

7th Annual Virtual  
**Lillian Wald Symposium**



**WHAT IS  
A LIVING WAGE?**

**MAKING ENDS MEET IN NYC**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022, AT 6:30 P.M.**



Henry Street Settlement is situated on the Lenape island of Manhahtaan (Mannahatta) in Lenapehoking, the Lenape homeland. We pay respect to Lenape peoples, past, present, and future, and their continuing presence in the homeland and throughout the Lenape diaspora. We offer our care and gratitude to the land, water, and air of Lenapehoking.

Nulelìntàmuhëna èli paèkw Lenapehoking Kulawsihëmo ènta ahpièkw. Nooleelundamuneen eeli payeekw Lunaapeewahkiing. Wulaawsiikw neeli apiyeekw.

We are glad because you people came to Lenapehoking.  
Live well when you are here.

Thank you to the Lenape Center and Emily Johnson for their partnership with Abrons Arts Center in developing this land acknowledgment.



# MEET OUR PANEL



**Maura Cuffie** is a facilitator, strategist, and designer. She is the director of strategic initiatives for the Guaranteed Income program at Creatives Rebuild New York. From 2018 to 2021, she was the senior program officer for ArtPlace America. During that time she conceived and executed the Local Control, Local Field(s) initiative, a novel approach to participatory and trust-based philanthropy. As a co-founder of the Free Breakfast Program collective, she participated as a Create Change Fellow with the Laundromat Project in 2015 and in the inaugural cohort for leaders of color in EmcArts' Arts Leaders as Cultural Innovators Fellowship in 2016.



**Tsedeye Gebreselassie** is director of work quality at the National Employment Law Project, where she researches, develops, and promotes policies that raise job standards and expand workplace protections for immigrant workers and workers in low-wage jobs. She received her law degree *magna cum laude* from New York University School of Law, where she was a Root-Tilden-Kern public interest scholar and articles editor on the *Review of Law and Social Change*, and received her BA *magna cum laude* from Brown University. Before joining NELP, Tsedeye clerked for the Honorable Ellen Bree Burns of the U.S. District Court of Connecticut. Prior to law school, she worked as a labor and community organizer for New York's Working Families Party.



**Raysa Rodriguez** is chief program and policy officer for the FPWA, overseeing the organization's policy-reform efforts and supporting nonprofit partners that serve New Yorkers. Raysa has more than 20 years of experience in government and nonprofit leadership, management, and service. Most recently, she was associate executive director for policy & advocacy at Citizens' Committee for Children. As vice president of policy and planning at WIN, the largest provider of family shelter and supportive housing in New York City, Raysa led efforts to improve outcomes for families experiencing housing insecurity. She served as United Way of New York City's associate vice president for education and was a deputy mayor and senior advisor under Mayor Bloomberg's administration, working to reduce child poverty and improve education and health outcomes. A former public school teacher, Raysa earned a BS from Cornell University and an MSW from Columbia University, where she is an adjunct professor.



**Paul Sonn** is the state policy program director at the National Employment Law Project, a workers' rights research and advocacy organization headquartered in New York City. He has helped support campaigns for higher minimum wages across the United States, including the Fight for \$15, and other efforts to strengthen protections for workers. Prior to joining NELP, he was co-director of the Economic Justice Project at New York University's Brennan Center for Justice and assistant counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. He has been a lecturer in law at Columbia Law School and is a graduate of Yale Law School and Dartmouth College.



**Samir Sonti** is an assistant professor in the CUNY School for Labor & Urban Studies. He holds a BS in economics from the Wharton School and a BA in political science from the University of Pennsylvania. He earned his PhD in history from the University of California, Santa Barbara, with a concentration in 20th century U.S. labor and political economy. He has worked as a political organizer for the Pennsylvania Association of Staff Nurses and Allied Professionals and as a researcher for UNITE HERE, a union representing hospitality workers in the United States and Canada. Prior to arriving at CUNY, he served as a special advisor on the presidential campaign of Sen. Bernie Sanders. Samir is expanding his dissertation, "The Price of Prosperity: Inflation and the Limits of the New Deal Order," for publication. Since 2019, he has been the Books and Arts Editor of the CUNY School for Labor & Urban Studies' *New Labor Forum*.



# READING LIST



Tap/press book name to purchase online

**One Fair Wage: Ending Subminimum Pay in America, Saru Jayaraman**

**Fight Like Hell: The Untold History of American Labor, Kim Kelly**

**A Collective Bargain: Unions, Organizing, and the Fight for Democracy, Jane McAlevey**

**Black Americans and Organized Labor: A New History, Paul D. Moreno**

**Twenty-Two Cents an Hour: Disability Rights and the Fight to End Subminimum Wages, Doug Crandell**

**Wages Against Artwork: Decommodified Labor and the Claims of Socially Engaged Art, Leigh Claire La Berge**

**Working-Class New York: Life and Labor Since World War II, Joshua B. Freeman**

**On the Clock, Emily Guendelsberger**

**Nickel and Dimed, On (Not) Getting By in America, Barbara Ehrenreich**

**Disposable Domestics: Immigrant Women Workers in the Global Economy, Grace Chang**

**Ben Fletcher: The Life and Times of a Black Wobbly, Peter Cole**

**Behind the Kitchen Door, Saru Jayaraman**

**Work Won't Love You Back, Sarah Jaffe**

**The Fight for Fifteen: The Right Wage for a Working America, David Rolf**

Curated by our friends at **Bluestockings Bookstore**



# ABOUT THE LILLIAN WALD SYMPOSIUM

Henry Street Settlement's annual Lillian Wald Symposium examines the most pressing issues affecting the Lower East Side, past and present. Launched in 2016, the event is named for Henry Street's iconic founder, who was a staunch advocate and Progressive-era changemaker in the areas of public health and children's, labor, immigrant, civil, and women's rights.

## 2016



### CAN WE END HOMELESSNESS?

Moderated by president & CEO David Garza and featuring:

- Steven Banks, commissioner, New York City Department of Social Services
- Stephen Levin, New York City Council Member
- Christine Quinn, president & CEO of Women in Need
- Ethan Sribnick, Ph.D., author and historian

## 2017

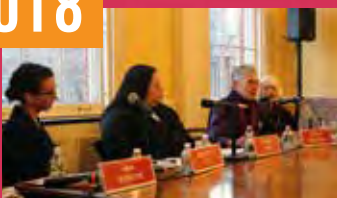


### IMMIGRANT NEW YORK: THE NEW MAJORITY

Moderated by president & CEO David Garza and featuring:

- Shanna Castillo, founder of Love Trumps Hate Sunset Park
- Zeinab Eyega, executive director of Sauti Yetu Center for African Women and Families
- Wayne Ho, president & CEO of the Chinese-American Planning Council
- Philip Kasinitz, Ph.D., Presidential Scholar of Sociology, CUNY Graduate Center
- Baseera Khan, a 2017 Artist in Residence at Abrons Arts Center
- Bitta Mostofi, assistant commissioner of the NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs
- Linda Sarsour, racial justice/civil rights activist

## 2018



### NEVERTHELESS, SHE'S PERSISTED: ILLUMINATING THE LIFE & LEGACY OF LILLIAN WALD

Moderated by journalist and author Nina Bernstein and featuring:

- Clare Coss, playwright and activist
- Marjorie Feld, historian and Lillian Wald biographer
- Blanche Wiesen Cook, historian and professor
- Damaris Reyes, executive director of the Good Old Lower East Side

## 2019

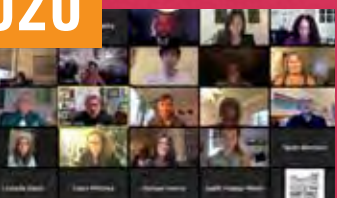


### CAN NEW YORK CITY'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING CRISIS BE RESOLVED?

Moderated by The New York Times architecture critic Michael Kimmelman and featuring:

- Damaris Reyes, executive director, Good Old Lower East Side
- Jaclyn Sachs, NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development
- Julia Duranti-Martinez, New Economy Project
- Nicolas Dagen Bloom, New York Institute of Technology
- Isaac Henderson, L + M Development Partners

## 2020



### WHO GETS TO VOTE?

Moderated by Henry Street public historian Katie Vogel and featuring:

- Sean Morales-Doyle, deputy director of the Brennan Center for Justice
- Dominique Jean-Louis, public historian
- Wennie Chin, senior manager of civic engagement with the New York Immigration Coalition

## 2021



### BLACK COMMUNITIES ON THE LOWER EAST SIDE: EXPLORING FOUR CENTURIES OF HISTORY

Moderated by Nicole Daniels, staff editor, The New York Times Learning Network

- Rhonda Evans, assistant chief librarian, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture
- Woodie King, Jr., Founder, New Federal Theatre
- Lauren C. O'Brien, public historian, Rutgers University-Newark
- Brian J. Purnell, Professor of Africana Studies and History, Bowdoin College
- Kamau Ware, artist and founder of Black Gotham Experience

# ABOUT HENRY STREET SETTLEMENT

Henry Street Settlement opens doors of opportunity for Lower East Side residents and other New Yorkers through social service, arts, and health care programs. Henry Street serves all ages through its Abrons Arts Center, Employment, Education, Sports & Recreation, Senior Services, Health & Wellness, and Transitional & Supportive Housing divisions. Visit [henrystreet.org](http://henrystreet.org) for a full list of programs and contact information.

## WHAT WE DO:

### HEALTH & WELLNESS

- Community Consultation Center: mental health services
- Dale Jones Burch Neighborhood Center
- Parent Center
- School-based mental health care
- Vocational rehabilitation
- Personalized recovery services
- CONNECT

### SENIOR SERVICES

- Naturally Occurring Retirement Community: social work and nursing services; case management
- Senior Center
- Meals on Wheels
- Senior Companion program

### TRANSITIONAL & SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

- Shelter and supportive services for homeless families, adults, and survivors of domestic violence
- Aftercare services

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & ADVOCACY

- Community Advisory Board
- Community Response Team
- Voter registration
- Participatory budgeting
- Public benefits enrollment

### EDUCATION

- Early childhood education
- Afterschool and evening programming
- Summer camps
- Youth Opportunity Hub

### EMPLOYMENT

- Work readiness, English for speakers of other languages, high school equivalency
- Customized staffing services for employers
- Free computer access
- Summer youth employment
- Hard-skills training

### ARTS & HUMANITIES

- Cutting-edge performances and exhibitions at Abrons Arts Center
- Obie Award-winning theater
- Arts in education
- Music, visual arts, dance, and theater classes
- The House on Henry Street exhibition, walking tour, and online curriculum
- Oral History Project



**HENRY STREET  
SETTLEMENT**