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## In This Issue

<b>The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire Memorial</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Dedication</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Word Search Puzzle</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Sweet Potato Cashew Bake Recipe</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Follow Us On Facebook and Twitter</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Memorial</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Who Was Clara Lemlich?</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Definitions</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Upcoming Events</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Ask the Attorney</b>	<b>4</b>

## The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire Memorial

March 25, 2011 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of New York City's most deadly work place related disaster until 9/11. On that day 100 years ago 146 men and women, mostly young immigrants perished at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire. Doors had been locked to keep workers in, fire ladders could not reach beyond the fourth floor and amazingly just the week before the Highest Court in New York had struck down the radical legislation known as Workers Compensation.

Sadly, even today work place devastation and disasters continue to haunt America and the world. What did come out of the Triangle Fire and the subsequent State investigation actually helped to modernize the state labor laws and make New York one of the most progressive states in terms of labor reform; Fire and Building codes were brought into the modern

era to help protect New York's citizens and within a few years a Constitutional Amendment was passed allowing the New York State Workers Compensation Law to be created in order to help provide swift medical care and monetary benefits to injured workers and their families (amazingly, after the fire the resulting lawsuit in 1913 awarded about \$75 per deceased victim!) Also, this very real and very tragic event was a catalyst for helping the Union movements in America aimed at better working conditions, safe work places and dignity in work. This is a particularly poignant reminder while Unions in America today are being viewed in negative light when much of what Unions represent is profound and literally deadly important!

Triangle is but the beginning place to remember and act. I am an extremely proud sponsor and Director of the

Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire Memorial ([www.trianglememorial.org](http://www.trianglememorial.org)). Our organization provides scholarships to the children of workers who have been permanently disabled or killed during the course of work. Over the past ten years TSFFM has provided over \$264,000.00 in scholarships. In fact, for the 2010-2011 academic year we have awarded twenty-three Triangle Scholars and look forward to making a difference in many more lives.

This March 25<sup>th</sup>, please take a moment to remember. When watching the news about how 'bad' unions are, remember, and always remember that without the sacrifice of the Triangle workers through today's workers on the BP Horizon and at the World Trade Center America would not be the incredible light that it is to the world.

**We dedicate this issue to those workers who lost their lives in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire Saturday, March 25th 1911.**



Photograph by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union

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# Triangle Shirtwaist Fire Memorial Word Search

F	J	B	E	R	H	L	E	M	T
I	Y	H	D	E	P	A	L	E	S
R	C	C	J	T	D	I	G	M	I
E	A	I	S	S	E	N	N	O	A
B	L	L	R	A	R	N	A	R	W
O	I	M	E	S	U	E	I	I	T
W	C	E	K	I	J	T	R	A	R
L	O	L	R	D	N	N	T	L	I
E	D	O	O	Q	I	E	A	R	H
R	C	W	W	G	T	C	Q	L	S

Word List	
TRIANGLE	WORKERS
SHIRTWAIST	MEMORIAL
CENTENNIAL	LEMLICH
DISASTER	CALICO
INJURED	BOWLER



Need help with the answers?  
 Contact us at  
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 and we'll be happy to  
 send them to you!

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## Another Recipe from Peter, the Baking Accountant— Sweet Potato Cashew Bake



Peter Grasso, CPA  
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### Ingredients

- 6 medium sweet potatoes ( 2 lbs)
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/3 cup broken cashews
- 1/4 tsp. ground ginger
- 1 (8 3/4 oz) can peach slices
- 3 tbs. butter

### Directions

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- Peel sweet potatoes and cook, covered in enough boiling salted water to cover until tender (25-35 minutes)
- Drain, peel and cut crosswise into thick pieces.
- Combine brown sugar, cashews, ginger, and 1/2 teaspoon salt.
- Drain peaches well.
- In a 10x6x2 inch baking dish, layer half each of the sweet potatoes, peach slices, and brown sugar mixture.
- Repeat layers.
- Dot with butter.
- Bake, covered, for 30 minutes.
- Uncover and bake 10 minutes longer.
- Spoon brown sugar syrup over before serving

# The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire Memorial

Providing scholarships to the children of parents permanently injured or killed on the job—The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire Memorial ([www.trianglememorial.org](http://www.trianglememorial.org)) is hosting its annual benefit in honor of the 100th anniversary at the New York Fire Museum on March 25th, 2011. Managing Partner Brian Mittman, a director and sponsor of the organization will be joined by Partner Dan Elias whose band will help entertain the crowd and raise funds for scholarships.

Photo at right: M&M partner, Dan Elias playing the clarinet with his band the Elias Landino Band at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire Memorial Dinner 2010



## *What is a Shirtwaist and Other Definitions...*

**Shirtwaist**—a blouse with buttons down the front, common in the early – mid 1900's

**Broadcloth**—a fine cloth of wool, cotton or silk

**Bowler**— a hard felt hat with a rounded crown

**Calico**—a cotton fabric, usually plain or unbleached from Calicut in India

**Woolgathering**—the frugal practice of collecting stray clumps of wool from the branches and brambles of a sheep pasture for spinning, etc (and today means daydreaming!)

## Upcoming Events

**Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition** has numerous events planned throughout the New York area to mark the centennial of the infamous fire. We've listed just a few; for the complete list visit [rememberthetrianglefire.org](http://rememberthetrianglefire.org).

**Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire Memorial Dinner** March 25th  
[www.trianglememorial.org](http://www.trianglememorial.org)

**Open Monthly Meeting**—Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition and Hear What's Being Planned for the Centennial, March 17th—The Judson Memorial Church  
<http://rememberthetrianglefire.org/category/events/upcoming/page/3/>

**We Were There!, Multimedia Show** by the Brooklyn Women's Chorus on Sat. March 12th at 8:00 pm—40 East 35th St. <http://rememberthetrianglefire.org/category/events/upcoming/page/2/>

## Who Was Clara Lemlich?

Clara Lemlich was an inspiration for generations of workers and for the cause of bettering the working conditions of American workers. In 1909 Lemlich's Yiddish language speech set an uprising of 20,000 women workers, motivating them to strike against their poor working conditions. This was the largest female strike at that time. Lemlich's career as a revolutionary activist did not start in 1909, it began well before her famous speech and continued for more than a half a century afterward. Lemlich was considered the most famous of the *farbrente Yidishe meydlekh* [fiery Jewish girls] whose militancy helped to galvanize the labor movement; she was also a suffragist, community organizer, and peace activist.



Clara Lemlich

Each Year the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire Memorial honors those who live up to the ideals of freedom, fairness, safe working conditions and betterment of humanity—the Class of 2011 Recipients include:

Denis Hughes  
*President of the NYS AFL-CIO*

William Henning  
*Chair of the NY Committee on Occupational Safety and Health [NYCOSH]*

Joel Shufro  
*NYCOSH's Executive Director*

Diane Savino  
*NYS Senator from Brooklyn*

David Michaels  
*US Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health*

**CONGRATULATIONS to all from Markhoff & Mittman, P.C.**



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**We Remember....**  
**Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire**  
**March 25, 1911**

## Ask the Attorney

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**Brian M. Mittman,**  
**Attorney at Law**

**Question:** Why do we need special laws to protect injured workers, doesn't the Court system do that?

**Answer:** Great question, but unfortunately injured and disabled workers need speedy medical care and wage benefits while they are out. As demonstrated 100 years ago during the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire, the paltry recovery for deceased and injured workers did not occur until years later and after extensive litigation, do you want to leave it up to the courts?

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