



**Ordinary People,
Extraordinary Lives
A Celebration**

Videoconference 6:00 - 7:15 PM

Thursday May 14, 2020

LaborArts

New York Labor History Association

NYU's Tamiment Library/Robert F. Wagner Labor Archives

NYC Department of Records and Information Services/

Municipal Archives

New York City Central Labor Council

PARTICIPANTS

Rob Snyder - Professor of American Studies and Journalism at Rutgers University, Newark, his most recent book is *All the Nations Under Heaven: Immigrants, Migrant and the Making of New York*.

Alexander Bernhardt Bloom - Educator, writer, friend and son.

Rachel Bernstein - public historian, director of LaborArts.

Pauline Toole - Commissioner of the NYC Department of Records and Information Services, Municipal Archives.

Ed Ott - active in the labor movement for 50 years, recently retired from teaching at the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies.

Shi Greene - NYC union construction worker, active member of Laborers Local 79, instructor and mentor with Pathways to Apprenticeship, and outspoken advocate for safety and training in the construction industry.

Myriam Hernandez - longtime advocate for immigrant and worker rights, most recently the director of workers community for New York Communities for Change.

Shauna Irving - electrician, active member/leader in IBEW Local 3, Amber Light Society (women's club of L.3), Electrical Workers Minority Caucus of IBEW, and graduate of NEW (Nontraditional Employment for Women).

Donna Chin - Teacher of ENL (English as a New Language (formerly known as English as a Second Language) in NYC Public Elementary School (P.S.281M) in District 2.

Shannon O'Neill - curator, Tamiment Library/Wagner Labor Archives, previously archivist at Barnard College, Los Angeles Public Library

Rachel Kara Perez - a multidisciplinary artist working in multiple genres, contexts, and locales. She views the arts as an invaluable vehicle for healing and building community. @rachelkaraperez | rachelkaraperez.com

PROGRAM

Welcome - Rob Snyder, Manhattan Borough Historian

Poem - Alex Bloom, son and friend

Introduction - Rachel Bernstein, author

Remarks - Pauline Toole, Commissioner, NYC Municipal Archives

Panel - Moderator - Ed Ott - former Executive Director of the
New York City Central Labor Council

Shi Greene, construction worker (Laborers Local 79)

Myriam Hernandez, organizer (NY Communities for Change)

Shauna Irving, electrician (IBEW Local 3)

Donna Chin, teacher (NYC elementary school)

Documentation - Shannon O'Neill, curator, Tamiment
Library/Wagner Labor Archives

Closing remarks - Rob Snyder

Song - Rachel Kara Perez

Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives - A Pictorial History of Working People in New York City, by Debra E. Bernhardt and Rachel Bernstein, was originally published in May 2000.

This celebration of the paperback edition, also published by NYU Press, arrives in May 2020, finding us in a time when the extraordinary efforts of ordinary people are visible as never before.

Everyone on the program is committed to extending into this century a collaborative effort to collect and preserve the oral histories and photos and other records that can tell the stories of working people in New York City in the 21st century.

You can contribute to this effort by contacting Shannon O'Neill (smo224@nyu.edu) at Tamiment Library/Wagner Labor Archives.

LaborArts needs your help to continue to put on events like this— please consider donating at <http://www.laborarts.org/support>.

Find an exhibit about the first edition of the book complete with audio from oral histories at <http://www.laborarts.org/exhibits/opel/>

The NYC Municipal Archives exhibit includes images used in the book, some taken by City photographer Eugene de Salignac (employed by NYC for over 30 years), photos of workers from other collections including the Works Progress Administration and images of tonight's panelists at work in the early 21st century. Use this link: <https://www.archives.nyc/ordinary-people-extraordinary-lives>

Order the book from nyupress.org - use this code for 30% discount: ORDINARYPPL30

The paperback edition of the book and this event were generously supported by the 21st Century ILGWU Heritage Fund.