

NEW YORK LABOR HISTORY ASSOCIATION

A Bridge Between Past and Present

The Eleventh Annual

Debra E. Bernhardt Labor Journalism Forum

and

Awards Ceremony

October 8, 2026

6 - 7:30pm

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

Bobst Library | 2nd Floor | North Reading Room

70 Washington Square South NYC



The Debra E. Bernhardt Labor Journalism Prize is an annual award of $1000 given by the New York Labor History Association and the Robert F. Wagner Labor Archives to the author of an article that furthers the understanding of the history of working people. By sponsoring this award, with the NYC Central Labor Council and LaborArts, we hope to inspire more great writing for a general audience about the history of work, workers and their organizations.

The prize and the event honor the vision of the late Debra E. Bernhardt, who worked in so many different realms to share the hidden histories of working people. As head of the Robert F. Wagner Labor Archives (she insisted on the full name) she reached out to an astonishing number of people and organizations, documenting undocumented stories and unrecognized contributions and making links between the past and the present.

New York Labor History Association

Tamiment Library/Robert F.Wagner Labor Archives/ NYU

New York City Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO

LaborArts

Program

Welcomes

Tamiment/Wagner – Shannon O'Neill

NY Labor History Association – Joe Doyle

NYC Central Labor Council – Kate Whalen

LaborArts – Rachel Bernstein

AWARDS Presented by Maia Silber

Dan Kaufman, "'The Biggest Act of Union-Busting in U.S. History': Trump's War on Federal Workers" (*The New York Times Magazine*)

Anna J. Rogers, "Trump Is Hellbent on Crushing Federal Unions, But They're Still Kicking" (*Mother Jones*)

Debra E. Bernhardt's Legacy

Jeff Vogel of the New York City Labor Chorus singing "The House I LIve In"

FORUM *Telling Immigrant Stories in the Face of Global Authoritarianism*

Gwynne Hogan (The City Reporter)

Arya Sundaram (Gothamist and WNYC)

Ruth Milkman (Graduate Center, CUNY) moderator

Closing Remarks



Photo by Jane Latour, 1995

As head of the Robert F. Wagner Labor Archives at NYU Debra E. Bernhardt (1953 – 2001) built an extensive collection of documents, photographs, oral histories and artifacts about working people. In 1998 she spearheaded the campaign to have the National Park Service declare Union Square a National Historic Landmark, recognizing it as the site where *workers exercised their rights to free speech and assembly and on September 5, 1882, observed the first Labor Day.* She is co-author, with Rachel Bernstein, of the book Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives: A Pictorial History of Working People in New York City, recently released in a 20th Anniversary paperback edition. For more about her work see "Making History Personal," an online exhibit at LaborArts.org; we also encourage you to explore the collections at the Robert F. Wagner Labor Archives.