

# Hear Me Roar

## Women and Social Justice

While building the finest labor archives in the world as well as one of the premier manuscript repositories for the history of twentieth-century Detroit, the Walter P. Reuther Library amassed a rich collection of the papers of social reformers, many of them women. The struggle for social justice, whether waged by organized labor, the women's equality movement or community activists, raised women's political consciousness and gave them the organizational and leadership skills needed to solve some of society's most pressing problems. **HEAR ME**

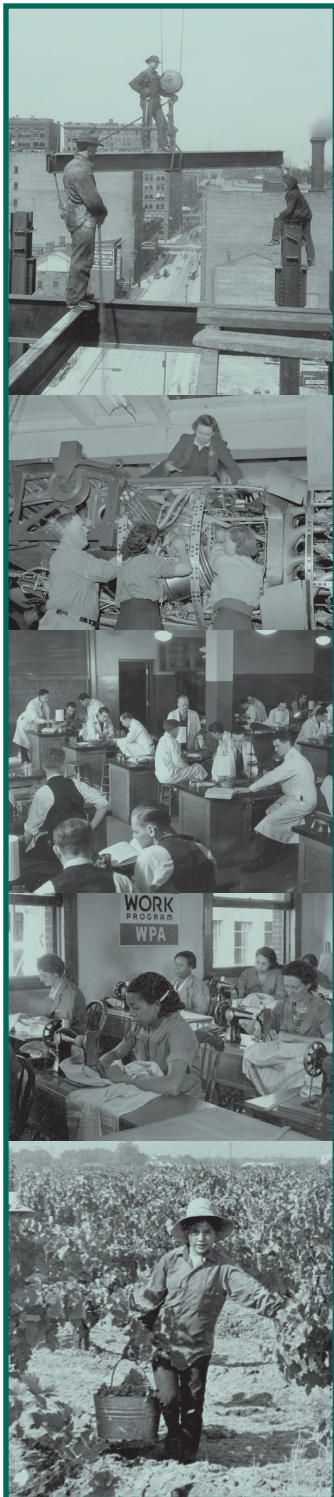
**ROAR: Women and Social Justice**, an exhibit drawn from over a hundred of the Library's collections, tells the story of these women and their empowerment through collective action—a story of compassion, courage, energy and vision that enriched the lives of women, of workers, of Detroiters, of all of us.

Women have been involved in social justice issues through the labor movement as workers and

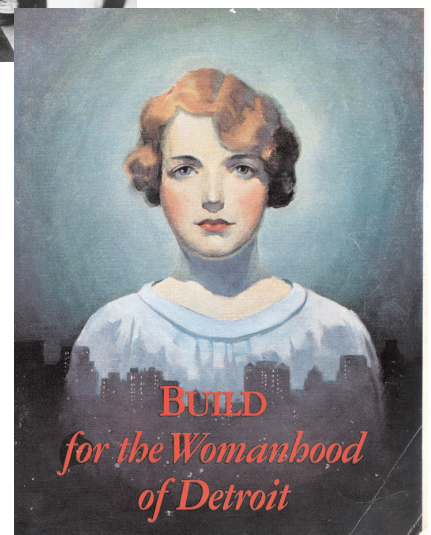
supporters of working men since the first unions were formed in the United States. Their participation often came at great risk, both to their family's economic livelihood and to their physical well-being. A few, especially those from the ranks of the Industrial Workers of the World, the most inclusive union of the early twentieth century, became highly skilled orators, fundraisers and organizers. Labor union women's auxiliaries, whose significance is often overlooked, played crucial roles during organizing drives and strikes, and provided the backbone of the union's community service and political action activities.

In the years after World War II labor union women fought for social and economic justice at the bargaining table, in the legislature and in the courtroom. First, the United Automobile Workers, and later, unions like the American Federation of Teachers, the American Federation

*Continued on page 7*



*Striking silk workers on their way to New York City's Madison Square Garden to perform in "The Pageant of the Paterson Strike," 1913.*



*In 1927 the Community Fund launched a campaign to raise \$4 million to build new facilities for four Detroit agencies serving women, including Woman's Hospital.*

# Collections Open for Research

## Service Employees International Union (SEIU)



A collection of constitutions and by-laws of SEIU is now open for research. This collection will interest scholars pursuing research about changes in governance of SEIU affiliates and related subjects. The collection is comprised of 30 linear feet and generally spans the 1940s to the 1980s, although there is some material that predates and extends beyond these years. As SEIU continues its expansion as the largest and fastest growing union within the AFL-CIO with 1.6 million members, scholars are sure to become increasingly interested in its important history. This collection will offer a lens through which to better understand its growth and importance. ■

## SEIU District 925

The SEIU District 925 Collection is now open for research. Comprising 15 linear feet and spanning the years 1973 to 2004, this collection is an invaluable resource for historians and other scholars seeking to understand the interplay between the women's movement and the labor movement in the last quarter of the twentieth century.

The collection is a significant addition to the Reuther Library's substantial holdings on women and work, which include the papers of the Coalition of Labor Union Women, Mildred Jeffrey and the 20th Century Trade Union Woman oral histories.

For twenty years, until its restructuring and merger with other SEIU locals in 2001, District 925 successfully organized thousands of librarians, college and university support staff, day care, local government workers and other office, technical and professional employees. This organizing took place in hard-fought campaigns primarily in Massachusetts, Ohio and Washington. Along with 9to5, National Association of Working Women, District 925 lobbied for equal pay, affirmative action, child care, office health and safety and against age discrimination and sexual harassment.

In launching District 925, SEIU signaled its recognition of the growing presence of women in the workforce and of clerical work as the single largest sector in that workforce. To meet the needs of both these constituencies, the International simultaneously announced the creation of its Clerical Division, later called the Office Worker Division.

The "SEIU District 925 Collection" documents the activities of this effort and is sure to attract scholars pursuing research on this SEIU affiliate and related subjects. ■

## The James Lopez Watson Collection

The papers of James Lopez Watson are now available for researchers. A former New York State Senator and New York City Civil Court Judge, Watson is best known as a judge with the United States Court of International Trade. The Papers of James Lopez Watson, however, primarily concern his affiliation with the National Bar Association, where he was a founding member of its judicial council. The collection also contains correspondences with a number of African-American judges, including judge George Crockett, Jr. The James Lopez Watson Collection (1.5 linear feet in size) is a distinct collection and yet it is part of the Damon J. Keith Law Collection of African American Legal History, an umbrella collection that includes the records of other African American lawyers and judges. ■

## The Dalton Roberson Collection

Spanning the 1970s through the 1990s and comprising .5 linear feet, the Dalton Roberson Collection is now open for research. Upon graduating from the Detroit College of Law, Roberson went into private practice, and later worked as an assistant Wayne County prosecutor and as an assistant U.S. attorney. He also served as a member and then chair of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission. Roberson was elected to the Detroit Records Court in 1974 and eventually became its chief judge in 1987. The Roberson Collection includes correspondence, newspaper clippings, his retirement speech and photos, amongst other material, largely from the period in which he served as a judge. The material comprise a distinct collection and yet it is part of the Damon J. Keith Law Collection of African American Legal History, an umbrella collection that includes the records of other African American lawyers and judges. ■

## Society of Women Engineers (SWE)

The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) Archives has added a set of thirty oral histories, which demonstrate the integral role women played in the advancement of technology and science in the twentieth century. The project, entitled Profiles of SWE Pioneers, was conducted in 2003 and includes many "women firsts." Their stories illustrate significant achievements made by women who began engineering careers from the 1940s through the 1960s.

Also documented is the history of SWE's founding in 1950 and its development as the first organization dedicated to the promotion of women in science and engineering. For a more detailed description of the oral histories visit the SWE Archives Online at [www.reuther.wayne.edu/SWEbrochure.html](http://www.reuther.wayne.edu/SWEbrochure.html). ■



# UAW Archives

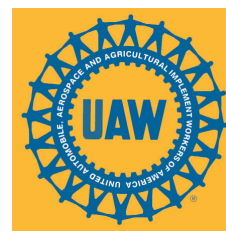
The Reuther Library worked with the UAW on several historical projects this past summer. In a joint project with the UAW Education Department, Library Director Mike Smith and former director Philip P. Mason conducted lengthy video-taped interviews with former UAW Presidents Douglas Fraser and Owen Beiber. Library staff members along with Judy Hardin from the UAW President's office initiated planning for an exhibit on UAW history for the main auditorium at Solidarity House, the union's headquarters in Detroit. This past summer, the Reuther also provided mounted historic photographs from the Library's UAW collection for display at Solidarity House. ■

*Mike Smith*

*The UAW's first important success was this strike at the Kelsey Hayes Plant in in Detroit in 1936. Walter and Victor Reuther led the strike.*



*UAW members participating in the 1963 March on Washington D.C.*



# University Archives

## Wayne University and Brown v. Board of Education

U.S. constitutional scholar Alfred Kelly arrived at Wayne with a new Ph.D in hand in 1935. He intended to gain experience at Wayne, then move on to a larger, more prominent institution. Kelly never left, and Wayne University and the nation benefited greatly.

One of Kelly's most important contributions ultimately furthered the civil rights movement. Thurgood Marshall, special counsel to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), requested Kelly's scholarly assistance with a case he was preparing. The case, the path-breaking *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas* would transform the American educational system.

"Separate but equal" accommodations for individual races had been ruled constitutional in the *Plessy v. Ferguson* decision of 1896. In *Brown v. Board* in 1954, these separate provisions made for non-white children were proven not only to be unequal, but damaging. Kelly interpreted the Fourteenth Amendment of the

Constitution for Marshall and the NAACP. He stated: "There is a good historical basis for thinking that the Fourteenth Amendment which guarantees equal protection of law was meant to ban all segregation legislation." He cited three precedent cases to support his opinion. Kelly's scholarship was crucial to the historic decision.

After working together, Kelly and Marshall remained colleagues and friends. During the 1963 January commencement at Wayne, Marshall was presented with an Honorary Degree of Law. Kelly proudly escorted his friend to the ceremony that day.

In Kelly's day, Wayne was considered a "good place to be from," that is, many scholars considered Wayne a mere stopping point in their careers.

But many found a challenge here that wasn't available in older, more established institutions. They saw an opportunity to make a difference and took it. Alfred Kelly was one of them. ■



*Dr. Alfred Kelly in his office at Wayne University, 1955.*

*Brecque Keith*

# Audiovisual

## The Tony Spina Collection On-line

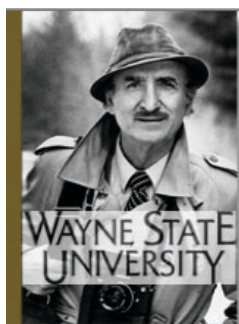
In a partnership between the Walter P. Reuther Library and the Wayne State Library System to expand access to photojournalistic resources, the Reuther Library is pleased to announce the Tony Spina Collection On-line. The project features images from the collection of the internationally celebrated photographer, Anthony "Tony"

Spina. Spina served as chief photographer for the Detroit Free Press for over 40 years. Throughout his career he was recipient of hundred of awards and honors for his work, and the author of numerous books. Through his work, Spina examined the history of Detroit, historical events and figures, distant lands, celebrities and the experiences of everyday people with an aesthetic eye and journalistic expertise relatively unrivaled in his field. In 1993, Spina donated his collection of over 23,000 photographic prints, negatives and transparencies to the Reuther Library.

The project, upon completion, aims to digitize and make accessible through the Internet 4000 images and their corresponding information from Spina's negative files. The images and information will be made searchable through an easily navigable database. The selection of images available throughout the project focuses first on the Detroit metropolitan region, and towards its close, will expand outward towards an international scope.

Unlike the photo print component of the collection, which enjoys fairly heavy research use, the negative and transparency components were unprocessed and unavailable to researchers. Many of the negatives were never published or printed, and their component of the collection was unprocessed and unavailable for general use. The project will primarily use these resources and will mark the first time since their creation that many of the images have been brought to light and available for use.

Together with the Virtual Motor City, a collection of 16,000 digitized



BROWSE IMAGES

BROWSE BY TOPIC

BROWSE BY DECADE

BROWSE RECORDS



Project Highlights

Documentation

*The Home Page for the Tony Spina On-Line Collection.*

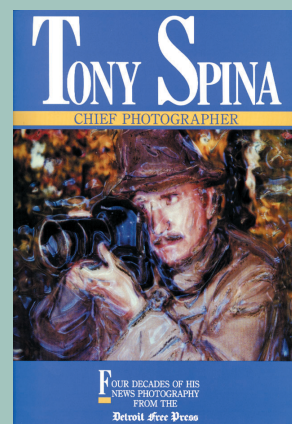
images from the Detroit News Photonegative Archive, the Tony Spina Collection On-line will offer a unique perspective to history in the photojournalistic tradition. The collection, when complete, will be available through the WSU Library System Digital Collections page at <http://digital.wayne.edu>.

For more information about the Tony Spina Collection, or other online visual resources, please contact the Audiovisual Department at [reutherav@wayne.edu](mailto:reutherav@wayne.edu) or (313) 577-4024. ■

*Elizabeth Clemens*

### Tony Spina: Chief Photographer

The hard cover book *Tony Spina: Chief Photographer* is available for \$30.00 through the Detroit Free Press bookstore. This book, published in 1988, contains almost 300 of Spina's most memorable images in both color and black & white. Covering four decades, it showcases popes and princes, kings and capitalists, the privileged and the poor. Proceeds from all sales go to a scholarship fund in Tony Spina's name. To order one, call 1-800-245-5082 or visit the Free Press Bookstore website at <http://store.yahoo.com/freepressbookstore/tonspinchief.html>. ■



## The Bruce Harkness Poletown Collection

The Audiovisual Department is pleased to announce a recent addition of over 450 digitized images to one of our most outstanding urban resources, the Bruce Harkness Poletown Photographic Collection.

From February to December of 1981, Bruce Harkness extensively photographed the area known as "Poletown," a multiethnic, multiracial neighborhood straddling the borders of Detroit and Hamtramck that was to be dismantled for the construction



*Land beginning to be cleared at Finley and Newton, looking North, 3 June 1981.*

of the General Motors Central Industrial Park. Harkness's photographs document the unique aesthetics of a vanishing neighborhood, examining its urban spaces, neighborhood landmarks, local businesses, street scenes,

displaced residents and the eventual land clearances.

Part of the Wayne State University Folklore Archive's Ethnic Archive Project, the Harkness Collection was formerly com-

posed of 200 specially selected 8x10 photographic prints.

The newly digitized negatives represent the missing half of the picture: images which were never printed because of prohibitive duplication costs, as well as a number of negatives from the final month of shooting which were damaged by water, and whose images have since been digitally repaired. The addition of the digitized images opens access to the entire project for the first time from its conception to completion. The complete collection is currently open for research by appointment.



*Residents at Dane and Moran moving, 21 February 1981.*

For more information about the Harkness Collection, or other urban-related visual collections, please contact the Audiovisual Department. ■

*Elizabeth Clemens*

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## Detroit African American History Project Art Contest



*The 2004 1st Place drawing done by Cass Tech student, Mario Moore.*

The second annual Detroit African American History Project High School Art Contest met with success this year with all winners hailing from Detroit's Cass Technical High School. Charged with the mission to create artwork of an event, portrait or historical landmark involving the history of African Americans in metropolitan Detroit, Mario Moore (16), Joshua Reed (18) and Liana Mulholland (16) took home cash prizes in the amounts of \$500, \$350 and \$150 respectively. Kimberley Hewlett (17)

and David Andrews (16) received honorable mentions for their submissions.

The Detroit African American History Project (DAAHP) is a growing website designed to provide students with insights

and facts regarding the rich history of Detroit's African-American community. It is jointly created and sponsored by the Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University's College of Urban, Labor and Metropolitan Affairs (CULMA) and Computing and Information Technology (C&IT). Located at <http://www.daahp.wayne.edu>, the site uses multimedia techniques to display photos, streamed videos, text and other graphics to illustrate this important history.

Using colored pencil, Moore, who won second place in last year's competition, drew a technically sophisticated picture of Cass Tech with, in the background, a picture of his grandmother, a founding member and current president of Parents for Quality Education, which is an influential and controversial adversary of the Detroit Public School Board.

The artwork of the five contestants was on display at the main branch of the Detroit Public Library from June through August 2004. ■

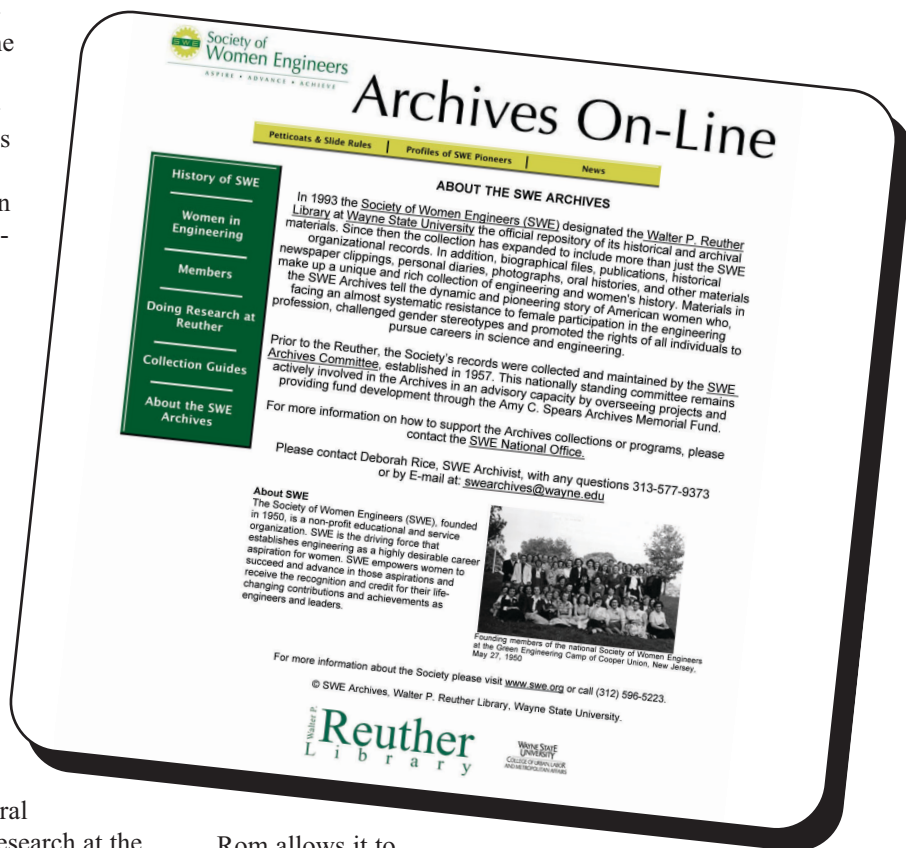
*Louis Jones*

# Digital Initiatives: The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) Archives

The SWE Archives represents one of the premiere historical collections documenting the first American engineering society dedicated to women as well as the pioneering efforts of women engineers. Amid an era of increasing dependency on the digital environment, it seemed a logical step for the Archives to make use of this technology to disseminate their history to a wider audience. With this aim in mind, the Archives embarked on an outreach program in 2004 consisting of projects in two separate areas of digital media.

The first project involved building a Web presence through the construction of an online gateway, which went live in February. Hosted on the Walter P. Reuther Library's Web site, the SWE Archives Online serves as a virtual SWE archival and history center thereby allowing greater access to information in the SWE Collections for SWE members, researchers, educators, the engineering community, and the general public. Its basic functions and objectives are to provide information on how to use the SWE Archives, showcase the history of SWE, supply SWE members with archival information and serve as a center of information on the history of women in engineering. A work in progress, the site currently offers several components: About the SWE Archives, Doing Research at the Reuther Library, History of SWE and Collection Guides. Collection Guides includes finding aids for the national records of SWE, the Emma Barth Diaries, the SWE Photograph Collection and the records of the American Society of Women Engineers & Architects. Special Archives projects, such as the traveling exhibit Petticoats and Slide Rules and the oral history project, Profiles of SWE Pioneers, are highlighted on the main page along with current Archives news. In the future, two additional components are planned. A Members page will provide SWE members with access to records management guidelines, archival preservation tips and 'how-to' suggestions for celebrating anniversaries. A Women in Engineering page will include a pathfinder to facilitate research on the subject. Other planned features include virtual samples from the SWE Archives, such as oral history video clips, a preview of the Petticoats & Slide Rules exhibit, an interactive timeline and an image gallery. The present version of the gateway can be found at [www.reuther.wayne.edu/swe](http://www.reuther.wayne.edu/swe).

The Archives' Petticoats & Slide Rules traveling exhibit afforded another opportunity to use technology creatively to recognize the accomplishments of women engineers. The exhibit traces the history of the Society beginning with its roots in the early 20th century using both visual and textual material. The recent development of a multi-media CD-Rom version of the exhibit translates this informational content into a digital environment. The portability and ease of use of the CD-



Rom allows it to be used in a variety of environments, such as school classrooms, museums, conferences or related events and SWE student section meetings. Designed and created by Education & Technology Services staff at Wayne State University, the CD-Rom is essentially a self-contained, interactive slide show. Digitizing 80% of the material from the traveling exhibit, it allows the user to 'tour' the exhibit through interactive components. Special features include a sound bite from the Peggy Seeger song "I'm Gonna Be an Engineer" and video clips from the oral history project, Profiles of SWE Pioneers (see Collections Open for Research). The CD-Rom is available for purchase through the Society's Web site at [www.swe.org](http://www.swe.org). ■

Deborah Rice



# Hear Me Roar

Continued from page 1

of State, County and Municipal Employees and Service Employees International Union supported active women's programs and encouraged women to assume leadership roles within their unions. They also advocated on behalf of issues of concern to women: sexual discrimination in hiring and on the job, equal pay, child care, pregnancy and maternity leaves, workplace safety and health insurance and pension benefits.

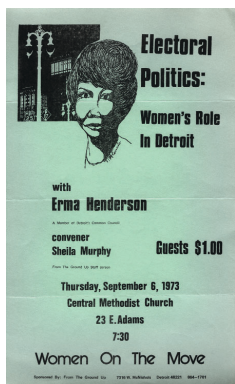
The expansion of the female workforce during the 1960s, more than any other single factor, led to a widening circle of voices demanding change and equity for women. But even though the labor and women's movements broadened and strengthened each other, the relationship between the two was often ambivalent. The Coalition of Labor Union Women, formed in 1974, attempted to bridge the gap between working-



*Olga Madar, first woman elected to the UAW International Executive Board, helped found the Coalition of Labor Union Women and served as its first president.*

class women and middle-class social feminists while seeking to change the male-dominated union culture.

A new era in the women's rights movement began in the late 1960's as control over the feminist agenda passed from the federal government to mass-based, independent feminist civil rights organizations like the National Organization for Women and more radical grass-



roots women's liberation groups. Their vigorous advocacy of women's equality during the peak years of the women's movement in the 1970s and beyond had a decisive impact on public policy and changed the American social landscape forever.

The new feminism embraced concerns ranging from sex discrimination in employment and admissions policies to reproductive rights and the Equal Rights Amendment, and getting women elected to public

office figured prominently as a strategy to address inequities. Feminist politics operated on a national stage in organizations like the National Women's Political Caucus, and at the grassroots level, where women activists stressed local control of basic institutions, expanding the concept of women's issues to include environmental justice, anti-gun legislation and community struggles for decent housing, adequate nutrition, safe schools and neighborhoods.

The feminism that emerged out of the civil rights, antiwar and New Left movements of the 1960s linked women's rights issues with social and economic justice. Women in Detroit and elsewhere, building on the accomplishments of earlier generations of reformers, played active roles in the peace and civil rights movements, in family and child welfare and women's health programs, and in efforts to promote a more realistic image of women and their concerns in the media.

*HEAR ME ROAR: Women and Social Justice* opens in the Atrium Gallery of the Walter P. Reuther Library on September 27, 2004. All Reuther Galleries are open to the public during building hours. There is no cost for admission. ■

Margaret Raucher



*ERA supporters turned out in force when Detroit hosted the Republican National Convention in July of 1980.*

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# Calendar

## 2004

### SEPTEMBER

**23** **Hear Me Roar  
Women and Social Justice**  
Reuther Library Main Gallery

### OCTOBER

**21-23** **North American Labor  
History Conference**  
McGregor Memorial  
Conference Center, WSU

## 2005

### JANUARY

**TBD** **Bernie Firestone Exhibit**  
Reuther Library Woodcock  
Gallery

### APRIL

**8-9** **47th Annual "Michigan in  
Perspective" Local History  
Conference** McGregor Memorial  
Conference Center, WSU

### SEPTEMBER

**TBD** **IWW 100th Anniversary  
Exhibit**  
Reuther Library Main Gallery

**TBD** **Dan Graschuck Sports  
Photograph Exhibit**  
Reuther Library Woodcock  
Gallery

## WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF URBAN, LABOR,  
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## 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**

**www.reuther.wayne.edu**