



WALTER P. REUTHER LIBRARY

ARCHIVES OF LABOR AND URBAN AFFAIRS
AND UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES



NEWSLETTER VOLUME 19
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A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

I'm so pleased to have joined the Reuther staff as director in October 2014. The past 12 months have been a whirlwind for me. I am constantly amazed at the breadth of our collections, the knowledge and enthusiasm of our staff, the range of our programs, the strength of our collaborations and the generosity of our supporters.

Arriving at the Reuther Library closed several circles in my journey. It is a return to the metropolitan Detroit area, where I was born and raised. It is a return to Wayne State University, where I started my college education and later completed a master's in library and information science. And it is more specifically a return to the building where I completed graduate coursework in archival administration and processed my first manuscript collection.

It is difficult to open a newspaper, magazine or website these days without seeing something about the rise, fall and resurgence of Detroit. The Reuther Library has an important role in this era of change, working to document the transformation happening in metropolitan Detroit, as well as the continuing role of Wayne State in these stories as the university works toward its sesquicentennial in 2018. Our ongoing work to preserve and share the history of North American labor also faces additional challenges as individuals and organizations move further from paper records into digital media.

The pages which follow show our archivists, staff, students and partners pro-actively engaging these challenges. The Reuther Library has much to boast about, both historically and recently. It is exciting to return to Wayne State University, a resurgent Detroit and an amazing group of staff, partners and donors as we chart our shared route forward.

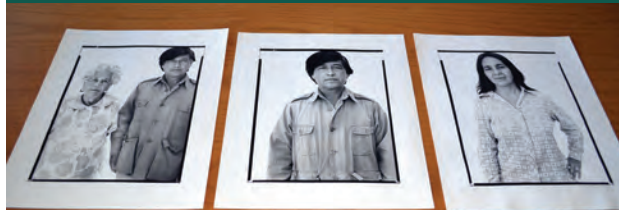
I invite you to join us on the next leg of the journey.

– Erik Nordberg

IN FOCUS

The Reuther Library knew it had something special in the three portraits of Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta signed by renowned photographer Richard Avedon. A routine reference request in summer 2015 revealed the true magnitude of these images. Working closely with the Avedon Foundation, it was determined that they were the only known prints of their kind from a photo shoot Avedon did with Chavez and Huerta in 1976. Because Avedon specified that no negatives could be printed posthumously if they were not also printed during his lifetime, the discovery of the library's prints now allows those images to be reproduced and brought to light for generations to come.

Portraits of Cesar Chavez, Chavez with his mother Juana, and Dolores Huerta were personally sent by Avedon, with thanks, in 1976, and are now a part of the United Farm Workers Records held at the Library.



“I would characterize Phil Mason as the archival North Star, that ever-fixed and luminous, bright star that anchors a constellation of archivists, and has guided so many of us to be productive, contributing members of the archival profession.”

– Kathleen Roe
President of the Society of American Archivists (2014-2015)

PHILIP P. MASON TRIBUTE

On Aug. 27, the Reuther Library hosted a tribute to Distinguished Professor Emeritus Philip P. Mason. Mason helped found the archives at Wayne State University in 1958 and served as director until 1992.

Over 100 visitors heard Warner Pflug, Frank Boles and Kathleen Roe share their most memorable experiences working under Mason, both at the Reuther Library and through the Society of American Archivists. Mason spoke to the crowd about his work and friendships over the years. At the end of the program, Wayne State Board of Governors Chair Gary S. Pollard, Library System Dean Sandra Yee and Reuther Library Director Erik Nordberg presented a portrait of Mason that will hang on permanent display in the building. Thank you to all those who participated in this memorable evening for Mason and the Reuther Library.



Top Right: Mason addresses the audience.
Middle Right: Mason, Kathleen Roe and Geneva Wiskemann.
Bottom Right: Kathleen Roe, Philip Mason, Frank Boles, Warner Pflug and Dean Sandra Yee.



THE REUTHER LIBRARY AT 40

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Reuther Library. In May 1966, delegates to the 20th Constitutional Convention of the United Automobile Workers (UAW) adopted a resolution honoring their president, Walter P. Reuther, and approving the construction of a building bearing his name. The Walter P. Reuther Library of Labor and Urban Affairs was constructed with funds given to Wayne State University by the UAW as a result of that resolution, and through a supplementary grant from the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

The original structure housed collections brought in by founding director Philip Mason, and included records from Wayne State University, major labor unions and organizations, related social movements and individuals. Described as the largest institution of its kind in the world, scholars from 15 foreign countries had already used the archives at the time of its dedication on May 23, 1975. In his dedicatory address, U.S. Senator Hubert Humphrey acknowledged:

“In the minds of many of us, Walter Reuther, Detroit, the United Auto Workers and Wayne State University are all intimately interwoven. This was Walter’s school, Walter’s home, Walter’s community, Walter’s people and the battleground for so many of Walter’s greatest triumphs.... For generations to come, those who will lead organized labor and the constant evolution of its role in our continually changing world will come here to think, to exchange ideas and to provide the roadmap for an effective labor movement for generations to come.”

An architectural rendering of the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs created by O’Dell, Hewett & Luckenbach, Inc. of Birmingham, Mich. The project went through a number of significant design changes between its inception in 1966 and when the building plan was finalized.

The largest labor archives in North America, the Reuther has expanded on this initial focus over the past four decades to include the political and community life of urban and metropolitan Detroit, the civil rights movement in Michigan and nationally and women’s struggles in the workplace. At the Aug. 27 event honoring Philip Mason and the building’s 40th anniversary Central Michigan University’s Clark Historical Library Director Frank Boles explained:

“If there’s a history anywhere in America of working people of all races and color, creeds and nativity, organizing for the causes of economic and social justice, it’s here. It’s in those collections behind us. And it’s here in this building because Phil Mason had the vision to see the need and the hard work to make it happen. There are many, as I said, many great and admirable archival institutions in the country, but this one is special. Special not because I’m a sentimental old alumni--although that’s part of it-- but primarily because of who and what this institution has documented over the past 40 years. Special because this archives, because this building gives voice to people and activities not found elsewhere, people and activities that are often very poorly represented in other archival repositories...Those people and those causes have been documented, documented here, documented well, documented with an incredible concern so that those people and their causes, they are not forgotten.”



Members of the Reuther family pose for a photo during the Reuther Library’s groundbreaking ceremony. Left to right: John Reuther, son of Victor Reuther; Eleanor Wolf, sister to May Reuther; Fania Reuther, widow of Roy Reuther; Leonard Woodcock, president of the UAW; and George E. Gullen, president of Wayne State University.



Designs for the Walter P. Reuther Library and its surrounds are displayed during the library’s groundbreaking ceremony. At center is Leonard Woodcock, president of the UAW and Philip P. Mason, director of the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs.



An aerial view of the construction of the building, likely taken in 1974 from the upper floors of the Belcrest Apartments on Cass Avenue. The addition of the Woodcock Wing on the southern side of the structure in 1991 increased the library’s total space by 26,000 square feet.

Two of the 10 World War II propaganda posters currently on display in the Woodcock Gallery.



INSTALLATIONS AND EVENTS

On Dec. 9, 2014, the Reuther Library hosted a presentation by Francis Shor of the Wayne State University History Department entitled “Re: Collecting Past Radicals and Rebels: The Resonance of Resistance and the Persistence of Injustice.” The lecture provided a fresh look at the significance of the Industrial Workers of the World and Joe Hill. A digital recording of the talk can be found through our website.

In 2015, the Reuther Library offered a brown bag series of lectures based on the research of the Sam Fishman travel grant recipients. These annual grants provide up to \$1,000 in support of travel to Detroit to access archival records of the American labor movement at the Reuther Library. To date, participants included: Donna Kesselman (Université Paris-Est Créteil), Sarah Stanford-McIntyre (College of William and Mary), Trish Kahle, (University of Chicago) and Michelle Rodino-Colocino (Pennsylvania State University).

On May 1, 2015, the Reuther Library hosted a Wikipedia Edit-a-thon to increase online visibility of our collections related to the labor movement. Part of a nationwide initiative, volunteer editors edited over 20 articles during the May Day event.

On May 22, 2015, the library hosted the exhibit *This Is My Town: The Concert Poster Art of Detroit, 1970s-2000s*. The exhibit, curated by Bart Bealmear, presented a selection of posters drawn from the David Clements Collection and coincided with the annual conference of the Detroit Sound Conservancy.

In May 2015, the library displayed reproductions of our World War II propaganda posters in the Woodcock Wing. The posters, produced by the U.S. War Production Board, were originally hung in a local munitions plant and will be on display through late fall 2015.

On June 30, 2015, the library hosted an event in celebration of the life and works of late Detroit and Lamaze childbirth method pioneer Flora Hommel, whose papers are held at the Reuther. The event included a display and a discussion featuring local historians, Hommel’s family and others associated with the Lamaze childbirth method.

In 2015, the Reuther Library was awarded a \$10,000 “Latino Americans: 500 Years of History” grant from the American Library Association and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The grant, inspired by the PBS documentary series of the same name, will support programming aimed at celebrating and preserving the history of Latino/a Americans in the Detroit metropolitan area. The first event, a screening and discussion surrounding episode five: *Prejudice and Pride* (1965-1980), took place on Sept. 26, 2015. Programming will continue through spring 2016.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Reuther Library is on HistoryPin! Take a moment to check out our tours of Detroit’s Eastern Market and the Sit-Down Strikes of 1937! www.historypin.org

SPECIAL PROJECTS

This year, the Reuther Library received external funding to support several large-scale projects. This work will increase researchers’ access to thousands of new collections and oral histories. We are deeply grateful to the groups that made these efforts possible.



American Federation of Teachers Backlog Project

Stefanie Caloia began processing the American Federation of Teachers backlog project in August 2014. The 18-month project involves preparing 1,700 linear feet of archival records for researchers, including organizing, describing and ensuring the preservation of items in collections. After one year, Caloia has processed and opened for research about 1,000 linear feet of material. Completed collections include records of Child Care Workforce, Ohio Federation of Teachers, Lake County Federation of Teachers, AFT Assistant to President Bella Rosenberg, Wisconsin Federation of Nurses and Healthcare Professionals, St. Louis Federation of Teachers, United Educators of San Francisco, AFT Secretary-Treasurer’s Office and the AFT Organizing Department. The collections can be accessed in the Reuther Library’s Reading Room.



Oral History Project

Rebecca Bizonet joined the Reuther Library in April 2015 as its Oral History Project Archivist, marking the beginning of work on a two-year National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) Documenting Democracy grant awarded to the library in 2014. She is creating or improving description and access to over 1,600 previously undiscovered or under-discovered oral history interviews in the Reuther collections. Running the gamut of formats, including printed transcripts, cassette and open reel tapes and digital video, the oral histories also span such diverse issues as social justice, civil rights, labor and unions, industrialization and deindustrialization, urbanization, immigration and migration. Examples of collections she has worked on include personal narratives from retired automobile workers, teenage migrant farm workers and Detroiters working at or near the then-newly built Renaissance Center.

COLLECTION NEWS

The Reuther Library is pleased to announce the opening of the **Max M. Fisher Papers**. The collection documents Fisher's life and career as a successful Detroit industrialist and investor, influential Republican Party fundraiser and power broker, Jewish community leader and major philanthropist. It includes correspondence, documents, speeches, interviews, photographs and other media and documents from his biographer.

This past summer, the records of **UAW Local 600** were brought to the library through collaboration between staff archivists and Local 600 administration. The papers span the history of the local, which has represented the workers of Southeast Michigan since its charter in 1938. This new accrual is a welcome addition to the 1.75 linear feet of records from the local that have been on deposit with the library since 1968.

The recent acquisition of local architectural and environmental photographer **Glen Moon** represents a significant addition to the audiovisual resources at the Reuther Library. The collection documents the architecture of many public and private structures and spaces in and around Southeast Michigan, through both interior and exterior shots. Spanning from 1979-2013 (bulk 1979-1999), the images are the result of Moon's work for architectural and design firms, local organizations and publications. At 50 linear feet, the materials mainly comprise color and b/w 4x5 negatives, 35mm color slides, some color and b/w photographic prints and ephemeral material.

Volunteers, mostly from UAW Local 174, pose before "Ford Riot." The volunteers built a special frame to protect the piece during transport and safely removed the massive mural from the building. Thank you, friends, for all of your hard work!



A smaller, yet equally important addition to our urban holdings is the **William Hanna Photographs**. The collection consists of snapshots of scenes around Detroit that Hanna, a longtime city employee, found interesting or of importance. The mid-century images include the construction of the Fort Street County Building, the changing riverfront and color shots of buildings, streets and people taken during the civil unrest in Detroit in 1967.

The Reuther Library has been home to the photographs of renowned photojournalist **Tony Spina** since 1993. Over the past summer, archivists worked with the Spina family to collect material not included in the original deposit. The new material includes candid portraits, historic events and images of everyday life that document the evolution of Detroit, both physically and culturally, through the 1950s through the 1980s. Measuring approximately 90 linear feet, it consists of original negatives, prints, color transparencies and slides. The Reuther Library is impossibly grateful to the Spina family for this wonderful gift, and look forward to processing and providing access to new accrual available to the public in the coming year.

Art lovers and New Deal enthusiasts will be happy to learn the Reuther Library was recently given the mural entitled "Ford Riot."

Right: Two images from Detroit's 1963 "Walk to Freedom" civil rights march that were used in the book "Once in a Great City: A Detroit Story."



The piece, created by WPA Artist Walter Speck in 1937 for UAW Local 174, illustrates moments from the early history of the UAW. A generous donation from members of Local 174 and funding from a grant through the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs will support the cleaning, repair and installation of the twenty-foot-long oil painting. The mural will be on display in our Reading Room once the conservation work is complete, likely in the spring of 2016.

In other grant news, AV Archivist Mary Wallace successfully obtained funding for a \$7,260 grant from the National Film Preservation Foundation. The funds will provide for the restoration and digitization of films from the University Archives. The films, dating from the mid 1920s-30s, capture the essence of student life in the early 20th century, including scenes from dances, field days, freshman initiations and sporting events. Also included is the construction work on Old Main and scenes of distinguished visitors on campus including Mayor Frank Murphy, jazz singer Irene Day and Olympian John Lewis.

COLLECTION USE: HIGHLIGHTS

Photographs from our collections were used in a number of exhibitions during the past year. Our images were on display at The Art Gallery of Ontario, Chicago Design Museum, Detroit Institute of Arts, Emigration Museum (Poland), National Portrait Gallery, Cesar Chavez Monument, Museum of Modern Art, National Parks Service, National Museum of American History and National Museum of African American History.

Images and footage from the Reuther Library recently appeared in numerous television programs and documentaries. Projects include: a documentary about the Model T, "A Faster Horse," the cable network, A&E's show "Mine Wars," the Echo Pictures documentary about the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, the Discovery Channel's series, "Mobster Confessions," MLB Network's online video for the Civil Rights Beacon Award, and a PBS documentary titled, "Black Panthers."

Students throughout the world are becoming more familiar with our collections through inclusion of images in their educational materials. Our images appeared in standardized tests for Canadian public schools, state high school study guides, an online class at Harvard University and textbooks in the United States, Switzerland and the Netherlands.

It was a busy year in publishing with over 40 authors using our photographs in their non-fiction books. Of particular note is "Once in a Great City: A Detroit Story," the latest book by Pulitzer Prize-winning author David Maraniss. Both our manuscript and visual collections were heavily used in Maraniss' research. Another book to consider is "Vendetta: Bobby Kennedy versus Jimmy Hoffa," a fascinating new work by James Neff that examines the famously strained relationship between the two icons.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND ACCOLADES

Reuther staff are professionally active at the state, national, and international levels, sharing their expertise with peers and colleagues through presentations, publications, and professional service.

In fall of 2014, **Deborah Rice** and **Kristen Chinery** participated in the Historical Society of Michigan's History Skills Workshop Series. Rice taught a workshop on "Advanced Archives" and Chinery presented on "Basic Archives: An Introduction to Collection Storage and Handling."

In November 2014, **Troy Eller English** presented at the Michigan Oral History Association's Best Practices Roundtable.

For the 2015 Michigan Local History Conference, **Aimee Ergas** and **Troy Eller English** presented on the panel "Out of the House: Detroit Women's Organizations in the 20th Century," which examined women's social and political contributions to Detroit. **Kathleen Schmeling** served as moderator.

In May 2015, **Gavin Strassel** chaired the session "New Perspectives on Internship and Practicum Requirements in Archival Education" at the Midwest Archives Conference (MAC) Annual Meeting in Lexington, Ky. **Meghan Courtney** presented on that same panel. **Alexandra Orchard** shared her experiences working with ArchivesSpace on the "2015: An ArchivesSpace Odyssey" panel.

Kristen Chinery and **Elizabeth Clemens** presented "Documenting Women's Labor History through Digital Resources" for the Women's History in the Digital World Conference held at Bryn Mawr College in May 2015.

At the Michigan Archival Association meeting (MAA) held in June 2015, **Gavin Strassel** and **Meghan Courtney** revisited the topic of archival interns and volunteers. **Rebecca Bizonet**, MAA's current president, chaired the session "Digital Projects: Words For Thought." **Deborah Rice** shared her experiences with writing and administering an NHPRC grant during "Grant Administration: From Dollars to Drawing Boards." **Alexandra Orchard** chaired the same session.

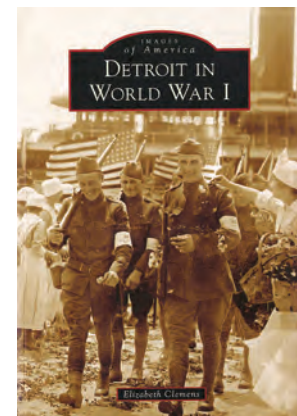
Alexandra Orchard and **Kristen Chinery** presented at the Society of American Archivists (SAA) Women Archivists Roundtable during its annual meeting, held in Cleveland, Ohio last August. **Stefanie Caloia** presented a poster at the SAA Research Forum.

A number of Reuther staff members are active in leadership roles within the archival community. **Louis Jones** became Vice President/President Elect of the Academy of Certified Archivists. **Erik Nordberg** was made Vice President/President Elect of the Mining History Association. **Meghan Courtney** became the co-chair of the SAA Labor Archives Roundtable. **Alexandra Orchard** served as co-chair and **Elizabeth Clemens** joined the steering committee of the SAA Women Archivists Roundtable. **Deborah Rice** joined the steering committee of the SAA Visual Material's Section and now serves as the editor of its *Views* newsletter. **Alexandra Orchard** is the new SAA Description Section Newsletter Editor. In July 2015, **William LeFevre** completed his term as chair of the ARMA International Education Foundation, marking the end of 11 continuous years of service on the boards of ARMA International and the Institute of Certified Records Managers.

The Midwest Archives Conference benefited immensely from the talents of **Alexandra Orchard**, the new Archival Issues editorial board member, and **Mary Wallace**, the next MAC Public Information Officer. **Troy Eller English** continues to serve as assistant editor of the *MAC Newsletter*.

On Sept. 25, 2015 **Kristen Chinery** was the 2015 recipient of the State History Award in Distinguished Professional Service.

In publishing news, **Troy Eller English** co-edited the book "We Built This: A Look at the Society of Women Engineers' First 65 Years." **Elizabeth Clemens** authored the book "Detroit in World War I."



YEAR IN REVIEW

1,531
REFERENCE
REQUESTS

WEB STATISTICS

 69,577 USERS FROM
166 COUNTRIES

 358,000 PAGE VIEWS

 36 BLOG POSTS
26,607 BLOG READS

 562 NEW IMAGE
UPLOADS



218 TOUR VISITORS

AUDIOVISUAL
COLLECTION USES:

 48 BOOKS

 11 DOCUMENTARIES

 28 EXHIBITS

 12 JOURNALS/
MAGAZINES

1,286 ON-SITE RESEARCHERS
FROM 31 STATES
AND 10 COUNTRIES

LABOR

URBAN

UNIVERSITY

AREA OF RESEARCH

REUTHER LIBRARY STAFF

Sandra Yee, dean of the Wayne State University Library System
Erik Nordberg, Reuther Library director
Bart Bealmear, ALPA archivist
Rebecca Bizonet, oral history project archivist
Stefanie Caloia, AFT project archivist
Brandon Carter, administrative assistant
Kristen Chinery, reference archivist
Elizabeth Clemens, audiovisual archivist
Meghan Courtney, outreach archivist
Troy Eller English, SWE archivist
G. Aimee Ergas, collection archivist for Jewish Detroit
Daniel Golodner, AFT archivist
Dr. Louis Jones, field archivist
Kris Kniffen, archives technician
William LeFevre, senior processing archivist
Meghan McGowan, archives technician
Paul S. Neirink, digital resources specialist
Alexandra A.A. Orchard, technical and metadata archivist
Deborah Rice, audiovisual archivist
Kathleen Schmeling, senior processing archivist
Gavin Strassel, SEIU archivist
Mary Wallace, audiovisual archivist



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