Al Fishman Collection

Papers, 1967-1974

6 linear feet
6 storage boxes

Accession # 1654
DALNET #
OCLC #

While Al Fishman’s political activism in Detroit and the state of Michigan reaches back to the late 1940s, this collection of his papers deals primarily with Fishman’s term as state chairperson for the New Democratic Coalition of Michigan (1966-1971) and with his involvement in Detroit-area political organizations such as North Detroit Citizens for McGovern (1972) and Turn Detroit Around (1973). Among other issues, the New Democratic Coalition of Michigan (NDCM) supported the candidacy of Eugene McCarthy and opposed American involvement in the war in Vietnam. Turn Detroit Around formed to attract white voters to support Coleman Young’s first mayoral bid and to support an interracial slate of Common Council candidates. Mr. Fishman was also vice-chairperson of Urban Alliance (1968-1970) as well as a Michigan Democratic Party state central committee member.

The Al Fishman Collection consists of correspondence, minutes, publications and other materials documenting Mr. Fishman’s political activities from 1967 to 1974.

PLEASE NOTE: Folders are computer-arranged alphabetically in this finding aid, but may actually be dispersed throughout several boxes in the collection. Note carefully the box number for each folder heading.

Important subjects in the collection:  Important correspondents:

Americans for Democratic Action  George McGovern
Black Panthers  Coleman Young
Julian Bond
Boycotts
Democratic National Convention, Chicago, 1968
Democratic National Convention, Miami, 1972
Michigan Democratic Party
Bernadette Devlin
Zolton Ferency
Otto Feinstein
Eugene McCarthy
George McGovern
Michigan Conference for Concerned Democrats (MCCD)
Michigan Vietnam Moratorium
New Democratic Coalition of Michigan (NDCM)
North Detroit Coalition for McGovern
Police residency requirement--Detroit
Detroit (Mich.)--Race relations
Turn Detroit Around (TDA)
Urban Alliance
Vietnamese Conflict, 1961-1975--Protest movements
Coleman Young
Box-folder  Folder heading

4-23  MCCD (Michigan Conference of Concerned Democrats); Central Committee questionnaire, 1968
1-21  MCCD clippings, 1967-68
4-14  MCCD; convention, 1967
4-8   MCCD; convention, 1968
1-9   MCCD; convention materials, 1968
4-9   MCCD; corres., 1967-68
4-10  MCCD; local candidates, 1968
4-7   MCCD; memos, 1968-69
4-12  MCCD; minutes, 1968
4-15  MCCD; newsletters, 1967
4-39  MCCD; organizing material, 1967
4-11  MCCD; press releases, 1968
4-13  MCCD; sample materials, 1968

5-16 thru 20  McGovern; clippings and misc., 1972
5-13  McGovern-Fishman; corres., 1972
2-7   Membership, 1969
5-21  Michigan Congress Against Repression; general files, 1970-72

1-5 thru 6  Michigan Democratic Party; misc. materials, 1968-69
6-17  Midwest Coordinating Committee; minutes and misc., 1973
4-6   Military-Industrial Complex, 1969
4-30  Minutes; officers meeting, 1969

1-16  Nation article; corres., 1969
4-25  National NDC Organization, 1969
2-17  NDC (New Democratic Coalition); Black Caucus; Alabama meeting, 1971
2-9   NDC; campaign, 1970
2-10  NDC; campaign, 1970
5-6   NDC; Clearinghouse, 1972

2-4 thru 5  NDC; clippings, 1968-71
1-18  NDC; constitution and statement of purpose, 1969-70
4-26  NDC convention, Chicago, 1970
1-22  NDC; corres., 1969
1-8   NDC; corres., 1970

3-19  NDC; Eighteenth District, 1970
3-13  NDC; Eighth Congressional District, 1969
3-8   NDC; First Congressional District, 1968-69
3-16  NDC; Fourteenth District, 1969-71

1-2 thru 4  NDC; general files, 1968-69
5-5   NDC; issues, 1972
1-14  NDC; memos, 1970-71
1-23  NDC; metropolitan coordination, 1969-70
3-10  NDC; Midland, 1968-69
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<tr>
<td>5-10 thru 11</td>
<td>NDC; misc., 1972</td>
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<td>3-27</td>
<td>NDC; misc., 1973</td>
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<td>1-19</td>
<td>NDC; misc. issues, 1969</td>
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<td>2-6</td>
<td>NDC; municipal election, Detroit, 1969</td>
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<td>NDC; national, 1969-72</td>
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<td>NDC; Nineteenth District, 1969-70</td>
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<td>5-7</td>
<td>NDC; organizations, 1972</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-18 thru 19</td>
<td>NDC; other states, 1970-72</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-16</td>
<td>NDC; Political Action Conference, 1971</td>
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<td>NDC; press releases, 1969</td>
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<td>NDC; Second Congressional District, 1969</td>
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<td>NDCM; state board; communications, 1969-70</td>
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<td><em>New Democrat</em>, 1969-70</td>
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<td>New Year's Eve, 1970</td>
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<td>Newsletters; Council for Humanist and Ethical Concerns, 1969</td>
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<td>Newsletters; other states, 1969</td>
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<td>North Detroit Coalition for McGovern, 1972</td>
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<td>North Detroit Coalition; misc. material, 1973</td>
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<td>Peace coalition, 1969</td>
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<td>6-11 thru 13</td>
<td>Police residency, 1974</td>
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<td>Political reform convention, 1970</td>
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Box-folder  | Folder heading
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4-33  | Presidential primary, 1969
5-9  | Presidential primary results, 1972
2-8  | Primary, 1970
4-57  | Prisons; clippings and misc., 1971
4-44  | Public school use, 1968
4-58  | Race; clippings and misc., 1969-71
5-15  | Registered voter data, 1972
4-34  | Sample blank forms, n.d.
6-9  | State Central Committee; misc., 1970-72
4-35  | State Central Committee and district chairmen, 1969
4-45  | Statements issued, 1969
6-18  | TDA (Turn Detroit Around); corres. and misc., 1973
6-21  | TDA; crime workshop, 1974
6-19  | TDA; election, 1973
6-20  | TDA; general activities, 1974
6-5  | TDA; police, 1974
6-22  | TDA; police petitions, 1974
6-4  | TDA; vote challengers, tallies, 1973
4-36  | Urban Alliance, 1969
6-10  | Urban Alliance; misc. materials, 1968-70
1-20  | Urban Crisis Committee, 1969
1-1  | Vietnam; misc. material, 1968-69
4-53 thru 55  | Vietnam moratorium, 1969-70
6-14 thru 16  | Vietnam moratorium; misc. materials, 1969-70
5-14  | Wallace/Jackson and other reactionary democrats; clippings and misc., 1972
4-37  | Welfare mothers, 1969
4-59  | West Central Organization; school conference, 1969
4-49  | Westland Police Department, 1969
6-6 thru 7  | Young, Coleman; campaign materials, 1974
Al Fishman Papers
23 linear feet (22 SB, 3 MB)
1940s-2008, bulk 1974-2008

Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

Accession Number: UP001654

Creator: Alvin & Margaret Fishman

Acquisition: Part 2 was accessioned in three parts in 2000, 2008 and 2011.

Language: Material primarily in English, some materials in Czech, Russian and Hebrew.

Access: Collection is open for research.

Use: Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library Rules for Use of Archival Materials. Restrictions: Researchers may encounter records of a sensitive nature – personnel files, case records and those involving investigations, legal and other private matters. Privacy laws and restrictions imposed by the Library prohibit the use of names and other personal information which might identify an individual, except with written permission from the Director and/or the donor.

Notes: Citation style: “Al Fishman Papers, Part 2, Box [#], Folder [#], Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs [or] University Archives, Wayne State University”

Related Material: Photograph negatives, CDs, DVDs, audio cassette tapes and various sized reels (Box 25) have been transferred to the Archives Audiovisual Department.

PLEASE NOTE: Folders in this collection are not necessarily arranged in any particular order. The box folder listing provides an inventory based on their original order. Subjects may be dispersed throughout the collection.
Abstract
Alvin Fishman was born in Los Angeles, Nov. 28, 1927, but he was raised in New York and graduated from Stuyvesant High School. He was drafted and served in Italy during World War II. After the war, he moved to Ann Arbor, MI to attend the University of Michigan and study architecture. During this time he became involved in politics. Fishman left the university prior to graduation to move to Detroit and work as a tool and die machinist in an auto plant for the next thirteen years. He married Margaret Radulavich in 1951; they had two children, Marcia and Daniel. As an adult, he returned to college to complete his education in mathematics at Wayne State University. He also pursued a Master of Public Administration from Wayne State in the 1970s. He made a living programming computer systems for the Detroit Police Department.

Al Fishman and his wife, Margaret, were activists for peace and justice. Al was a long time leader of Peace Action of Michigan, serving as co-chair and representative on the national board of directors. He joined in the 1980s when the group was called the SANE/Freeze, working on the Nuclear Freeze Campaign. He was also involved with the New Jewish Agenda, Detroit Area Peace with Justice Network, Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism, and Democratic Socialists of America.

Part 2 of the collection documents the Fishman’s activism in the city of Detroit and their participation in various peace, justice and human rights groups, such as New Jewish Agenda, Peace Action of Michigan and Detroit Area Peace with Justice Network groups. Materials from Margaret Fishman’s involvement in the group Women’s Conference of Concerns are included. The collection also contains some materials from Al Fishman’s work with the Detroit Police Department, the City Charter Revision Commission, and his unsuccessful bids for city office.

Important Subjects:
Activists, Human Rights.
Activists, Peace.
Apartheid--Africa--Southern.
Communism--20th century.
Democracy--United States--20th century.
Detroit Area Peace with Justice Network.
Human rights & democracy.
Human rights advocacy--United States.
Iraq War, 2003-2011--Moral and ethical aspects
Michigan Coalition for Human Rights.
Nuclear Disarmament--United States--20th Century.
New Jewish Agenda (Organization).
Peace Action (Organization).
SANE/FREEZE (Organization).
Social justice--Michigan--Detroit.
Women’s Conference of Concerns.
Important Names:
John Conyers
Erma Henderson
Maryann Mahaffey
Milo Radulavich
Coleman Young
**Arrangement**

Folders are listed by their location within each box. They are not necessarily arranged, so any given subject may be dispersed throughout the entire collection. Box numbering picks up from Part I of the collection.

**Box 7**

1. Peace Action of Michigan, pre-1989
13. Newspaper clippings, 1996

**Box 8**

4-10. Peace Action, 1999
11. Newspaper articles, 1999
13. Peace Action, newsletters, 1990s
14. Peace Action national board, 1993
19. Peace Action Illinois board, 1990s
20. Peace Action national board, members, 1995-96

**Box 9**

1. Peace Action, national board committees and corresp. 1999
4. Peace Builder Celebration, 1999
10. Peace Action, national congresses, 1990s
11. Peace Action 5 year plan, 2000
12. Peace Action of Michigan, PDF grant, 1993
14-17. Grassroots Organizer, 1994-2000
21. Peace Action solicitation
22. Peace related material, 1997
30. Peace Action program proposals, 1997
31. Student Peace Action Network, 1997-98
32. Congressional Voting record, 1997
33. Peace Action national newsletters, 1997-98
34. Peace Action- Congress, 2000
36. Peace Action chapters, 2000
37. Peace Action of Michigan, board of directors, 1995-96
38. Peace Action, national executive committee, 1995
39. Peace Action of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 1995
40. Peace Action of Michigan, Lansing, 1995

Box 10
3. Peace Action, 2005
4. New Jewish Agenda, Tikkun, 1986
5-6. New Jewish Agenda, 1986
7. Freeze Voter, 1984-86
8. Freeze Voter, election, 1986
9. Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign
10. Freeze- Nuclear disarming and Star Wars related materials, 1986
11. Freeze- labor and jobs, 1986
12. Freeze- Reagan Rally and canvassing, 1986
13. House Bill no. 5089
14. Freeze, nuclear threat and test ban, 1986
15. Freeze, grassroots and peace, 1986
16. Freeze against racism, 1986
17. Freeze- Executive Committee, 1986
18. Nuclear and political clippings, 1986
19. Communism publications, 1986
20. Peace publications, 1986
21. New Democratic Coalition of Michigan (NDCM) brochures
22. New Democratic Coalition of Michigan membership, 1969
23. NDCM membership forms and reports, 1970
24. NDCM roster, 1969
25. NDCM volunteers
26. NDCM publications, 1969
27. US Peace Council Conference, 1983
28. Freeze Voter mobilization, 1984
29. New Jewish agenda, 1986
31. Freeze Voter, clippings, articles and notes, 1986
32. Freeze “Star Wars” stickers
33. Proposed peace and non-violence ordinance, 2001
34. Peace flyers and publications
35. Women’s Conference of Concerns, 1980s-90s
36. Women in the Soviet Union, study session
37. Peace clippings, 1970s-80s
38. Women for Peace newsletters, 1963-65
39. Women for Peace, Detroit, publications and correspondence
40. “Wree-view” Women for Racial and Economic Equality bulletin
41. Peace Links/Soviet Exchange, 1985

Box 11
1. Peace Action in Detroit, 2000-01
2. Peacebuilder Celebration
5. Peace Action- Iraq War and NSA, 2006
6-8. Online articles and email correspondence, 2005-06
9-10. Online articles and email correspondence, 2000-03
11. Peace Action strategic plan and meetings, 2005-08
12. Detroit Area Peace with Justice Network, 2001-06
14. Peace Action – peacebuilder celebrations
15. Al and Marge 50th anniversary
17. Americas Defense Monitor, 1994
18. Peace Action volunteering
19. Peace Action of Michigan, Board, 1999
21-22. War and Kosovo, 1999
23. Peace Action of Michigan, IRS and Board, 2001
25. Peace articles, 1989-90
27-28. SANE/Freeze, 1990
29. Peace and weapons materials, 1990
30. Political materials, 1989-90
31. Crisis in the Middle East, 1991
32. SANE/Freeze, Middle east conflict, 1991
34. Peace Action, politics and war, 2005
35. Weapons of mass destruction, 2005
36. 9/11/2001 materials and the Department of Peace, 2005
37. Correspondence and email, 2005
38. Peace Action of Michigan board, 2005
39. Detroit Area Peace with Justice board, 2005
40. International relationships, 1982-83
41. Resources and articles, 1983
42. Peace Action publications and correspondence, 2005

Box 12
1. Al Fishman biography info
2. Human rights and war materials, 1980s
3. Peace Links, 1984
4. New Jewish Agenda, Black-Jewish dialogue, 1980s
5. New Jewish Agenda, activities and politics, 1990s
7. Anti-war and bomb publications, 1980s-1990s
8. Blockade and destruction of Iraq, by Mohammed Alomari, 2002
10. Peace and municipal programs, 2002
11. Return of “Star Wars” 2001
15. International Criminal Court, 1988
16. Women's Conference of Concerns, 1980s
17. Al Fishman files, 1970s
18. Fishman public engagements, 1990s
20. Political parties and voting materials, 1994
21. SANE/Freeze International Committee meetings, 1989
22. New Jewish Agenda, meetings articles and correspondence, 1988
23. SANE/Freeze, 1989
24. New Jewish Agenda, articles and corresp. 1989
25. Detroit Area Sane/Freeze, 2005
26. Peace Action of MI, articles, emails nad nuclear weapons materials, 2001-04
27. Peace Action of MI, voter registration campaign and corresp., 2006
28. Labor’s legacy: a landmark for Detroit
30. Inspiring youth activism
31. Pro-Democracy Convention, Philadelphia PA, 2001
32. Civil Rights materials, 2001-06
33. Peace petition, war in Southeast Asia
34. Board members, 1970
35. Democratic election, 1972
36. Data Processing development, 1969
37. New Democratic Coalition of Michigan, 1972
38. Sane/Freeze, cold war materials, 1989
39. New Jewish Agenda, 1989
40. Sane/Freeze, articles and newsletters, 1988-89
41. Association of Jewish Communities in the GDR, “Beware lest the nightmare recur” 1988
42. NJA and SANE/Freeze peace materials, 1986
43. SANE/Freeze, peace, Burnaby Canada, nuclear war materials, 1986
44. New Jewish Agenda, Sukkat Shalom, 1986

Box 13
1. Democracy clippings, email correspondence and newsletters, 2006
2. Labor and democracy articles and clippings, 2006
3. Genealogical files
5. Detroit Area Peace w/ Justice Network, emails and articles, 2006
6-8. Martin Luther King Jr. exhibition, Allen Park, MI 2007
10. Christian Aid, “The shirts off their backs” 2005
11. Iraq war, email correspondence and articles, 2007
12. Lobbying, 2007
13. DAPJN, Iraq war correspondence and articles, 2006-2007
14. DAPJN, peace materials, 2008
15. Democratic Socialists of America, 2002-07
16-18. Peace publications, 1990s
19. Children and education publications, 1990s
20. Political publications, 1990s
23. War and weapons publications, 1990s
25. “Corresponder,” Committees of Correspondence, 1992-95
27. Economy and corporate accountability publications, 1990s
28. Women's Conference of Concerns(WCOC), 24th Anniversary Celebration, 1997
29. Women's Conference of Concerns, Booklet for celebration, 1997
30. WCOC, 18th Annual Conference, 1990

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1. WCOC, 1989
2. WCOC, 1979
3. WCOC newsletters, 1990
4. WCOC, 1980
5. WCOC correspondence, 1991-92
6. WCOC, 1987
7. WCOC, 1996
8. WCOC, 1991
10. Black caucus, 1979
11. Arms race, 2979-80
12. Tribute to Frantz Fanon publication, 1978
13. Fishman for Council
15. Peace Action publications, 2007-08
16. NAACP, Detroit Branch, publications, 2006
17-18. DAPJN, peace and election materials, 2004-2005
19. Peace Action of MI, scorecard and plan, 2005
20. DAPJN, peace and election materials, 2004
21. United For Peace and Justice, 2003
22. DAPJN, Iraq war articles, fliers and emails, 2007
23. DAPJN, iraq war and effects in the US, articles, emails and flyers, 2005
24. Iraq war and Michigan articles, 2002-2005
25. Economic publications, 1990s
26. Political publication, 1990s
27. Peace publications, 1990s
28. Military and weapons publications, 1990s
29. Peace Action of Michigan, meetings, board, and corresp., 2002-2005
30. DAPJN, finances, meetings, and articles, 1995-2004
31-32. DAPJN, participants, politics, and organization emails, 2004-08
33. WCOC (Womens Council of Concerns), 1982
34. WCOC, 1983-84
35. WCOC membership, 1987
36. WCOC membership, 1988
37. WCOC international affairs, 1988

Box 15
1. WCOC, 1988
2. WCOC board, 1988
3. WCOC founder, 1988-89
4. Henderson campaign, 1989
5. Henderson retirement, 1989-90
6. WCOC, 1989
7. WCOC, 1990
8. WCOC, 1996
9. WCOC, 1979
10. WCOC, disarmament, 1979
11. WCOC task force, 1979
12. WCOC resource materials, 1979
13. WCOC 7th annual conference, 1979
14. WCOC resolutions, 1979
15. WCOC, Cuba trip
16. WCOC, 1976
17. WCOC conference, 1976
18. WCOC, 1978
19. WCOC minutes, 1977
20. WCOC 5th annual conference, 1977
21. WCOC 9th annual conference, 1981
22. WCOC international affairs, 1981
23. WCOC 6th annual conference, 1978
24. WCOC international affairs, 1981
25. WCOC, 1982
26. WCOC newsletters, 1982-84
27. WCOC disaster fund, 1989
28. WCOC newsletter corresp., 1990
29. WCOC 19th annual conference, 1991
30. WCOC, 1995
31. WCOC membership and correspondence, 1995
32. WCOC, 1984-85
33. WCOC correspondence, 1992-95
34. WCOC flyers, 1992-95
35. WCOC membership, 1992-95
36. WCOC international affairs, 1992-95
37. WCOC conference journals, 1976, 1978-80
39. WCOC conference souvenirs, 1970s
40. WCOC, 2000

Box 16
1. WCOC, 1997
2. WCOC activities and meeting minutes, 1996-97
3. WCOC- information for the Board
4. WCOC correspondence, 1996
5. WCOC, 1996
6. WCOC media, 1990
7. WCOC international affairs, 1986
8. WCOC, 1990
9. WCOC past presidents
10. WCOC meeting notices and correspondence, 1999
11. WCOC correspondence, notices and board, 1998-99
12. WCOC, Take a stand for our children conference, 1996
13. WCOC meeting minutes, 1996
14. WCOC international affairs, 1981
15. WCOC fundraiser, 1981
16. WCOC 9th annual conference, 1981
17. WCOC international affairs, 1986
18. WCOC annual conference 1985
19. WCOC international affairs resolutions, 1980
20. WCOC correspondence, 1978
21. WCOC newsletters, 1978-80
22. WCOC annual conference, 1980
23. WCOC seminar on South Africa, 1981
24. WCOC international affairs, South Africa, 1981
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<td>WCOC and Henderson Institute for Public Policy, 1993</td>
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<td>WCOC minutes, activities and correspondence, 1988</td>
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<td>WCOC 12th annual conference, 1984</td>
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<td>WCOC membership and reports, 1991</td>
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<td>WCOC membership, 1989-91</td>
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<td>WCOC internal memos and correspondence, 1990</td>
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<td>WCOC conference resources, 1984-86</td>
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<td>WCOC membership, 1984</td>
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**Box 17**

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<td>DAPJN articles and flyers, 2005</td>
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<td>Grey Panthers of Detroit, 2007-08</td>
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