

Amy Barone

Defying Extinction

The ribbon will be massive.
Proof that no lady died in vain.

I add a piece of sky-blue fabric from bedding
my late mother sent me as a housewarming gift.

Others brought cherished family linens, baby clothes,
and delicate doilies. A writer weaved in a purple silk blouse

to create a memorial that will hang along the Brown Building
in Lower Manhattan, where 146 garment workers

at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory, perished in a fire
on March 25, 1911—one of the nation’s worst work disasters.

We honor mothers, wives, sisters, daughters and friends, plus 17 men,
who worked with their hands, mostly immigrants in a new land.

Escape blocked by locked exits and stairwells. Their sacrifice propelled
activism, dignity for workers, remembering.

Amy Barone’s latest poetry collection, *We Became Summer*, from New York Quarterly Books, was released in 2018. She wrote chapbooks *Kamikaze Dance* (Finishing Line Press) and *Views from the Driveway* (Foothills Publishing.) Barone belongs to the *brevitas* online poetry community and PEN America. From Bryn Mawr, PA, she lives in New York City.