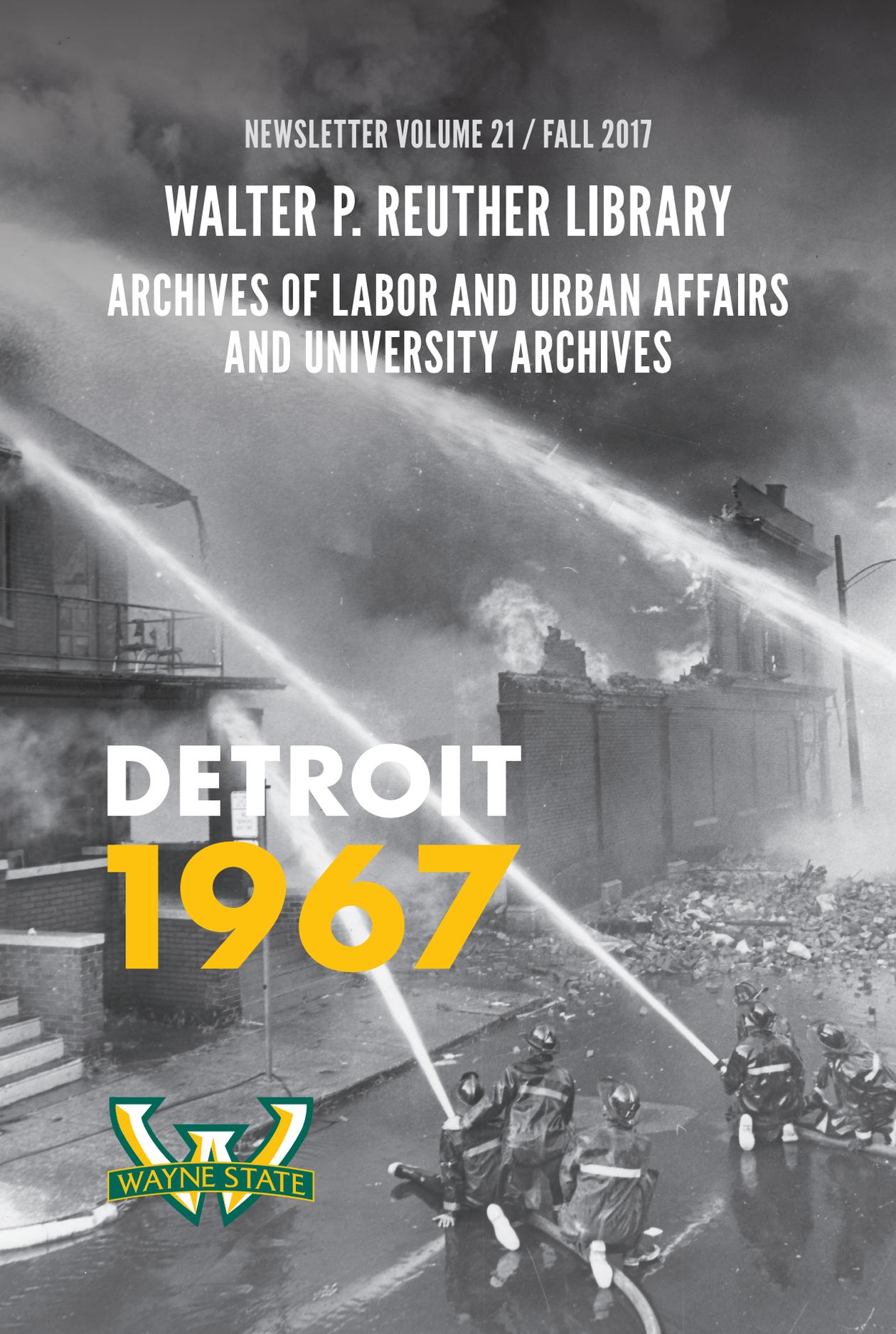


NEWSLETTER VOLUME 21 / FALL 2017

WALTER P. REUTHER LIBRARY

ARCHIVES OF LABOR AND URBAN AFFAIRS
AND UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

DETROIT
1967



A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

IN FOCUS: VIRTUAL MOTOR CITY COLLECTION NOW IN DPLA

More users than ever before will be able to access images from the Reuther Library's Virtual Motor City project through the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA)! Virtual Motor City contains images from the Detroit News Photograph Collection, a premier photojournalistic resource that primarily documents the city of Detroit, its people, places, and events from the late 19th century through the 1980s (bulk 1900-1980). This digital collection was originally made possible by DALNET, IMLS, and Library of Michigan grants in 2002-2007.

Visit dp.la to view over 5 million documents from 120 organizations from across the United States.

NEW COLLECTIONS

Prismatic Club Records

The men-only Prismatic Club was founded in Detroit in 1867, with a cultural, social, and literary focus. The club is still active, celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2017. Many prominent Detroiters and Michiganders have been members. Club records include texts of many of the members' weekly presentations on a variety of topics, including history, medicine, engineering, genealogy, art, literature, and gastronomy. Administrative and officers' files, minutes, newsletters, and club event documents are also part of the records. There are also photos and graphics such as member cartoons and sketches from the club's early years.

SEIU Photographs

The SEIU Photographs, a collection of the union's images spanning from 1915 to 2012, is the most comprehensive visual history of the nation's second largest union. Many of these photos capture pivotal moments in SEIU's history, ranging from massive demonstrations of thousands of nurses marching across the Golden Gate Bridge to the International Executive Board making key decisions that charted the trajectory of the union. Other images simply document more day-to-day aspects, such as workers at their place of employment. Arranged together, these photos form to comprehensively narrate the story of a union and its members who have put in the work, day in, day out, for almost 100 years.

Leonard Woodcock Papers

Leonard Woodcock orchestrated profound accomplishments in a variety of fields, making these historical records a valuable resource to a wide range of researchers. Woodcock served as president of the UAW, the United States' first Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, and as an original member of Wayne State's Board of Governors, thereby tying him to all three of the Reuther Library's collecting areas: labor, urban, and university affairs.

Wayne State University Office of the President George E. Gullen Records

This spring, the Reuther opened Part 1 of the Wayne State University Office of the President George E. Gullen Records. An alumnus of the university, he was hired as vice-president of university relations in 1966 after serving ten years as a vice-president of American Motors Corporation. He was appointed president of the university in 1971, a position he held until 1978. As president, Gullen initiated an affirmative action policy for the university, established the President's Commission on the Status of Women, and appointed the university's first female vice-president. Additionally, under his direction, the Wayne State University's School of Medicine became the largest single-campus medical school in the nation. This collection consists primarily of correspondence about university policies and general administrative duties, as well as meeting minutes, administrative reports, and photographs.

NEW COLLECTIONS CONTINUED

Ralph Orr Papers

The Ralph Orr Papers, a significant addition to the Reuther Library's collections related to Detroit newspapers, labor, and Jimmy Hoffa, are now open for research. A 1942 Northwestern University journalism graduate, Orr subsequently enlisted in the Merchant Marine. After the war, he and his wife moved to New York where Orr became part owner and editor of the Dansville Breeze Newspaper. Later they moved to Detroit, and Orr established himself as a labor writer for the Detroit Free Press, where he worked until his 1985 retirement.

Orr's reporting, which centered on the UAW and Teamsters, particularly Jimmy Hoffa's disappearance, is the focus of the Ralph Orr Papers. Materials related to Hoffa's disappearance encompass interview transcripts, notes, article drafts, and clippings. Notable items include letters from labor leader Myra Wolfgang and Charles "Chuckie" O'Brien, long considered a person of interest in Hoffa's disappearance, as well as recordings of Orr's appearances on "Spotlight on the News."



SOCIAL MEDIA: CHINATOWN HISTORYPIN

Many people are surprised to learn that Detroit once had two Chinatowns, both built by a resilient community that thrived in the city for nearly 100 years. The Reuther's latest HistoryPin tour takes a look back at the landscapes, cultural events, businesses, and community members of Detroit's two Chinatowns; the first at Third and Porter Streets, and the second at Cass Avenue and Peterboro Street. In addition, the tour features a brief overview of the development of the Chinese community in Detroit. To view this tour, please visit historypin.org.

COLLECTION USE: AUDIOVISUAL HIGHLIGHTS

Photographs and films from the Reuther Library's collections were used in a number of exhibitions during the past year. Reuther material was on display at 25 museums and cultural agencies throughout the world, including: American Writers Museum, Canadian Science and Technology Museum, Detroit Institute of Arts, Museum of Prohibition, National Museum of American History, National Museum of the American Indian, National World War II Museum, and the United States Holocaust Museum.

It was a busy year in publishing, with 59 authors using Reuther photographs to illustrate their books and articles. Of particular note, the *New Republic* used numerous images from the Detroit News Collection to accompany their article *The Fire Last Time*, an in-depth look at STRESS, the highly controversial experimental unit of the Detroit Police Department in the 1970s. Of interest to literary enthusiasts, British biographer Lady Antonia Fraser used imagery from the Tony Spina Photographs to illustrate *Our Israel Diary*, a memoir that chronicles a 1978 trip she made to that country with her partner, playwright Harold Pinter. Those interested in architecture would do well to read Dale Allen Gyure's *Serenity and Delight: The Architecture of Minoru Yamasaki*, a lovingly researched homage to the mid-century master.

Images and footage from the Reuther Library recently appeared in numerous television programs and documentaries that were featured on HBO, BBC, Smithsonian Channel, PBS, CBS, and the Discovery Channel. The programs varied widely in their focus, ranging from sports rivalry between the University of Michigan and Ohio State University to a British television children's program that highlighted the work of women engineers.

The most highly researched subject this year was the 1967 Civil Unrest. Among the dozens of articles, exhibits, and documentaries that used Reuther material, perhaps the most high profile were two films: *12th and Clairmont*, and *Detroit*. The documentary film *12th and Clairmont* combines home movies, educational films, oral histories, photographs, and illustrations to tell the story of July 1967 and its aftereffects. It was created with the assistance of the *Detroit Home Movies Project*, a partnership between the Reuther Library, Detroit Institute of Arts, *Detroit Free Press*, Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Detroit Historical Society, and *Bridge* magazine that uncovered and exhibited home movies made in 1960s Detroit that depict everyday life. *Detroit*, a feature film directed by Academy Award-winner Katherine Bigelow, mixes archival footage and stills with original storytelling to recreate the 1967 Unrest and examine what is known as the Algiers Motel Incident. Interested in learning more about our highly used visual resources on these topics? Contact the Audiovisual Department for an appointment, or visit our image gallery: reuther.wayne.edu/image/tid/2045.



DETROIT 1967

On April 27, 2017, the Reuther Library opened “12th Street, Detroit, 1967: Employment, Housing, Policing, and Race Relations in Evidence,” an exhibit focusing on archival materials. Speakers included Dr. Melba Boyd, Distinguished Professor at Wayne State University, and Dr. Cynthia Fleming, Professor Emeritus, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Detroit’s 1967 Civil Unrest caused both physical damage to the city and emotional trauma to its residents. Decades later, the aftereffects of this damage and trauma linger on through a profound disconnect between Southeastern Michigan’s people and communities.

The Reuther Library’s archival collections illustrate crucial details that may be known primarily to professional historians and academics. This exhibit aims to break down long-standing perceptions that history is the property of such an exclusive group. The Reuther is home to a wealth of resources that document not only the events that unfolded in Detroit during the summer of 1967, but also the social, economic, and political landscape before and after. By presenting these materials in a transparent way, this exhibit hopes to throw open the doors of the archive and ensure that the power of these documents belongs to the community. Through the presentation of primary sources, the exhibit offers an opportunity for analysis, interpretation, and discussion of issues such as racial inequality, law and politics, economic distress, and urban development. Viewers are encouraged to use creative and critical thinking as tools for examining how Detroit’s past impacts the current climate and future possibilities.

The Reuther Library joined several area cultural institutions in a partnership to mark 50 years since 1967, including the Detroit Historical Society, Detroit Institute of Arts, Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Michigan Science Center, and MOCAD.

The exhibit will be on display in the Reuther Library Atrium through January 2018.



IN FOCUS: TONY SPINA PHOTOGRAPHS



From May 2017 to February 2018, the Woodcock Gallery is hosting a display of photographs taken by *Detroit Free Press* Chief Photographer Tony Spina during Detroit’s 1967 Civil Unrest. Original negatives, part of a recent donation by the Spina family, were used to make the prints. These 12 reproductions represent a small selection of the nearly 1000 images that Spina shot during the Unrest, and were part of a body of work that earned the *Free Press* Staff the 1968 Pulitzer Prize for Local General and Spot News Reporting.

WALTER SPECK MURAL

The Reuther Library unveiled a newly-restored Walter Edward Speck (1896-1979) mural in October 2016 during a North American Labor History Conference reception. The New Deal-era artwork, called *Untitled*, was commissioned in 1937 by UAW West Side Local 174, the home Local of labor leader and UAW president, Walter P. Reuther. A native Detroit and an influential member of Detroit's art scene in the 1930s and 1940s, Speck headed the Works Progress Administration's Detroit Art Project, although the mural's official connection to the WPA is uncertain. Painted in a style reminiscent of Diego Rivera's famous Detroit Industry murals, *Untitled* depicts key moments in Michigan labor history during the Depression, including the Battle of the Overpass and the 1936-1937 Flint Sit-Down Strike. UAW Local 174 deeded the painting to Wayne State University in 2014 for public display at the Reuther Library.

For decades Speck's mural served as a backdrop to Walter Reuther and others negotiating for workers' rights and social welfare. After hanging in union halls for 75 years, the mural had incurred water damage, significant tears, and an overall coating of grime and nicotine that dulled its originally vivid colors. A team from Conservation and Museum Services painstakingly cleaned and repaired the massive mural in its Detroit studio for more than a year before installing it in the Reuther Library's Reading Room in October. The restoration was funded by members of UAW Local 174, individual donors, the Michigan Labor History Society, and Wayne State University, as well as grants from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For further information about Speck's career and the mural's provenance and imagery, see: <http://reuther.wayne.edu/node/13600>. *Untitled* is available for public viewing during normal Reading Room hours, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., or by appointment.

IN FOCUS: NHPRC ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

June 2017 marked the successful completion of the Reuther Library's Oral History Description and Access Project. Made possible by a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the two-year project to increase accessibility of oral histories in the Reuther's holdings resulted in the description of 1,670 interviews, almost half of which were not previously known to patrons. With the project, the Reuther hopes to provide enrichment of the historical record through firsthand accounts of prominent figures such as Walter P. Reuther, Cesar Chavez, Grace Lee Boggs, and Tony Spina, alongside voices of rank-and-file workers, immigrants, and average Detroit citizens. To facilitate this discovery, Project Archivist Rebecca Bizonet created 129 guides to the various project and individual oral histories. By browsing or searching these guides, one can find interviewee names, subjects, dates, and other details regarding personal stories of the labor, civil rights, and social justice movements, among other important historical developments. Library users can also search the Wayne State University Libraries catalog and find abbreviated versions of the guides alongside related books. Visit www.reuther.wayne.edu to learn more about these amazing stories.



Neighborhood children pose for the photographer as they play in an alley between Trombly and Adele Streets, March 21, 1981.

THE BRUCE HARKNESS PHOTOGRAPHS

Throughout winter and early spring, the work of Bruce Harkness was on display in the Woodcock Gallery. A selection of 12 photographs were taken from a series of 400 images that Harkness created to document the places, personalities, and community of Detroit's Poletown neighborhood just before it was razed to make way for a General Motors development in 1981. The Bruce Harkness Photographs, part of the Folklore Archives, are available for viewing by appointment with the Audiovisual Department.

CHICANA FOTOS

The Reuther Library hosted *Chicana Fotos*, an exhibition of photography by Nancy De Los Santos, from February 17-April 14, 2017. An accomplished filmmaker whose credits as writer and producer include *Selena* and *The Bronze Screen: 100 Years of the Latin Image in Hollywood Cinema*, De Los Santos photographed 1970s Chicano Movement marches and rallies, Latina organizing actions, and intimate pictures of daily Latina/o life in a period of radical social transformation. The exhibit included rare photographs of United Farm Workers organizing activities in Chicago, the Texas Farmworker Pilgrimage of 1977, the first International Women's Year Conference in Mexico City in 1975, and related documents from the Reuther Library's United Farm Workers collections.

The *Chicana Fotos* opening included a gallery talk with De Los Santos and curator Maria Cotera, and a reception featuring a performance from Ballet Folklórico de Detroit. *Chicana Fotos* was designed by students of museum exhibition design and professors Hannah Smotrich and Katie Rubin at the Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design at the University of Michigan, and in collaboration with El Museo del Norte, Chicana por mi Raza Digital Archive, and the Reuther Library, with generous funding from the University of Michigan's Third Century Initiative and the Stamps School of Art and Design.

STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2016-2017 was another accomplished year for Reuther Library archivists. Staff members offered professional presentations on their work at the Local History Conference in Sterling Heights, North American Labor History Conference in Detroit, Midwest History Association Conference in Grand Rapids, Southeast Michigan League of Libraries Annual Meeting in Auburn Hills, Michigan Archival Association Annual Meeting in Traverse City, and the Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon. Archivists also offered professional commentary on Wayne State's public radio station WDET, Wayne State's Commission on the Status of Women Equal Pay Day event, and at the Detroit Free Press Film Festival.

Archivist Aimee Ergas was awarded the 2017 Leonard N. Simons History Award from the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan, and Reference Archivist Kristen Chinery received a Distinguished Service Award from the Wayne State University Academic Staff Professional Development Committee.

Several staff members continued terms or were elected to professional service in external organizations. Dr. Louis Jones continued his term as president of the Academy of Certified Archivists. Alexandra Orchard served as chair of the Editorial Board for *Archival Issues*. Stefanie Caloia was re-elected secretary of the Michigan Archival Association, served on the J. Franklin Jameson Archival Advocacy Award Sub-Committee for the Society of American Archivists, and continued as chair of the Redford Township Historical Commission. Kristen Chinery continued her term as co-chair of the Regional Archival Associations Consortium.

Dr. Louis Jones taught *Archival Administration* in Wayne State's School of Library and Information Science. Meghan Courtney and Alexandra Orchard conducted workshops for the Michigan Historical Society on *Basic Archives* and *Advanced Archives*, respectively.

Staff Publications

Chinery, K. & Clemens, E. (2017). Documenting women's labor history: A case study in improving access and outreach for underrepresented groups. In L. Sanborn & C. Smallwood (Eds.), *Gender studies in the library: Case studies of innovative programs and resources*. Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland Press.

Clemens, E. & Rice, D. (2016) Grapes of wrath: The grape boycott. *Michigan History*, November/December 2016.

Bealmear, B. (2017) The Algiers Motel Incident: Detroit police play murderous 'death game' with teens during 1967 riot. *Dangerous Minds*, June 8, 2017.

IN FOCUS: INSTAGRAM

The Reuther Library has joined Instagram! Follow @ReutherLibrary to see behind-the-scenes updates on collections, events, and archival work. You can also use #ReutherLibrary when you visit or find interesting materials in our collections.

REUTHER LIBRARY STAFF

Sandra Yee, dean of the Wayne State University Library System
Erik Nordberg, Reuther Library director
Bart Bealmear, ALPA archivist
Rebecca Bizonet, oral history project archivist
Stefanie Caloia, AFSCME archivist
Brandon Carter, facility coordinator
Kristen Chinery, reference archivist
Elizabeth Clemens, audiovisual archivist
Meghan Courtney, outreach archivist
Troy Eller English, SWE archivist
G. Aimee Ergas, collection archivist for Jewish Detroit
Daniel Golodner, AFT archivist
Dr. Louis Jones, field archivist
Kris Kniffen, archives technician
William LeFevre, senior processing archivist
Paul S. Neirink, digital resources specialist
Elizabeth Nicholson, archives technician
Alexandra A.A. Orchard, technical and metadata archivist
Nina Perez, archives technician
Deborah Rice, audiovisual archivist
Kathleen Schmeling, senior processing archivist
Gavin Strassel, SEIU archivist
Mary Wallace, audiovisual archivist

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