



Guide to the David Elsila Papers LP002444

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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 |
| Title: | David Elsila Papers |
| ID: | LP002444 |
| Date [inclusive]: | 1964-1999 |
| Date [bulk]: | 1968-1999 |
| Date [inclusive]: | 1970-2012 |
| Physical Description: | 5.25 Linear Feet (4 SB, 1 OS, 1 folder) |
| Language of the Material: | English |
| Language of the Material: | Material entirely in English. |
| Abstract: | <p>David Elsila is an activist, educator, writer, editor, and historian best known for his work involving the labor movement. He notably served as the longtime editor for the UAW's magazine Solidarity, managing the publication from 1977 to 1998. Before then, he was editor for the American Federation of Teacher's publications American Teacher and Changing Education. Elsila's work with the AFT is the subject of the majority of the collection. Most of these records are internal memorandum for the AFT and its executive committee. The memorandum detail debates over many organizational issues, notably: the clash of Presidents David Selden and Albert Shanker; contentiousness between the AFT administration and the American Teacher editorial staff; and contract issues between the AFT and the Professional Union at Staff Headquarters. Booklets from AFT national conventions along with various items from his time as an officer for the Workers Education Local 189 are other AFT-related materials in the collection. Records from movements and organizations Elsila participated in make up the rest of the collection. These include the Michigan Labor History Tours, the anti-Vietnam War organization Labor for Peace, Michigan Labor Committee on Central America, and the UAW. Part 2 of the Elsila Papers consist of files relating to Laborfest, the Michigan Labor Legacy project, UAW Solidarity Magazine, and the UAW Public Relations Department.</p> |

Citation Style

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

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History

David Elsila is an activist, educator, writer, editor, and historian best known for his work involving the labor movement. He notably served as the longtime editor for the UAW's magazine *Solidarity*, managing the publication from 1977 to 1998. Before then, he was editor for the American Federation of Teacher's publications *American Teacher* and *Changing Education*. Throughout his diverse career, he also taught journalism courses at Wayne State University, wrote several books on labor history, served as Vice-President of the ACLU of Metropolitan Detroit, was a board member and editor of the Michigan Labor History Society, and received numerous awards for his journalistic and civic accomplishments.

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Scope and Content

Part 1: David Elsila's work with the AFT is the subject of the majority of the collection. Most of these records are internal memorandum for the AFT and its executive committee. The memorandum detail debates over many organizational issues, notably: the clash of Presidents David Selden and Albert Shanker; contentiousness between the AFT administration and the *American Teacher* editorial staff; and contract issues between the AFT and the Professional Union at Staff Headquarters. Booklets from AFT national conventions along with various items from his time as an officer for the Workers Education Local 189 are other AFT-related materials in the collection. Records from movements and organizations Elsila participated in make up the rest of the collection. These include the Michigan Labor History Tours, the anti-Vietnam War organization Labor for Peace, Michigan Labor Committee on Central America, and the UAW.

Part 2 consists of files relating to Laborfest, the Michigan Labor Legacy project, UAW Solidarity Magazine, and the UAW Public Relations Department.

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Arrangement

Part 1: Folders in this collection are not necessarily arranged in any particular order. The box listing provides an inventory based on their original order. Subjects may be dispersed throughout the collection.

Part 2: Files are arranged alphabetically.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Walter P. Reuther Library

5401 Cass Avenue

Detroit, MI 48202

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

Acquisition

Part 1 of this collection was donated to the Reuther Library on September 6, 2013.

Part 2 of this collection was donated to the Reuther Library on September 28, 2016.

Processing History

Processed and finding aid for Part 1 was written by Gavin Strassel on May 28, 2014.

Processed and finding aid for Part 2 was written by Mark Prindiville on July 20, 2018.

Use

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

Restrictions: Researchers may encounter records of a sensitive nature - personnel files, case records and those involving investigations, legal and other private matters. Privacy laws and restrictions imposed by the Library prohibit the use of names and other personal information which might identify an individual, except with written permission from the Director and/or the donor.

Access

Collection is open for research.

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Related Materials

Related Material

Part 1: AFT Inventory Part I Records; UAW Public Relations Department Photographs and Sound and Video Recordings; AFT Office of the President Records; AFT Presidents Office: 1960-1970 Records Part II; Michigan Federation of Teachers Records; Oral History Collection; AFT Presidents Office: Alfred Loewenthal Records; Workers' Education Local 189 Records

Transfers

Photographic materials were transferred to the Reuther Audiovisual Department (see AV Material at end of inventory).

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Controlled Access Headings

- Journalism
- Labor disputes
- Labor unions
- Periodical editors
- Teachers' unions
- Vietnam War, 1961-1975--Protest movements--United States
- American Federation of Teachers. Convention
- American Federation of Teachers. Executive Council. Meeting
- American Federation of Teachers. Workers Education Local 189
- Selden, David
- Shanker, Albert
- International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace, and Agricultural Implement Workers of America
- Washington Labor for Peace

- Wayne State University. Labor Studies Center

Collection Inventory

Part 1

| | | |
|--|-------|-----------|
| AFT memos, 1971-1973 | Box 1 | Folder 1 |
| AFT memos, 1971-1973 | Box 1 | Folder 2 |
| AFT memos, 1972-1973 | Box 1 | Folder 3 |
| Office spaces, 1972 | Box 1 | Folder 4 |
| AFT memos, 1974 | Box 1 | Folder 5 |
| AFT memos, 1974 (1 of 8) | Box 1 | Folder 6 |
| AFT memos, 1974 (2 of 8) | Box 1 | Folder 7 |
| AFT memos, 1974 (3 of 8) | Box 1 | Folder 8 |
| AFT memos, 1974 (4 of 8) | Box 1 | Folder 9 |
| AFT memos, 1974 (5 of 8) | Box 1 | Folder 10 |
| AFT memos, 1974 (6 of 8) | Box 1 | Folder 11 |
| AFT memos, 1974 (7 of 8) | Box 1 | Folder 12 |
| AFT memos, 1974 (8 of 8) | Box 1 | Folder 13 |
| AFT and American Teacher memos, 1971-1974 (1 of 3) | Box 1 | Folder 14 |
| AFT and American Teacher memos, 1971-1974 (2 of 3) | Box 1 | Folder 15 |
| AFT and American Teacher memos, 1971-1974 (3 of 3) | Box 1 | Folder 16 |
| AFT and American Teacher memos, 1971-1973 | Box 1 | Folder 17 |
| Hiring of staff and department budgets, 1970-1972 | Box 1 | Folder 18 |
| Directors' meeting minutes and memos, 1972 April-May | Box 1 | Folder 19 |
| Staff assignments, 1971-1973 | Box 1 | Folder 20 |
| Staff meetings, 1972-1973 | Box 1 | Folder 21 |
| Reports to executive council and publications committee meeting minutes, 1969-1972 | Box 1 | Folder 22 |
| AFT in Action, 1973-1974 | Box 1 | Folder 23 |
| AFT and American Teacher memos, 1974 March-April | Box 1 | Folder 24 |
| AFT executive council meeting, packet, 1968 July | Box 1 | Folder 25 |
| AFT executive council meeting, packet, 1968 October | Box 1 | Folder 26 |

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| Executive council meeting minutes, 1968-1970 | Box 1 | Folder 27 |
| Convention resolutions, 1975 July | Box 1 | Folder 28 |
| AFT executive council proceedings, 1974 | Box 1 | Folder 29 |
| AFT officers' reports, 1974 | Box 1 | Folder 30 |
| Representing Today's Teachers, 1964 | Box 1 | Folder 31 |
| Resolutions and convention rules, 1975 | Box 1 | Folder 32 |
| AFT convention materials, 1975 | Box 1 | Folder 33 |
| Re-elect Albert Shanker materials, 1978 | Box 1 | Folder 34 |
| AFT Staff and Leadership Development Program, 1976 | Box 1 | Folder 35 |
| International Federation of Free Teachers' Unions memo, 1975 November | Box 1 | Folder 36 |
| United Action Caucus, 1977 | Box 1 | Folder 37 |
| Union Teacher Press Association Convention, 1976 August | Box 1 | Folder 38 |
| Convention daily summaries, 1977 August | Box 1 | Folder 39 |
| Report on the 58th Annual Convention: The American Federation of Teachers, 1974 | Box 2 | Folder 40 |
| AFT publications, 1960s-1970s | Box 1 | Folder 41 |
| Various education publications, 1970s | Box 1 | Folder 42 |
| Arbitration materials, 1972 | Box 1 | Folder 43 |
| AFT and AFL-CIO convention publications, 1970s | Box 1 | Folder 44 |
| Teachers Action Caucus Newsletter, 1971 | Box 1 | Folder 45 |
| AFT memos, 1971 | Box 1 | Folder 46 |
| Progressive Caucus, [1970s] | Box 1 | Folder 47 |
| Vietnam Caucus, [1970s] | Box 1 | Folder 48 |
| Black Caucus, [1970s] | Box 1 | Folder 49 |
| United Action Caucus, [1970s] | Box 1 | Folder 50 |
| AFT memos and newsletters, 1973-1974 (1 of 2) | Box 2 | Folder 1 |
| AFT memos and newsletters, 1973-1974 (2 of 2) | Box 2 | Folder 2 |
| Changing Education, memos, 1974 | Box 2 | Folder 3 |
| AFT memos and correspondence, 1972-1974 | Box 2 | Folder 4 |
| American Teacher, photocopied publication, 1974 | Box 2 | Folder 5 |
| AFT officer directory, 1975 January | Box 2 | Folder 6 |
| AFT news clippings, 1970s | Box 2 | Folder 7 |

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| American Teacher, newspaper, 1974 February | Box 2 | Folder 8 |
| Local 189 materials, 1980s | Box 2 | Folder 9 |
| Workers Educational Local 189, newsletters, 1970s-1980s | Box 2 | Folder 10 |
| Local 189 directory of labor education, 1977 | Box 2 | Folder 11 |
| Save Local 189 campaign, 1976 | Box 2 | Folder 12 |
| Local 189 events, 1970s | Box 2 | Folder 13 |
| Labor Education Viewpoints, Local 189 publication, undated | Box 2 | Folder 14 |
| Local 189 meeting minutes, 1970s-1980s | Box 2 | Folder 15 |
| Local 189 projects and programs, 1970s-1980s | Box 2 | Folder 16 |
| Local 189 newsletters, 1979-1982 | Box 2 | Folder 17 |
| Center for Labor Education event, packet, West Virginia Institute of Technology, 1979 May | Box 2 | Folder 18 |
| Center for Labor Education event, packet, West Virginia Institute of Technology, 1979 May | Box 2 | Folder 19 |
| Michigan Labor History Society, 1970s-1980s (1 of 2) | Box 2 | Folder 20 |
| Michigan Labor History Society, 1970s-1980s (2 of 2) | Box 2 | Folder 21 |
| Conferences and celebrations, 1970s-1990s (1 of 2) | Box 2 | Folder 22 |
| Conferences and celebrations, 1970s-1990s (2 of 2) | Box 2 | Folder 23 |
| Local UAW booklets, 1970s-1980s | Box 2 | Folder 24 |
| Detroit Labor History tours, 1980 | Box 2 | Folder 25 |
| Labor for Peace organization, 1970s (1 of 3) | Box 2 | Folder 26 |
| Labor for Peace organization, 1970s (2 of 3) | Box 2 | Folder 27 |
| Labor for Peace organization, 1970s (3 of 3) | Box 2 | Folder 28 |
| Michigan Labor Committee on Central America, 1980s-1990s (1 of 6) | Box 2 | Folder 29 |
| Michigan Labor Committee on Central America, 1980s-1990s (2 of 6) | Box 2 | Folder 30 |
| Michigan Labor Committee on Central America, 1980s-1990s (3 of 6) | Box 2 | Folder 31 |
| Michigan Labor Committee on Central America, 1980s-1990s (4 of 6) | Box 2 | Folder 32 |
| Michigan Labor Committee on Central America, 1980s-1990s (5 of 6) | Box 2 | Folder 33 |
| Michigan Labor Committee on Central America, 1980s-1990s (6 of 6) | Box 2 | Folder 34 |

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| Michigan Labor Committee on Central America, negatives, 1980s-1990s | Box AV materials | Folder 1 |
| Local 189 events, photographic prints, 1960s-1970s | Box AV materials | Folder 2 |
| Part 2 | | |
| California, Workshop and Prop. 226, 1997 and 1998 | Box 3 | Folder 1 |
| Ernie Goodman Book, 2009-2010 | Box 3 | Folder 2 |
| Ethel Schwartz, 2002, 2012 | Box 3 | Folder 3 |
| Ethel Schwartz, Contributions and Memorandum, 2012 | Box 3 | Folder 4 |
| Ethel Schwartz, Memorial Scholarship for Labor Education, 2012 | Box 3 | Folder 5 |
| ILCA and LUPA, 1971, 1976, 1995-1997, 2000 | Box 3 | Folder 6 |
| IMF Meeting, 1987, January 13-16 | Box 3 | Folder 7 |
| Laborfest, 1997 | Box 3 | Folder 8 |
| Laborfest, 1998, 1 of 2 | Box 3 | Folder 9 |
| Laborfest, 1998, 2 of 2 | Box 3 | Folder 10 |
| Laborfest, 1999 | Box 3 | Folder 11 |
| Laborfest, 2000 | Box 3 | Folder 12 |
| Laborfest, 2001 | Box 3 | Folder 13 |
| Laborfest, Newspaper Articles, 2001 | Box 3 | Folder 14 |
| Michigan Labor Legacy Project and Meeting Minutes, 1985, 2001-2002 | Box 3 | Folder 15 |
| Newspaper Strikes, Arrests, 1996 | Box 3 | Folder 16 |
| Other Union Publications, Workshop Use, 1988, 1996 | Box 3 | Folder 17 |
| Out-of-Town Papers, 1998 | Box 3 | Folder 18 |
| Publications, 1992-1993, 2006, undated | Box 3 | Folder 19 |
| Public Relations Department, Reports and Retreats, 1990-1995, Part 1 of 2 | Box 3 | Folder 20 |
| Public Relations Department, Reports and Retreats, 1990-1995, Part 2 of 2 | Box 3 | Folder 21 |
| Public Relations Department, Numbers and Policies, 1995-1997 | Box 3 | Folder 22 |
| Solidarity, 1970, 1983, 1987, 1988, 1993, 1997 | Box 3 | Folder 23 |
| Solidarity Fan Mail, Awards, and Reprints, 1980-1996, Part 1 of 3 | Box 3 | Folder 24 |
| Solidarity Fan Mail, Awards, and Reprints, 1980-1996, Part 2 of 3 | Box 3 | Folder 25 |
| Solidarity Fan Mail, Awards, and Reprints, 1980-1996, Part 3 of 3 | Box 3 | Folder 26 |

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|---|-------|-----------|
| Solidarity Fan Mail, Awards, and Reprints, 1982-1997, Part 1 of 3 | Box 3 | Folder 27 |
| Solidarity Fan Mail, Awards, and Reprints, 1982-1997, Part 2 of 3 | Box 3 | Folder 28 |
| Solidarity Fan Mail, Awards, and Reprints, 1982-1997, Part 3 of 3 | Box 3 | Folder 29 |
| Solidarity Hate Mail, 1996, undated | Box 3 | Folder 30 |
| Special Publications, 1980-1981, 1983, 1990, 1994 | Box 4 | Folder 1 |
| Speech Notes, 1996, undated | Box 4 | Folder 2 |
| Teaching, California, 1998 | Box 4 | Folder 3 |
| UAW and South Africa, 1986-1987, 1989-1990 | Box 4 | Folder 4 |
| UAW Solidarity, 1996-1997, 2000-2003, 2006 | Box 4 | Folder 5 |
| Workshops, Speeches, and Panels, 1995 and 1998 | Box 4 | Folder 6 |
| Laborfest, Milwaukee, 1994-1996 | Box 4 | Folder 7 |
| Laborfest, Detroit, 1997 | Box 4 | Folder 8 |
| Laborfest, Detroit, 1998 | Box 4 | Folder 9 |
| Laborfest, Detroit, 1999 | Box 4 | Folder 10 |
| Laborfest, Detroit, 2000 | Box 4 | Folder 11 |
| Laborfest, Detroit, 2001 | Box 4 | Folder 12 |
| Photographs, unidentified, undated | Box 4 | Folder 13 |
| Laborfest Pin, 2000, September 4 | Box 5 | Folder 1 |
| Laborfest Yard Sign, 2000 | Box 5 | Item 1 |
| "No Scab Papers" Yard Sign, undated | Box 5 | Item 2 |
| Laborfest Poster, 1998 | Box 5 | Item 3 |
| Laborfest Poster, 1999 | Box 5 | Item 4 |
| Laborfest Poster, 2002 | Box 5 | Item 5 |
| Solidarity Political Cartoon Art, undated, 1 of 11 | Box 5 | Item 6 |
| Solidarity Political Cartoon Art, undated, 2 of 11 | Box 5 | Item 7 |
| Solidarity Political Cartoon Art, undated, 3 of 11 | Box 5 | Item 8 |
| Solidarity Political Cartoon Art, undated, 4 of 11 | Box 5 | Item 9 |
| Solidarity Political Cartoon Art, undated, 5 of 11 | Box 5 | Item 10 |
| Solidarity Political Cartoon Art, undated, 6 of 11 | Box 5 | Item 11 |
| Solidarity Political Cartoon Art, undated, 7 of 11 | Box 5 | Item 12 |
| Solidarity Political Cartoon Art, undated, 8 of 11 | Box 5 | Item 13 |
| Solidarity Political Cartoon Art, undated, 9 of 11 | Box 5 | Item 14 |

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| Solidarity Political Cartoon Art, undated, 10 of 11 | Box 5 | Item 15 |
| Solidarity Political Cartoon Art, undated, 11 of 11 | Box 5 | Item 16 |
| "Standing Strong in Detroit," undated | Box 5 | Item 17 |
| UAW Poster, 1941 | Box 5 | Item 18 |
| Solidarity Day Poster, 1981 | Box 5 | Item 19 |