



2013

**WOMEN WORKING**



Workforce Development Institute

**Agueda Arias** immigrated to this country more than three decades ago and immediately started to participate in community organizations focused on health, education, housing and immigration among others. Her goal was, and still is, to empower her community. She began her career in the labor movement as an organizer of Local 888 of the United Food and Commercial Workers.

Agueda is the Secretary Treasurer for Local 888, UFCW. She is a member of the Executive Board of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement in NYC, National Board Member of the United Latinos of UFCW, National Board Member of the Minority Coalition of UFCW, Member of the UFCW Region 1 South Women's Network Executive Committee, NAACP, CLUW and a Delegate of the New York Central Labor Council.

Agueda earned her Bachelor's Degree in Communication at City College of New York and is a graduate of the NYS AFL-CIO / Cornell Union Leadership Institute.

**Zola Brown** is a union activist in Rochester, NY where she currently heads the field office of the 1199 SEIU National Benefit Fund, a provider of health and welfare benefits to over 3,000 individuals in the area. She leads the Fund's partnership with the University of Rochester's Center for Community Health and organizes wellness programs at community based organizations.. She is an officer of the local chapter of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists and a Delegate to the Rochester Labor Council, AFL-CIO. She has served on numerous community boards and is active in organizing events around illness prevention, wellness, and cultural awareness. In 2012, she formed Sisters for Obama, a group of mostly women dedicated to the reelection of President Obama and Congresswoman Louise Slaughter.

**May Ying Chen** devoted a career of more than 25 years to the garment workers' union, Local 23-25 Workers United/SEIU. Until her retirement in 2009, she was the manager of Local 23-25 and Vice President of the International Union—bargaining for union contracts and benefits, coordinating political action campaigns, and fighting for immigrant workers' rights, women's issues, and worker education. Today, she works as an adjunct professor at CUNY's Joseph S. Murphy Institute and continues to be an active volunteer with labor and community projects, immigration advocacy, Asian labor issues, and Workers United members and retirees. May is a long-time member of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW).

The issues of working women, especially Asian Pacific Americans, have been a life-long passion. President Obama recently appointed Ms. Chen to serve as a Commissioner to the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

provide training, education, and greater opportunity. She is currently Lead Field Organizer for Rochester & Genesee Valley Area Labor Federation, AFL-CIO. She staffs the Rochester Central Labor Council, Finger Lakes Central Labor Council, Steuben Livingston Central Labor Council, Chemung Central Labor Council, as well as the Rochester Building & Construction Trades Council, and Southern Tier Building & Construction Trades Council. She also works with community groups including Coalition for Economic Justice, Metro Justice, Center for Disabilities Rights, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Pride at Work, and is the founder of the Future Leader Apprentice Group (FLAG) in Rochester. She has also provided training programs in effective communication for union members and community activists.

In June 2012, **Ellen Redmond** was appointed as an International Representative to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Third District, responsible for Political and Legislative Affairs in New York State. Ellen joined Local Union 1049 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in 1980 as a member of the clerical staff, was promoted to office manager reporting to the president on financial matters and to the business manager on the Union's day-to-day operations and then became the administrator of the Union's multi-employer benefit plans. In 1994, Redmond became the first woman appointed to the Union's business staff in the organization's then-58 year history when she became Director of External Affairs, responsible for public relations and governmental affairs. In 1994, Redmond was appointed to represent the IBEW at the New York State Public Service Commission Competitive Opportunities Hearings for the restructuring of the state's electric utility industry. She served in this capacity for two years, representing the IBEW as the labor representative in the collaborative process.

In 1996, Ellen was appointed to represent the New York State Association of Electrical Workers as a registered lobbyist, working on construction and utility issues.

A graduate of Cornell's School of Industrial Labor Relations she resides on Long Island with her husband and son.

**Elizabeth Soto** has been Executive Director of the Hudson Valley Area Labor Federation for the past 4 years. She previously worked on the Congressional level and prior to that in the Pawling Schools. Elizabeth works to defend the right to have a good job and for working families to receive adequate medical care. She dedicates her time to achieving protection from dire poverty in old age, and during periods of sickness, accident or unemployment for workers. Elizabeth is dedicated to defending the right of every child and worker to get a good education and to live free from fear and prejudice.

Always following the path of economic and social justice **Patty DeVinney** began her work life after college at a worker owned and operated whole foods restaurant. Within a year of graduating from nursing school Patty joined a grassroots organizing drive at the Buffalo General Hospital for a voice in the workplace and quality patient care, which resulted in the formation of CWA Local 1168. She continued to represent health care workers and their concerns as an Executive Bd. member and officer for 23 years. Her firsthand experiences in health care have formed a passionate advocacy for a national health plan and developmental child care for working parents. For the past 6 years, Patty has worked as the Field Coordinator of the WNY AFL-CIO Area Labor Federation organizing and coordinating union affiliates around labor issues, legislation, and electoral campaigns.

**Chanelle Goode** is a Senior Service Representative at a unionized health insurance company in Western NY. She has been a member of Office and Professional Employees International Union, AFL-CIO for over 23 years.

Her journey with organized labor began from a position of Steward to her current elected position as Vice President of OPEIU, Local 212, AFL-CIO. She believes unions provide workers with a strong collective voice. She is proud to be charged with the responsibilities of advocating for workers' rights.

**Sharon Lovelady-Hall** has been employed with the Civil Service Employees Association for fifteen years. She is currently the Director of Education and Training, responsible for developing and delivering training programs to educate CSEA members on their rights, representing members in the workplace, leadership development, and the value of being an activist. Sharon is also the Director of the CSEA Affiliate of the National Coalition Building Institute, where she is responsible for administering diversity training to CSEA staff and activists.

Sharon is a graduate of Maria College, Cornell University Black Trade Unionist Program, and the Harvard University Trade Union Program. She is the Region 1 Director of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU), member and Choir Director of Walls Temple African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Albany NY.

**Erin Moody** is a working mother of two children. As a former small business owner, she is familiar with the struggles of being self employed, while also understanding the plight of an employee. She's worked with organized labor, defending the working rights of people in the community, fighting for legislation, keeping workplaces safe and protected from civil rights violations, and promoting programs to

**Natasha Wells** is a member of IBEW Local 43 in the Mohawk Valley. She has been in the workforce for ten years, four of which in a machine shop running various types of CNC lathes and other machinery. She has been in the construction field for 6 years as an electrician beginning as an apprentice and completing five years of apprenticeship training. She is the mother of one.

In 1973, **Michele Whalen** was hired by Corning Incorporated when they started hiring women. She worked for Corning Incorporated for sixteen years in numerous production and quality assurance jobs. In 1989 she became the first woman accepted into the NYS approved Maintenance/Mechanic apprentice program as well as the first woman to complete the program. She served as Secretary/Treasurer for the local and was the first elected female president of Local 1026 and its first openly gay officer.

Michele was co-chair of the Women of Steel committee in the plant. She has been the Recording Secretary of the Jefferson, Lewis, & St. Lawrence Counties Central Trades and Labor Council since 2007. That work has been a serious learning experience for her and she continues to be grateful that she can be of assistance to approximately 24,000 working men and women in the three counties.

Michele retired from Corning after 37 years of service and spends what free time she has with her wife Valerie on the St. Lawrence River.

**Rachel Wood's** love of the fire service began with her father who was employed at Syracuse Airport Crash & Rescue and helped form the local Volunteer Fire Department. Firefighting was her dream job straight out of high school; it wasn't an option back in 1989 in the Syracuse area. She became a critical care nurse and traveled the country as a Pediatric ICU nurse returning to the Syracuse area in 2006 and learning of an upcoming firefighting exam. She never gave up on her dream and took the exam at age 35. She was accepted into the academy and has been a member of the Syracuse Fire Department for 6 years working on Engine 6 in downtown Syracuse. Rachel absolutely loves going to work every day and says that it is such a great feeling!

**Roseanne Wood** was a volunteer firefighter with her dad for ten years while waiting to get on the job with the Syracuse Fire Department. She has been a Firefighter with the City of Syracuse since February 2009. Roseanne is assigned to Engine Company 6, covering part of downtown Syracuse and the near west side. Roseanne has always had a passion for firefighting. Roseanne is truly living her dream and says, "Life is good."

Rachel and Roseanne work at the same fire station, on opposite shifts. Often you can find them sitting at the station and sharing on the job stories with each other over a cup of coffee!



“Workers and management need to work together to build a successful and safe environment, and a strong economy”



**ERIN MOODY**

Lead Field Organizer

Rochester & Genesee Valley Area Labor Federation, AFL-CIO

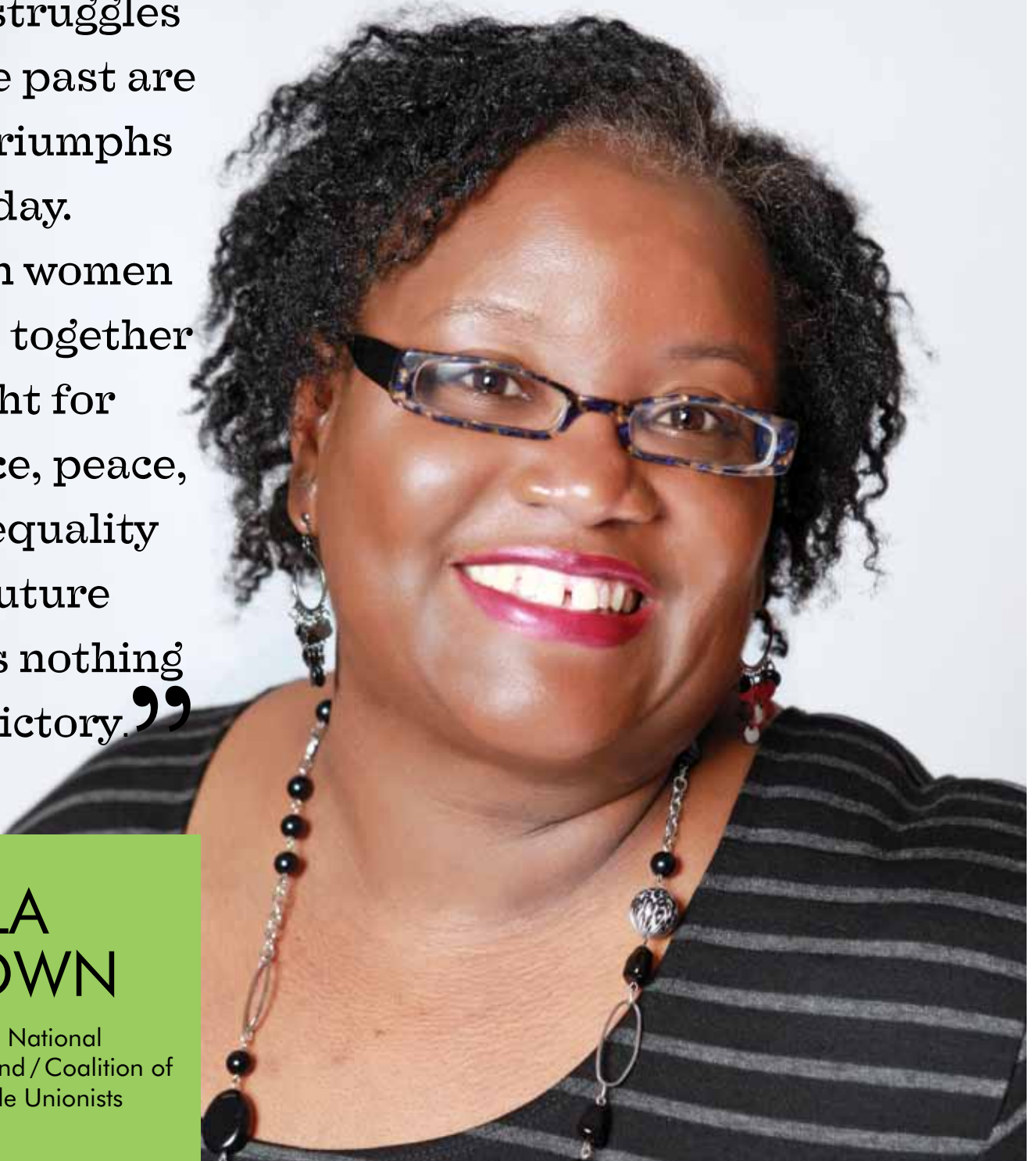
**JANUARY**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 New Year's Day	2	3 Lucretia Mott, women's rights pioneer	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 Alice Paul, suffragist leader, founder of National Wome's Party 1917	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29 Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act Signed 2009	30	31		





“Our struggles in the past are our triumphs of today. When women come together to fight for justice, peace, and equality our future holds nothing but victory.”



## ZOLA BROWN

1199SEIU National Benefit Fund / Coalition of Black Trade Unionists

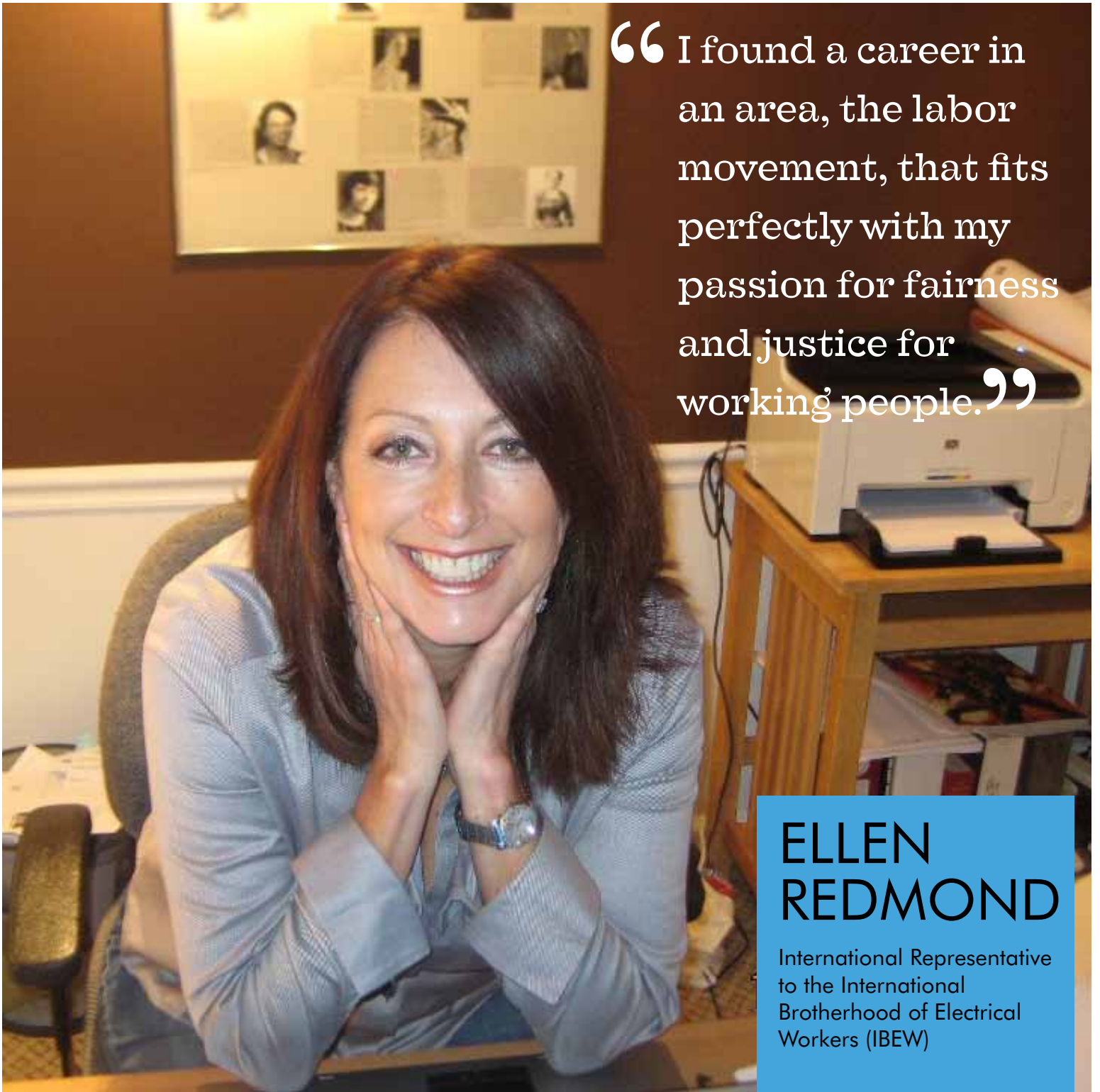
### FEBRUARY

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Lunar New Year/ Chinese New Year	11	12	13	14	15 Susan B. Anthony suffragist, women's rights advocate	16 Leonora O'Reilly, founding member of the Woman's Trade Union League 1903
17	18 President's Day	19	20	21	22	23 Collar Laundry Union, the first all- female labor union in the US, started by Kate Mullany and went on strike in Troy, NY 1864
24	25	26	27	28		





“ I found a career in an area, the labor movement, that fits perfectly with my passion for fairness and justice for working people.”

**ELLEN  
REDMOND**

International Representative to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)

**MARCH** **WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 International Women's Day	9
10 Daylight Savings Time begins	11	12	13	14 Bread and Roses Strike Settled 1912	15	16
17	18	19	20 Spring begins	21	22	23
24/31	25 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire 1911 <hr/> Mary Anne Krupsak First Woman Lieutenant Governor in NYS 1974	26	27	28	29	30





“Our movement is of the working people, for the working people, by the working people.”



**BETH SOTO**

Executive Director  
Hudson Valley Area  
Labor Federation

APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Frances Perkins, first woman cabinet member, Secretary of Labor 1933-45 <hr/> Dolores Huerta, Labor Leader; co- founder United Farm Workers Union	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 Earth Day	23	24	25	26	27 Coretta Scott King, civil rights, human rights, and peace activist
28 Workers Memorial Day	29	30				





# MAY YING CHEN

Lifetime Labor Advocate  
for Immigrant Rights

International Vice President  
(retired), Workers United  
(an SEIU affiliate)

“The month of May is Labor History month, and Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage month – I love these celebrations! May Day is an international day to honor workers, a day when immigrant workers march for rights and respect.”

## MAY

## ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 International Workers Day <hr/> Mary Harris "Mother" Jones, labor leader and organizer	2	3	4
5 Cinco De Mayo	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Mother's Day	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30	31	





“In 1973, I was hired by Corning Incorporated when they started hiring women. All the work I did, in production and maintenance, was physical labor that was hard on my body. As a former union president, I know you can't make everyone happy. But at the same time I know that the plant is there because of the work we did as a local union.”

# MICHELE WHALEN

Steelworker

Retired President, United Steel Workers (USW) Local 1026

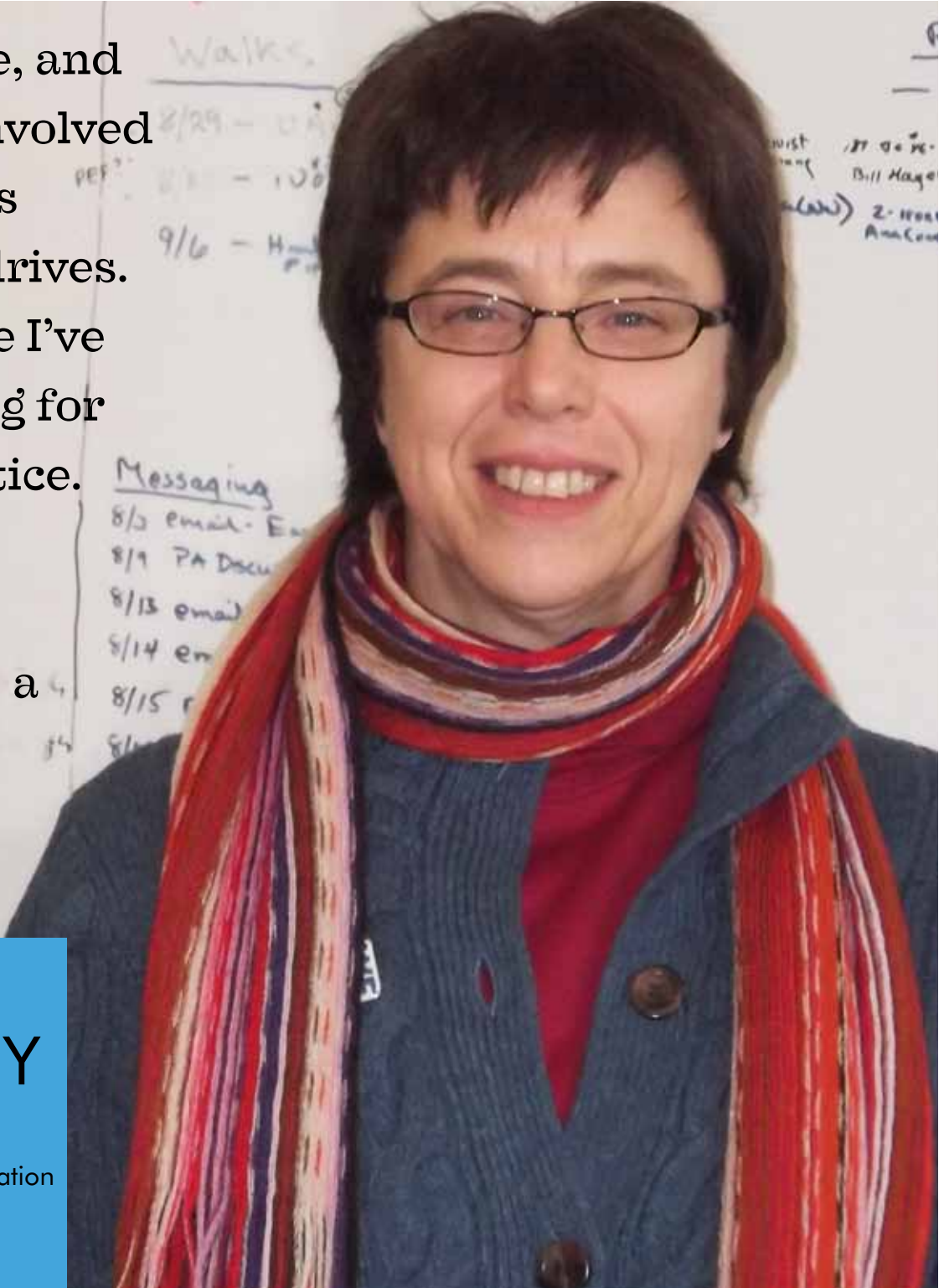
## JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 Equal Pay Act enacted 1963	11 Jeannette Rankin, first woman elected to Congress, Montana 1916	12	13	14 Flag Day	15
16 Father's Day	17	18	19	20	21 Summer begins	22
23/30 Title IX enacted (23rd) 1962	24	25	26	27	28	29





“ I was a nurse, and have been involved in grassroots organizing drives. My whole life I’ve been working for workers’ justice. Everybody deserves a good shot at a good life. ”



**PATTY DEVINNEY**  
 Field Coordinator  
 WNY Area Labor Federation  
 AFL-CIO

**JULY**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 Civil Rights Act 1964	3	4 Independence Day	5	6
7	8 Ramadan begins	9	10 Mary McLeod Bethune, educator, founder of the National Council of Negro Women	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 The Seneca Falls Convention, the country’s first women’s rights convention, held in Seneca Falls, NY 1848	20
21	22	23 Barbara Deming, activist for peace, civil rights, women’s rights and lesbian and gay rights	24 Bella Abzug, New York Congresswoman, social activist	25	26	27
28	29 Maria Hernandez, Mexican American Civil Rights Activist	30	31			





“I grew up in a labor household where I witnessed how unions played a vital role in my family. Advocating for the rights of workers for fair wages, benefits, and good working conditions is often challenging, but the achievements can be very rewarding.”

## CHANELLE GOODE

Vice President  
Office and Professional  
Employees International  
Union (OPEIU) Local 212

## AUGUST

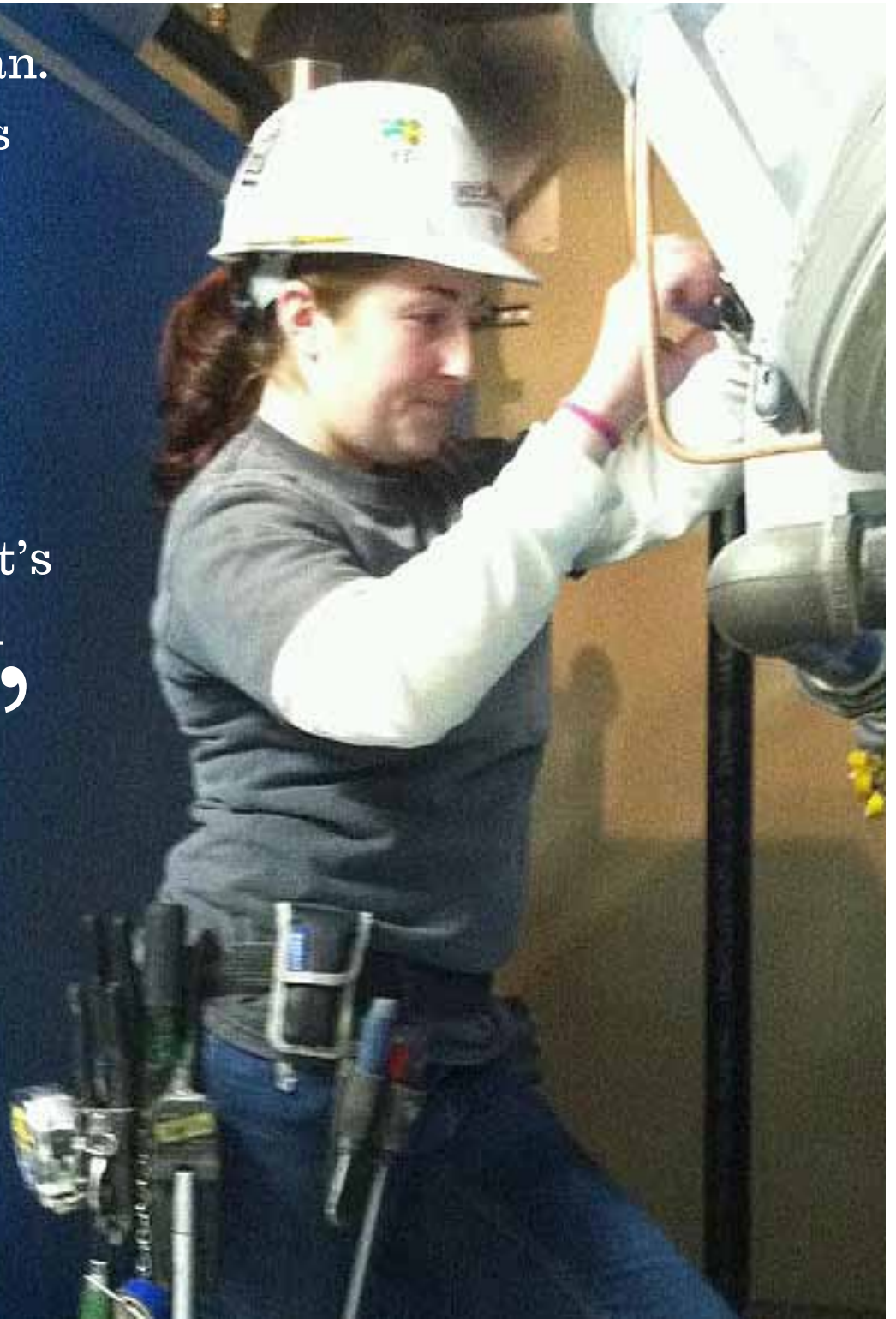
SUN                  MON                  TUE                  WED                  THU                  FRI                  SAT

				1	2	3
4	5	6 Voting Rights Act 1965	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 Aurora Castillo, community activist, co-founded Mothers of East Los Angeles	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 The 19th Amendment of the US Constitution is ratified granting women the right to vote 1920	27	28	29	30 Luisa Moreno, created first national Latino civil rights assembly 1939	31





“ I’m an electrician.  
 I go to buildings  
 putting all the  
 electricals in.  
 We power up  
 the buildings.  
 There’s a lot of  
 skill required. It’s  
 demanding and  
 exciting both. ”



## NATASHA WELLS

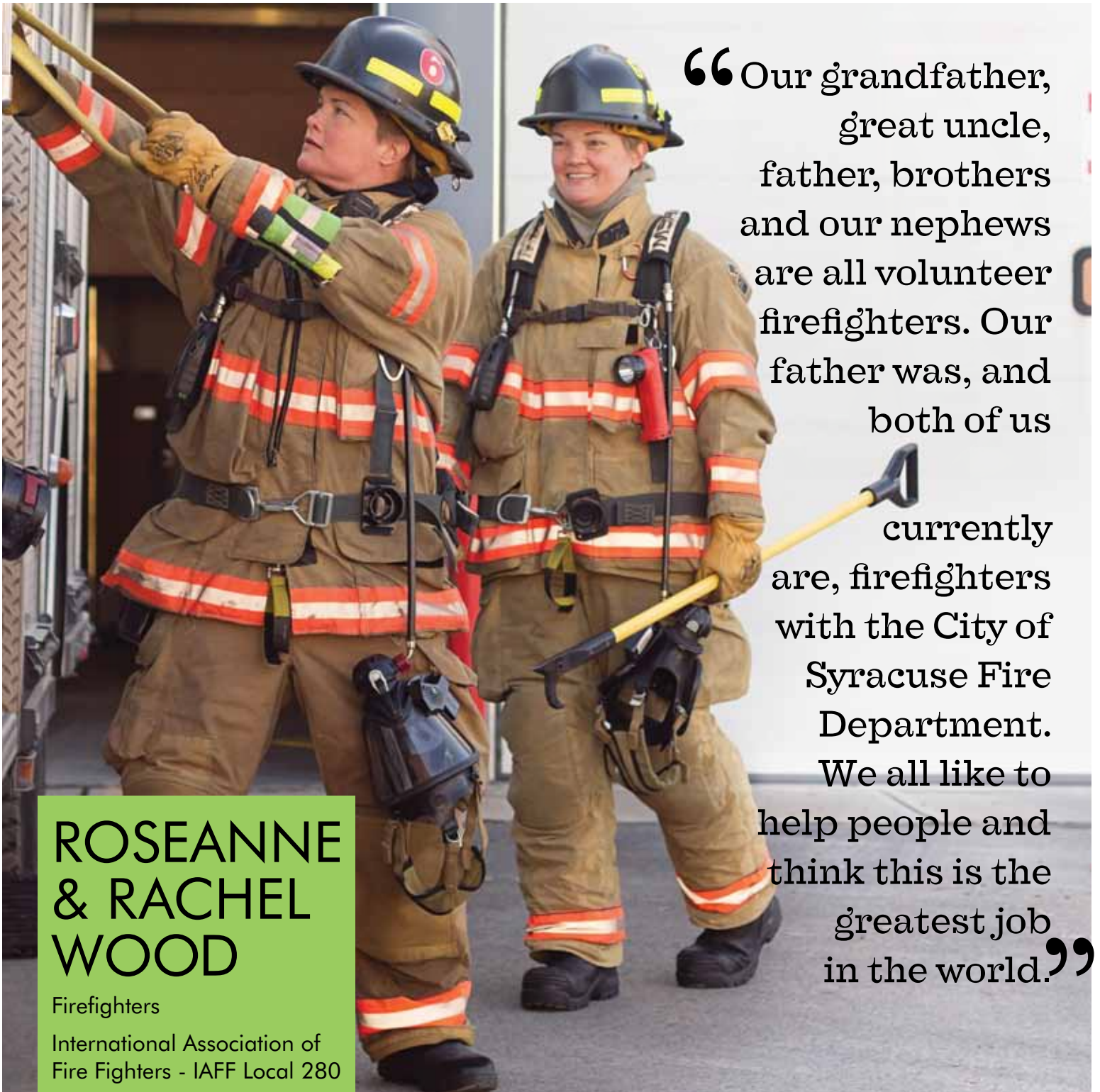
Electrician

International Brotherhood  
 of Electrical Workers –  
 IBEW Local 43

## SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 Labor Day	3	4	5	6 Jane Addams, founder of Hull House in Chicago, first American woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize 1931, suffragist, helped establish ACLU	7
8 Tish Sommers, co-founded the Older Women’s League (OWL) “Don’t Agonize, Organize” 1980	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Autumn begins	23	24	25 Sandra Day O’Connor, is sworn in as the first woman US Supreme Court Justice 1981	26	27	28
29	30					





“Our grandfather, great uncle, father, brothers and our nephews are all volunteer firefighters. Our father was, and both of us currently are, firefighters with the City of Syracuse Fire Department. We all like to help people and think this is the greatest job in the world.”

# ROSEANNE & RACHEL WOOD

Firefighters  
International Association of Fire Fighters - IAFF Local 280

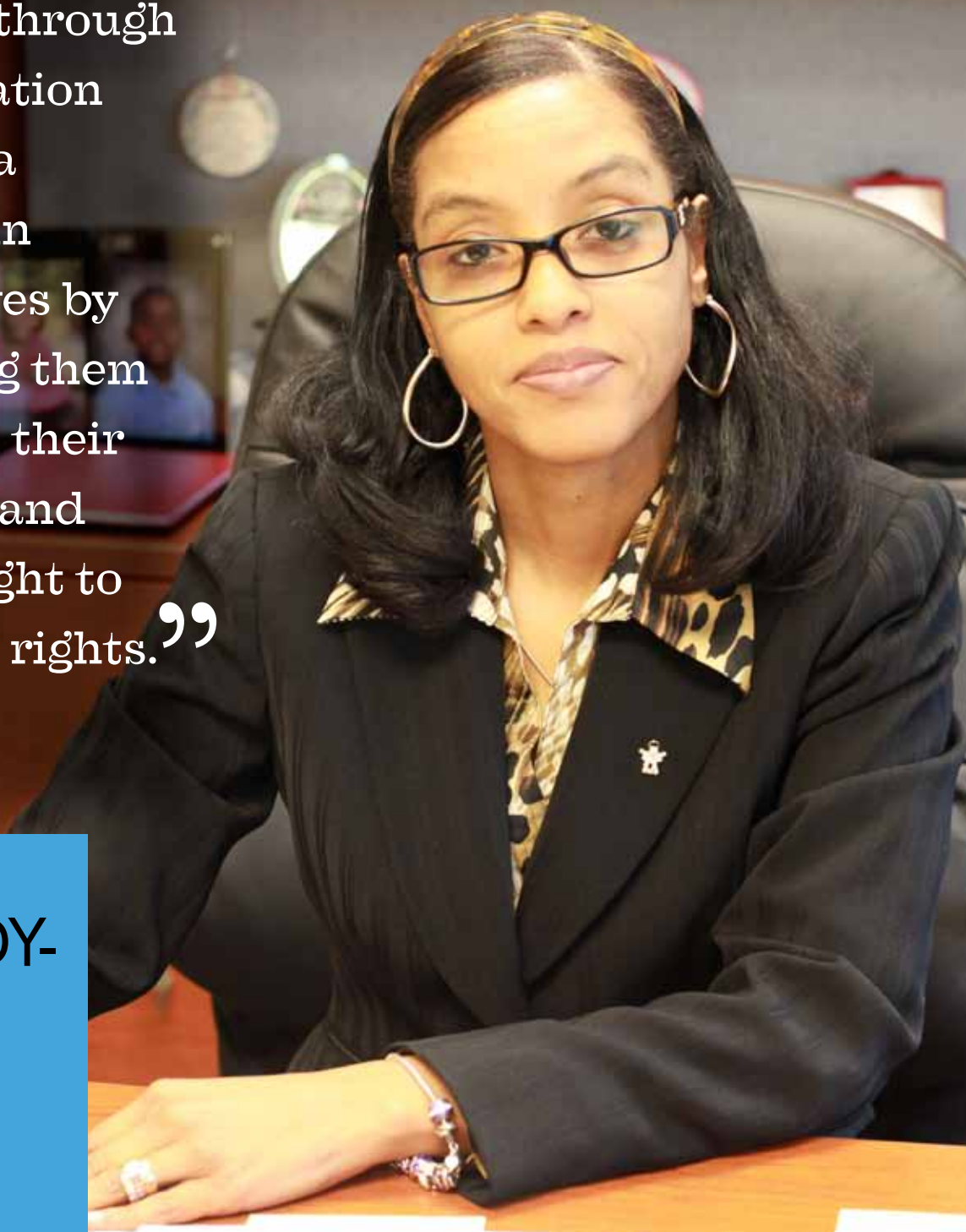
## OCTOBER HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 Eleanor Roosevelt, civil rights advocate, feminist, author, world diplomat, First Lady	12
13	14 Columbus Day	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 Hillary Clinton, US Secretary of State, Senator from New York, First Lady
27	28	29	30	31 Halloween		





“My hope is through labor education I can make a difference in workers’ lives by encouraging them to step into their leadership and to always fight to protect our rights.”



**SHARON LOVELADY-HALL**  
 Director  
 CSEA Education and Training Department

NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Daylight Savings Time ends	4	5 Election Day	6	7	8 Dorothy Day, social reformer, suffragist and peace activist	9
10	11 Veteran’s Day	12	13	14 US Women’s Trade Union League is established 1903	15	16
17	18 Wilma Mankiller, first female Chief of the Cherokee Nation 1985	19	20 Rose Pesotta, union organizer and first woman vice president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union 1920	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Hannukah begins	28 Thanksgiving	29	30 Shirley Chisholm, first African-American Congresswoman 1969-83, first woman and first African-American Democratic presidential nominee 1972



“Working for a union, my objective is to get higher wages, better working conditions, dignity and respect in the working place, for all my members. If I get all of that, I am satisfied.”



## AGUEDA ARIAS

Secretary Treasurer

United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW)  
Local 888

## DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Dorothy Detzer, respected "Lady Lobbyist;" Women's International League for Peace and Freedom	2	3	4	5	6 Patsy Mink, first Japanese-American Congresswoman 1965	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Winter begins
22	23 Sarah "Madam C.J." Walker Entrepreneur 1867	24	25 Christmas	26 Kwanza begins	27	28
29	30	31 New Year's Eve				



The Workforce Development Institute (WDI) is a non-profit partner to organized labor, focusing on workforce, economic and community development. WDI provides training, policy advice, support services for unions and working families, works closely with government agencies and develops coalitions with environmental and social justice advocates. – Ed Murphy, Executive Director, WDI



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

96 South Swan Street  
Albany, New York 12210

[WWW.WDINY.ORG](http://WWW.WDINY.ORG)

Ed Murphy, Executive Director

WDI's Women of the Workforce Initiative (**WOW**) is a program created by and focused on working women. In partnership with Area Labor Federations and Central Labor Councils, WDI brings women together to advance the dialogue surrounding women and work.

WDI listens to women, learns from women and shares with women.

**WOW** programs empower, build capacity, increase skills and knowledge and provide opportunities for women and their communities.

For more information please contact Susan F. Hains, Director  
Health and Human Services

**[shains@wdiny.org](mailto:shains@wdiny.org) or 518-272-3500 ext. 105**