



WALTER P. REUTHER LIBRARY

ARCHIVES OF LABOR AND URBAN AFFAIRS AND UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES



NEWSLETTER VOLUME 20
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A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

The following pages share the enormous strides the Reuther Library has made in documenting and sharing stories of the communities we serve. These touch on the histories of North American labor, urban affairs in metropolitan Detroit, and Wayne State University.

The basis for this work is our collections, including paper and audiovisual records, as well as converted and born-digital materials. Our active reading room and remote reference services support a broadening range of researchers, and our web-based content continues to grow. A new outreach archivist position has re-energized public programming with events, exhibits, and community engagement activities.

You will also read about the dizzying array of projects and professional activities our staff have completed in the last 12 months. Simply put, the Reuther Library has one of the largest and most expert archival staffs in the Midwest, if not the nation. Whether providing detailed reference support to scholars, assistance with a PBS documentary, teaching support to college or K-12 faculty, or service to professional organizations, Reuther archivists are known and highly regarded at state, regional, and national levels.

Contributions from grants, organizational subsidies, and private donors make these efforts possible. Your support will have a real impact on the work you'll read about here in years to come.

Erik Nordberg
Director

Mural painting in Southwest Detroit, 1980.



INSTALLATIONS AND EVENTS

“25 YEARS, 25 TREASURES” FROM THE JEWISH COMMUNITY ARCHIVES

This summer, the Reuther Library welcomed the exhibit “25 Years, 25 Treasures,” showcasing 25 significant photographs, documents, and objects from the Leonard N. Simons Jewish Community Archives (JCA) on its 25th anniversary. Since the JCA's founding in 1991, the Reuther Library has served as a partner in the effort to chronicle the rich history of the Detroit area's Jewish community. Today, the JCA has collected over 2 million documents, 25,000 photographs, and over 100 oral histories, the majority of which are housed at the Reuther Library.

The exhibit opened with a reception featuring speakers Lawrence A. Wolfe, president, Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit; Erik Michael Berke, Archives Committee chair, Leonard N. Simons Jewish Community Archives; and Robbie Terman, director, JCA. The program also included archival documents read by Ruth Broder and Mary Lou Zieve.

WOODCOCK GALLERY DISPLAYS

Between January and August, 12 photographs from the Edward Stanton Collection were on view in the Woodcock Gallery. The selection featured portraits of children, taken in Detroit's lower east side neighborhood at the end of the Depression, and coincided with a crowdsourcing identification project.

In August, the library installed an exhibit of photographs highlighting the history of Belle Isle, Michigan's newest state park. The exhibit will be available for public viewing in the Woodcock Gallery through December 2016.

LATINO AMERICANS: 500 YEARS OF HISTORY

In May 2015, the Reuther Library was awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association to participate in *Latino Americans: 500 Years of History*. This yearlong, nationwide project was aimed at creating public events to celebrate the history and culture of Latino/a Americans.

The Reuther Library hosted events highlighting archival materials that illustrate the Latino/a American experience in metropolitan Detroit, including a traveling exhibition and panel discussion on Latino autoworkers, a workshop centered on preserving records of community and cultural organizations, and screenings of episodes from the PBS series *Latino Americans: 500 Years of History*. In addition, over 100 audio reel-to-reel tapes were digitized from the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee, a group that later became a part of the United Farm Workers.

BROWN BAG RESEARCH SERIES

Each year, the Reuther Library awards Fishman Grants to support travel to access its archival records related to the American labor movement. The award is named in honor of Sam Fishman, a former UAW and Michigan AFL-CIO leader. In recent years, we have invited these researchers to present brown-bag discussions of their works in progress. Presentations this year include:

Dr. Gregory Wood, Associate Professor, Frostburg State University

“GM Never Surrendered: Anti-Union Politics on Shop Floors in the Unionized Auto Industry, 1960-1980.” Dr. Wood’s research highlights the anti-union culture at General Motors factories in Pontiac, Michigan, and Van Nuys, California, showing that unionized plants continued as battlegrounds for organized labor well beyond the turbulent 1930s and 1940s.

Joel Suarez, Doctoral Student, Princeton University

“Work and the American Moral Imagination, 1940-1996.” Suarez’s research examines the values ascribed to work in the wake of its transformation in the latter half of the 20th century.

Dr. Stephen McFarland, Assistant Professor, University of Tampa

“Putting Labor on the Map: Working Class Cartography in the U.S.” McFarland’s research explores the cartographic traces of the U.S. labor movement using maps that unions made to help visualize the circumstances in which they organized and shed light on how unions conceived of the labor landscape.

Marcus Cederström, Doctoral Candidate, University of Wisconsin-Madison

“The Life and Times of a Swedish Immigrant: Signe Aurell’s Working Words.” Cederström’s project explores the role of Scandinavian women in temperance and labor movements and their work to record working-class immigrant experiences.

The Fishman Grant program calls for applications in December and makes awards during the spring.

IN FOCUS: LGBT DETROIT RECORDS

This exciting new collection consists of records created by LGBT Detroit. The organization began as Kick Publishing Company in 1994, and was the third Black American LGBT media company created in the United States. With a national audience, Kick focused on health, education, employment, and social justice for the LGBT community in the Detroit area. Its mission was to increase awareness and to support Detroit’s LGBT culture through education and advocacy. In 2015, KICK was rebranded as LGBT Detroit. The collection will be of particular interest to those interested in the Black American LGBT experience in Southeast Michigan.

Mary Ellen Riordan, one-time president of the Detroit Federation of Teachers.



NEW COLLECTIONS

Mary Ellen Riordan Papers

Mary Ellen Riordan served as president of the Detroit Federation of Teachers for 21 years and was instrumental in the introduction of collective bargaining for teachers, guiding the DFT through three strikes, busing desegregation case *Bradley v. Milliken*, and agency fee case *Abood v. Detroit Board of Education*. The collection also covers desegregation in the Detroit Public Schools and race relations, especially surrounding the 1967 unrest in Detroit.

UAW Health and Safety Department: Dr. Michael Silverstein Records

Throughout his time at the UAW Health and Safety Department, Dr. Michael Silverstein conducted worksite inspections to identify and alleviate hundreds of workplace chemical and physical hazards. The collection highlights Dr. Silverstein’s research and work on health-focused legislative efforts.

UFW: Peter Velasco Records

In 1965, Peter Velasco was among the leaders of the 1,500 Filipino Americans involved in beginning the five-year boycott of grapes in Delano, California, that spurred the creation of the United Farm Workers. The collection spans 1942-2000 and includes materials related to Velasco’s work and personal life.

AWOC Audio

The Reuther Library recently digitized over 100 audio recordings of the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee, the organization that predated the United Farm Workers in representing agricultural laborers. The recordings include talks with farm workers, organizing meetings, and interviews with movement leaders. Ernest Lowe, photographer and author, created these materials during his years following the farm worker movement.

United Way/United Foundation Collections

This year saw the opening of 11 collections related to United Way/United Community Services and the United Foundation. These collections document social and economic conditions in metropolitan Detroit throughout the 20th century, the social services provided by the organizations to meet those challenges, and the operations of the organizations themselves. These organizations supported fundraising efforts in order to create community-based and directed institutions like community centers that could be used to foster local participation in democracy.



IN FOCUS: UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS

Those interested in architecture, urban development, or the history of Wayne State University will be delighted to find that over 1,200 images from the University Archive's buildings files are now available online. The images start with neighborhood views at the turn of the century and follow the development of the area as it moved from purely residential to a vibrant campus community. Of particular interest are images of iconic Old Main in its pre-Wayne life, the use of grand residential houses as departmental and classroom sites, and the construction of our modern campus buildings. The images are available through the Wayne State Library's Digital Collections, found at digital.library.wayne.edu/digitalcollections.

COLLECTION USE

Our collections were used in a number of unique projects over the past twelve months. American Girl used a poster and bumper sticker from Detroit's "Walk to Freedom" to create authentic accessories for its latest doll, Melody, whose story explores the civil rights and music scene in Detroit in 1963. Images and footage from our collections were used for numerous television programs and documentaries. The PBS series *American Experience* used over a dozen images from the Detroit News and Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) in its forthcoming multi-episode story, *The Great War*. In addition, our material was used in two other PBS documentaries: *Black America Since MLK: And Still I Rise*, a four-hour series hosted by Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., and "Eero Saarinen: The Architect Who Saw the Future," an episode for the series *American Masters*. Photographs from our collections were also used in a number of exhibits this past year, including displays at the National Museum of American History, The Science Museum of London, and the Gerald Ford Museum and Presidential Library.

DONOR CONVENTIONS

The **American Federation of Teachers** celebrated its 100th anniversary this year, culminating in their bi-annual convention this past July in Minneapolis. AFT Archivist Dan Golodner has been preparing for this celebration for the past 18 months, traveling the country gathering stories for history videos, creating social media events, and curating an online timeline and physical exhibit at the AFT convention.

The international convention of the **Service Employees International Union (SEIU)** took place in Detroit this June. The union took the opportunity to tell its story using historical materials from its official archives at the Reuther Library. Gavin Strassel, SEIU Archivist, designed a historical exhibit for conventioners that drew connections between the union's past and current efforts to empower low-wage workers, helping delegates to see the union's role in the broader labor movement.

AFSCME Archivist Stefanie Caloia attended the **American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees** Convention in Las Vegas in July. Stefanie worked with AFSCME staff to present a labor history workshop to a capacity-filled room of enthusiastic participants. In addition, Caloia gave a presentation on the Reuther Library and the AFSCME Archives to local leaders, where she was able to answer their questions about AFSCME's history and how to manage records.

Gavin Strassel, SEIU archivist, with his convention exhibit in Detroit.



PROFESSIONAL ACCOLADES

The Reuther Library created a new position in the last year and also moved two staff members into permanent positions. After serving as a temporary administrative assistant for a year, **Brandon Carter** was hired as the Reuther's new facility coordinator. Former AFSCME Archivist **Meghan Courtney** moved into the Reuther's new outreach archivist position. **Stefanie Caloia** stepped into the AFSCME archivist role after completing an 18-month project processing backlogged AFT records.

The Reuther Library is proud to have a highly respected staff whose members are professionally active at all levels. In the past year, Director **Erik Nordberg** began his term as president of the Mining History Association and was appointed academic co-chair of the Labor's International Hall of Fame. **Louis Jones** stepped up as president of the Academy of Certified Archivists. **Kristen Chinery** began her term as co-chair of the Regional Archival Associations Consortium. **Gavin Strassel** took on the role of president for the Metro Detroit Archivists League.

The Midwest Archives Conference benefitted from the talents of MAC Newsletter assistant editor **Troy Eller English**, *Archival Issues* editorial board member **Alexandra Orchard**, and **Mary Wallace** became MAC's public information officer. **Rebecca Bizonet** took the helm as the president of the Michigan Archival Association, and **Stefanie Caloia** served as MAA's secretary.

Locally, **Caloia** chaired the Redford Township Historical Commission. **Bart Bealmear** was secretary of the Detroit Sound Conservancy. **Aimee Ergas** served on the board of the Michigan Women's History Center and Hall of Fame. **Eller English** and **Paul Neirink** served on the Detroit Jewish News Technical Advisory Board.

Reuther staff members shared their archival and subject expertise at conferences throughout the United States and Canada. **Chinery** and **Orchard** spoke about the impact of workplace change at the Indiana Library Federation 2015 Annual Conference, and presented their research on women archivists' experiences at the Society of American Archivists 2016 Research Forum in Atlanta.

Elizabeth Clemens and **Chinery** spoke about documenting women's labor history at the annual conference of the Academy of Canadian Archivists in Montreal. **Deborah Rice** discussed the Reuther Library's NHPRC-funded oral history project at the Mid-Atlantic Region Archives Conference annual meeting in Pittsburgh. **Nordberg** co-led a workshop on finishing archival dissertation projects at the Archival Education and Research Institute at Kent State University.

At the 2016 Michigan in Perspective Local History Conference, **Clemens** and **Rice** spoke about documenting the United Farm Workers' grape boycott in Michigan, and **Courtney** spoke about leveraging social media to promote archives. **Kathy Schmeling** was instrumental in planning the conference.

At the 2016 Midwest Archives Conference Annual Meeting in Milwaukee, **Nordberg** led a pre-conference grant-writing workshop. **Orchard** spoke about her work with the Reuther's archival management system, ArchivesSpace, and **Caloia** offered tips for processing large archival collections.

The Reuther was also strongly represented at the Michigan Archival Association Annual Meeting in June. **Orchard** and **Caloia** spoke again about ArchivesSpace and processing large collections. **Ergas** spoke about women's roles in Michigan history. **Bizonet** and **Eller English** presented on the technical aspects of archiving oral history interviews. **Clemens** spoke about her work identifying children in 1930s Edward Stanton photographs, and **Courtney** spoke about archival outreach toward students.

Reuther staff also lent their expertise to the public. **Chinery** spoke about historical documentation of the 1932 Ford Hunger March at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History's Liberation Film Series. She was also a judge for Michigan History Day and a mentor for Michigan's finalists at National History Day. **Ergas** served as the local curator for the National Museum of American Jewish History's traveling exhibit, "Chasing Dreams: Baseball and Becoming American," on display at the Detroit Historical Museum, and **Dan Golodner** served on the local curatorial committee. **Clemens** gave a talk at the Michigan Military Technical & Historical Museum and the Grosse Pointe Historical Society about Detroit's wartime efforts during World War I. In recognition of her excellent service and publications, she was honored with the WSU Academic Staff Professional Development Committee's Professional Achievement Award.



IN FOCUS: EDWARD STANTON PHOTOGRAPHS CROWDSOURCING PROJECT

Throughout the spring and summer of 2016, the library experimented in "crowdsourcing" as a tool for community outreach and collection enhancement. The focus of the project was the Edward Stanton Photographs, a collection of 96 original large-format and 35mm photo negatives that features portraits of local children, both posed and at play, as well as neighborhood views of Detroit's lower east side, an area that included the Black Bottom, Brush Park, and Paradise Valley neighborhoods. The library reached out to the public to identify the children in the images in the hope that we might locate subjects. The project was given widespread coverage by local and statewide media and succeeded in identifying several of the children.

2015-2016 YEAR IN REVIEW

1,154
**READING ROOM
PATRONS**



IN FOCUS: VIRTUAL MOTOR CITY

The Reuther Library is pleased to announce that the Virtual Motor City (VMC) has a new home within the Digital Collections of the Wayne State University Library System. Virtual Motor City is a digital collection of over 36,000 images from the Detroit News Photographs. The project was launched in 2003, in part through funding from the IMLS and the Library of Michigan. Earlier this summer, the project shifted onto Fedora, a digital platform used to host the majority of the Library System's digital collections. The move to Fedora will allow for better search returns and the ability to search across collections, something not previously possible. In addition, accessibility to the images is being increased through much needed updates and enhancement to existing metadata, the creation of original description, and the addition of several thousand new images. See digital.library.wayne.edu/digitalcollections.

85
**STUDENTS
IN CLASS**

222
**TOUR
PARTICIPANTS**

YOUTUBE CHANNEL

In July our Moving Image Archivist, Mary Wallace, launched the Reuther Library's YouTube channel. "Reuther Film and Video" hosts digital content created from our 16mm film collection, and features content highlighting local ethnic communities, Wayne State University's history, and Detroit's 1967 Civil Unrest. Work on the channel is ongoing, and new material will be added throughout the next year.

15
COUNTRIES

35
STATES

REUTHER.WAYNE.EDU



**348,000 PAGE VIEWS, 85,495 IMPRESSIONS,
164 COUNTRIES, 50 STATES,
46 BLOG POSTS, 27,218 READS**



1,666
**IMAGES
UPLOADED**



103,000 IMPRESSIONS, 519 FOLLOWERS



**83,410 REACH, 6,800 POST LIKES,
1,926 FOLLOWERS**



108
PUBLICATIONS

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, AFSCME archivist
Brandon Carter, facility coordinator
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
Paul S. Neirink, digital resources specialist
Elizabeth Nicholson, archives technician
Alexandra A.A. Orchard, technical and metadata archivist
Nina Perez, archives technician
Deborah Rice, audiovisual archivist
Kathleen Schmeling, senior processing archivist
Gavin Strassel, SEIU archivist
Mary Wallace, audiovisual archivist

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