

New York's Workers Respond to Crisis: Snapshots of Labor in 2001



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1. On Sept. 11, Joseph Rabito (of Sheetmetal Union Local 28) led wounded victims to safety as the twin towers fell. Rabito, 44, was on a midtown job when he heard of the attack, and rushed down to the WTC with others to help. He said later that: "I'm very proud that there were tons of building trades people trying to pry their way onto the site to help. I saw what unions are all about – people wanting to help so bad they could taste it." [<http://www.smwialu28.org>]

2. The recovery effort begins. A worker from Sheetmetal Local 25 stands amid the devastation at Ground Zero.

3 & 4. Sheetmetal workers from Local 137 take on the task of untangling the wreckage.

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5. Randi Weingarten, President of the United Federation of Teachers addresses the New York State convocation that ratified the “New Alliance” reorganization of the state’s AFL-CIO central labor councils. She is flanked by New York City CLC leader Brian McLoughlin (to her right), and by AFL-CIO National President John Sweeney and NY State AFL-CIO leader Denis Hughes (to her left).

6. “Making a *NEW* New York: Immigrant Women Reshape the City,” brought together activists from Asian, Caribbean, and Central American immigrant organizations for a day-long conference at Hofstra in April 2001. Alizabeth Newman (SEPA Muher) addressed a panel including (L to R): Nieves Padilla (Make the Road by Walking); Monica Diaz (The Workplace Project);

Dorotea Mendoza (GABRIELA); and Anne O’Byrne (Hofstra U.). The conference was organized by the Center for the Study of Labor & Democracy, New College Women’s Studies Program, and the Hofstra Sociology/Anthropology Dept.

7. The new Labor Studies program at Hofstra was launched at an open house on Oct. 24. Among those present were (Center, L to R): faculty members Martin Melkonian, Sharryn Kasmir and Gregory DeFreitas (director). The program now offers students the option of earning a B.A. degree with either a major or a minor in Labor Studies. A third non-credit option, likely to be especially appealing to part-time adult students, is a Hofstra Certificate in Labor Studies, awarded after completion of a 6-course sequence.