



# Not One More Fire

*Remembering the Triangle and organizing for a safe workplace today*

March 25, 2011 will be a remarkable day of remembering the past and rededicating ourselves to current labor struggles in communities across the country. This is the day we commemorate the centennial of the horrific Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in New York City. SweatFree Communities is part of the Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition which has an excellent website ([rememberthetrianglefire.org](http://rememberthetrianglefire.org)) that provides an overview of Triangle related activities in New York City and around the nation. Because of the numerous current day garment factory fires in Bangladesh, SweatFree Communities is organizing several events on the theme “Not One More Fire” with our friends from the Bangladesh Center for Worker Solidarity from March 23-25 in New York City. Then we’re off for a speaking tour to several cities, ending in Washington, DC on April 6. Join us if you can!

**We invite you to get involved! How about organizing a day of remembrance and dedication in your own community?**

Read on for ideas. Your group can join the Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition to get your event posted at the site. Alternatively, you can simply email the “what, when and where” to SweatFree Communities at [organize@sweatfree.org](mailto:organize@sweatfree.org) to have your event listed among our sponsored events. We’ll gladly mail you educational materials for display at your event, or discuss event planning. Contact 413-586-0974 for more information.

## Art & Activism

- *Chalk* the names of the victims in a public space: “Albina Caruso, age 20, died March 25, 1911, Triangle Factory Fire.” The names: [rememberthetrianglefire.org/the-names](http://rememberthetrianglefire.org/the-names).
- *Create t-shirts* with a representative symbol or fact about the factory fire and wear it to a public event. Reuse t-shirts or buy union/coop-made at [sweatfree.org/shopping](http://sweatfree.org/shopping).
- *Design a banner*: ask a group of kids (from a church group, Sunday school, elementary school) to trace and decorate outlines of their hands, each representing one worker who died. Create a mural/banner and display it in the school, community center, or downtown in a highly visible public place.
- *Hold a contest* to design a poster or commemorative piece of artwork about the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire. Create a panel of judges including community leaders and consider offering a prize. Advertise in the local paper and send bulletins to schools.
- *Create a symbol* to represent your message or event (triangle, flames, shirt) and do a flyer blitz in your community.

# Events/Performances

- *Put on a play* with an attached social commentary through a local high school drama program or a local playhouse (see [rememberthetrianglefire.org/resources/](http://rememberthetrianglefire.org/resources/) for ideas).
- *Do a photojournalism exhibit* about the Triangle Factory fire with photos and printed articles (begin your search at the Kheel Center at Cornell University: [www.ilr.cornell.edu/trianglefire/about.html](http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/trianglefire/about.html))
  - Contact SweatFree Communities to request Janet Essley's garment worker paintings ([www.sweatfree.org/presentinfo](http://www.sweatfree.org/presentinfo)) for display in a local gallery, city hall, coffee shop, school, or other community space.
- *Host a free movie night* in your home, at your church, at your school, or elsewhere. Advertise and invite friends and family, fellow activists, and congregation members – make it a potluck or combine it with another community event. Suggestions include:
  - *Schmatta: Rags to Riches to Rags* ([hbo.com/documentaries/schmatta-rags-to-riches-to-rags](http://hbo.com/documentaries/schmatta-rags-to-riches-to-rags))
  - *The Triangle Fire: Documentary* ([trianglefirefilm.com/document.html](http://trianglefirefilm.com/document.html))
  - *Sweatshop Cinderella* ([wmm.com/filmcatalog/pages/c772.shtml](http://wmm.com/filmcatalog/pages/c772.shtml))
  - *China Blue* ([bullfrogfilms.com/catalog/china.html](http://bullfrogfilms.com/catalog/china.html))
  - *Made in L.A.* ([www.madeinla.com](http://www.madeinla.com))
  - *Maquilapolis* ([www.maquilapolis.com](http://www.maquilapolis.com))
  - *What Would Jesus Buy?* (<http://www.wjbmovie.com/theaters.html>)
- *Orchestrate a die-in*: get one volunteer per victim to lie down in a public place to symbolize their death. Include a sign to explain why you're performing.
- *Hold public performances*: find five-minute monologues, dialogues, poems, and other brief works and perform them in outdoor or indoor public spaces. Consider moving locations around the city to keep up the energy and spread the message.
- *Recreate the fire*: use cardboard, a parking lot or chalk to create a visible boundary to represent the factory. Ask volunteers to stand inside the box to represent workers, and ask several others to stand outside to represent the factory owners and the families of workers. Blow a whistle and the tableau can come to life.
- *Coordinate with your friends* to spread the word via Facebook, Twitter, and blogs.

# Educational Events

- Have a themed week of events.
- *Approach local schools and teachers* and have an assembly or a day of workshops. See if there is a student club that is interested in collaborating on an event.
- *Write* articles and letters about the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire to the editor of your local paper or your school paper, and encourage others to do the same.
- *Invite speakers* to schools, community groups or a town hall event, such as the historian from your local college or a local union leader or activist, to speak about the factory fire and its significance today.
- *Tabling*: set up a table in a highly trafficked place with materials. Include a call to action (see [sweatfree.org](http://sweatfree.org) or [laborrights.org](http://laborrights.org) for current sweatshops action alerts).
- *Find out if there are any factories in your town* – organize a field trip of activists, volunteers, or your spiritual community. Send them a letter about the Triangle fire.
- *Wear name tags* all day to represent the deceased workers, and include their ages. Have pamphlets on-hand with information about the Triangle fire and modern day sweatshops.
- *Hold a town hall meeting*: invite speakers, community leaders, youth, and others to identify current local or international concerns. Consider creating a committee to work on that issue.

Remember to contact us at [organize@sweatfree.org](mailto:organize@sweatfree.org) or 413-586-0974 to let us know about your event related to remembering the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire and educating about modern day sweatshops.