



Guide to the Polly Howe Papers LP001233

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Walter P. Reuther Library

5401 Cass Avenue

Detroit, MI 48202

URL: <https://reuther.wayne.edu>

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Summary Information

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|----------------------------------|---|
| Repository: | Walter P. Reuther Library |
| Creator: | Howe, Polly (Rosethel) |
| Title: | Polly Howe Papers |
| ID: | LP001233 |
| Date [inclusive]: | 1984-2004 |
| Physical Description: | 1 Linear Feet (1 SB) |
| Language of the Material: | English |
| Language of the Material: | Material entirely in English. |
| Abstract: | <p>Polly Howe worked for much of her career as a teach in Livonia and Dearborn Public Schools. She was an active member of the American Federation of Teachers and served on their Women's Rights Committee from 1987-1991. Howe was also a founding member of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) and helped found the Metro-Detroit Chapter. CLUW helped found the Michigan Pay Equity Network (PEN) in 1985 to study pay inequities among state employees. The organization has worked for over 30 years to try and eliminate sex and race based wage discrimination. An active participant of PEN, Howe served as a State Coordinator and aided in organizing the founding conference. Over her years of involvement with PEN, Howe organized a number of other conferences and rallies throughout the state. She also served as Chair of PEN in 2005. This collection primarily contains material related to pay equity, though there is a small amount of information on the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) 10th anniversary. Some of the pay equity material is directly a product of Michigan Pay Equity Network (PEN) including correspondence, mailings, and photographs from a rally. Other material in this collection includes draft legislation, equal pay proclamations, and literature from organizations with similar goals, as well as from labor unions and the U.S. Department of Labor.</p> |

Citation Style

"Polly Howe Papers, Box [#], Folder [#], Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University"

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Biography

Polly Howe received a bachelors of arts from Michigan State University in 1946. After graduating, Howe continued her education, obtaining a Masters in Education from Wayne State University in 1952 and a Ph.D in Sociology from Wayne State University in 1972.

Howe worked as a teacher in Livonia and Dearborn Public Schools, as well as at Henry Ford Community College. Howe was an active member of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) from 1948-1989 and served as a delegate to several conventions. She also served on the Women's Rights Committee of AFT from 1987-1991.

Outside of teaching Howe became involved in women focused organizations like the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW). Howe was a founding member of CLUW and also helped found the Metro-Detroit Chapter. CLUW helped create the Michigan Pay Equity Network (PEN) in 1985 with the purpose of studying pay inequities among state employees. The organization has worked for over 30 years to try and eliminate sex and race based wage discrimination. An active participant of PEN, Howe served as a State Coordinator and aided in organizing the founding conference. Over her years of involvement with PEN, Howe organized a number of other conferences and rallies throughout the state. She also served as Chair of PEN in 2005.

In 2005, Polly Howe was named an education foundation honoree by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and in 2007 she was named Feminist of the Year by the Detroit National Organization for Women in 2007.

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Scope and Content

This collection primarily contains material related to pay equity, though there is a small amount of information on the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) 10th anniversary. Some of the pay equity material is directly a product of Michigan Pay Equity Network (PEN) including correspondence, mailings, and photographs from a rally. Other material in this collection includes draft legislation, equal pay proclamations, and literature from organizations with similar goals, as well as from labor unions and the U.S. Department of Labor.

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Arrangement

Folders in this collection are arranged in one box alphabetically.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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5401 Cass Avenue

Detroit, MI 48202

URL: <https://reuther.wayne.edu>

Acquisition

This collection was doanted to the Walter P. Reuther Library by Polly Howe on April 19, 1985 and November 23, 2005.

Processing History

Processed and finding aid written by Shae Rafferty on October 31, 2018.

Access

Collection is open for research.

Use

Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library "Rules for Use of Archival Materials."

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Coalition of Labor Union Women Records; Coalition of Labor Union Women: Metro-Detroit Chapter Records; Coalition of Labor Union Women: San Francisco Chapter Records; Coalition of Labor Union Women: Seattle Chapter Records; Coalition of Labor Union Women: Puget Sound Chapter Records

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Controlled Access Headings

- Michigan
- Pay equity
- Women

Collection Inventory

| Title/Description | Instances | |
|---|-----------|------------|
| Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) 10th anniversary, March 22-25, 1984 | Box 1 | Folder 1 |
| Equal pay proclomations and resolutions, 2000-2004 | Box 1 | Folder 2 |
| Labor unions and pay equity, 1983-1997 | Box 1 | Folder 3 |
| Scope and Contents | | |
| AFSCME, AFT, CLUW, UAW, U.S. Department of Labor, CAW TCA | | |
| Legislative drafts, 1987-1988 | Box 1 | Folder 4 |
| Michigan Pay Equity Network (PEN): Attendance sheets, 1985-1996 | Box 1 | Folder 5 |
| PEN: Correspondence, 1985-2001 | Box 1 | Folder 6-7 |
| PEN: Equal Pay Rally photographs, June 13, 1993 | Box 1 | Folder 8 |
| PEN: Mailings, 1990 | Box 1 | Folder 9 |
| PEN: Mailings, 1991 | | |

| | | |
|---|-------|--------------|
| | Box 1 | Folder 10 |
| PEN: Mailings, 1992 | Box 1 | Folder 11 |
| PEN: Mailings, 1993 | Box 1 | Folder 12 |
| PEN: Mailings, 1994 | Box 1 | Folder 13 |
| National Committee on Pay Equity, 1988-1995 | Box 1 | Folder 14-15 |
| Pay equity literature, 1985-1993 | Box 1 | Folder 16-19 |

Scope and Contents

with some correspondence

| | | |
|--|-------|-----------|
| U.S. Department of Labor - Working Women Count Conference, May 19-20, 1995 | Box 1 | Folder 20 |
| Pay Equity Network t-shirt, undated | Box 1 | Folder 21 |
| District 65 - UAW AFL-CIO Dignity for Day Care t-shirt, undated | Box 1 | Folder 22 |