



United Auto Workers

LOCAL 598 EYE OPENER



Home of the Original Fisher 2 Sit-Downers

VOLUME 43 ISSUE 2

www.uawlocal598.org

FEBRUARY 2024

what's INSIDE



White Shirt Day 6-7



2024 Polar Plunge 8-9

PRO Act must pass

by Art Reyes, CAP Committee

I would like to begin by thanking this membership for sending your CAP Committee to Washington, D.C. for the UAW's Legislative Conference. The conferences are held every other year (election years) and give us the opportunity to voice our legislative priorities to our elected Representatives and Senators.

This year, one of our biggest priorities was passing of the PRO Act, which would make it easier for employees working for an employer to organize into their own union. We have support from our own Congressman, Dan Kildee, and both our Senators. However, unfortunately, the House majority changed hands and the Republicans in Congress have no interest in bringing this to a vote.

Your CAP Committee will bring to attention issues affecting our working lives and where candidates stand. Too many stand against us and what we fight for. Hell, there's one individual running for President of the United States who has continued to speak about how we get paid too much and that our benefits are too costly for the corporations we work for, and who has made billions of dollars in profits thanks in good measure to our labor.

Meanwhile, the current President of the United States became the first sitting president to walk a picket line with striking workers. Pay attention to the words and actions of those running to represent us. *Do they truly have our backs?* We must elect those who are on our side! The corporations have given us nothing and unless we have people representing us who will fight with us, all we have gained is in jeopardy.

THE PRO ACT= WORKER POWER



TELL YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS to support the PRO act to build worker power.



THE PRO ACT WOULD LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD FOR WORKERS TO FORM AND JOIN UNIONS & CHANGE THE POWER DYNAMICS IN AMERICA.

Retirement Key Legislative UAW Goal

by Mike DeWyse, CAP Committee

As a member of the Local 598 Legislative Committee and Region 1D CAP Council, I would like to thank the membership for allowing me to represent them at the 2024 CAP Conference in Washington, D.C. The conference started off with one key goal of the UAW, which is retirement. This is security for not just UAW members, but all working men and women in the U.S.

Our Union has a fight on our hands though, with Republicans in Congress proposing to raise the retirement age and cutting billions from Social Security. It was repeated many times what Walter Ruether once said and still rings true today... *"There is a direct relationship between the ballot box and bread box, and*

what the union fights for and wins at the bargaining table can be taken away in the legislative halls."

Many passionate UAW leaders and dignitaries spoke on the record gains UAW members won this past year and the importance of us all getting involved to fight for our future. UAW President Shawn Fain concluded the conference by announcing the UAW endorsement for President of the United States to current President Joe Biden, who during our *Stand-up Strike* become the first sitting president to ever walk a picket line with striking workers.

It is imperative that we elect politicians who support us, the UAW, and all working men and women.

UAW LOCAL 598

SPECIAL ELECTION

Total Turnout: 2,093

PRESIDENT

STEPHANIE RILEY	1,050	50.65%
Eddie Pickett	1,023	49.35%

VICE PRESIDENT

JOHN JACKSON III	1,311	63.70%
Sharon Bell	447	21.72%
Jeff Pollick	300	14.58%

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USPS Publication #110-770



Members of Local 598's Legislative Committee joined with other Union members and our Michigan Senators at the Conference.

Changes to the Every Saturday Agreement

SHOP CHAIRMAN REPORT

by Eric Welter



We recently announced a change in our Saturday schedule. Starting March 2nd, we will suspend the *Every Saturday Agreement* and fall under *Plan A* of the National Agreement. This change is a result of many discussions with the company about the cancelling of Saturdays over the last 9 months. The company would prefer to schedule every week and continue to cancel at their discretion. The Shop Committee protested this, since it only allows employees to know a week ahead of time if they are working. This negatively impacts

planning of personal events and budgets. As a result, we will publish the schedule 3 months out. For example, as we finish March, we will publish June and so on. When we started the *Every Saturday Agreement*, in 2017, we were running 33 JPH with a 720-a-day build. We currently run 52 JPH, equaling 1,140 a day, which is over 400 more trucks. In 2020, GM added Oshawa as a flex plant that is capable of building high-runner Chevy Silverado Heavy Duty and Light Duty. The combined volume increase has gone beyond the capacity of our suppliers, both in the GM plants and outside suppliers. This is coupled with employees at those facilities not accepting overtime offers, restricting the suppliers from

working 7 days a week to keep us running. There is plenty of HD demand and the company could be growing market share if they could get more to dealers. There are two things that could happen that would increase our schedule. First is an increase in light duty demand. That would force the company to shift Oshawa to a higher mix of LD. Secondly, the company decides to invest in the supply chain, increasing their capacity to go after this market share, both are probable. I would expect that we would see an increase in Saturdays running closer to the limit of Plan A before we see a change back to the *Every Saturday Agreement*. To protect our members, we have an agreement to ensure temporary employees will be brought in at a cadence to support the members prior to reentering into an elevated production schedule again. The *Every Saturday Agreement* was a Local agreement that provided the mechanism to rotate the opportunity to be off on Saturday in an equitable manner. It also provided an approval for every temporary employee in each department and required everyone to get asked to work 12 hours before denials would exist. We had a large temporary employee pool funded by the requirement to work beyond Plan A. We used this pool to not only get as many people off on a Saturday, we used it to achieve the highest vacation approvals in the company. In addition,

we allow members to take excused time off under the "Ask, Don't Take" agreement. The large number of temporary employees also created an opportunity to convert many to permanent, reducing the seniority lines in the plant, letting people get to shifts and departments they previously could not. It kept our team leaders off the line, and the members enjoyed the highest percentage of team leader availability anywhere. Under *Plan A* of the National Agreement, a Saturday is a normal work day and is handled by vacation application, which is seniority based during the vacation application period. The Shop Committee has had a lot of discussion with plant management to get our people the most time off we can under this new schedule. We will maintain the current temp pool to support Saturday and vacation requests, and will still honor "Ask, Don't Take" applications. Since it does not cost the company more, we will still ask for Saturday overtime to give more people that day off. Prior to the *Every Saturday Agreement*, we had the customary 8% of the department-approved, mid-week, and 10% around the weekend. The Shop Committee is meeting with the company to improve this percentage. In addition, we are waiting for the results of the vacation application period to discuss what the percentages will be for the summer. Your Shop Committee is committed to getting our people as much time off as possible.

SAVE THE DATE

UAW Region 1D

INVITATIONAL
70th Annual **Bowling Tournament**
MARCH 23 & 24, 2024
Gaylord Bowling Center
1200 Gornick Ave., Gaylord, MI 49735
989-732-3574
For more information, please see your Local leadership



STEVE DAWES Director SCOTT ZUCKSCHWERDT Director

UNION-MADE EASTER



CANDIES:	MEATS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peeps• Jelly Bellies• Tootsie Rolls• Laffy Taffy• Mike and Ikes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Butterball ham• Hormel honey roasted ham• Fischer Meats lamb• Tyson Foods ham

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FINANCIAL SEC'Y-TREAS REPORT

by Chad Fabbro



who were affected, so they can have an opportunity to remain in good standing with the Union.

If you have any questions about the letter they received, please contact me at (810) 238-4605.

If you ever notice that the Company has suddenly stopped deducting your monthly Union dues, let us know right away so we can address the issue.

I would personally like to thank the Regional Office for hosting a class earlier this month to help us understand all the changes that will come with the repeal of the Right-to-Work law. We want to be knowledgeable in this area, so we can be ready to answer any questions you may have during this process.

I would also like to thank everyone



Local 598 Officers Chad Fabbro, John Jackson, Dues Clerk AnaLisa Schaible, and Education Committee member Michelle Giorgis learned about the new law requirements.

who participated in the Fenton Polar Plunge. This was our 10th year taking the plunge and we ended up raising \$38,411! All together that pushes our

Local over \$245,000 raised for the Special Olympics organization. I am super proud to be part of this Local and you should be, too!

R-T-W Repealed

Right-to-work has been repealed in Michigan and the changes went into effect February 13, 2024. I am proud to say that the majority of our members stayed with us when the law was enacted in 2012, and the ones who took a break found their way back.

During our recent uncollected dues audit, I found about 20 members, through no fault of their own, had apparently been bumped out of General Motor's payroll dues deduction system. We notified those members

UAW Dues

Explained!

UAW members contribute monthly dues to support the work of their union. Members employed part-time who work at least 40 hours per calendar month are subject to the minimum monthly dues. From bargaining contracts to enforcing them through the grievance procedure, union dues provide the resources used by locals every day. Article 16 is set by delegates to UAW Constitutional Conventions. The last change to the dues structure occurred at the 37th Constitutional Convention held in June 2018.



Once the Strike and Defense Fund reaches \$850 million, the lower dues structure shall remain in effect unless the Strike and Defense Fund drops to \$650 million at which time the higher dues structure will be in effect until the Strike and Defense Fund once again reaches \$850 million.



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Financial Secretary..... Chad Fabbro
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Retiree Chapter Chair..... Janet Woodson

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Eric Welter

SHOP COMMITTEE-AT-LARGE
Leroy Shinabarger, Nick Dekalita, Joe Dontje

SHOP COMMITTEE (DISTRICT)
Shane Herriman, D'Andre Jackson, Sean Meachem

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Sean Meachem / Chad Boyce
Shane Herriman / Bo Browning
D'Andre Jackson / Stan Cherwinski
Brian Shick / Jo Anna Batson-Escamilla
Dana Waider / Joe Berriman
Bryan Ventrone / Stan Dulaney
Jon Galant / Wendy Ignash
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Aaron McAlister / Jim Hazell
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Kevin Smiley / Marcus Hunt
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ARAMARK BARGAINING COMMITTEE – DISTRICT COMMITTEE
JaShanti Walker, Sr. and Orlandis McNeal Alternate Edward Menzel

GM SUBSYSTEMS MANUFACTURING, LLC UNIT
Bargaining Committee Chair Takeisha Hillard..... Alterate Phillip Pruitt

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EYE OPENER EDITORS..... Debi Kirchner and Michelle Giorgis

POLICY OF THE EYE OPENER

TO OUR READERS: The *EYE OPENER* is the voice of our Local and International Union. This is our vehicle for bringing to you, on a regular basis, the views and actions of the leaders you elected, so you can evaluate them. Through the paper, we explain Union policies and show how your dues are spent. The paper is also the voice of the members. We welcome articles from UAW members and stories about members. While we welcome your contributions, we ask that they be constructive. At no time will the editorial staff tolerate any defamatory remarks regarding any person or persons. We reserve the right to reply to those who seem to reflect a misunderstanding of the Union and its policies and to edit any article for clarity and length.

Opinions reflected in signed articles in the *EYE OPENER* do not necessarily represent the position or opinions of Local 598. Published monthly by UAW Local 598, G-3293 Van Slyke Road, Flint, MI 48507. Phone: 238-4605.

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First Quarter DBMSA RECIPIENT

by David V. Garcia, UAW Local 598, Veterans Committee Chair

UAW Local 598 Veterans Committee is *honored* and *proud* to announce to you our **1st Quarter DBMSA recipient for 2024...**

LCpl WESLEY BERNARD SOLES



Wesley was born and raised in Flint, MI. He enlisted in the USMC on September 3, 1998, the same year he graduated from Carman-Ainsworth High School. His job in the Marine Corps was an Electric Equipment Repair Specialist.

Wesley dedicated and served 4 years of his life to the Marine Corps, while traveling through 7 different countries, including Ireland and Greece, as well as 48 states. Wesley said some of the things that he enjoyed during his time in the Marines was being deployed for the Olympics in Utah. He also enjoyed his deployment with the 24th Meu unit and being a Water Survival Instructor. One of the sad things he remembers was when he was on Base the morning of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

LCpl. Soles has received the following commendations: Good Conduct Medal, National Defence Service Medal, Rifle Marksman Badge, Certificate of Commendation, as well as Certification of Appreciation, and War on Terrorism. He was Honorably discharged from the USMC on September 3rd, 2002.

Wesley started off with GM at Pontiac Assembly, transferred to Fort Wayne Indiana, then made it back to Flint Assembly, which he calls home.

He is married to his beautiful wife, Lahna, and has 2 children. His oldest daughter works in LOC. When he is not working, Wesley enjoys golfing, camping and traveling.

Wesley, on behalf of the 598 Veterans Committee and our membership...
Welcome Home and Thank You for your Service.

THANK YOU

My wife and I would like to thank all the brothers and sisters of UAW Local 598 for all the hard work that went into building our new work horse. It is truly an honor knowing the quality of labor that went into the build. Thank you very much.

Solidarity4Life,
Tyler & Rebecca Ruten
USW Local 7-2-20



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WOMEN'S COMMITTEE



report by *Melissa Bowen, Chairperson*

Busy Start to 2024

After enjoying the holiday season and taking it easy for a bit, the UAW Local 598 Women's Committee has started the new year with a busy calendar. We took some time to relax and spend time with our families. Now, we're rejuvenated and ready to get back to our work with our union family and give back to the community.

The Women's Committee collected donations for Kind Human 4 Human Kind, a non-profit organization out of Smiths Creek, MI. Their mission is to help people help themselves, with kindness and dignity. They redistribute the donations to individuals and families in need for free.

The collection ran from January 28th through February 23rd and our membership donated gently used children's clothing, shoes, toiletries, cleaning products, and hygiene items.

They're a great organization and they were very appreciative of our membership's kindness.

March is Women's History Month and the Women's Committee had shirts for sale online and will be stocking the CAC (popcorn room) with the various styles at the end of February. The proceeds from the shirts sold will be donated to Whaley Children's Center. We are just waiting on the grand total to see how much we are able to contribute.

Some of the shirt designs included purple tops, which we encourage you to wear on March 8th for International Women's Day. This year's theme is "Inspire Inclusion," and all of the shirt designs include that

hashtag. Encouraging involvement and inclusion has always been one of my focuses and I'm excited that the shirts could reflect that this year.

While we love to inspire and support current and future strong women, it's also important to reflect on how the trailblazers set forth our equality and spot in the workplace.

March 21st is Rosie the Riveter Day, and we encourage that you wear a Rosie shirt or dress like the icon, in honor of the women who answered the call of "We Can Do It!" It's because of the women who Rosie represents that we are able work and support ourselves and our families.

"I work hard to give my dog a better life" is a relatable



quote I've seen on social media. As the proud dog mom of four pups, I know the value of their unconditional love and what a joy pets can bring to your life. That's why the UAW Local 598 Women's Committee will be at the Mid-Michigan Pet Expo, March 22-24, at Dort Financial Events Center.

We will have gift basket raffles to raise money for A ReJoyceful Animal Rescue, a no-kill, foster-based cat and dog rescue. Come adopt your new best friend or buy goodies for your current fur babies. We'd love to see you there and as always, thank you for your support!

Artist's Name: _____ **Artist's Age:** _____
Member Name: _____ **Member Contact #** _____



World War II Poster by J. Howard Miller, ca. 1942.



COLOR MARCH Women's History Month

To celebrate Women's History Month, the Education Committee is having a **ROSIE THE RIVETER COLORING CONTEST**, for all kids, big and small. Color the Rosie picture, fill out the information at the top of the page, and return it to the Local 598 Union Hall before March 17th.

We will randomly draw the winners from the age categories listed below on March 20th. A book on Women's History suitable for the age group will be awarded to 2 winners from each category. We'd like to see the artists at work, so snap a picture of them hard at work and send them to "uaweyeopener@outlook.com" and we'll share some of them next month in the **EYE OPENER** or on our Facebook page.

Our mailing address is:

G-3293 Van Slyke Rd., Flint, MI 48507

Age Categories: • 5 and under • 6-9 • 10-14

• 15 and up (includes members)

Victory is ours!

FEBRUARY 11 [AKA]

WHITE SHIRT DAY

is a day marked in history to honor all those who took part in the Flint Sit-down Strike of 1936-1937.





Christensen family – The family of “The Father of White Shirt Day” Bert Christensen



THE SUCCESS OF THE SIT-DOWN STRIKE

was not won by a single person or a single plant.

It was won by the dedication of the members and communities who stood together and fought for what was only a dream at the time. It was for the right to have a voice, to dignity, to safety and the right to representation by the U.A.W. against a corporate giant who owned the city, the media, the police and in some cases even the worker’s home! This would be a battle that would last 44 days, that would mark a change in the automotive industry and would supercharge the rising of unionism in its era.



STEVE DAWES
UAW REGION 1D DIRECTOR



Table of remembrance - So we always remember our UAW Pioneers

MIKE BOOTH
UAW VP ASSIGNED TO GM





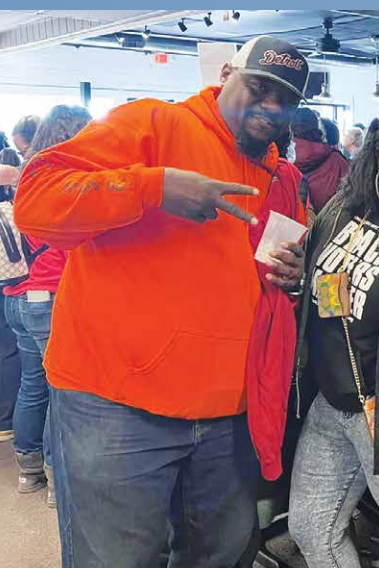
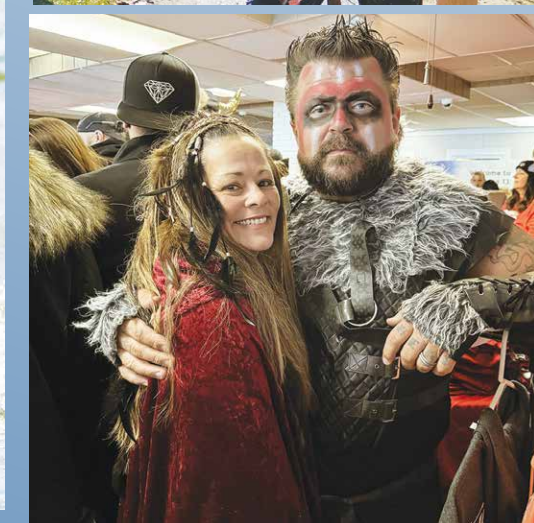
2024 POLAR PLUNGE

FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS MICHIGAN
PRESENTED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN



Local 598 **\$38,411**
Raises...

photos courtesy of Michelle Giorgis and Dana Waider





2024 UAW Union-Built Vehicle Guide

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UAW CARS

Cadillac Celestiq
 Cadillac CT4
 Cadillac CT4-V
 Cadillac CT4-V Blackwing
 Cadillac CT5
 Cadillac CT5-V
 Cadillac CT5-V Black Wing
 Chevrolet Bolt (Electric)
 Chevrolet Bolt EUV (Electric)
 Chevrolet Camaro
 Chevrolet Corvette
 Chevrolet Malibu
 Ford Mustang Coupe
 Ford Mustang Convertible
 Ford Mustang Shelby

UAW TRUCKS

Chevrolet Colorado
 Chevrolet Silverado Medium-Duty
 Navistar (Regular and Crew Cab)
 Chevrolet Silverado EV
 Chevrolet Silverado Light Duty*
 Chevrolet Silverado Heavy Duty
 Ford F 150
 Ford F-150 (Electric)
 Ford F-150 (Hybrid)
 Ford F-650/750
 Ford Ranger
 Ford Super Duty 250/350/450/550
 GMC Canyon
 GMC Sierra Light Duty*
 GMC Sierra Heavy Duty
 GMC Hummer Pick-up (Electric)

Jeep Gladiator
 Ram 1500*
 Ram 1500 Classic

UAW SUVs/CUVS

Buick Enclave
 Cadillac Escalade
 Cadillac Escalade ESV
 Cadillac Lyriq (Electric)
 Cadillac XT4
 Cadillac XT5
 Cadillac XT6
 Chevrolet Suburban
 Chevrolet Tahoe
 Chevrolet Tahoe (Police)
 Chevrolet Tahoe (Special Service)
 Chevrolet Traverse
 Dodge Durango
 Ford Bronco
 Ford Escape
 Ford Escape (Hybrid)
 Ford Expedition
 Ford Explorer
 Ford Explorer (Hybrid)
 Ford Explorer (Police Interceptor)
 GMC Acadia
 GMC Hummer SUV (Electric)
 GMC Yukon
 GMC Yukon XL
 Jeep Cherokee
 Jeep Grand Cherokee
 Jeep Grand Cherokee (Hybrid)
 Jeep Wagoneer
 Grand Wagoneer

Jeep Wrangler
 Jeep Wrangler (Hybrid)
 Lincoln Aviator
 Lincoln Aviator (Hybrid)
 Lincoln Corsair
 Lincoln Navigator/L

UAW VANS

Chevrolet Express
 Chevrolet Express (Cut-Away)
 Ford Transit
 Ford Transit (Electric)
 GMC Savana
 GMC Savana (Cut-Away)

UNIFOR CARS

Dodge Challenger
 Dodge Charger

UNIFOR SUVs/CUVS

Chevrolet Equinox*
 Ford Edge

UNIFOR VANS

Chrysler Pacifica
 Chrysler Pacifica (Hybrid)
 Chrysler Voyager

These vehicles are made in the United States or Canada by members of the UAW and Canada's Unifor union, formerly the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW). Because of the integration of vehicle production in both countries, all of the vehicles listed as made in Canada include significant UAW made content and support the jobs of UAW members.

Vehicles marked with a single asterisk (*) are also produced in Mexico.

When purchasing a vehicle marked with a single asterisk, it's important to check the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). A VIN beginning with "1" or "4" or "5" identifies a U.S. made vehicle; a "2" identifies a Canadian made vehicle; a "3" identifies a vehicle made in Mexico. Not all vehicles made in the United States or Canada are built by union represented workers. Vehicles not listed here, even if produced in the United States or Canada, are not union made.



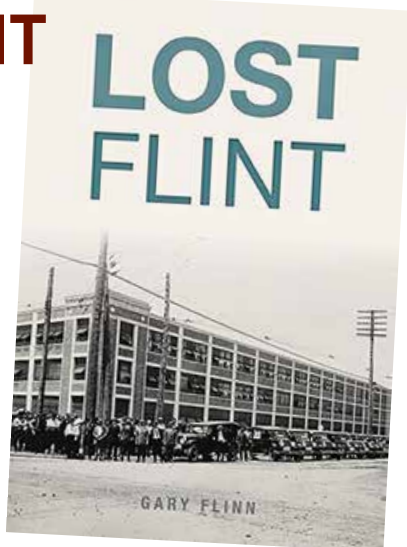


Book & Movie REVIEWS

Submitted by
Michelle Giorgis,
Education Committee

LOST FLINT

by GARY FLINN



Born and raised in Flint? Has it ever crossed your mind as to what happened to the city? This once flourishing city with so much potential and over 196 thousand people is now listed as one of the most dangerous cities in America, with less than 80 thousand people and declining. I think this book may interest you. To see the city grow in its prime with the industrial era and the eventual slow death of a once beautiful city when big business (like GM) decides to close shop and move out of the city, causing thousands to either chase the job or lose the job. If you know Flint, the book "Lost Flint" by Gary Flinn is for you.

No matter what your style is – a digital book, audiobook, or a good solid book in your hand – there's an option for everyone. If books are what you're looking for, here are a few suggestions by Union sister Christine Haney on where to look.

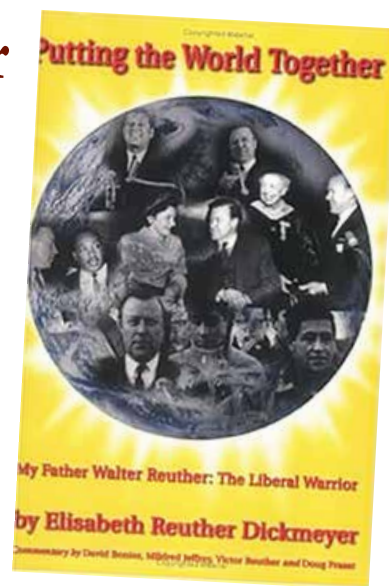
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- **Bookshop.org** is an online bookstore that shares profits with independent bookstores.

Putting The World Together

by ELISABETH REUTHER DICKMEYER

The book "Putting The World Together" by Elisabeth Reuther Dickmeyer describes her life as a young and impressionable young woman growing up as Walter Reuther's Daughter. Living in the often-violent world of one of the most influential labor leaders was scary yet inspiring. She would describe her family life having to take a back seat to the never-ending demands on her father. Experiencing the world with a different perspective than most children Elisabeth Reuther talks about many private moments of their family life and how it helped shape the woman she would become.



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Celebrating Black Women



CLARA DAY

As one of 11 children – including three sets of twins – Clara Day took naturally to collective action and coalition building. As an information clerk at Montgomery Wards, she resented the segregation of white and black employees, which led her to push for change. Clara Day first began organizing co-workers at Montgomery Ward in 1953 and went on to hold several roles in the Teamsters Local 743. She also helped

found the Coalition of Labor Union Women and the Teamsters National Black Caucus. A passionate advocate for labor, civil and women's rights, she helped bring attention to issues like pay equity and sexual harassment.



MAIDA SPRINGER KEMP

Maida Springer Kemp worked as a labor organizer in the garment industry and became the first Black woman to represent the U.S. labor movement overseas in 1945 when she visited post-war Britain on a labor exchange trip. She went on to spend many years liaising between American and African labor leaders as

a member of the AFL-CIO, affectionately known as “Mama Maida” for her work. Throughout her life she advocated for civil rights and women's rights in America and internationally.

– Source: ILGWU Photographs #5780, P. Kheel Center for Labor-Management Documentation and Archives, Cornell University Library

ON THE FOREFRONT

The women in this photo are domestic workers hoping to be hired for a day's work, as captured by Robert McNeill for Fortune magazine.

– Source: Robert McNeill, *Make A Wish (Bronx Slave Market, 170th Street, New York), 1938*, Smithsonian American Art Museum



BLACK WOMEN HAVE BEEN ON THE FOREFRONT OF THE FIGHT FOR LABOR RIGHTS FOR DECADES, HELPING IMPROVE CONDITIONS FOR ALL OF AMERICA'S WORKERS.

Historically excluded from many good jobs, they've performed much of the essential but difficult work underpinning our economy without the protections afforded to other workers. For example, the Social Security Act of 1935 initially excluded domestic workers – the majority of whom were Black women.

While there are countless women who have organized and advocated for better working conditions, here are a few you should know.



Nannie Helen Burroughs (top center) and other women at the National Training School in Washington, D.C. – Source: Library of Congress

NANNIE HELEN BURROUGHS

Nannie Helen Burroughs was a suffragist, educator and organizer, as well as a mentor to the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., who worked to integrate labor reform into the movement for voting rights. She launched the National Association of Wage Earners in 1921, a labor union for Black domestic workers. Burroughs also established the National Trade School for Women and Girls to combat labor exploitation through education, helping improve working conditions and expand career pathways for Black women.

DOROTHY BOLDEN

Dorothy Bolden began helping her mother with domestic work at age 9. She was proud of her work but also knew how grueling it could be, and wanted domestic workers to be seen and respected as part of the labor force. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., her next-door neighbor, encouraged her to take action.

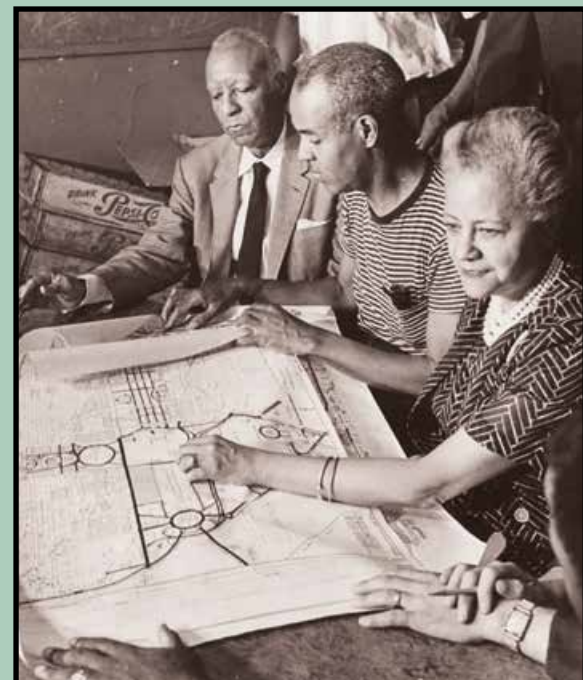


U.S. President Jimmy Carter presents Maids Honor Day proclamation to Dorothy Bolden. – Source: GSU Library

In 1968 she founded the National Domestic Workers Union, helping organize these workers on a scale never seen before in the U.S. The union taught workers how to bargain for higher wages, vacation time and more. She also required that all members register to vote, helping give workers’ both a stronger voice on the job and in Georgia policy.

ANNA ARNOLD HEDGEMAN

A civil rights activist, educator and writer who helped organize the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, Anna Arnold Hedgeman was a lifelong advocate for equal opportunity and employment. She persuaded the organizers to include economic issues in the demonstration (the “Jobs” part) in addition to civil rights. The only woman on the event’s administrative committee, she also fought to ensure women were included in the day’s program.



(L-R) A. Philip Randolph, Roy Wilkins and Anna Arnold Hedgeman plan the route for the March on Washington.

– Source: New York World-Telegram and the Sun Newspaper Photograph Collection (Library of Congress)



ROSINA CORROTHERS TUCKER

Rosina Corrothers Tucker helped establish the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters – the nation’s first predominantly Black labor union – and its International Ladies’ Auxiliary Order. The BSCP became the first Black union recognized by the AFL-CIO in 1935. She also organized workers in the laundry trades and domestic service industries, fought for racial and economic justice as part of the March on Washington movement, and lobbied Congress for labor and education reforms.



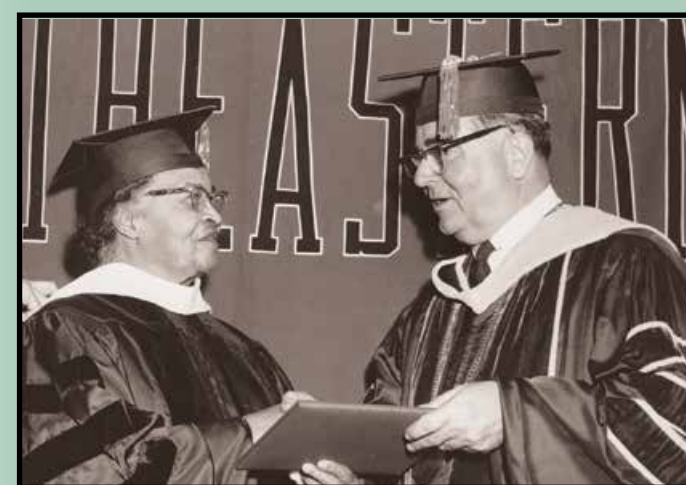
Rosina Tucker (right) with Helena Wilson and A. Philip Randolph

– Source: Dellums (Cottrell Laurence) Papers, African American Museum and Library, Oakland Public Library, California

These leaders improved working conditions, wages and rights for America’s workers, often at great personal cost. We honor them by continuing the fight for a fair and just workplace for all.

Editor’s note: Want to learn more? Read about these labor leaders and pioneers: Mary McLeod Bethune, Hattie Canty, Fannie Lou Hamer, Dorothy Height, Maggie Lena Walker and Addie Wyatt.

– Information from the U.S. Department of Labor Blog



Melnea Cass receives an honorary degree at Northeastern University's 1969 commencement.

– Source: Northeastern University Libraries, Archives and Special Collections Department

MELNEA CASS

Known as the “First Lady of Roxbury,” community organizer and activist Melnea Cass helped provide social services, professional training and labor rights

education that empowered Boston’s most vulnerable workers. One of many examples is a program she co-created that provided childcare for working mothers. Her advocacy also helped achieve a major legislative victory: In 1970, Massachusetts passed the nation’s first state-level minimum wage protections for domestic workers since the Great Depression.

DORA LEE JONES

Dora Lee Jones helped found the Domestic Workers Union in Harlem in 1934 in defiance of New York City’s “slave markets,” as they were known. With few employment options during the Depression, Black women would gather daily in the morning at certain locations and wait for white middle-class women to hire them, typically for terrible wages. The union called for a minimum wage, overtime, two weeks’ notice for termination – and no window washing. (Workers were regularly asked to perform the dangerous task of cleaning the outside of upper-floor apartment windows.) The DWU eventually affiliated with the predecessor to today’s Service Employees International Union.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- THURSDAY, MARCH 14** RETIREE CHAPTER MEETING, 12:00 PM
Local 598 Auditorium
- THURSDAY, APRIL 11** RETIREE CHAPTER MEETING, 12:00 PM
Local 598 Auditorium
- MONDAY, APRIL 22** SENIOR POWER DAY, Crossroads Village
- TUESDAY, APRIL 23** RETIREE SPRING CASINO TRIP, 12:00 PM
Saganing Eagle's Landing Casino Day Trip
- THURSDAY, MAY 9** RETIREE CHAPTER MEETING, 12:00 PM
Local 598 Auditorium
- TUESDAY, MAY 28 thru
FRIDAY, MAY 31, 2024** RETIREE CONFERENCE
Black Lake Conference Center

RETIREES CHAPTER update

JANET WOODSON, Retiree Chair



Voting is Our Voice

Local 598 just had our election day, and early voting is taking place for the Presidential Primary. I hope you had a chance to exercise your right to vote.

We've had some great meetings these last few months. We shared some ideas for other upcoming events, as well. Thanks to our members for taking the time to come join in on the information shared and the fun.

Our Spring Casino Day Trip has been planned for April 23, 2024. The cost to join us will be \$25 for members and \$35 for non-members. The deadline for payment will be on April 11, 2024, at April Retiree Membership meeting. If Thurman or myself aren't available, you may pay at the front office at the Local with the secretaries.

Notice for Seniors

Do You Want To Hear Better?

Beltone, the MOST TRUSTED NAME IN HEARING AIDS, wishes to test a remarkable new hearing instrument in the area. This offer is free of charge and you are under no obligation. The revolutionary 100% Digital instruments use the latest technology to comfortably and almost invisibly help you hear more clearly. This technology solves the "stopped up ears", "head in a barrel" sensation some people experience, and has been clinically demonstrated to improve hearing in noisy environments. If you wish to participate, you will be required to have your hearing tested in our office FREE OF CHARGE to determine candidacy. A limited number of qualified seniors are needed to try this product. NO PURCHASE is necessary, however you may purchase Beltone Serene™ Technology at a reduced rate.

Serene™ Technology

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*Offer valid toward the purchase of two Beltone Serene™ hearing instruments. \$500 off a single instrument.
**Amazon Gift Card value \$20, must complete screening to receive card. See store for details. Beltone 2024™

Important Local 598 Retiree PHONE NUMBERS



598 BENEFITS	Union Hall: 810-238-4605
	Plant: 810-233-4311
UAW LEGAL SERVICES.....	1-800-482-7700
NEW CAR PURCHASE.....	1-800-235-4646
SOCIAL SECURITY	1-800-772-1213
MEDICARE.....	1-800-633-4227
G.M BENEFIT CTR	1-800-489-4646
UAW BENEFITS TRUST.....	1-866-637-7555
BLUE CROSS OF MICHIGAN	1-800-482-2210
HAP	1-800-801-1770
MET LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY	1-888-543-3461
DAVIS VISION.....	1-888-672-8393
DELTA DENTAL.....	1-800-942-0667
OPTIUM RX.....	1-800-356-3477
OVER-THE-COUNTER BENEFITS (OTC)	1-844-487-2770

RETIREMENTS

The Officers, Staff and Members of Local 598 extend our sincerest thank you and congratulations for the many years of dedicated service by our recent retirees.

We encourage all newly retired members to join our Retiree Chapter.



Congratulations!

- ▶ Antonio Reid
- ▶ Joseph Rodea
- ▶ Robin Prince

If you are retiring soon, stop by the Benefits Office or Union Hall to get your picture taken for an upcoming issue of the EYE OPENER.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified ads must be submitted monthly and will be run on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Limited to ads/services submitted in a Local 598 member's name only.

for sale

2 Grave Plots, Section 11, at Sunset Hills Cemetery, Flint, \$600 each. Call Steven at 810-228-2415.

services

Come Visit "Carol's Cat House" at 813 Main Street, Daytona Beach, Florida. UAW Sister owner and operator of establishment. Call 586-322-3464, or write P.O. Box 263086, Daytona Beach,

services

FL 32126. Feline Friendly Gift Shop.

* * * * *

Residential chainlink fence, installation and repair, free estimates, 46 years of experience. Call 810-845-7211.

* * * * *

Walker Electric, Inc., 2410 Kansas Ave., Flint, MI 48506. Please call 810-233-5111 or 269-209-1791, www.walkerelectric.biz

Remembering our recently Deceased

• John Garland (Active)

The Officers, Representatives and members of Local 598 extend their deepest sympathy to the family and friends of these recently deceased members.

• John Alvarado (Retired)

Mid-Michigan Dental Group

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ATTORNEYS' SCHEDULE for the Union Hall



LEGAL SERVICES FOR LOCAL 598 MEMBERS

▶ MONDAY

Richard Wagner 810.820.9111
Doud, Smith & Wagner, Attorneys & Counselors
1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

▶ THURSDAY

John Chowning 810.695.2110
Chowning & Edgard, P.C.
12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

▶ TUESDAY

Robert MacDonald 810.234-2204
MacDonald & MacDonald, PLLC
2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

▶ FRIDAY

Neal Wilensky 810.606.0410
Kaechele & Wilensky, P.C.
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.



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JENNIFER SHARP SCULLY, MANAGER

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810-629-9321

LINDEN CHAPEL
810-735-7833

MILLER ROAD CHAPEL
810-635-4411

Scholarship Goes to One of Our Own

On behalf of the Fred Myers Scholarship fund board, *Thank you!* We appreciate the sponsorship, and your continued commitment to this scholarship fund. Just a brief history on the scholarship and how it came to be. Fred Myers was a friend, union brother and a valuable member of UAW Local 599 (Buick City). He served one term as president from 1984-1987, and served on countless other positions. In 1986 he received the Walter and May Reuther Award. The scholarship was dedicated to him by his family after his untimely death in 1992, from an auto accident.

The tournaments that this board puts on are how we raise funds to keep this scholarship alive and well, 32+ years later. The first tournament was a golf outing, then the addition of the bowling tournament. The golf has gone away in recent years, but now has been replaced by the cornhole tournament. The funds derived from these tournaments have been used to send children, of any Union member that works or lives in Genesee County, to attend Michigan colleges and universities.

With that said, it's my great pleasure to announce that this year's recipient is **FAITH BREINAGER**. She is the daughter of Victor Breinager, a TL on the IP line on 1st shift. So, the next time you see Victor, tell him congratulations! Faith is currently going to Siena Heights University in Adrian, MI. She is pursuing her Bachelor's in Communications. Faith also plays on the Saint's softball team, as a shortstop. She received a \$1,000 scholarship from Fred Myers Scholarship fund.

On June 15, 2024 we will hold our 2nd Annual Cornhole Tournament. The tournament will be held at our Union City Fields on Torrey Road. Please be on the lookout for more information on this in the coming weeks. We hope to see some new faces at this year's event.



**F A I T H
B R E I N A G E R**

On behalf of the members here at Local 598, Congratulations Faith! This honor is well deserved.

UAW FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Welcome To Black Lake

Located in scenic Onaway, Michigan, on Black Lake, the UAW Family Education Center is the dream of Walter Reuther fulfilled. He had long worked for a place where families could go to learn about their union and the labor movement.

Since 1970, thousands of UAW members and their families have participated in the UAW Family Scholarship Program – changing their lives and those of their loved ones forever! It is a place to unlock ideas and build new friendships with other UAW families.

What Is Family Scholarship?

This one-week summer experience will leave you and your family filled with a spirit guaranteed to strengthen your understanding and appreciation of our union.

Through educational and recreational activities, the Family Scholarship Program provides an opportunity for adults and children to learn and think about how our union empowers us to change our workplaces and communities for ourselves and future generations.

Fun & Learning For All Ages

Each of our children's programs are uniquely designed to ensure age-appropriate lessons and recreational activities. Children and young adults are grouped based on the grade they are entering in the Fall.

Age Groups:

Pre-K – 1st Graders: Learn in a playful environment with creative activities, music, games in the gym and trips to the beach and swimming pool.

2nd – 5th Graders: Enjoy a variety of classroom and outdoor activities, including swimming, golf, gym time, and other recreational activities, along with unique arts and crafts.

6th – 8th Graders: Enjoy a schedule filled with union involvement workshops along with golf, swimming, and gym games.

9th – 12th Graders: Participate in workshops that focus on the importance of unions and labor laws to help prepare them for entering the workforce. They may participate in the adult program, depending on the registration numbers.



Knowledge, Fun, Friendship... Oh My!

During your week at the Family Scholarship Program, day classes are held so everyone – members, spouses, and children – learn in an age-appropriate environment. After class, family events are held for everyone's enjoyment. In the evening, the center offers a resort like atmosphere for everyone to experience at their leisure.

Members will leave refreshed and ready to put the experience of the week into action. Family members will leave with a solid understanding of unions and in particular the UAW. All will leave with newfound friendships that will last a lifetime.

Who is Eligible? How Do I Sign Up?

You are eligible to apply for a scholarship to the Walter and May Reuther UAW Family Education Center if you are a UAW member in good standing for one year and have never attended the Family Scholarship Program. Retirees are not eligible for the Scholarship Program. In addition, you must be willing to contribute your time. It can be your regular vacation, personal leave time, or union leave where contracts permit. Eligibility is limited to active and laid-off members. Applications to the Family Scholarship Program are available in Solidarity magazine, through your Regional Education Representatives, and the UAW website (www.uaw.org).