



inequality and economic insecurity that we've seen grow over the past several decades. We've worked through those issues. There might be some other areas, which at times, there's some conflicts between different parties. But I know a lot of these folks for many, many, many years, and I'm optimistic, because I see a culture of people wanting to sit down and try to work through and have the city grow.

We want to see the city economy grow. We want to see it come back now, of course, from the pandemic, but we also want to see it grow





closed down and moved. We had no idea where the company had gone. The rumor was South Korea. We were shocked and horrified. Yes, demoralized. The company had found new “fields” of cheaper labor. We now take it for granted that all our fancy electronic toys are outsourced to other countries, but in 1973 that was not the case. We lost a battle. But the experience of fighting side by side through thick and thin all the while creating new forms of solidarity changed me forever and I like to think it did so for many of the others who participated. That kind of collective action is not just a memory you carry in your head. The experience of pouring out of the factory together, feeling our own power to shut down the factory, living and fighting day in and day out on the picket line was lived as a new way of being human together. That stayed with me.

### Union Organizing at Columbia

It was not surprising then that, when E and I moved to New York in 1973, I quickly got involved in the clerical union movement that had taken off in the city, as well as other parts of the country.<sup>8</sup> E had the misfortune of a birthday that drew a low number in the draft lottery, then passed the army physical with flying colors. Next stop: Vietnam! But he applied for and was granted conscientious objector status. He then had to work two years of community service. After that he enrolled in economics graduate school at Columbia University. I was hired at Columbia as a phone operator. The union drive of the clerical workers at Columbia was already in full swing. One of the phone operators, M, asked me if I wanted to attend a union meeting and of course I said yes. We both became active, signing u V f18 (e)-10.2(u)-1-22 (i)10.3 (v)17.6 (e)-9.4 -20.2 (n)5.13.4 (s )0.5 (a )0.a I s21.6 (n f)ahs on21 (b)-9.6 (e)-9.5 (r iz-(n t)-15.88.2 (l)-11 (l(u)-(i)-21.50.9 (t )3.8 (a) (t)-19.8 (h f)-75.2 (l)8.9 6)10.3 (v)17.6 (e o)20.5 (n)1..5 (h)1.1 (o)-1.4 (n)-1.8




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