



# TRIANGLE FIRE

## “Fragments from the Fire”:

A poetry performance by students in W303 Writing Poetry and W403 Advanced Poetry Writing classes in commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire.

The event is paired with a PBS American Experience video, “The Triangle Fire”

**Fragments from the Fire  
Poetry Performance**  
March 16, 6 p.m.  
Community Room

**The Triangle Fire  
PBS American video**  
March 17, 6 p.m.  
Vivian Auditorium

Both events are free and open to the public.



## 100th Anniversary

### The History

Triangle Shirtwaist Company Fire took place on Friday, March 25, 1911, in New York City, near Broadway and Washington Sts. (The building is now part of the NYU campus.) The factory occupied the 8-10th floors of the 10 story Asch building (one of many ironies is the name).

About 500 workers were there that day, most of them immigrant Italian and Russian (Jewish) women and girls. One hundred and forty six people died in the fire. Freight elevators were not in service. Fire escapes descended only to the second story. Doors on the ninth floor were locked against possible union organizers. Fire ladders did not reach high enough. When fabric used in the making of shirtwaists (blouses) caught fire, the place went up in flames. Many victims jumped to their deaths, others burned to the bones.

In the aftermath, the owners of the factory were exonerated of any blame for the deplorable conditions which led to the fire and the terrible loss of life. Labor organizing of garment workers and the fight for safer working conditions intensified in the wake of the fire.

Since then, the fire has remained bright in the memory of many people, and books have been written about it. Poets have written about it, particularly women poets. Across the country, events are being planned to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Triangle Fire.

Sponsored by the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, History and Political Science Club, Humanities Club and Honors Club.