

Peter Burgess <peterbnyc@gmail.com>

INVITE 6/2: Unvarnished: A Conversation with Sarah Maslin Nir

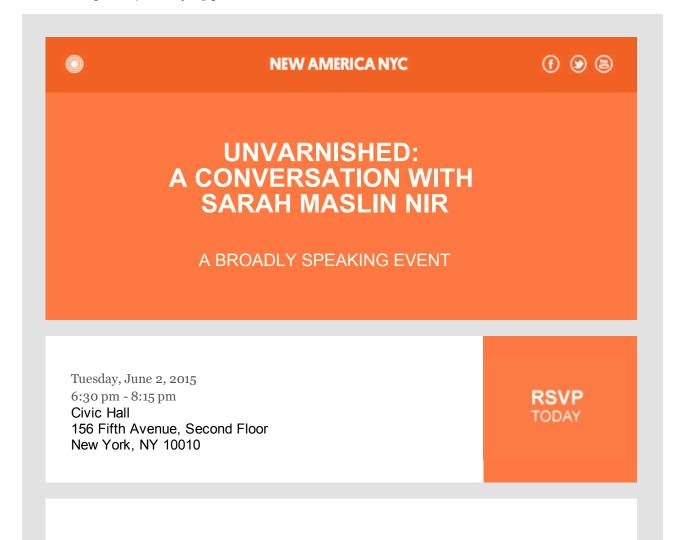
2 messages

New America NYC <Bugg@newamerica.org>

Reply-To: Bugg@newamerica.org

To: Peter Burgess <peterbnyc@gmail.com>

Thu, May 28, 2015 at 2:42 PM



Less than a month after it first appeared, Sarah Maslin Nir's two-part report on systemic wage theft, rights violations, and dangerous working conditions in New York City nail salons already looks like a journalistic parable for the ages. Within hours, the exposé had sparked thousands of conversations, in news broadcasts and on social media, about how best to help the vulnerable employees Maslin Nir had described. As a result, New York governor Andrew Cuomo ordered, on an emergency basis, broad new protections for nail salon workers, and hundreds of multilingual volunteers fanned out across New York City, distributing fliers and talking to the workers about their rights. Today, New York's nail salon industry, which had been almost completely unregulated, faces some of the strictest standards in the country.

Unvarnished, as the series was called, is an object lesson in the power of careful, sensitive reporting and writing to expose and correct workplace

abuse, a warp-speed, Twitter-enabled version of what Upton Sinclair did for the Theodore Roosevelt-era meatpacking industry. But it comes at a time when few American publications still employ dedicated labor reporters, and only a handful continue to support long-term investigations like Maslin Nir's ("Unvarnished" took 13 months to report). What might this mean for workers in the United States, especially in an era of weakened unions and new rights for American corporations?

Join New America NYC for a conversation with Sarah Maslin Nir about her experiences documenting the working conditions in New York City nail salons and about the particular challenges of contemporary labor reporting.

Follow the discussion online using #NANYC and by following @NewAmericaNYC.

PARTICIPANTS

Sarah Maslin Nir @SarahMaslinNir Reporter, The New York Times

Liza Mundy @lizamundy

Director, Breadwinning and Caregiving Program, New America Author, The Richer Sex: How the New Majority of Female Breadwinners is Transforming Sex, Love and Family



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Peter Burgess <peterbnyc@gmail.com> Draft Thu, May 28, 2015 at 4:27 PM

Dear Joe John

I registered for this ... you might be interested https://www.cvent.com/d/jrq3jh?lang=en&sms=7&cn=kwcPflcEikyAWC4elzs2JQ

I am not 100% sure I will be able to make it ... but I am going to try

Peter

Peter Burgess ... Founder and CEO
TrueValueMetrics ... Meaningful Metrics for a Smart Society
Multi Dimension Impact Accounting

http://www.truevaluemetrics.org

linkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/peterburgess1/

twitter: @truevaluemetric @peterbnyc

landline 570 431 4385

email: peterbnyc@gmail.com skype: peterburgessnyc

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