

## Victorian Society NY Events

Remember the  
Triangle Fire  
Coalition



"Logo of the Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition" designed by Drew Durniak.

### Lecture:

*Remembering the Triangle Fire: Memory, Memorial and Perpetual Revolution* - presented by Ruth Sergel

DATE: Tuesday, March 8th, 2011

TIME: 6 PM

LOCATION: The New York New Church (Swedenborgian), 114 E. 35th St., New York

Admission is **FREE** for all; no reservations required

For VSA Members only: Meet the speaker at our post-lecture receptions

**Ruth Sergel** works in multiple mediums to exploit technical prowess to create opportunities for community engagement.

Ruth's films have screened at New Directors/New Films (Museum of Modern Art), The Tribeca Film Festival, Clermont-Ferrand, National Museum for Women in the Arts, Boston Museum of Fine Art, Exploratorium, Anthology Film Archives and aired on PBS and IFC. Her public art work includes Chalk, an annual commemoration of the Triangle Factory Fire

and Voices of 9.11 which was established at Here is New York: a Democracy of Photographs and exhibited at the Corcoran Gallery of Art and the New York Historical

Society. Ruth is the founder of the Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition which is spearheading the 2011 centennial commemoration of the infamous fire. The coalition has garnered the support of the Sparkplug Foundation, the Schwarz Family Foundation, New York University Community Fund and won the Margot Gayle Award from the Metropolitan Chapter of the Victorian Society in America. In Fall, 2010 Ruth was a fellow at the John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage at Brown University.

For more on her work please visit: [www.streetpictures.org](http://www.streetpictures.org)

**March 25, 1911 the infamous Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire** took the lives of 146 workers, mostly young immigrant women, and galvanized a movement for social justice. Witnessed by many New Yorkers and Frances Perkins, who went on to become the

first female cabinet member, the fire was a seminal moment in New York City history and the pivot point between the Uprising of 20000 and the birth of the New Deal. As a direct result of the fire individuals and communities who had been unable to effectively collaborate, were able to work together to enact legislation that form the basis of our fire and workplace safety to this day. In the immediate aftermath of the fire there were several somewhat conflicting attempts at memorial. For the past 50 years, Workers United (former ILG) has annually hosted a commemorative event at the Asch/Brown building which survived the fire and stands one block east of Washington Square Park. Ten years ago, in a rare example, the building was given Landmark status for cultural rather than purely architectural reasons. Despite several plaques, most people pass the building unaware of its historic importance. Vivid questions arise about about the role of memorial - is it an object? an action? In more recent years new attempts have been made to memorialize the fire. Chalk, a community based annual action which marks the homes of each of the victims and the Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition which is spearheading preparations for the March , 2011 Centennial of the fire and the establishment of a permanent public art memorial explore some of these possibilities.

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