

I was on the founding Executive Board for *Remember The Triangle Fire Coalition*. Just a year before this event, I looked out over the crowd gathered and wanted to uplift the children, so I shouted a melodic call and response: “Thanks Joe! Thanks Joe!” And the next day I heard from Jane Fazio-Villeda, Joe Zito’s great-granddaughter. She thanked me for calling the memory of her great-grandfather. When I set out to write a ballad in honor of Zito, Jane sent me primary resources; bio facts, articles and photos.

In this clip you’ll also see the “146 Shirtwaist Kites” in the crowd. The concept of the Shirtwaist Kites came through me July 2009 while I was on retreat. Rose Imperato telephoned me and said, “We got invited to the Labor Day Parade. We need a visual.” I said, “Gimme two hours.” I went into a meditation. My body shook and one ancestor clearly smacked me on the back of the head saying, “Make 146 shirtwaists like kites in the sky.” Her tone was like it was obvious. I telephoned Rosie, “We gotta make 146 shirtwaists like kites in the sky. I’ll send you an image. Draw it life size.” Rosie got to work with members of *Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition*. A group of them got together in NYC, including Ruth Sergel, Rob Linne, Carmelina Cartei, and designed and fabricated mock-ups, and figured out the physics of how to construct and hold the shirtwaists up in the sky, responsive to movement and wind. A whole community got mobilized and probably over a hundred people got involved designing and creating the shirtwaists. 146 Shirtwaist Kites which became an emblematic ephemeral memorial for fallen workers.

[www.rememberthetrianglefire.org](http://www.rememberthetrianglefire.org)