



NEWS RELEASE

• Feb. 18, 2022 •

- **Battle of Homestead Foundation hosts Mar. 24 Women's History program on making of "9to5: The Story of a Movement" film**
- **Panel discussion features 1970s' founders of original 9to5 collective**

WHAT: **The Battle of Homestead Foundation** presents an online panel discussion on the documentary film "*9to5: The Story of a Movement*" — featuring live commentary by 9to5 founders Karen Nussbaum, Ellen Cassedy, Kim Cook

WHEN: Thursday, Mar. 24, 2022 from 7:30-9:00 p.m. via Zoom

WHERE: Program is free but viewers must register at www.eventbrite.com

WHO: 9to5 founders **Karen Nussbaum, Ellen Cassedy, Kim Cook** discuss the emergence of the 9to5 collective and its nationwide organizing of women workers in the late 1970s and early '80s

HOMESTEAD, PENNSYLVANIA — Before the 1980 hit song and blockbuster movie titled *9 to 5*, there was an actual group of labor activists called "9to5" that revolutionized the fight for working women's rights across America.

Their achievements and struggles are told in *9to5: The Story of a Movement*, a powerful and timely documentary by Oscar-winning film directors Julia Reichert and Steven Bognar.

On Thur. Mar. 24, 2022, from 7:30-9:00 p.m. the **Battle of Homestead Foundation** presents a free online program featuring 9to5 co-founders **Karen Nussbaum, Ellen Cassedy** and **Kim Cook** discussing the documentary and the movement. Attendees must register at www.eventbrite.com.

Originating with a group of Boston female secretaries in 1973, the 9to5 collective demanded working women receive fair pay, equal advancement opportunities and the professional respect routinely denied them by male-dominated businesses and organizations of the era.

Employing a steady stream of innovative, media-savvy organizing tactics, 9to5 quickly evolved into the largest membership organization of working women in the United States and served as a catalyst for several legal reforms, including an Office Workers Bill of Rights used widely as a template for employee anti-discrimination legislation.

9to5: The Story of a Movement includes interviews with several 9to5 founders, as well as actor and activist Jane Fonda, and offers insights into the group's early strategic thinking on how to elevate office workers into a national discussion.

"We encourage everyone to watch the documentary before the panel discussion," says **John Haer**, Battle of Homestead Foundation president. "It provides an excellent overview of how contemporary workplace organizers can learn from the trailblazing leadership of the 9to5 movement."

9to5: The Story of a Movement can be viewed [on PBS](#) and [on Netflix](#).

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- * The [Battle of Homestead Foundation](#) is an educational nonprofit promoting Western Pennsylvania's vibrant industrial and labor history starting with the 1892 Homestead Steel Strike and connecting with current labor issues involving economics, the environment, healthcare, racism and other social concerns.
- * For information on Battle of Homestead Foundation programs visit www.battleofhomestead.org.
- * Tune in to the Foundation's public affairs podcast series *Essential Work: Exploring the Past, Present and Future of Jobs* podcast series at www.essentialworkpodcast.com

PANELISTS: 9to5: The Story of a Movement

- **Karen Nussbaum** has been an organizer for more than 50 years. She was the founding director of 9to5 the national association and District 925, SEIU. She was the founding director of Working America, AFL-CIO, and is currently a board member. She is the co-author of two books and writes on women, labor and politics.
- 9to5 co-founder **Ellen Cassedy** is an award-winning writer whose book *Working 9 to 5: A Women's Movement, a Labor Union, and the Iconic Movie* will be published in September 2022 by Chicago Review Press with a foreword by Jane Fonda. www.ellencassedy.com
- An early 9to5 organizer, **Kim Cook** was a past president of District 925, SEIU (a local of 26,000 education and public sector workers in Washington State) and served on the SEIU International Executive Board and as SEIU international vice-president. She is currently a programming, communications and fundraising specialist and associate faculty member at The Worker Institute of Cornell University.

FILMMAKERS: 9to5: The Story of a Movement

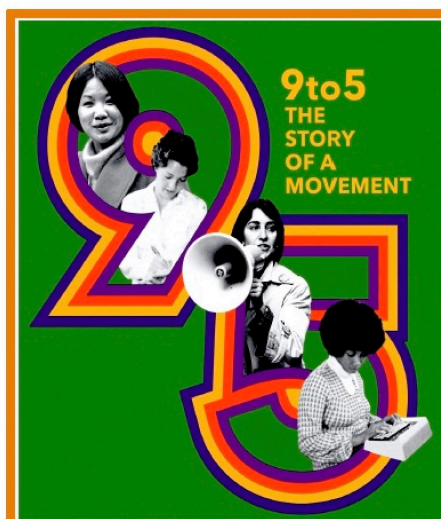
When **Julia Reichert** and **Steven Bognar** won the 2020 Academy Award for Best Feature Documentary for *American Factory* (shared with Jeff Reichert), it was the combined culmination of a half century of dedication to using film to spark social change. Their award-winning documentaries include *Growing Up Female*, *Methadone: An American Way of Dealing*, *Union Maids*, *Seeing Red*, *A Lion in the House*, *Sparkle*, *Growing Up Female*, *Personal Belongings*, *Picture Day*, *Gravel* and *The Last Truck* —all seeking answers to the question "What makes a fair and just world?"

REVIEWS: *9to5: The Story of a Movement*

“9to5: The Story of a Movement shines a deserving spotlight on the activists who fought for gender equality in the U.S. workforce, beginning in the early 1970s. This movie should be watched by anyone who cares about civil rights, as well as people who think that they don’t care about these important issues.” — Carla Hay, *Culture Mix*

“The documentary creates a vivid texture of the world the women were trying to change. As always, Reichert and Bogart let their compelling evidence speak for itself in a beautifully crafted film.”
— Caryn James, *The Hollywood Reporter*

“9to5: The Story of a Movement is such an important film. It should be on the watchlist of every activist, not only because it teaches an important lesson in organising, but because it offers an inspiring insight into the plight of women workers, who unfortunately still have a glass ceiling hanging over their heads.”
— Lucy Nichols, *Counterfire*



“9to5: The Story of a Movement”

*A panel discussion of the documentary film
by Julia Reichert & Steven Bognar*

Thur. Mar. 24, 2022 • 7:30 pm • online/free

*** JOIN The Battle of Homestead Foundation** for a live 90-minute live Q. & A. with 9to5 founders **Karen Nussbaum, Ellen Cassedy and Kim Cook ***