

Albert Shanker: *Labor's Educator*

Albert Shanker is considered one of the most important labor leaders of the late 20th century. From a substitute math teacher, Shanker rose to national prominence as the president of the American Federation of Teachers. Shanker gained national attention as the militant strike leader of New York City teachers in the 1960s and was immortalized in Woody Allen's "Sleeper" as the man who destroyed civilization with a nuclear weapon. Shanker later became known as an elder statesman on education, trade unionism and human rights. President Clinton called him "one of the greatest educators of the 20th century."

Albert Shanker was born on September 14, 1928 and raised in Long Island City, Queens, New York by Russian immigrant parents. His father delivered papers and his mother worked as a sewing machine operator in the garment sweatshops. It was his mother who instilled in him a passion for trade unionism and the love of debate.

Shanker completed all but his dissertation at Columbia University before running out of patience and money eventually taking a job as a substitute teacher at PS 179 in East Harlem. Shanker quickly became active with the Teachers' Guild and by 1959, resigned as a math teacher to become a full time organizer for the Guild. Shanker was pivotal for the next five years in changing the nature of teacher unions. By 1964 Shanker became

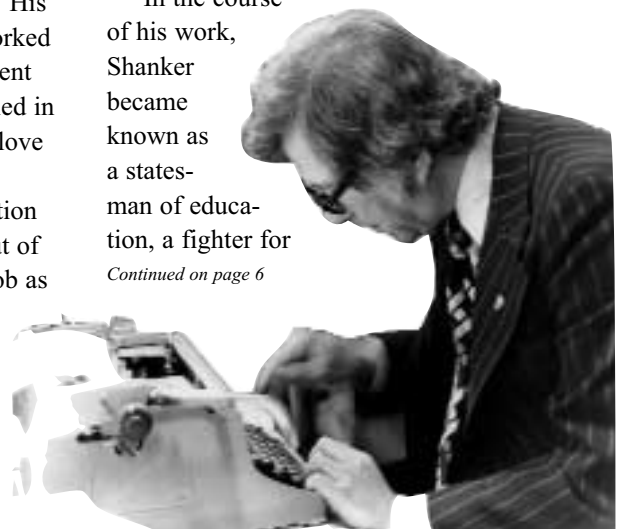
president of the United Federation of Teachers (UFT), the union that represented just over 45,000 New York City school teachers.

In 1967 Shanker led a three-week strike that was not only about basic trade union issues but also various education reforms such as class size, and discipline. Shanker entered the national spotlight during a volatile period of strikes that divided New York City in 1968. At the center of the issue was community control of the school districts, which Shanker favored. However, when union members were dismissed without due process, Shanker brought the city's teachers out on strike for 55 days. Both strikes sent Shanker to jail.

Shanker went on to become president of the American Federation of Teachers in 1974. Under his leadership, the membership of the AFT almost tripled as the union added para-professionals, health care workers and public employees to its ranks.

In the course of his work, Shanker became known as a statesman of education, a fighter for

Continued on page 6



Albert Shanker working at his typewriter



New Collections

Coalition of Black Trade Unionists

The Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU), founded in 1972 by AFSCME Secretary-Treasurer William Lucy and others to give voice to the concerns of minority constituencies in the labor movement, today counts more than fifty chapters nation-



Members of CBTU march in Memphis, January, 1998. CBTU Photo.

wide and one in Ontario, Canada. Committed to using political action and union organizing campaigns to increase Black participation and influence in the labor movement and to develop leadership and improve the quality of life within the African-

American community,

CBTU has sponsored conferences and workshops and joined in lobbying efforts around the issues of voter registration and education, women's rights, job training and occupational safety, environmental justice, health care for the disadvantaged, NAFTA and an end to racial oppression in southern Africa.

The CBTU records comprise 11 linear feet of correspondence, meeting minutes, reports, convention material, speeches, publicity and other items documenting national and local CBTU chapter activities during the period 1972-1995. ■

Ed Liska

Ed Liska was president of UAW Dodge Main Local 3 when the radical, black Dodge Revolutionary Union Movement emerged to challenge working conditions and racism in the plant. His papers (1.25 linear feet) contain daily reports of activity in the plant during these turbulent years (1969-1972). ■

Damon J. Keith

The first installment of Judge Damon J. Keith's papers, 11 linear feet, consists primarily of published material (1948-2001) documenting important milestones in Judge Keith's career, his precedent-setting judicial decisions and the many honors and awards bestowed upon him for his dedication to the city of Detroit and his pioneering role in ensuring equal justice for all Americans. In 1993 Wayne State University established the Damon J. Keith Law Collection to preserve the record of African-American legal history.

Judge Keith, a native Detroiter, has been a federal judge since 1967 when he was appointed to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, only the second African American to sit on that court. While serving as a district judge, he delivered several landmark rulings in civil rights cases involving the desegregation of Pontiac schools, employment discrimination at Detroit Edison, blockbusting by Detroit realty companies and the Detroit Police Department's affirmative action plan. But he is most frequently cited for the "Keith decision" in 1971, which found the U.S. Justice Department's use of wiretap surveillance against White Panther Party members unconstitutional. In 1977 he was appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit by President Jimmy Carter. ■

UAW International Executive Board Oral Histories

The United Automobile Workers International Executive Board Oral Histories, conducted between 1985 and 1998, recount important events in the history of the union while recording the lives and careers of eighteen UAW IEB members, including former presidents, Leonard Woodcock, Douglas Fraser and Owen Bieber, first female board member, Olga Madar and Marc Stepp, the union's second African American vice president. ■

Margaret Raucher

Walter P. Reuther Library Launches CBTU Oral History Project



Bill Lucy, president of CBTU. CBTU photo.

With generous support from the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), the Reuther Library launched a special oral history project in 2001. The purpose of this project is to document the founding and early history of CBTU, as well as the individual stories of CBTU's founding members and leaders. During 2001-2002 interviews were conducted

both on-site at the Reuther Library and at the annual CBTU

Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. To date, over 30 interviews have taken place, including a 2-day interview with William (Bill) Lucy, AFL-CIO Executive Council Member, AFSCME International Secretary-Treasurer and CBTU's first and only President (Lucy was a founding member of CBTU in 1972).

Digitally recorded interviews are on deposit in the Archives' Audiovisual Department, and are in the process of being transcribed. This significant documentation project will help define the past, present and future of the Coalition, and remains an ongoing commitment for the Archives. ■

University Archives

Let's Just Take Wayne

Detroit had a new university in August of 1933. The Detroit Board of Education had organized the colleges under its control into a university called The Colleges of the City of Detroit. No one liked the name, including the Board.

In November Frank Cody, university president and superintendent of schools, told the student newspaper, "Naming this brand new university is just like naming a child." When the reporter pressed him for his preference, he refused, but stated, "There is quite a bit of sentiment in favor of 'University of the Straits' in the downtown office. Everyone believes it is quite to the point since we find ourselves in some terrible financial 'straits' right now."

Of course, everyone else from faculty to alumni had preferences. *The Collegian*, the student newspaper, reported the favorites as Cadillac University, Detroit Public University, Great Lakes University, Detroit Municipal University, Motor City University and Mackenzie University. The front runner was Detroit City University.

Upon closer examination, some names could cause embarrassment or ridicule. Students shuddered at the thought of Hazen Pingree University athletes walking on Cass Avenue in their athletic sweaters with "PU" varsity letters. Others feared athletic opponents of the Lewis Cass University would jeer "Cass U, Cashew, Nuts to You!" Southern Michigan University sounded fine, especially to criminal elements since it was the nickname for Southern Michigan Penitentiary.

Most agreed "Detroit" and "University" should be in the new name. At its December 12 meeting, a Board subcommittee recommended "Detroit City University." On January 9, 1934 a motion was made for "Detroit Municipal University." However, the institution across town—the University of Detroit—had earlier expressed concerns that any name with "Detroit" would lead to institutional confusion as well as wrong mail deliveries. The Board appointed a special committee to discuss the matter with presidents and alumni representatives from both institutions. On January 23 the committee reported that "the name it will suggest has not, up to the present time, received much publicity, but it meets with the approval of the Committee and of representatives of the faculty, and student body, and alumni of the University." By a unanimous vote, the Colleges of the City of Detroit became Wayne University.

The name change to Wayne University created the expected problems with stationary and forms. There was some discussion whether the athletic teams should remain "Tartars" or change to "Madmen." However, the major problem for the athletic department was that it was stuck with new sweaters. The director was so sure the new name would include "Detroit" he ordered sweaters with a "D" insignia.

The University's namesake General "Mad" Anthony Wayne not only was an American Revolution hero, but had a significant impact on Detroit. "Mad" described his daring and sometimes reckless attacks against the British during the Revolution and

not his mental health. In 1792 President Washington asked Wayne to lead a force against Native Americans, backed by the British, in Ohio and Indiana. Wayne defeated them south of Toledo, Ohio, at the Battle of Fallen Timbers in 1794. A treaty followed in 1795 which removed the British from the area. Steps were then taken to close the area to Native Americans and opened the Northwest Territory to white settlement.

On July 11, 1796 Wayne raised the American flag over Detroit, then a small town of about 500 with another 2,100 living on nearby farms. He remained in Detroit for three months but then wanted to return to his Pennsylvania home. He died on the way on December 15, 1796 in Erie, Pennsylvania at the age of 51.

How was the name "Wayne" chosen? University historian Leslie Hanawalt examined the issue in his history of Wayne, *A Place of Light*. He concluded that it was "...President Cody, who more or less made the final choice. Before the Board's meeting on January 23, 1934 Cody remarked, "Well, let's just take Wayne." That is what the board did, and the name became officially "Wayne University." ■ (Taken from the archives of Wayne State University)

Patricia Bartkowski

Helen Southgate Williams Collection

In September, 2002 the University Archives accessioned the historical papers and children's book collection of Helen Southgate Williams. She was a protegee of nationally acclaimed Wayne State University children's literature professor, Eloise Ramsey, and taught at Wayne herself. Williams was a correspondent with many of the major children's literature



An open page from "Funny and Comical Rhymes," a children's book from the late 19th century.

writers from the 1950s on. She owned a bookstore in Rochester Hills and was widely known in the Detroit metropolitan area for her storytelling skills.

The Helen Southgate Williams Collection consists primarily of her correspondence with authors and critics and her own writings on children's literature. The Williams children's book collection will be transferred to the University Libraries and added to the Eloise Ramsey children's literature book collection. ■

William LeFevre

Audiovisual

The Dale Rich Collection

The Audiovisual Department is pleased to announce the recent acquisition of the photographs of Dale Rich. Dale Rich is a professional photographer, a longtime newspaperman with the Detroit Newspaper Agency, and a historian with an expertise in Black military history. He was born and still resides in Detroit. His personal interest in African-American history and a desire to expose Detroit youth to a positive vision of history, have compelled Rich to share his experiences through film and to donate his collection to the Reuther Library, where it will be preserved for future generations.

The Dale Rich collection is currently composed of over 1,200 photographs of modern Detroit, and within this, the political, cultural and grassroots movements of the city as well as the larger issues of the modern civil rights movement and organized labor. It is a unique addition to the Reuther Library's urban holdings, inasmuch as it is an entirely modern collection, with its dates spanning 1995-2002.

The collection started with the 1995 Detroit Newspaper Strike when Rich, as a means of recording the now historic events, started photographing the front lines. As a striker, he traveled the country to rally support for his colleagues and had the chance to photograph national events, such as the "Million Family March" and the dedication of the Spirit of Freedom memorial in Washington D.C. When the strike ended, Rich continued to photograph Detroit, extensively capturing the essence of such movements as the Community Coalition and the Detroit School Board Reform.

Highlighted throughout the collection are images of notable African Americans with whom Rich has come into contact, including the Reverend Jesse Jackson, the Reverend Al Sharpton, Secretary of State Colin Powell, and Coretta Scott King. Equally important are his images of ordinary Detroiters—a female fire-



*Fire scene in Detroit at Lyndon near Wyoming, 1998.
Woman in foreground is a firefighter.*



Above: "Protectors of Corporate Liberties" Strike photo where Wayne County Commissioners were arrested at Newspaper Strike.



Right: Mrs. Bowene being carried out of Murray Wright H.S. during a reform Detroit School Board meeting, May, 1999.



fighter at the scene of a fire, a homeless man sleeping on the street, a lone protester—each filled with a special dignity and an undeniable sense of compassion.

Rich sees photography as "a way to express what others would like to express. (In Detroit) There are a million stories that need to be told—I want to tell a few of them. Everyone's story is just as important." Citing the work of

Matthew Brady, the Civil War photographer, and the images of the civil rights movement as direct influences, Rich sees his work as "a conduit between the present and the future." Like Brady, he hopes his images will one day lend an understanding to a turning point in

history. "I see a movement coming back, and I have fresh film and I am ready." Thoughtful, arresting, and sometimes challenging, the Dale Rich Collection offers a unique perspective on a changing city and its issues and will prove to be a rich and invaluable addition to the historical record, addressing eloquently, with camera lens, the complexities of the world in which we live. ■

Elizabeth Clemens

Left: Students protest the Affirmative Action decision with the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Ann Arbor, Spring 2001.

Audiovisual Department Receives Grants to Restore Ethnic Detroit Films

The National Film Preservation Foundation (NFPF) awarded two successive grants to the Audiovisual Department of the Reuther Library to begin to preserve and make available for research a series of films that depict Detroit's ethnic neighborhoods.



A frame of the Mexican film shows a restaurant window in a Mexican neighborhood of Detroit.

The 16mm silent duplicate negative films that were covered by the grants were found in a basement of a Wayne State University building in 1998. They date from approximately 1952 and depict ethnic neighborhoods in and around the city of Detroit.

The NFPF is an independent, non-profit affiliate of the Library of Congress's National Film Preservation Board. It was created by the U.S. Congress in 1996 to preserve America's film heritage.

The 16mm silent duplicate negative

The two grants—one Partnership Grant and one Laboratory Preservation grant—totaled over \$10,000. Each grant covered the cost of getting three films preserved and copied onto several different media formats.

The first grant, the Partnership Grant, covered the cost of the restoration and duplication of the Moslem, Italian, and Ukrainian films. The laboratory work was completed in May of 2002 and left the Reuther with restored original films, positive answer prints of each film, three fine grain preservation masters, BetaSP and VHS copies of each film.

The second grant paid for the preservation and copying of the Mexican, Belgian, and German films. Work on it was recently completed and gave the Reuther's AV department three more restored originals, three positive answer prints, Digital BetaSP, VHS, and DVD copies of the films.

The preserved films and duplicate films will remain in the Reuther's cold storage room, but the Beta, VHS, and DVD copies are available for research, by appointment, in the Audiovisual Department of the Walter P. Reuther Library. ■

Mary J. Wallace

SWE, A History of Women Engineers

The Reuther Library became the official repository of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) collection in 1993. SWE, a national non-profit, professional educational service organization founded in 1950, promotes the recruitment and promotion of women into the engineering profession and related technical fields. For over 50 years, women leaders and members have worked to challenge stereotypes and provide information and support for women and minorities in a traditionally male-dominated profession and workforce.

The SWE collection documents professional women engineers' organized efforts from 1919 to the present. Records, photographs, newspaper clippings, biographical files, resumes, publications, speeches, videos and oral histories make up a rich collection useful for the study of women's history, the history of engineering, the dynamics and sociology of professional organizations, women and technology, and other related disciplines. The interdisciplinary research potential of the SWE collection is indeed great.

SWE records complement other important collections at the Reuther Library such as the Coalition of Labor Union Women

(CLUW) and American Association of University Women (AAUW)-Michigan collections, as well as the Architectural Engineering Employees—Detroit Chapter, and the UAW Technical, Office, Professional (TOP) Department Collection. Related to the national SWE collection is the SWE-Detroit Section collection, which documents the activities and achievements of women engineers in Southeast Michigan, especially women engineers in the automotive industry.



Virginia Sink, Chrysler Corporation's first female engineer and Society of Women Engineers (SWE)—Detroit Section founding member, proudly displays plans for CAP (Cleaner Air Package), the automotive predecessor to the catalytic converter, ca. 1964.

ments of women engineers in Southeast Michigan, especially women engineers in the automotive industry.

In conjunction with the 2002 national SWE Conference, held at Cobo Hall in Detroit October 9-12, the Reuther Library is pleased to announce the opening of a special exhibit. "Petticoats and Slide Rules:" *SWE, A History of Women Engineers*, opened Tuesday October 8 in the Leonard Woodcock Wing Exhibit Gallery. The exhibit celebrates female "pioneers and trailblazers," and tells the story of over 50 years of promoting equal opportunity for women in engineering. The

exhibit will remain at the Reuther Library through December 2002. It will then travel to other national venues. For more information, please contact (313) 577-9373, or email swearchives@wayne.edu. ■

Lauren Kata

Albert Shanker: *Labor's Educator*

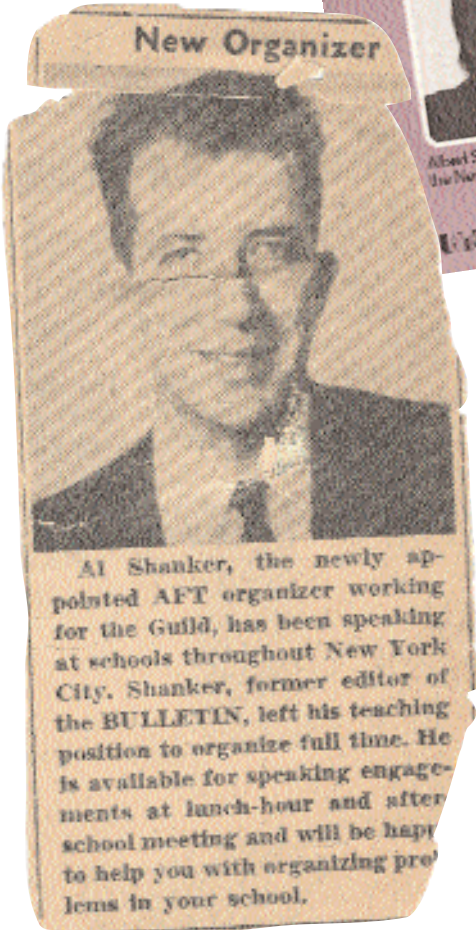
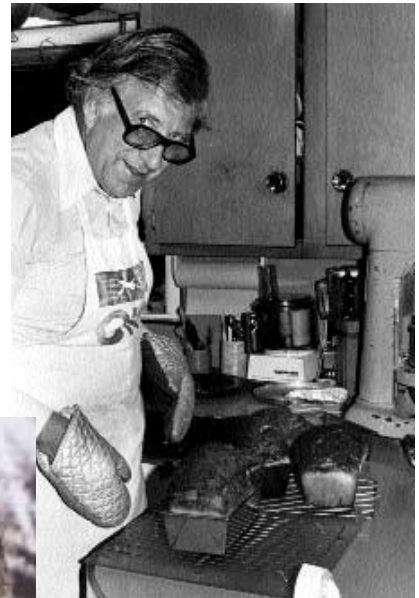
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human rights, a leader for trade unions throughout the world and a persistent promoter of the values of democracy. His common-sense approach to these issues was best written in his Sunday *New York Times* weekly column "Where We Stand."

The education agenda that Shanker laid out in his weekly columns and his constant traveling was to promote the idea that teachers are professionals. He argued for a national test for teachers, peer review, charter schools with heavy school employee input, as well as standards for students.

The Reuther Library has honored Shanker's life and career with an exhibit that opened with a reception on September 12, 2002 and will be on display until September, 2003. The Reuther Library is also pleased to announce that the presidential and personal collections of Albert Shanker will be available to researchers at the end of 2002. ■

Dan Golodner



Images depicting the many facets of Albert Shanker taken from the "Albert Shanker: Labor's Educator" exhibit.

Detroit African American Project Art Contest

Wayne State University announces the Detroit African American History Project's first annual art contest. Entrants for this contest must be high school students enrolled in the Detroit metropolitan area (i.e., Wayne, Oakland or Macomb County) during the September 2002 – June 2003 school year. Contest participants are to submit original artwork depicting an event, portrait or landmark involving the history of African Americans in Detroit. Entrants must either use paint, pencil, or charcoal. Artwork must be submitted in a flat format, i.e., paper, board, canvas, etc. and be treated to avoid damage (with something like Crystal Clear® spray fixative). Final submissions must also be protected to avoid smudging using Mylar between matting and illustrations. The dimensions of the artwork must be 13" x 16" with a maximum 3" mat and cannot exceed a total weight of 2 lbs. Only one submission per entrant is permitted. Artwork is to be submitted to the CIT Building at 77 West Canfield by the deadline of December 2, 2002, 4:00pm.

Artwork will be judged on originality, technical rendition, and overall aesthetics. Three cash prizes of \$500.00, \$350.00 and \$150.00 as well as 17 honorable mentions will be awarded at a reception to be held in February at the Walter P. Reuther Library located at 5401 Cass Avenue, Detroit, MI. Students will retain ownership of the artwork with the understanding that they will grant the Detroit African American History Project permission to post the artwork on the DAAHP website and/or in any promotional material pertaining to DAAHP and to use the artwork in the DAAHP Art Exhibit, which will be on display from February 2003 until September 2003 at the Walter P. Reuther Library.

Project co-directors are Darryl Shreve and Louis Jones. For more information concerning rules, eligibility, judging, awards, sponsors and the exact date of the reception, contact Darryll Grice at 313/577-6049 or daahp@wayne.edu.

The Detroit African American History Project (DAAHP) is a grow-

ing Website designed to provide students at all levels with insights and facts regarding the rich history of Detroit's African American community. The site uses multimedia techniques to display images, video and text regarding this important history. DAAHP can be accessed at <http://www.daahp.wayne.edu>. ■

Louis Jones

UAW Convention and West Coast Field Work

Archivists from the Reuther Library, accompanied by College of Urban, Labor and Metropolitan Affairs Dean Alma Young, attended the June 2002 United Automobile Workers (UAW) Constitutional Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Reuther Library was listed in the convention highlights as was the special UAW historical exhibit the Library staff produced for the event. Over the course of the five-day convention, Reuther Library archivists spoke with UAW delegates, their families, and convention visitors about the importance of UAW history and labor history in general. At the same time, the Reuther Library exhibit was viewed by several thousand people.

After the convention, Reuther archivists traveled to the United Farm Workers (UFW) headquarters in Keene, California. There, they prepared the papers of UFW President Arturo Rodriguez for shipment back to the Reuther Library. ■



The Reuther display that appeared at this year's UAW Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada.

William LeFevre

Update on the Michigan Labor Legacy Project

Outside Cobo Hall, along the walkway leading to Hart Plaza on Jefferson Avenue, a sign marks the site of the future Labor Legacy Landmark. At the present, artist David Barr has finished fabricating the 63-foot-high stainless-steel arch that will be the centerpiece, while sculptor Sergio De Giusti is creating 14 bronzes that will be placed on polished granite boulders at the base. More than 40 quotations from labor leaders have been engraved on the paving stones that will be placed at the site.

Along with dozens of unions, hundreds of rank-and-file union members and retirees have contributed generously toward the cost of building this world-class public work of art. The construction phase of this project will start soon. Contributions are still being accepted and can be mailed to: Michigan Labor Legacy Project, Inc., c/o Alberta Asmar, Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University, 5401 Cass, Detroit, MI 48202. ■



A sign stands marking the sight of the future Michigan Labor Legacy Landmark.

Calendar

2002

SEPTEMBER

12 Albert Shanker Exhibit
Reuther Library main Gallery

OCTOBER

8 Society of Women Engineers Exhibit
Reuther Library Woodcock Gallery

17-19 North American Labor History Conference
McGregor Conference Center

2003

FEBRUARY

TBD DAAHP Photo Contest
Reuther Library Woodcock Gallery (see article p.7)

APRIL

11-12 45th Annual Conference on Local History
McGregor Conference Center

SEPTEMBER

TBD I AM A MAN Civil Rights Exhibit
Reuther Library main Gallery

TBD Images from the Detroit News Photonegative Collection
Reuther Library Woodcock Gallery



GENERAL INFORMATION

Reading Room hours:
Monday-Tuesday - 11a.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

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
COLLEGE OF URBAN LABOR AND METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

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