our students be successful learners and productive citizens and so we go above and beyond every day to provide them with the very best education possible.

- President Michael Mulgrew, UFT

The truth is that New York’s public schools are strong and healthy, and where schools ARE struggling, it’s because children live in poverty. That’s something we can’t test our way out of. But you know what? We can teach our way out of it.

- President Karen E. Magee, NYSUT

Top: Ralph Fasanella, Sperry Organizing Committee, 1942, depicts the organizing drive at the Sperry Gyroscope Company in Brooklyn by the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America.

Far left top: Professor Abderrazak Belkharraz teaching a class in Engineering Sciences at LaGuardia Community College, CUNY, c. 21013.

Far left bottom: Professor Demetrios Kapetanakos teaching a freshman seminar at LaGuardia Community College, CUNY, 2015.

Left: The PSC holds a giant street rally on Chambers Street near City Hall to protest budget cuts to CUNY, 1976.

Above: The PSC delivers over 100,000 postcards to protest Governor Pataki’s budget cuts and tuition hikes in Albany, March, 2005.

Education is more than a right – it is a need, as essential to human survival as food and shelter. As an education union, the PSC is about challenging a society that actively denies education on the basis of race and class.

- President Barbara Bowen, PSC

Helping people is what we do; it’s the very essence of our work. We want to help our students be successful learners and productive citizens and so we go above and beyond every day to provide them with the very best education possible.

- President Michael Mulgrew, UFT
I have to be a waitress. How else can I learn about people? How else does the world come to me? I can’t go to everyone. So they have to come to me. Everyone wants to eat; everyone has hunger. And I serve them. If they had a bad day, I nurse them, cajole them. Maybe with the coffee I give them a bit of philosophy. If they have cocktails, I give them political science... I can't be servile. I give service. There is a difference...

— Dolores Dante, waitress
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>S</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>HIROSHIMA DAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;1935 The Social Security Act establishes the first government safety net for unemployed workers, the elderly, and dependent children, but excludes domestic workers.&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 TISHA B'AV</td>
<td>VJ DAY</td>
<td>15 FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18 RAKSHA BANDHAN (HINDU OBSERVANCE)</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23 INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF THE SLAVE TRADE AND ITS ABOLITION</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26 WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**AUGUST 1935**

The Social Security Act establishes the first government safety net for unemployed workers, the elderly, and dependent children, but excludes domestic workers.

**1942** Bracero program begins and by 1964, 4.6 million Mexican farm workers have come to the United States as temporary contracted laborers though the structure of the program allows for exploitation.

**1925** A. Philip Randolph organizes the first national black labor union, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, in Harlem.

**LEFT Ai-Jen Poo, Director of the National Domestic Workers Alliance, n.d.**

**RIGHT Frania Kaplan in her kitchen in Indianapolis, 1950.**
Agriculture

The fight is never about grapes or lettuce. It is always about people.

— Cesar Chavez, farm worker and labor leader
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>S</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SEPTEMBER**

- **4** Labor Day
- **11** World Trade Center Remembrance Day
- **12** Eid al-Adha (Feast of Sacrifice)
- **14** Chuseok (Korean Harvest Moon Festival)
- **15** Independence Day in Central America
- **16** El Grito de Dolores (Mexican Independence Day)
- **17** Citizenship Day (Constitution Day)
- **18**
- **19**
- **20** International Day of Peace
- **21** Autumnal Equinox/Autumn Begins
- **22** Native American Day
- **23** Grito de Lares (Puerto Rico)
- **24**
- **25**
- **26**
- **27**
- **28**
- **29**
- **30**

---

**AUGUST**

- **1**
- **2**
- **3**
- **4**
- **5**
- **6**
- **7**
- **8**
- **9**
- **10**
- **11**
- **12**
- **13**
- **14**
- **15**
- **16**
- **17**
- **18**
- **19**
- **20**
- **21**
- **22**
- **23**
- **24**
- **25**
- **26**
- **27**
- **28**
- **29**
- **30**
- **31**

---

**OCTOBER**

- **1**
- **2**
- **3**
- **4**
- **5**
- **6**
- **7**
- **8**
- **9**
- **10**
- **11**
- **12**
- **13**
- **14**
- **15**
- **16**
- **17**
- **18**
- **19**
- **20**
- **21**
- **22**
- **23**
- **24**
- **25**
- **26**
- **27**
- **28**
- **29**
- **30**
- **31**
Once I built a railroad,
I made it run, made it race against time.  
Once I built a railroad; now it’s done. 
Brother, can you spare a dime? 
Once I built a tower up to the sun 
Brick, and rivet, and lime; 
Once I built a tower, now it’s done. 
Brother, can you spare a dime? 

— E. Y. “Yip” Harburg,
Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?

It is a public outrage that there are men out of work when there is plenty of work that needs to be done. 

— Fred Harris, U.S. Senator from Oklahoma

Above left: Detroit resident looking for work during the Great Depression, 1930s. 
Above: Shape-up on the San Francisco docks, painting by James Grosso, 1955.
<p>| | | | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>ROSH HASHANAH (BEGINS AT SUNDOWN)</td>
<td>MUHARRAH (ISLAMIC NEW YEAR)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>FIRST DAY OF ROSH HASHANAH</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1978 Congress passes the Airline Deregulation Act, removing government control of civilian aviation.

1902 The federal government arbitrates the 163-day-old anthracite coal strike in Pennsylvania; workday is reduced from 10 to nine hours; workers receive 10 percent wage increase.

SEPTEMBER | NOVEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>S</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LaGuardia and Wagner Archives

The New York Times

in EDUCATION
“When you are a nurse, you know that every day you will touch a life or a life will touch yours.”

—Anonymous

“I may be compelled to face danger, but never fear it, and while our soldiers stand and fight, I can stand and feed and nurse them.”

—Clara Barton, pioneering nurse
1938 Led by John L. Lewis, 34 national unions and over a hundred local unions meet in Pittsburgh, breaking from the AFL to form an independent Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO).

1909 Clara Lemlich mobilizes the “Uprising of the 20,000,” a landmark strike for better wages, better working conditions and union recognition.

1857 15,000 unemployed workers gather in New York’s Tompkins Square demanding public works jobs and other relief from the Panic of 1857.
Most people think “selling” is the same as “talking.” But the most effective salespeople know that listening is the most important part of their job. — Roy Bartell, internet marketer

Nobody dast blame this man. You don’t understand: Willy was a salesman. And for a salesman, there’s no rock bottom to the life. He don’t put a bolt to a nut, he don’t tell you the law or give you medicine. He’s a man way out there in the blue riding on a smile and a shoeshine. And when they start not smiling back—that’s an earthquake. And then you get yourself a couple spots on your hat and you’re finished. Nobody dast blame this man. A salesman is got to dream boy, it comes with the territory.

— Charley, in Arthur Miller’s *Death of a Salesman*
**DECEMBER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>S</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>WINTER SOLSTICE/ WINTER BEGINS</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**1907** The Fairmount Coal Co.'s Monongah Mine in W.V. explodes, killing 361 miners in nation’s worst mining disaster.

**1993** President Clinton signs the law implementing the North American Free Trade Agreement. By 2004, over 900,000 lost jobs are linked to NAFTA by AFL-CIO economists, even as trade increases.

**1662** Slave labor is codified as an inherited condition in Virginia, establishing race-based slavery as a perpetual labor system in America.

**1970** President Nixon signs the Occupational Safety and Health Act, establishing in law workers’ right to a safe and healthy workplace.

Click here to view the full calendar.
The trading floor, it was a place for regular guys, guys who didn’t necessarily have a talent for anything or an education that was specific to this business to take advantage of their aggressiveness and their ability to think on their feet.

— Peter “Zap” Chelemengos, Chicago Mercantile Exchange floor trader
# JANUARY 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NEW YEAR'S DAY</strong></td>
<td><strong>KWANZAA ENDS</strong></td>
<td><strong>LAST DAY OF CHANUKAH</strong></td>
<td><strong>SOLEMNITY OF MARY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td><strong>ORTHODOX CHRISTMAS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>THREE KINGS DAY, FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY</strong></td>
<td><strong>NEW YEAR'S DAY</strong></td>
<td><strong>KWANZAA ENDS</strong></td>
<td><strong>LAST DAY OF CHANUKAH</strong></td>
<td><strong>SOLEMNITY OF MARY</strong></td>
<td><strong>ORTHODOX CHRISTMAS</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY (OBSERVED)</strong></td>
<td><strong>NEW YEAR'S DAY</strong></td>
<td><strong>KWANZAA ENDS</strong></td>
<td><strong>LAST DAY OF CHANUKAH</strong></td>
<td><strong>SOLEMNITY OF MARY</strong></td>
<td><strong>ORTHODOX CHRISTMAS</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1912</strong> Women walk out of the Everett Mill in Lawrence, Mass. in what becomes known as the “Bread and Roses Strike.” The IWW helps organize 23,000 textile workers. All the mills submit to the workers’ demands.</td>
<td><strong>1874</strong> In the Tompkins Square “Blood or Bread Riot” thousands of unemployed protesters clash with in the wake of the 1873 Panic.</td>
<td><strong>1962</strong> President Kennedy issues Executive Order 10988, empowering federal employees to bargain collectively.</td>
<td><strong>1909</strong> President Obama signs the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009, reversing a Supreme Court decision declaring discrimination claims must be filed within 180 days from the initial incident of discrimination.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1912</strong> Women walk out of the Everett Mill in Lawrence, Mass. in what becomes known as the “Bread and Roses Strike.” The IWW helps organize 23,000 textile workers. All the mills submit to the workers’ demands.</td>
<td><strong>1874</strong> In the Tompkins Square “Blood or Bread Riot” thousands of unemployed protesters clash with in the wake of the 1873 Panic.</td>
<td><strong>1962</strong> President Kennedy issues Executive Order 10988, empowering federal employees to bargain collectively.</td>
<td><strong>1909</strong> President Obama signs the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009, reversing a Supreme Court decision declaring discrimination claims must be filed within 180 days from the initial incident of discrimination.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>INTERNATIONAL DAY OF COMMEMORATION IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>INTERNATIONAL DAY OF COMMEMORATION IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## DECEMBER 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## FEBRUARY 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Image:** Lucy Parsons, labor organizer, radical activist, founder of the IWW, n. d.

**Image:** Lucy Parsons, labor organizer, radical activist, founder of the IWW, n. d.
Examples of Distinguished CUNY Alumni in Labor

Mel Aaronson, Hunter College, treasurer, United Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 2.
Daniel Abrams, City College 1972, AFGE Local 3369 on-site representative.
Irving Adler, City College 1931, chair, educational policy committee, member executive board, New York Teachers Union Local 5, American Federation of Teachers, then NY Teachers Union CIO Local 555.
Sasha Ahuja, Hunter College 2009, community organizer, deputy director of the Policy and Innovation Division, Speaker’s Office, New York City Council.
Adam Albanese, Baruch College MPA 2015, senior policy and program analyst, Newark Workforce Investment Board.
Geoffrey Altomare, City College 1953, former vice president, United Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 2; secretary, retired teachers chapter, and director, Professional Committees Department; delegate NYC Central Labor Council, AFT and NYSUT; vice president, New York Labor History Association.
Carmen Alvarez, City College, vice president for special education, United Federation of Teachers.
James Bambina, Joseph S. Murphy Institute labor studies 2015, executive board member Local 1-2 UWUA.
Emily Barnett, Queens College 1969, president, Adjunct College Teachers, UAW Local 1902.
LeRoy Barr, Hunter College, M.A., assistant secretary, United Federation of Teachers.
Stephanie Basile, Joseph S. Murphy Institute union semester graduate, organizer at RWDSU.
Si Beagle, City College, former leader of the New York City Teachers Union and later the Teachers Guild, the forerunner of the UFT.
Jack Bigel, City College 1934, organized United Public Workers local in NYC Sanitation Department, later founded Program Planners, advisor to unions in NYC.
Bruce William Both, Hunter College 1973, president, United Food and Commercial Workers, Local 1500.
Annie Bové, Hunter College 1978, president, New York State Nurses Association, NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation executive council president.
Peter J. Brennan, City College, secretary of labor under Presidents Nixon and Ford.
Tom Brown, Brooklyn College, assistant treasurer, United Federation of Teachers, Local 2.
Harold Cammer, City College 1929, counsel to the Congress of Industrial Unions, United Brewery Workers, United Public Workers of America, New York Teachers Union, International Fur, Leather & Machinery Workers, Mine, Mill & Smelter Workers; and co-founder, National Lawyers Guild.
Sol Chaikin, City College 1938, organizer, former president, International Ladies Garment Workers Union.
Martha Chavez, Baruch College MPA 2013, research analyst, Local 32BJ, SEIU.
LeRoy Barr, Hunter College, M.A., assistant secretary, United Federation of Teachers.
Stephanie Basile, Joseph S. Murphy Institute union semester graduate, organizer at RWDSU.
Si Beagle, City College, former leader of the New York City Teachers Union and later the Teachers Guild, the forerunner of the UFT.
Jack Bigel, City College 1934, organized United Public Workers local in NYC Sanitation Department, later founded Program Planners, advisor to unions in NYC.
Bruce William Both, Hunter College 1973, president, United Food and Commercial Workers, Local 1500.
Annie Bové, Hunter College 1978, president, New York State Nurses Association, NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation executive council president.
Peter J. Brennan, City College, secretary of labor under Presidents Nixon and Ford.
Tom Brown, Brooklyn College, assistant treasurer, United Federation of Teachers, Local 2.
Harold Cammer, City College 1929, counsel to the Congress of Industrial Unions, United Brewery Workers, United Public Workers of America, New York Teachers Union, International Fur, Leather & Machinery Workers, Mine, Mill & Smelter Workers; and co-founder, National Lawyers Guild.
Sol Chaikin, City College 1938, organizer, former president, International Ladies Garment Workers Union.
Martha Chavez, Baruch College MPA 2013, research analyst, Local 32BJ, SEIU.
Arthur Cheliotes, Queensborough Community College and Queens College 1970, president, Communication Workers of America Local 1180; chairman, labor advisory board, Joseph S. Murphy Institute for Worker Education & Labor Studies.
Isham Christie, Joseph S. Murphy Institute union semester graduate, organizer at Writers Guild of America.
Lila Chu Chui, Hunter College 1966, executive board member, Asian-Pacific American Labor Alliance.
Daisy Chung, CUNY Law School, campaign director of Align for a Greater New York.
Alice Citron, Hunter College 1938, former chairman, Harlem Committee NY Teachers Union, AFT Local 5, instrumental in forming Better Schools for Harlem Committee.
Mary Clinton, Joseph S. Murphy Institute labor studies, union organizer.
Lorraine Cohen, CUNY Graduate Center Ph.D. 1987, chapter chair, LaGuardia Community College; member executive council Professional Staff Congress, AFT Local 2334.
Robert J. Croghan, City College 1965, president, Organization of Staff Analysts.
Sharon Cromwell, Joseph S. Murphy Institute union semester graduate, policy department at Union 32BJ.
Robert Daraio, Joseph S. Murphy Institute M.A. labor studies 2011, News Guild NY CWA, Local 31003, local representative.
Evelyn DeJesus, Baruch College, vice president of education, United Federation of Teachers.

Peter J. Brennan, Harold Cammer, Sol Chaikin, Martha Chavez, Arthur Cheliotes, Isham Christie, Daisy Chung, Mary Clinton, Sharon Cromwell.
Jeannette DiLorenzo, Queens College 1989, 1993, vice president for higher education officers, Professional Staff Congress, AFT Local 2334.

Arthurine DeSola, Hunter College 1976, secretary, Professional Staff Congress, AFT Local 2334.

Jeanette DiLorenzo, Brooklyn College, treasurer, chair, retirees’ chapter, United Federation of Teachers.

Eric Dryburgh, Joseph S. Murphy Institute union semester graduate, organizer at RWDSU.

Elizabeth Espert, Hunter College 1992, representative District 3, delegate United Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 2.

Jennifer Faucher, Brooklyn College 1975, political liaison/lobbyist, NY Public Employees Federation.

Sandra Feldman, Brooklyn College 1963, former president, United Federation of Teachers; president American Federation of Teachers.

Saul Fishman, Queens College 1978, attorney; president, Civil Service Bar Association.

David Flackes, City College 1948, New York Teachers Union Local 5 AFT and former member of the editorial board for the Teacher Notes.

Henry Foner, City College 1939, former president, Joint Board, Fur, Leather & Machinery Workers Union.

Lorraine Foner, Brooklyn College (special baccalaureate program), shop steward, Local 1199 Service Employees International Union.

Moe Foner, Brooklyn College 1937, former activities director, Department Store Workers Union, Locals 1250 & 5; later executive secretary, director Bread & Roses Project, Local 1199 Service Employees International Union.

Catalina R. Fortino, Queens College B.S., M.A., vice president, New York State United Teachers.

Henry Garrido, City College 2003, executive director, DC 37, AFSCME.


Shelia Goldberg, Brooklyn College 1988, Plainridge Teachers Federation, AFT Local 1980, Retiree of the Year Award 2009, NYSUT Lifetime Achievement Award 2015.

Victor Gotbaum, Brooklyn College 1948, former executive director, District Council 37, American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees.

Richard Graham, CUNY Graduate Center Ph.D. 2004, activist.

Louis Guida, City College 2005 (Center for Worker Education), director, strategic affairs, Retail, Wholesale & Department Store Workers Union.

Rick Gustave, Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education, City College 2006. Served three consecutive terms as Committee of Interns and Residents (CIR) SEIU-Healthcare regional vice president, NY (2011–2014).

Steven Harris, Queens College 1972, representative, United Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 2.

Aurelia Harrison, Borough of Manhattan Community College, Lehman College 1964, 1996, shop steward, delegate, member political action committee, Local 2054 AFSCME DC 37.

Ron Hayduk, CUNY Graduate Center 1997, chapter officer, Vote OPEE coordinator, Professional Staff Congress, AFT Local 2334.

Barbara Kairson, City College 1974, administrator, education fund, DC 37 AFSCME.

Harry Kelber, Brooklyn College, education director, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Union Local 3; labor journalist.


Jules Kolodny, M.A. City College, founder and leader of the United Federation of Teachers. Served as secretary of the union from 1963 to 1983.

Israel Kugler, City College 1938, former president, United Federation of College Teachers; founder of Professional Staff Congress.


Maureen LaMar, Hunter College 1977, program manager at Joseph S. Murphy Institute labor studies program.

Micah Landau, Joseph S. Murphy Institute union semester 2007, communications at UFT.

Abraham Lederman, City College 1937, former president, NY Teachers Union-Local 355 United Public Workers Union-CIO.

Abraham Lefkowitz, City College 1904, former legislative representative, New York Teachers Union, Local 5, American Federation of Teachers.

Penny Lewis, CUNY Graduate Center, Ph.D. 2009, member executive council Professional Staff Congress, AFT Local 2334.

Martha Livingston, Queens College 1962, Brooklyn College 1976, delegate, chapter officer, United University Professions, American Federation of Teachers, Local 2190.


Jay Lovestone, City College 1998, former labor leader.

Alan Lubin, Brooklyn College 1967, executive committee member, United Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 2; executive vice president emeritus, NYS United Teachers; vice president, NYS AFL-CIO.

Richard Mantell, Brooklyn College, vice president for middle schools, United Federation of Teachers.
Sharon Persinger, Queens College, founder and director of the Joseph S. Murphy Institute for Worker Education and Labor Studies.

Ellen McTigue, Lehman College 1976, United University Professions, AFT Local 2109; chapter officer, NYSUT member statewide committees on contingent labor and nursing.

Abel Meeropol, City College 1925, activist in the NY Teachers Union, AFT Local 5; wrote lyrics to Strange Fruit, first published it in the New York Teacher, newspaper of the TU.

Nastaran Mohit, CUNY Joseph S. Murphy Institute, union organizer.

Michael Muigrew, College of Staten Island, president, United Federation of Teachers.

Albert Munoz, CUNY Joseph S. Murphy Institute, contract administrator, Professional Staff Congress, AFT Local 2334.

Abbe Nosoff, Brooklyn College 1964, Hunter College 1967, staff representative, United Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 2334; executive board member NY Labor History Association.

Taiwo Odufunade, Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education, City College 2009, Committee of Interns and Residents (CIR) SEIU–Healthcare executive vice president.

Andy Pallotta, Kingsborough Community College, Brooklyn College M.A. education, executive vice president for political mobilization and legislative advocacy, New York State United Teachers.

Alan Pearlman, Baruch College 1972, 1974, executive council member, vice chair, college laboratory technicians chapter, Professional Staff Congress, AFT Local 2334.

Joseph Perry, Queens College 1986, shop steward, Local 924 American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees Union.

Sharon Persinger, CUNY Graduate Center Ph.D. 1991, treasurer, Professional Staff Congress, AFT Local 2334.

John Pietaro, Lehman College 1998, representative, NY Nurses Association; independent journalist; cultural organizer.

Emil Pietromonaco, Richmond College, secretary, United Federation of Teachers.

Julia Pignataro, Hunter College 1974, early childhood education 1978, president, Federation of Catholic Teachers, Local 153 OPEIU.

John Pittman, City College 1976, CUNY Graduate Center Ph.D. 1989, executive council member, Professional Staff Congress, AFT Local 2334.

Irwin Polishook, Brooklyn College, former president, Professional Staff Congress, AFT Local 2334 AFT.

Andres Puerta, CUNY Joseph S. Murphy Institute, union organizer, New York City, District Council of Carpenters.


Michael Rodes, Kingsborough Community College, Queensborough Community College, Queens College 1975, executive board member, recording secretary and president, International Association of Machinists local secretary-treasurer, IAM District 15.

Patricia Rudden, Hunter College 1971, 1977, CUNY Graduate Center Ph.D. 1995, chapter secretary, delegate, grievance officer Professional Staff Congress, AFT Local 2334.

Morris U. Schappes, City College 1928, former member of Instructional Staff Association, elected delegate NY Teachers Union, member executive board NY College Teachers Union, Local 537 AFT.

Gary Schoichet, Queens College 1964, labor journalist and photographer for about 25 different unions. Currently co-chair of NY Metro Labor Communications Council.


Barry Schwartz, Brooklyn College 1990, 2nd vice president, chapter 4 (CSTG) Local 375 DC 37, AFSCME.


Oscar Shafel, City College (Brooklyn branch) 1931, one of the founding faculty members of Queens College in 1935, active in the NY Teachers Union Local 537.

Kenneth Sherbell, Brooklyn College, former organizer for RWDSU Local 65, elected to NY State Senate on American Labor Party ticket.

Eric Shob, City College 1965, organizer then executive director, Training & Upgrade Fund, Local 199 Service Employees International Union; labor educator Consortium for Worker Education.

Daniel Singer, Brooklyn College 1955, 1963, delegate, NYC Central Labor Council for NY Alliance for Retired Americans; president, NYC Council of Supervisors and Administrators; executive vice president, AFSA.

Lucile Spence, Hunter College 1928, chair, Harlem Committee NY Teachers Union, AFT Local 5; later secretary NY Teachers Union, CIO Local 535.

Colleen Spilka, Baruch College MPA 2013, data and program analyst, Local 32BJ, SEIU.

Leon Stein, City College 1934, former editor of Justice, the official newspaper of the ILGWU.

Martha Straus, Hunter College 1920s, early member of the New York City Teachers Union and the Teachers Guild in NYC.

J. Philip Thompson, Hunter College 1986, CUNY Graduate Center, Ph.D. 1990, advisor to trade unions.

Stephen Thompson, CUNY baccalaureate program, Brooklyn College, Joseph S. Murphy Institute 2009–2013, organizer.

Roger Toussaint, Brooklyn College, former president, Transport Workers Union Local 100.

Dominick Tuminaro, City College 1963, chief counsel to NYS Assembly Labor Committee; member board of directors, NY Committee on Occupational Safety & Health; advisor to many unions on workers’ compensation; workers’ compensation lawyer.

Sharon Utakis, CUNY Graduate Center, Ph.D. 1995, chair, Bronx CC, Professional Staff Congress, AFT Local 2334.

Alex Vitale, CUNY Graduate Center, Ph.D. 2001, chair, Brooklyn College, member executive council, Professional Staff Congress, AFT Local 2334.

Samuel Wallach, City College 1929, 1931, former president, New York Teachers Union, Local 555 United Public Workers Union CIO.

Robert Wechsler, Brooklyn College 1972, former director of research, education and training, Transport Workers Union of America, AFL–CIO.

Albert Weisbord, City College 1921, union organizer involved in the 1926 Passaic Textile Strike.

Nick Wizdowski, City College 2010, CUNY School of Law, JD 2014, legislative director for NYC Council Member Costa Constantinides, Civil Service & Labor Committee. Active in CUNY Law Workers’ Rights/Labor Docket program.

Belle Zeller, Hunter College 1924, 1926, former president, Legislative Conference; later president and founder, Professional Staff Congress, AFT Local 2334.

Celia Lewis Zitrin, Hunter College, chair, Academic Freedom Committee; former secretary, New York Teachers Union, Local 5 American Federation of Teachers; former editor, New York Teacher News.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

SPECIAL THANKS
Shiloh Aderhold, Alice Austen House
Margaret Ambrosino, Sophie Davis School of Medical Education, City College, CUNY
Paul Arcaro, Provost, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, LaGuardia Community College, CUNY
Michael Arena, University Director of Communications and Marketing, Office of University Relations, CUNY
Tom Austin, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
Kellie Barr, United Federation of Teachers
Adidaram Bilkirrara, LaGuardia Community College, CUNY
André Beckles, Photographer/Production Coordinator, Office of University Relations, CUNY
Pereene Bennett-Associate Director, American Social History Project, CUNY
Tid Bencnoff, Smithsonian Institution Archives
Kinhcasa Best, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY
David Birdsell, Baruch College, CUNY
Barbara Bowen, Professional Staff Congress
Kim Buxton, Office of University Relations, CUNY
Gina Catapanis, Communications Manager, LaGuardia Community College, CUNY
Ron Carver, Campaigns for Social Justice
Fran Clark, Professional Staff Congress
Brian Cohen, Associate Vice Chancellor; University Chief Information Officer, CUNY
Marcia Moxam Conrie, York College, CUNY
Jim Cronin, CUNY Graduate Center
Jay DiLorenzo, History Colorado, Stephen H. Hart Library
Bratianu Donelly, Macaulay Honors College, CUNY
Shahar Eran, Vice President for Administration and Finance, LaGuardia Community College, CUNY
Susan Farkas, Professor, CUNY School of Journalism and President of Farkas Media
Marc Fasanella, SUNY Stony Brook
Andrea Felder, New York Public Library
Carlos Flynn, University Dean for Institutional Advancement, CUNY
Sharon Forde, Office of University Relations, CUNY
Joshua Freeman, CUNY Graduate Center and Queens College, CUNY
Tom Gleden, Education Account Manager, The New York Times
Patricia Gray, Director of Corporate Relations and Special Events, Office of University Relations, CUNY
Christopher D. Greaves, Queens College, CUNY
Mitchell Henderson, Purchasing Director, LaGuardia Community College, CUNY
Thomas Hladik, Executive Director of Finance and Business Affairs, LaGuardia Community College, CUNY
Bruce Hoffacker, Executive Associate to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, LaGuardia Community College, CUNY
Melissa Holland, Kheel Center for Labor-Management Documentation & Archives, Cornell University
Latoya Jackson, Gutman Institute, CUNY
Randall James, Industrial Workers of the World
Luz Jimenez, Executive Assistant to the Vice Chancellor for Research, CUNY
Demetrios Kastanakos, LaGuardia Community College, CUNY
Kitty Karpuz, Joseph S. Murphy Institute, CUNY
Kris Kinsey, Special Collections, University of Washington Libraries
John Kotowski, Director of City Relations, Office of University Relations, CUNY
Nadia Kouiss, Indian Historical Society
Lisa Lerner, Bennett Lerner Interiors
Carmen Luong, Business Office, LaGuardia Community College, CUNY
Mail Center Staff, LaGuardia Community College, CUNY
Jessica Malavez, New York City College of Technology, CUNY
Gregory Manusio, Joseph S. Murphy Institute, CUNY
Marianne Martin, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
Elizabeth Rosen Mayer, Office of the Chancellor, CUNY
Karen McKeon, Office of College and Community Relations, LaGuardia Community College, CUNY
Houng Messerlian, Deputy to the Secretary, CUNY Board of Trustees
Crystal Miles, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley
Susan Mills, Managing Director, Education, The New York Times
Ruth Milkan, Distinguished Professor at the CUNY Graduate Center and Academic Director of the Joseph F. Murphy Institute for Worker Education and Labor Studies, CUNY
Ward Ming, Executive Director of the Coby Foundation
John Mogulescu, Senior University Dean for Academic Affairs and Dean of the School for Professional Studies, CUNY
Barbara Morley, Kheel Center for Labor-Management Documentation & Archives, Cornell University
Joseph S. Murphy Institute for Worker Education and Labor Studies, CUNY
Michael Nelson, Federal Reserve Bank of New York
Elyse Newman, La Guardia Community College, CUNY
Rene Octlal, Office of Communications and Marketing, CUNY
Jaki Parsons, University of Washington
Nicki Patterson-Garcia, Queensborough Community College, CUNY
Idilio Gracia Pena, CUNY Dominican Studies Institute Archives, City College of New York, CUNY
Catherine Powell, San Francisco State University
Joseph S. Murphy Institute for Worker Education and Labor Studies, CUNY
Ed Rhodes, Campaign Office, Marketing, Invest in CUNY
Eneida Rivas, College and Community Relations Office, LaGuardia Community College, CUNY
Jemima Robain-LaCalle, Labor Relations Director and Counsel for the President, LaGuardia Community College, CUNY
Rita Rodin, Senior Editor, Office of Communications and Marketing, CUNY
David Rosato, New York Public Library
Rachel Rosen, American Folk Art Museum
Neill Rosenfeld, Staff Writer, Office of Communications and Marketing, CUNY
Janet Rossbach, Baruch College, CUNY
Celia Rozen, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Henry Salsel, Vice President for Information Technology, LaGuardia Community College, CUNY
Ellen Sexton, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY
The 2016 Working People calendar is dedicated to Dr. Ruth牛奶in. 2016 was a talented historian and dedicated teacher affectionately known as “Steve- pilia.” He was a committed citizen to many progressive causes and represented the HEOs for the PSC at LaGuardia Community College/CUNY. He is missed and remembered.

SPECIAL PROJECT DIRECTOR
John Kotowski, Director of City Relations, Office of University Relations, CUNY
Nadia Kouiss, Indian Historical Society
Lisa Lerner, Bennett Lerner Interiors
Carmen Luong, Business Office, LaGuardia Community College, CUNY
Mail Center Staff, LaGuardia Community College, CUNY
Jessica Malavez, New York City College of Technology, CUNY
Gregory Manusio, Joseph S. Murphy Institute, CUNY
Marianne Martin, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
Elizabeth Rosen Mayer, Office of the Chancellor, CUNY
Karen McKeon, Office of College and Community Relations, LaGuardia Community College, CUNY
Houng Messerlian, Deputy to the Secretary, CUNY Board of Trustees
Crystal Miles, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley
Susan Mills, Managing Director, Education, The New York Times
Ruth Milkan, Distinguished Professor at the CUNY Graduate Center and Academic Director of the Joseph F. Murphy Institute for Worker Education and Labor Studies, CUNY
Ward Ming, Executive Director of the Coby Foundation
John Mogulescu, Senior University Dean for Academic Affairs and Dean of the School for Professional Studies, CUNY
Barbara Morley, Kheel Center for Labor-Management Documentation & Archives, Cornell University
Joseph S. Murphy Institute for Worker Education and Labor Studies, CUNY
Michael Nelson, Federal Reserve Bank of New York
Elyse Newman, La Guardia Community College, CUNY
Rene Octlal, Office of Communications and Marketing, CUNY
Jaki Parsons, University of Washington
Nicki Patterson-Garcia, Queensborough Community College, CUNY
Idilio Gracia Pena, CUNY Dominican Studies Institute Archives, City College of New York, CUNY
Catherine Powell, San Francisco State University
Joseph S. Murphy Institute for Worker Education and Labor Studies, CUNY
Ed Rhodes, Campaign Office, Marketing, Invest in CUNY
Eneida Rivas, College and Community Relations Office, LaGuardia Community College, CUNY
Jemima Robain-LaCalle, Labor Relations Director and Counsel for the President, LaGuardia Community College, CUNY
Rita Rodin, Senior Editor, Office of Communications and Marketing, CUNY
David Rosato, New York Public Library
Rachel Rosen, American Folk Art Museum
Neill Rosenfeld, Staff Writer, Office of Communications and Marketing, CUNY
Janet Rossbach, Baruch College, CUNY
Celia Rozen, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Henry Salsel, Vice President for Information Technology, LaGuardia Community College, CUNY
Ellen Sexton, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker
James C. Van Bramer, Majority Leader and Council Member
Inez D. Barron, Chair, Committee on Higher Education
Costa Constantinides, Council Member
Daniel Dromm, Chair, Committee on Education
Julius Ferreras-Copeland, Chair, Committee on Finance
Peter Koo, Council Member
Copyright 2015 The City University of New York
Working People website and calendar did not involve the reporting or editing staff of The New York Times.
THE MAN BEHIND THE HAMMER AND THE PLOW
A SONG EVERY AMERICAN SHOULD LEARN

THE GARBAGE GENTLEMEN'S BALL
THOS. S. ALLEN
JOSEPH M. DALY

THE LADY SLAVE
WORDS BY GUSTAVE KERNER
MUSIC BY HUGO MORTON

GARRETT'S MUSICAL FUND
Published by Arthur J. Stone

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MUSIC CO.