

A History of HOPE



Focus:HOPE is one of America's premier civil and human rights organizations. Founded by Father William T. Cunningham (1930-1997), Eleanor Josaitis and a handful of

volunteers in the wake of Detroit's civil disorder during the summer of 1967, it has tackled problems of race relations, malnutrition and educational deficiency in Metropolitan Detroit for over 32 years. Due to its highly successful programs, Focus:HOPE has grown to become an organization with over 700 employees, thousands of students and an annual budget of over \$62 million. And, it has helped thousands of people to make a better life for themselves.

In 1998, Focus:HOPE agreed to make the Reuther Library the official repository for its historical records. The Focus:HOPE collection documents the history of the organization until 1990 and provides insight into such urban

issues as poverty, civil rights, education, social welfare and the automotive industry in Detroit.

Focus:HOPE has earned a national reputation for its highly suc-

cessful social and technical programs. In the early 1970s, it distributed tons of food to needy Detroiters and produced landmark studies of food pricing differences between the inner city and suburbs. Focus:HOPE then turned its attention to the educational and work needs of the inner-city poor. In the Fall of 1981, it established the Machinists Training Institute to train community members to become skilled machinists, and initiated the First Step Program to provide applicants the fundamental skills needed in order to qualify as a candidate for the Machinists Training Institute and other programs. Focus:HOPE started the Center for Advanced Technologies in November 1993, and partnered with Wayne

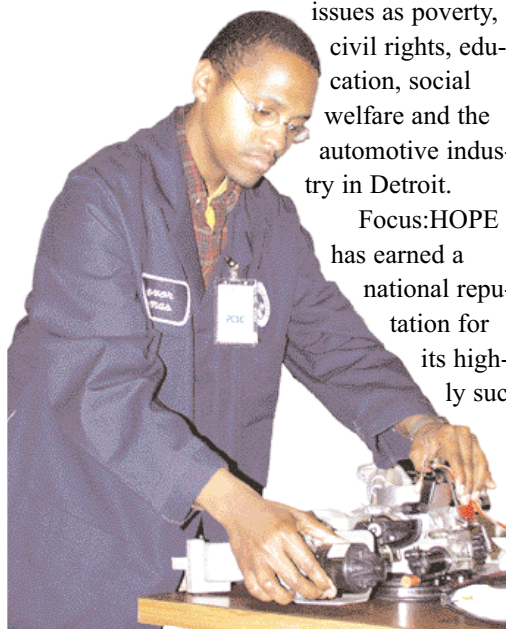
Continued on page 4

New Director

The College of Urban, Labor and Metropolitan Affairs is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Frederick J. Stielow to the position of Director of the Walter P. Reuther Library.

Dr. Stielow holds a Ph.D. in History and American Studies from Indiana University. He also has a Masters degree in Library Science with a concentration in archival management from the University of Rhode Island.

Most recently, Dr. Stielow served as Executive Director of the Mid-Hudson Library System in Poughkeepsie, New York. He specializes in Library and Archival management with an emphasis on information technology as it relates to both disciplines. Stielow begins his appointment in September 2000.



A Focus:HOPE candidate in the Center for Advanced Technology, July 2000.



College of Urban,
 Labor and Metropolitan
 Affairs

New Collections

Edith Van Horn

Edith Van Horn was one of Detroit's leading activists. Her papers, which were recently opened at the Walter P. Reuther Library, reveal the impact that she had on the labor movement, the women's movement, and the city of Detroit.

Harriet Edith "Edie" Van Horn was born in Rangoon, Burma on February 7, 1919. She was the daughter of Baptist educational missionaries, Clarence Eugene and Alice (Owells) Van Horn. In 1926 her family returned from Burma and settled in Nashville, Tennessee. Van Horn attended Denison University in Granville, Ohio and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1941. Subsequently, she set her sights on graduate school and accepted a position as graduate assistant at Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio.

Before Van Horn could finish her graduate studies, the United States entered World War II. The need for workers was great as America's factories switched to wartime production, and in 1942, Van Horn took a job on the assembly line at Goodyear Aircraft Corporation in Akron, Ohio. While at Goodyear, she served as a committeeperson for the United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 856. Laid off from Goodyear in 1944, Van Horn traveled to Santa Monica, California and accepted a job at Douglas Aircraft Corporation, where she served as a chief steward for UAW Local 17.

Van Horn moved back to the Midwest in 1945 and began working as a wire harness assembler at Chrysler's Dodge Main plant in Hamtramck, Michigan. One year later she was elected



Edith Van Horn as a delegate to the 1959 UAW Constitutional Convention.

chief steward of Local 3 and became heavily involved in union activities and issues concerning working women. As chief steward, Van Horn was the first woman to serve on the UAW Local 3 Executive Board. She was elected a delegate to the UAW constitutional con-

vention several times as well. In 1958, while laid off, Van Horn co-chaired the Production and Skilled Workers Unemployment Committee of Local 3. She served as chief steward at Dodge Main until 1963 when she was appointed to the full-time position of International Representative in the UAW's citizenship department (now called the Community Action Project or "CAP").

In the 1970s Van Horn's interests turned toward issues regarding women and minorities. Early in the decade she helped found the National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC) and was a charter member of the National Organization of Women (NOW). Van Horn was also a member of the NAACP and took

part in the founding conference of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) in 1973. She served as national coordinator for CLUW and shared the position of Midwest chairperson with Addie Wyatt of Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butchers Workmen of North America. The Detroit chapter of NOW named her "Feminist of the Year" in 1975.

Van Horn retired from the UAW in April of 1984, but was called back that same year to work on the Mondale-Ferraro presidential campaign. During that election year, Van Horn was appointed chairwoman of the subcommittee on rape for the City of Detroit's Task Force on Crime. As a resident of Detroit, she was involved with the City Planning Commission on issues such as flooding and abandoned houses.

In 1986 Van Horn was honored by her alma mater, Denison University, as the first recipient of its "Women's Week Alumna Award." Her good friend Gloria Steinem spoke at the ceremony. In her later years, Ms. Van Horn moved to Empire, Michigan and took pleasure in working with the Empire Beautification Group. Harriet Van Horn died on January 27, 1998 at the age of 78.

The Edith Van Horn collection is 7.5 linear feet and consists of reports, minutes, speeches, correspondence, clippings, articles and labor and feminist publications. It primarily covers her years at Dodge Main and her activism in women's issues in the 1970s and 1980s. There are also documents related to Detroit's "Red Squad" which focus mostly on her police files from the late 1940s and 1950s, and deal with her alleged connection to the Communist Party. The collection also includes Ms. Van Horn's correspondence with Gloria Steinem, which spanned more than 20 years. ■

*Mary J. Wallace &
Christoph Schiessl*

Call for Photographs for "Detroit at the Third Century."

Photographs are needed for a new exhibit entitled "Detroit at the Third Century." This exhibit will chronicle social, political, economic, religious and home life in the city of Detroit. To submit photographs taken since 1995, contact Thomas Featherstone at (313) 577-2658. All entries, professional and amateur are welcome. Photos will not be returned.

AFT: Human Rights and Community Relations Department

The Human Rights and Community Relations Department of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) was created by Vice President Richard Parrish on October 2, 1966. Before the official department was created, it was a standing committee and then a permanent committee within the executive council. The department was created as an office within the AFT that would be responsible for collecting and distributing information about the government, education and community policies and programs dealing with civil and human rights. The most important duty of the department was to guide the AFT in any “involvement with or commitment to labor and other organizations concerned with civil and human rights.”

The collection is 3 linear feet and focuses on the Racism in Education Conference sponsored by the AFT throughout the late 1960s to the early 1970s. Other materials are general subject files and correspondence to and from the AFT Civil Rights Department. ■

Dan Golodner

Service Employees International Union Research Department Historical Files

The Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Research Department was established as the Research

and Education Department in 1942 and was expanded by the union in 1945. Its mission was to gather data and information from the locals, analyze it and dispense the results to SEIU locals. The Research Department Historical files collection is 17 linear feet and contains the records maintained by the

International on each local, from the years 1916 to 1997; the bulk of the materials dating between 1950-1969.



SEIU President, David Sullivan, congratulates a graduate of the Local 82 School for Janitors, c. 1966.

Other materials include newspaper clippings, general correspondence from the locals to both the members and the Research Department, local flyers and pamphlets, local news publications, reports and special local publications. ■

Mary J. Wallace

Detroit Board of Education/Detroit Public Schools Collection

This collection from the Wayne State University Archives documents the administration, fiscal operation, personnel, publications, activities, programs and services of the Detroit schools from 1860-1980 with particular emphasis on the years 1920-1965. It includes material on student enrollment, open-air schools, “socially maladjusted” children, corporal punishment, Boytown



Girls basketball team from the Central High yearbook The Centralite, 1911.

Camp (1936-1944), school buildings, citizens committees, the retirement system (1949-1958), military service of Detroit Schoolmen (1900-1953), special education (1922-1957) Central High School (1904-1926) and Wayne University prior to 1956.

The bulk of this 51 linear feet collection consists of proceedings, minutes, reports, annual reports, directories and publications such as Board annual reports (1860-1918) and proceedings (1872-1969), superintendents' annual reports (1920-1966),



Detroit Public Schools Annual Report, 1951.

and principals' notes and supplementary material (1919-1973). Many of the reports contain photographs which highlight notable achievements of the board, administration and students of the Detroit public schools. There are also radio broadcast scripts of the “Honor the Name” series (1948-1956) which saluted the individuals in whose honor Detroit's schools were named. ■

Patricia Bartkowski

Focus:HOPE

Continued from page 1

State University and several other educational institutions to provide engineering degree candidates with hands-on training. The Information Technology Center, was formed in January 1999 to train

Focus:HOPE candidates as computer system administrators and computer network administrators.

Focus:HOPE is also a highly visible community member.

Focus:HOPE

Walks began in 1975 as a way to combat racial tensions in the city of Detroit. Tens of thousands of supporters march each year. The walks are the focal point of the Focus:HOPE calendar and also act as major fundraising events for the organization.

To celebrate the rich history of Focus:HOPE and its contribution to the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, the Reuther Library will open an exhibit, **A History of HOPE**, in its atrium



A volunteer in Focus:HOPE's Food Prescription Program, 1970s.



Focus:HOPE Walk participants, 1990s.

exhibition gallery on September 22, 2000. The exhibition will be a visual and documentary history of Focus:HOPE and will remain on display until April 2001. Admission is free during Library hours.

William LeFevre



Focus:HOPE co-founders, Eleanor Josiatis and the late Father William Cunningham at the Center for Advanced Technology, c. 1995.

Art of Labor Exhibit

The Walter P. Reuther Library will host the **Art of Labor** exhibit in May and June of 2001. This exhibit will be featured in the Library's atrium gallery and will focus upon the work of Lowell Bolieau, Brian Kremer and other prominent Detroit artists, who have created works on the theme of labor. **Art of Labor** will be open to the public at no charge during Library hours.

Audiovisual

The Bruce L. Harkness Poletown Photographic Collection

In June 1980, in the midst of a severe economic recession, the cities of Detroit and Hamtramck jointly offered General Motors a site upon which to build a new assembly plant. The site, once serving as a primarily Polish immigrant neighborhood, became known as Poletown.



Row of homes on Piquette, 1981.

From February through December of 1981, Bruce L. Harkness photographed the Poletown neighborhood before and during the clearing of the area designated for the plant. Harkness took more than 400 photographs, documenting neighborhood landmarks, panoramic views, residents, urban interiors and exteriors, as well as various intersections and street scenes.

Through funding from the Michigan Humanities Council and a Humanist Grant-in-Aid awarded to Wayne State University Professor of History, John J. Bukowczyk, Harkness was able to print 200 of those photographs. He printed them with the understanding that the collection would be permanently stored and preserved at Wayne State University. The Harkness Poletown Photographic Collection was donated to the Wayne State University Folklore Archives' Ethnic Archives Project. In October 1986, some forty photographs from Harkness' Poletown project were cho-



Interior of Famous Bar-B-Que Restaurant on Chene Street, July 1981.



Yard sale on East Grand Boulevard, 1981.



Two women in front yard of home on DuBois and Horton, 1981.

sen for exhibition at Wayne State University's Purdy/Kresge Library. The Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs received the entire collection of photographs in July 1999.

Harkness received his BFA in Photography from the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit, and his MFA from Wayne State University. A veteran photographer of Detroit's urban neighborhoods, Harkness has contributed photographs to several Michigan publications, exhibited his work in numerous galleries around the Southeastern Michigan area and is an instructor of photography. He is also a photographer for the city of Dearborn.

The Bruce L. Harkness Poletown Photographic Collection is a collection of 200 8"x10" silver gelatin, black-and-white photo-prints that document the Poletown neighborhood from February through October 1981. ■

Lauren Kata

The Albert Shanker Fellowship for Research in Education

The Reuther Library is pleased to announce the 1999 recipients of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Albert Shanker Fellowship awards. They are Professor Kate Rousmaniere from Miami



Professor Kate Rousmaniere
and John Lyons

University of Ohio and John Lyons of the University of Illinois at Chicago. Professor Rousmaniere's research is focused on the life of Margaret Haley, the leader of the Chicago Teachers' Federation. John Lyon is writing a dissertation entitled, "The

Chicago Teachers' Union, Politics and the City's Schools, 1937-1970." Both recipients were awarded \$500 in the memory of Albert Shanker, president of the AFT, 1974-1997.

The fellowship is intended for advanced graduate students and/or junior and senior faculty who wish to use the Reuther Library's collections pertaining to the AFT, affiliates of the AFT or those individuals who were active in the union. The fellowship is also available to those who are interested in resources at the Reuther Library that pertain to educational issues during the 20th century. Applications for the next fellowship award will be accepted beginning March 1, 2001 and must be postmarked no later than May 30, 2001. Applications are available on the Archives Web site at www.reuther.wayne.edu. For further information, please contact Daniel Golodner, AFT Archivist at (313) 577-4024 or daniel_golodner@wayne.edu. ■

The Detroit African American History Project

Wayne State University Television and the College of Urban, Labor and Metropolitan Affairs' Walter P. Reuther Library have begun an exciting new project for Detroit's Tricentennial and beyond: The Detroit African American History Project (DAAHP). Scheduled to commence in February 2001, the DAAHP will be an interactive website designed to provide high school and college students, as well as the general public, with insights and facts regarding the rich history of African Americans in Detroit.

African Americans comprise a significant facet of Detroit's history and this important effort will prove useful to a wide and diverse range of people. With the World Wide Web playing an increasingly important role in the lives of students and others, the DAAHP is a timely enterprise whose extensive reach cannot help but to make a substantial impact on the study of African American history. This site will focus upon issues regarding slavery, the underground railroad, religion, music, education, the law, segregation, riots, uprisings, the auto industry and various African American-based entrepreneurial enterprises.

The website will include a timeline, bibliography and vignettes about events, people and places that have played an important role in Detroit's African American history. The text will be highlighted by a full array of still images and video for websites. The inclusion of primary sources, will provide researchers with images of documents that reflect this history in a meaningful way.

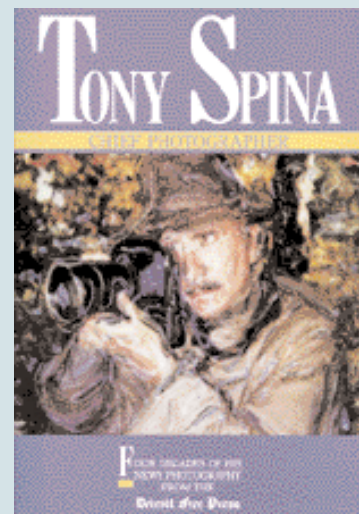
Archivists working at the Walter P. Reuther Library are familiar with the history of African Americans in Detroit and the sources for audio-visual material related to this vibrant history. Media specialists at Wayne State University Television

have extensive technical expertise in website design. This collaborative effort promises to provide an audio visual panorama of the rich heritage of African Americans in the Motor City. ■

Louis Jones

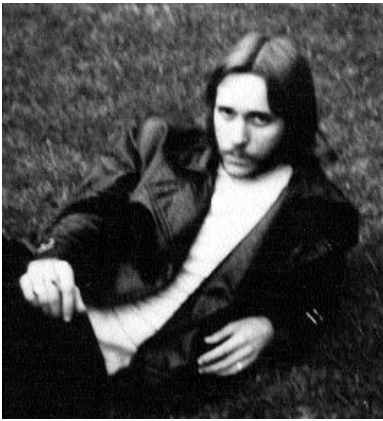
Tony Spina: Chief Photographer

The hard cover book *Tony Spina: Chief Photographer* is available for purchase through the Library for \$35.00 (plus shipping and handling). It contains almost 300 of his most memorable images in both color and black & white. Contact Alberta Asmar for information at (313) 577-4003. A brochure describing the Tony Spina Collection is also available upon request. All images in the Spina Collection are accessible by appointment for research, and suitable for both scholarly and commercial use. Contact Douglas Haller at (313) 577-2662.



A Quality of Light

Photographs by Jim Aho



Self-portrait, Jim Aho, c. 1970.

James L. Aho, manager of the Communications Office at Focus:HOPE, will be exhibiting a selection of his photographs in the Woodcock Gallery of the Reuther Library in conjunction with the Focus:HOPE exhibit this Fall. In addition to his activities on behalf of Focus:HOPE, Jim Aho has been the volunteer staff photographer for the Ford

Detroit International Jazz Festival (formerly the Montreux Detroit Jazz Festival) since 1996, and provides volunteer graphic design and exhibition planning services to the Arts League of Michigan. His photographs have been widely published in local and national newspapers and magazines, music CD liners, posters and catalogs. His graphic design work was honored by the Communicators of America in 1996.

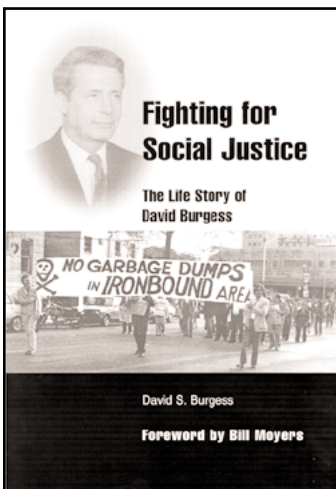
The son of a Finnish immigrant father, and a mother whose Michigan roots trace to 1830, Jim was born and raised in Detroit. He and his wife Karen, married for more than 30 years, live in Westland with their two ungrateful dogs, Max and Spike. ■

Michigan Humanities Council Grant awarded to the Reuther

The Walter P. Reuther Library was recently awarded a Collaborative Projects in Communities grant from the Michigan Humanities Council for the second phase of its Detroit Latino Humanities Project (DLHP). The grant will fund a new video documentary on the history of Mexican repatriation in Michigan.

Mexican repatriation is an important subject, one that has received little attention in Michigan or America at-large. During the 1930s, at the nadir of the Great Depression, the U.S. Government implemented a voluntary program called Repatriation to encourage Mexican immigrants to return to their homeland: the theory was that any jobs held by Mexicans would then go to American citizens. As a result, Mexicans and Mexican-Americans around the nation were pressured to return to Mexico. Michigan was especially hard-hit by this program.

The second phase of the DLHP is a collaboration of the Walter P. Reuther Library, the Center for Chicano-Boricua Studies, University Television and the College of Urban, Labor and Metropolitan Affairs at Wayne State University, the Center for the Study of Work at Henry Ford Community College and *El CENTRAL* Newspapers. It is designed to bring the humanities to communities in various Michigan cities—Grand Rapids, Lansing, the Saginaw-Bay City area and metropolitan Detroit. ■



News from the Wayne State University Press

The life of David S. Burgess, labor activist and foreign service officer is chronicled in a forthcoming publication from the Wayne State University Press. *Fighting for Social Justice* is a personal history of social activism from the 1930s to the 1980s. Through his narrative, Burgess connects his fight for the welfare of others to the broader politics of twentieth

century America. He combines his belief in pacifism, work with international aid agencies and inner city Christian ministry to demonstrate the connections between international social movements in America, Canada and Asia.

Mr. Burgess donated his letters and personal records to the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in May 1995.

The 4 linear feet collection chronicles Burgess' work with the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, his activism with the CIO and his efforts to improve the conditions of industrial and agricultural workers in India. The collection also focuses on Burgess' fight for affirmative action and public housing as a Christian minister in Newark, New Jersey. ■

Calendar

2000

SEPTEMBER

- 21 A Quality of Light**
Photographs by Jim Aho
Reuther Library Woodcock
Gallery until January 2001.
- 22 Focus:HOPE Exhibit Opens**
Reuther Library Atrium
Gallery until May 2001.

OCTOBER

- 11 American Studies**
Association, Workshop on
archival resources, Reuther
Library Conference Room.
- 19-21 North American Labor**
History Conference
McGregor Conference Center.

The Reuther Library Newsletter is published each year to inform those interested in the library's collections, exhibits, and special projects. It is written by members of the library staff. This issue was edited by Kathy Schmeling and Mary Wallace and designed by Mary Wallace.

WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY

Walter P. Reuther Library
5401 Cass Avenue
Detroit, MI 48202

2001

JANUARY

- 22 Detroit at the 3rd Century**
Exhibiting amateur and professional photographs depicting life in the city of Detroit.
Reuther Library Woodcock
Gallery until December 2001.

APRIL

- 20-21 43rd Annual Conference on**
Local History
McGregor Conference Center.

MAY

- 1 The Art of Labor**
Labor-related photographic
exhibit, Reuther Library Atrium
Gallery through June 2001.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Reading Room hours:
Monday-Tuesday — 11 a.m.-6:45 p.m.
Wednesday-Friday — 9 a.m.-4:45 p.m.

Business hours:
Monday-Friday — 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Phone: (313) 577-4024
Fax: (313) 577-4300

Web: www.reuther.wayne.edu

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
P A I D
Detroit, Mich.
Permit No. 3844

Address correction requested