



WALTER P. REUTHER LIBRARY
ARCHIVES OF LABOR AND URBAN AFFAIRS
AND UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 22 | FALL 2018

This issue of the Reuther's newsletter seeks to highlight an ongoing commitment to growing our collections; supporting research and education; and stewarding the evidentiary past of the American labor movement, urban Detroit, and Wayne State University. Not least among these efforts in the past year has been establishing two entirely new positions at the Reuther Library: the Labor and Urban Affairs Collections (LUAC) Archivist and the United Automobile Workers (UAW) Archivist.

Shae Rafferty, our first-ever LUAC archivist, joined the staff in October and is primarily responsible for processing and collection management related to labor and urban affairs collections that lack an ongoing donor-funded archivist. Hundreds of collections fall into this category, and Shae did not hesitate to jump in to her work. Shae has already opened up numerous collections for public access. Together, these new materials cover a diverse range of topics that intersect across many themes in the Motor City. In the coming years, expect to see a great deal of new collection material ready for research thanks to our new LUAC position.



Gavin Strassel became our first UAW archivist this past December, though he's also served as an archives technician and Service Employees International Union archivist in his nearly five years at the Reuther. We're proud of our 60-year relationship with the United Automobile Workers and to be the repository for their materials, but until this year we did not have a dedicated archivist responsible solely for the care and maintenance of the UAW's historical record. In addition to working with UAW staff, Gavin opened the UAW Local 600 collection, which documents decades of work done by one of the union's largest locals. He was drawn to this new position by the opportunity to work with the UAW collections and the rich history found within them. After all, UAW collections served as a foundation for the Archives and the UAW enabled construction of the Reuther Library.



These two new positions bring us up to 18 Reuther Library archivists working to increase access to archival collections for researchers across the world. We hope our news on the past year's work inspires you to pay us a visit or make a suggestion for the future. We look forward to assisting you with your research soon!

Reuther Library Staff

ARCHIVES AND PRIMARY RESOURCE EDUCATION LAB (APREL)

This year, the Reuther is excited to announce the opening of our new Archives and Primary Resource Education Lab (APREL).

Based on years of class instruction and one-on-one interaction with students, we know that working with primary sources develops the skills people need to have agency in their own lives — the ability to understand where their information comes from and when it is reliable, the tools to

compare sources and analyze data, and the confidence to question inaccurate claims.

We want to expand this essential education and prove its impact.

Starting in fall 2018, APREL will serve as a focal point for innovative primary source education, offering instruction, embedded archivist services, and curriculum development support.



We aim to train learners of all ages to understand and evaluate information from various perspectives by promoting the use of primary sources. To show that these efforts help students succeed, we'll study the impacts of primary source education on student success for various constituent groups.

Visit reuther.wayne.edu/education/lab to learn more or schedule a class visit!

NEWLY OPENED COLLECTIONS

HUNGER ACTION COALITION OF MICHIGAN RECORDS, 1969-1988

The Hunger Action Coalition of Michigan was originally founded in 1977 as the Southeastern Michigan Food Coalition (SEMFCO) by local groups concerned about the hunger problem in the United States. SEMFCO sought to combat hunger by organizing emergency food providers, assisting with food stamp administration, and disseminating hunger-related news through newsletters, brochures, and fliers. Records include correspondence with local organizations and partners, newsletters, surveys, training and conference materials, and materials on hunger programs.

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS RECORDS, 1989-2017

El Central Hispanic News is Michigan's largest, oldest, and only Hispanic bi-weekly bilingual newspaper, serving the Detroit community for nearly 20 years. El Central covers topics in both Spanish and English, and is headquartered in Southwest Detroit. The paper's focus includes domestic and international news, particularly political happenings between the United States and Mexico. This collection consists of published issues of the newspaper from 1989 to 2017.



WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES ITS 150TH YEAR

For 150 years, Wayne State and its predecessor schools and colleges have been inextricably linked to the city of Detroit. Wayne State University began as the Detroit College of Medicine in 1868, training a diverse group of local and international students to be doctors in a burgeoning metropolis. Numerous colleges and schools followed, some originating at the Detroit Board of Education, and joined to form the Colleges of the City of Detroit in 1933, which was soon renamed Wayne University in 1934. Reimagined as Wayne State University in the 1950s, the institution gathered students from various backgrounds in an effort to deliver the value of higher education through the lens of an urban, public university.

As home of the Wayne State University Archives, the Reuther Library marked this momentous occasion with an exhibit exploring the University mission:

**“WE WILL CREATE AND
ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE,
PREPARE A DIVERSE
STUDENT BODY TO THRIVE,
AND POSITIVELY IMPACT
LOCAL AND GLOBAL
COMMUNITIES”**

The exhibit explores these three concepts over Wayne’s 150 years and zooms in on a few of the thousands of stories reflecting the influence of students, faculty, and alumni. These stories, told through our archival collections, illustrate the Wayne State community’s efforts to forge an identity in a place so influenced by industry, migration, politics, cultural expression, and conflict. From groundbreaking faculty research on automotive safety standards and the impact of zinc to student protest and the preservation of Detroit’s historic buildings, the exhibit aims to show just a small fraction of the stories of Wayne State’s past.

Today, Wayne State University continues to shape its identity. We know that we are unique in many ways, situated in a city with a story like few others. As we reflect on 150 years, we also look forward to the next 150 years of excellence in our campus and our city.



150 YEARS
IN THE HEART OF DETROIT



**NEWLY OPENED
COLLECTION:
BURT R. SURLY, M.D.
PAPERS**

Dr. Burt L. Shurly served as the director of the Carl E. Schmidt Base Hospital No. 36 in Vittel, France during World War I, the first hospital unit of over 1,000 beds to be deployed overseas. He later taught at Wayne University's School of Medicine. This petite collection includes correspondence, clippings, and photographs that highlight Dr. Shurly's storied career.

STUDENT LIFE GALLERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Come see how campus activities have changed throughout the last 100 years in the new digital collection *Wayne State University Student Life*. The collection contains over 1,500 photographs from the University Archives taken between 1913-2001, and includes images of clubs, sports, and other social activities, as well as campus views. This project was generously supported by the Office of the President in celebration of the WSU sesquicentennial.

Visit: <https://digital.library.wayne.edu/item/wayne:collectionStudentLife>



UAW LOCAL 600 RECORDS

The Reuther is proud to announce a large addition to the UAW Local 600 Records. As the largest and arguably most influential Local in the historic UAW, countless researchers have requested access to the UAW Local 600 Records over the years. Out of Dearborn, Michigan and representing workers from the massive Rouge River Factory Complex, some of the most indelible images of the UAW originate from Local 600: a defiant Walter Reuther squaring off against Ford Motor-hired thugs at the Battle of the Overpass, Nelson Mandela declaring "I am a member of the UAW" at the Rouge factory, and, more recently, Bernie Sanders making his pitch to the labor community at the Local 600 union hall. Beyond these headline-grabbing

moments, Local 600 has long been at the forefront of the labor movement's push to make American society more equitable. They fought for more fully integrated unions and factories well before civil rights became part of Walter Reuther's platform, organized boycotts of racist local businesses, and opposed the war in Vietnam before most organizations.

The Local 600 Records range from 1941 to 2010, illustrating work life at an iconic American industrial site. Extensive meeting minutes go back to the first General Council meeting and detail the breadth of the union's activities. Local 600's prominence also made it a frequent source for future leadership of the union's International Executive

Board. Correspondence from UAW leaders like President Bob King and Vice President Jimmy Settles are notable in the collection. In addition, the records contain an extensive number of photographs from the local's *Ford Facts* publication, which go beyond union business and provide a moving resource of industrial imagery and portraits of life in Dearborn and Detroit.

Processing the Local 600 Records illuminated a fascinating portrait of the dramatic history of the UAW, and we look forward to researchers making use of the historical materials to draft new insights into everything from Michigan's early civil rights movement to transformations in American industry.

"LOCAL 600 HAS LONG BEEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT'S PUSH TO MAKE AMERICAN SOCIETY MORE EQUITABLE."

NEW PODCAST: *TALES FROM THE REUTHER LIBRARY*

This past May, we launched a brand-new podcast, “Tales from the Reuther Library,” offering an opportunity for archivists and long-term researchers to share stories they’ve uncovered in the Reuther’s collections that document the American labor movement, modern Detroit, and Wayne State University. “We would all sit around the table at lunch talking about our favorite podcasts, and we realized this would be a great way to open our archives to a wider audience,” explained Troy Eller English, podcast co-producer and Society of Women Engineers archivist. “It’s an approachable way to share what we and our researchers have learned from all the boxes and folders in this building,” added Dan Golodner, co-producer and American Federation of Teachers archivist. “History nerds might not have the time to dig through all those boxes themselves, or to read someone’s dissertation, but they might find time to listen to those stories while driving to work, washing dishes, or walking on the treadmill.” “It’s a new way to share our history,” Eller English added. “And it’s fun.”

Early episodes of “Tales from the Reuther Library” explored the life of United Farm Workers organizer Larry Itliong, anti-unionism in Charlotte, North Carolina, the impact of the American labor movement and Black American business leaders on South Africa’s Anti-Apartheid movement, and freelance photographer Richard Copley’s recollections on the Memphis Sanitation Workers’ Strike and the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The podcast also explored topics closer to home, including the work of famed architect Minoru Yamasaki, who designed several buildings on the Wayne State University campus.



Future episodes will feature more interviews with recipients of the Reuther’s Sam Fishman Travel Award, as well as some of our archivists’ favorite stories from their collections.

LISTEN TO TALES FROM THE REUTHER LIBRARY AT [REUTHER.WAYNE.EDU/PODCASTS](https://reuther.wayne.edu/podcasts), OR SUBSCRIBE ON YOUR FAVORITE PODCAST APP.



SUBJECT FOCUS: SCHOOL DESEGREGATION

This year, the Reuther opened several new archival collections that offer perspective on school desegregation attempts in Detroit during the 1970s and into the 1980s.

Detroit Public Schools experienced de-facto segregation in the first half of the 20th century as a result of real estate redlining, school district boundaries, and other factors. Archival records from this era can illuminate the various forces battling over ways to provide equal education to Detroit students.

Throughout the 1960s, frustrations mounted in Detroit Public Schools over the lack of funding and opportunity at schools with higher Black student populations. Students organized to draw attention to the disparity, perhaps culminating in the weeks-long Northern High School walkout in 1966. Bad press and community outcry meant the school board felt pressured to find solutions.

The Detroit Board of Education created a two-way integration plan and redrew high school districts for greater racial integration. However, the Michigan State

Legislature passed a bill preventing the Board of Education from implementing its plan. After Governor Milliken signed the bill, the NAACP filed a lawsuit in 1970 on behalf of students attending Detroit schools and some of their parents.

In 1971, the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the Detroit Public Schools district was illegally segregated and called for a plan including over 50 school districts throughout metropolitan Detroit to remedy the situation. The case was appealed to the Supreme Court who, in 1974, upheld the lower court's finding of legally recognized, de jure segregation in the Detroit Public Schools system but exempted school districts outside of Detroit from participation in a solution. The case was remanded and assigned to Judge Robert E. DeMascio to create and oversee a Detroit-only desegregation plan. Judge DeMascio's papers at the Reuther Library illustrate his creation of the Monitoring Commission to oversee the implementation of court orders in the schools. Over the course of five years, DeMascio created a Detroit-only busing plan and court-ordered improvements to Detroit schools in eight key areas: reading instruction, student

counseling and guidance, community relations, vocational education, bilingual education, teacher training, and in-service training. Fay O'Hare, whose papers also reside at the Reuther Library, served as Chairperson to the Monitoring Commission.

The Walter P. Reuther Library collections contain extensive material on the Milliken v. Bradley case from a wide variety of perspectives including: Robert E. DeMascio Papers (Federal judge); Fay O'Hare Papers (Monitoring Commission, Chairperson); Mary Ellen Riordan Papers (Detroit Federation of Teachers, President); Merle Henrickson Papers (Detroit Public Schools); Cornelius Golightly Papers (Detroit Board of Education, President); Remus Robinson Papers (Detroit Board of Education); Detroit Public Schools Community Relations Division Records; Wayne State University College of Education, Dean's Office: Detroit Public Schools Monitoring Commission on Desegregation Records; and the NAACP Detroit Branch Records.

IN FOCUS: DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOL ARCHITECTURE

Interested in learning more about Detroit Public Schools' buildings? Please visit our Pinterest gallery, *Detroit Area Schools*, for a sample of over one hundred interior and exterior views of buildings ranging from the 1900s-1970s.

NEWLY OPENED COLLECTION: THE CHARLES CHENG PAPERS, 1959-1979

Charles Cheng grew up in Detroit and, during his life, served as a teacher, labor organizer, union official, and later an assistant professor at UCLA, where he was a leading authority on community participation in collective bargaining for public educators. His papers represent education activism and study in the Michigan area as well as nationally.

Beginning with his attempts to integrate Pontiac, Michigan schools in the 1960s, Cheng devoted his life to desegregation activism. His experience led him to serve on a desegregation task force in Boston, consult in Pasadena's school system, and serve as a citizen member for the Los Angeles Unified School District



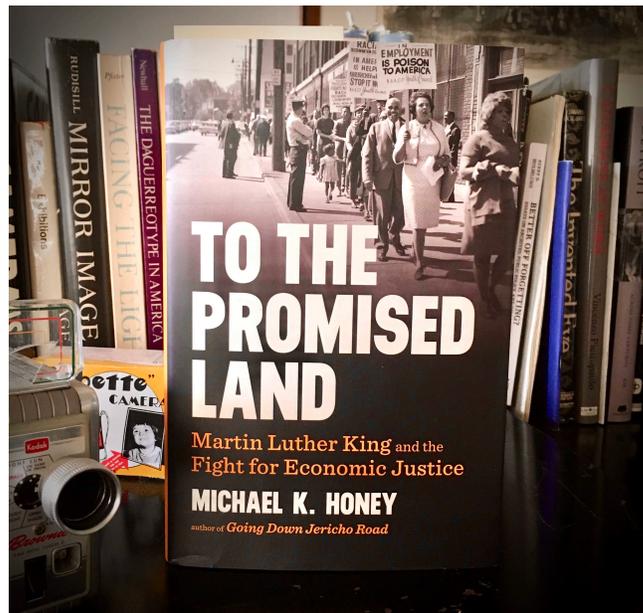
Desegregation Plan. Cheng's many interests also included racial justice and the teaching of Asian American and Native American history as an established part of school curriculum.

AUDIOVISUAL COLLECTION USE

The Reuther Library houses extensive holdings that document the history and development of Detroit and its surrounding regions, some of which were used to help create the documentary *Detroit: Comeback City*. The film, narrated by Academy Award Winner J.K. Simmons and produced by Big Sean, looks at the rise, fall, and resurgence of the city through the story of Michigan Central Station. It features interviews with Professor Henry Louis Gates Jr., Pulitzer Prize-winner Dr. Heather Ann Thompson, Bill Ford, and NASA Astronaut Jerry Linenger. The documentary aired in summer 2018 on The History Channel.

In addition, a total of 13 broadcast documentaries or programs used footage and photographs from our collections, including: CBS Sunday Morning, PBS NewsHour, Smithsonian Channel, Science Channel, and Fox News. Be on the lookout for the forthcoming ESPN documentary on legendary sports writer Grantland Rice, which used scans of nearly a dozen large-format glass-plate negatives to highlight sports personalities of the early 20th century, as well as the Netflix series *Death by Magic*, whose episode on Harry Houdini features photos from the Detroit News Collection.

Authors and publishers frequently use our collections to illustrate articles in journals, newspapers, and books. This past year 67 authors made use of our audiovisual resources in published material. Of particular note is professor Michael K. Honey's *To the Promised Land: Martin Luther King and the Fight for Economic Justice*. The book, released by W.W. Norton in spring 2018, uses King's speeches, published writings, and unpublished notes to shine a light on King's commitment to social and economic equality. Local history enthusiasts will be delighted by Chris Edwards' *5,000 Ways You Know You Are from Detroit*, which used 185 images from our



collections to highlight local culture, landmarks, and history. Finally, delve deep into the rich legacy of women in the I.W.W. with the new title *Beyond the Rebel Girl: Women and the Industrial Workers of the World in the Pacific Northwest, 1905-1924*, by Heather Mayer. The book explores Wobbly-supported issues considered revolutionary at the time, including birth control, sexual emancipation, and the rights of the woman worker.

NEWLY OPENED COLLECTION: FOLKLORE ARCHIVES STUDENT FIELD PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHS

A visual subset of the Folklore Archives is now open for research: the Student Field Project Photographs. Student collectors created these images between 1958-1982 as supplementary materials for their original research. They document local ethnic culture, handicrafts, and traditions, including representations of Middle Eastern, Lebanese, Ukrainian, Greek, Italian, French-Canadian, German, Czechoslovakian, and African American communities. To view the material in person, please contact the Audiovisual Department for an appointment.



NEWLY OPENED COLLECTION: NAACP DETROIT BRANCH RECORDS, 1912-2016

The NAACP Detroit Branch, established in 1912, is one of the oldest branches in the NAACP and continually the largest. Over the past century, it has worked to improve the lives of African Americans in Detroit, particularly in matters of housing, employment, education, police-community relations, and voting rights.

The new addition to the records provides more recent information about the branch's activities from the 1970s through 2016, during seismic economic shifts in the city. With topics widely ranging from communications and relations with the national and regional NAACP to the closing of Southwest Detroit Hospital, this installment adds a great deal of depth to the history of the Detroit Branch, including important programs and events that serve the community and its members.

Photographs, planning documents, and fliers help illustrate many of these long-standing programs and events as they evolved through Detroit's turbulent 1980s and 1990s.

YEAR IN REVIEW:



1250

Reading Room Visits

2049

Remote Reference Requests



110

Tour Participants

180

Class Instruction



56500

Website Visitors

3836

Social Media Followers

REUTHER LIBRARY STAFF

**Jon E. Cawthorne, dean of the Wayne State
University Library System**

Virginia Thomas, Reuther interim director

Mary Wallace, interim assistant director

Bart Bealmear, ALPA archivist

Stefanie Caloia, AFSCME archivist

Brandon Carter, facility coordinator

Kristen Chinery, reference archivist

Elizabeth Clemens, audiovisual archivist

Meghan Courtney, outreach archivist

Mattie Dugan, archives technician

Troy Eller English, SWE archivist

**G. Aimee Ergas, collection archivist for
Jewish Detroit**

Dan Golodner, AFT archivist

Dr. Louis Jones, field archivist

Sarah Lebovitz, SEIU archivist

**Paul S. Neirink, digital resources
specialist**

Elizabeth Nicholson, archives technician

**Alexandra A.A. Orchard, technical and
metadata archivist**

Shae Rafferty, labor and urban affairs archivist

Deborah Rice, audiovisual archivist

Kathleen Schmeling, senior processing archivist

Alison Stankrauff, university archivist

Gavin Strassel, UAW archivist



WAYNE STATE

**Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives
of Labor and Urban Affairs**

5401 Cass Avenue, Detroit, MI 48202

(313) 577-4024

reuther.wayne.edu



@REUTHERLIBRARY



@REUTHERLIBRARY



@REUTHERLIBRARY



**YOUTUBE.COM/CHANNEL/
UCNVFX0YJTJ8HFQPMWZNO_HW**