

THE UAW WOMEN'S -AUXILIARIES
COLLECTION

1941-1976

8 linear feet

Accession Number 918
L. C. Number

The papers of the UAW Women's Auxiliaries were deposited in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in February of 1979 by the UAW Women's Department and were opened for research in January of 1984.

Women became interested in creating UAW auxiliaries during an organization drive in November of 1936. In subsequent strikes, the wives of union workers were active in setting up strike kitchens, feeding strikers, arranging benefit dances and holding mass meetings to gain sympathy. A women's auxiliary was formed to take part in the Flint sit-down strike in January, 1937, and an "emergency brigade" was mobilized as a unit of the auxiliary to help picket when needed. Women's Auxiliary members also participated in the Ford "Battle of the Overpass" on May 27, 1937. During this period thirty-three UAW Women's Auxiliaries were established.

At the 1940 Convention the auxiliaries were organized on a more permanent basis. A coordinating committee was created in order to utilize auxiliary activities to further union organizing efforts and UAW programs.

During World War II, the UAW Women's Auxiliaries participated in civil defense, war bond drives, became Red Cross volunteers, worked at U.S.O. centers and helped set up nurseries for working mothers. UAW Auxiliaries throughout the United States raised funds to purchase jeeps and ambulances for the war effort.

Over the years the programs of the Women's Auxiliaries have included fund raising for cancer research, the March of Dimes, crippled and retarded children and the Community Fund. Members have been encouraged to help elect labor-supportive candidates and to campaign for legislation favorable to labor. They have also shown an active interest in consumerism and civil rights. The auxiliaries have participated in the Union Label program by sponsoring a contest each year to encourage buying union-made goods. Education programs give members an understanding of the UAW and its purposes.

Catherine Gelles has been prominent in directing the affairs of the UAW Women's Auxiliary and the bulk of the correspondence in this collection reflects her 35-year association with this organization. Mrs. Gelles first became associated with the UAW in 1936 when she actively participated in the strikes of that time. In 1937 she organized Auxiliary 15 of Local 174 and served as President for many years. She served two terms on the

International Coordinating Committee and was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the International Women's Auxiliaries at the Chicago Conference in 1942.

The UAW Auxiliaries Department was established in 1947 and Mrs. Gelles became a full-time international representative under the direction of Emil Mazey. Her main responsibility was to organize, service, and direct the UAW Auxiliaries in the United States and Canada. After the 1955 merger of the AFL-CIO Mrs. Gelles also served on the executive board of the AFL-CIO National Auxiliaries as vice-president, but withdrew in 1968 when the UAW disaffiliated.

Upon the retirement of Catherine Gelles in December of 1971, the UAW Women's Auxiliaries were transferred to the Women's Department of the UAW under the direction of Caroline Davis and coordinated by Lillian Hatcher as international representative. Since this time, the primary objective of the Auxiliaries has been somewhat modified in an effort to enlist the participation of the worker's entire family in UAW programs.

This collection documents the programs and activities of the women's auxiliaries at all levels. The bulk of the correspondence reflects the work of Catherine Gelles in organizing the auxiliaries and subsequently affiliating them into national and regional organizations.

Important subjects covered in this collection are:

Civil rights	Education
Community Activities	Political Action
Consumerism	Union Label

Among the important correspondents are:

Marcella Beatty	Lillian Hatcher
George Burt	Elda Luebbert
William Dodge	Olga Madar
Douglas Fraser	William Mac Donald
Catherine Gelles	Emil Mazey
Phillip Hart	R. J. Thomas

An index to subjects and correspondents will be found on p.11

Contents

16 manuscript boxes

Series I, UAW-CIO Women's Auxiliaries - Conferences and Meetings, 1942-1955, Boxes 1-3:

Minutes and reports from the years the UAW Auxiliaries were affiliated with the CIO. They cover meetings of the International Coordinating Committee, International Conferences and National conventions.

Series II, UAW Women's Auxiliaries - Office Files, 1942-1973, Boxes 3-6:

Correspondence and records from the UAW International Office covering the years when the women's auxiliaries were affiliated consecutively with the CIO, the AFL-CIO, then the time of disaffiliation from the AFL-CIO and the transfer to the Women's Department. The files mainly are related to organizing.

Series III, UAW Local Women's Auxiliaries, 1948-1976, Boxes 6-10:

Correspondence, clippings, reports and financial records of local auxiliaries. These files reflect the interaction between these organizations and the UAW International Office.

Series IV, UAW Regional Women's Auxiliaries, 1945-1976, Boxes 10-12:

Correspondence and reports at the regional level for the UAW auxiliaries. These are mainly the Canadian regional files but there is also information from regions in the United States.

Series V, AFL-CIO Regional and National Auxiliaries, 1955-1971, Boxes 12-15:

Correspondence and reports generated by Catherine Gelles as vice-president on the executive board of the AFL-CIO National Auxiliaries.

Series VI, General Information, c. 1940-1973, Boxes 15-16:

Pamphlets, newsclippings, booklets, plays, and educational materials from the various auxiliaries in this collection.

Non-manuscript Material:

Copies of the Women's Auxiliary News received with this collection have been placed in the Archives Library. An oral history by Catherine Gelles is available.

UAW Women's Auxiliary Collection

-4-

Series I
UAW-CIO Women's Auxiliaries -
Conferences and Meetings, 1942-1955
Boxes 1-3

Minutes and reports from meetings and conferences for the years the organization was referred to as the International UAW-CIO Women's Auxiliary and was affiliated with National CIO women's auxiliaries. These records are for meetings of the International Coordinating Committee, International conferences, and National conventions. Information relating to regional and local activities is also contained within these reports. The material reflects the early days of the organization, the attempts to define by-laws, activities during the war years, and concern over such issues as housing, world peace, price controls, status of minorities and the Taft-Hartley Act. Files are arranged alphabetically and then chronologically.

Box 1

- 1-9. International Coordinating Committee Minutes, 1942-49
- 10. 3rd International Conference Minutes, 5-9 Aug 1941
- 11-12. 4th International Conference Minutes, 3 Aug 1942
- 13-15. 5th International Conference Minutes, 4-8 Oct 1943

Box 2

- 1. 5th International Conference Minutes, 4-8 Oct 1943
(cont'd from Box 1)
- 2. 5th International Conference, Officers Report, 1943
- 3-7. 6th International Conference Minutes, 11-15 Sep 1944
- 8-13. 7th International Conference Minutes, 23 Mar 1946

Box 3

- 1-6. 8th International Conference Minutes, 9-12 Sep 1947
- 7. 8th International Conference, Officers Report, Nov 1947
- 8. Int'l. Women's Auxiliaries, Price Control Lobby Report, 19 Jun 1945
- 9. Int'l. Women's Auxiliaries, Sec'y-Treasurer Report, 18 Jun 1945

- 10. Int'l. Women's Auxiliaries, Sec'y-Treasurer Report, 12 Aug 1946
- 11. 12th Nat'l CIO Auxiliaries Convention Minutes, 16 Nov 1953
- 12. 14th Nat'l CIO Auxiliaries Convention Minutes, 1-3 Dec 1955

Series II
 UAW Women's Auxiliaries - Office Files, 1942-1973
 Boxes 3-6

Correspondence, reports, financial records and other materials relating mainly to Catherine Gelles' work organizing women's auxiliaries. There is also correspondence from Emil Mazey as Director of the UAW Women's Auxiliaries. Other materials reflect the programs and activities of the auxiliaries. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject and then chronologically.

Box 3

- 13. Accounting Department, 1970-72
- 14. Circulation, Changes in Mailing List, 1967-73
- 15-16. Civil Rights, 1958-71
- 17. Correspondence, C. Gelles, 1942-71

Box 4

- 1-2. Correspondence, C. Gelles, 1942-71 (cont'd from Box 3)
- 3-4. Correspondence, L. Hatcher, 1972-75
- 5-11. Correspondence, Local Unions, 1945-74
- 12. Correspondence, Miscellaneous UAW, 1969-71
- 13-17. Correspondence, E. Mazey, 1948-72

Box 5

- 1-5. Correspondence, E. Mazey, 1948-72 (cont'd from Box 4)
- 6. Financial Data, Audit Reports, 1943-47
- 7-8. Form Letters, 1948-72
- 9. Goodfellow Dolls, 1970-74
- 10. Legal Department, 1972-73
- 11. Legislation, 1945-68
- 12. Michigan, State of, 1961-71
- 13. Political Action, Registration and Elections, 1952-62
- 14. President's Office, L. Woodcock, 1970-71
- 15-17. Programs for Wives, UAW Conventions, 1966-71

Box 6

- 1. Recreation Dept., O. Madar, 1969-71
- 2. Reports, Bonding and Auditing, 1942-69
- 3. Reports, Miscellaneous Activities, E. Mazey, 1970-71
- 4. Report, "On the Home Front," 1942
- 5. Reports, U. S. Dept. of Labor, 1970-71
- 6. Walter and May Reuther Memorial Fund, 1970-72
- 7. Survey, Membership Lists, 1973
- 8. Testimony, C. Gelles before Senate Banking Committee, 7 Jun 1945
- 9-10. Union Labels, 1964-69
- 11. 23rd UAW Convention, 1972
- 12. Women's Department, 1970-72

Series III
UAW Local Women's Auxiliaries, 1948-1976
Boxes 6-10

Correspondence, clippings, financial reports and other records of individual local auxiliaries. Mainly they are directed to the UAW International office and are concerned with organization, issuance of charters, and clarification of by-laws. There are annual reports of auxiliary activities and financial reports documenting fund-raising efforts. Files are arranged by auxiliary number.

Box 6

13. Auxiliary 2, Milwaukee, Wisc, 1967-71
14. Auxiliary 8, Janesville, Wisc, 1972-73
15. Auxiliary 22, Kenosha, Wisc, n.d.
16. Auxiliary 27, Oshawa, Ontario, 1972-75
17. Auxiliary 29, Toledo, Ohio, 1962-73
18. Auxiliary 41, South Bend, Indiana, 1956
19. Auxiliary 45, South Bend, Indiana, n.d.
20. Auxiliary 48, Muncie, Indiana, 1948-71
- 21-22. Auxiliary 50, St. Catherines, Ont., 1961-74
23. Auxiliary 57, Ft. Wayne, Ind., 1967-72
24. Auxiliary 59, New castle, Ind., 1960-74

Box 7

1. Auxiliary 60, Muskegon, Mich., 1958, 1971
2. Auxiliary 69, Battle Creek, Mich., 1958-70
3. Auxiliary 76, Lansing, Mich., 1955-58
4. Auxiliary 92, Retired Workers Chapter, Philadelphia, Pa., 1973
5. Auxiliary 169, Kent, Ohio, 1974
6. Auxiliary 203, Anderson, Ind., 1956-70
7. Auxiliary 215, South Gate, Calif., 1947-71
8. Auxiliary 232, Adrian, Mich., 1966-68
9. Auxiliary 233, Detroit, Mich., 1967-75
- 10-11. Auxiliary 243, Evansville, Ind., 1967-75
12. Auxiliary 250, Oshkosh, Wis, 1966-72
- 13-14. Auxiliary 264, Windsor, Ont., 1965-69
15. Auxiliary 270, Brantford, Ont., 1970-76
16. Auxiliary 273, Waterloo, Iowa, 1970-72
17. Auxiliary 284, Toronto, Ont., 1966
18. Auxiliary 291, Burlington, Vt., 1955
19. Auxiliary 296, Allentown, Pa., 1967
20. Auxiliary 299, Wayne, Mich., 1954-57
21. Auxiliary 302, Lockport, N.Y., 1951-56
22. Auxiliary 304, Burlington, Iowa, 1973
23. Auxiliary 305, Auburn, Ind., n.d.
- 24-27. Auxiliary 307, Des Moines, Iowa, 1949-62
28. Auxiliary 310, Des Moines, Iowa, 1962, 1973
29. Auxiliary 312, Woodstock, Ont., 1970, 1976
30. Auxiliary 313, Detroit, Mich., 1950-63
- 31-32. Auxiliary 314, Detroit, Mich., 1968-75

Box 8

- 1-2. Auxiliary 314, Detroit, Mich., 1968-75 (cont'd from Box 7)
3. Auxiliary 316, Sheboygan, Wisc, 1970-75
4. Auxiliary 318, Buffalo, N.Y., 1953-58
5. Auxiliary 320, Ft. Williams Ont., 1964-76
6. Auxiliary 321, Brantford, Ont., 1967-73
7. Auxiliary 322, Denver, Colo., 1958-59
8. Auxiliary 323, Toledo, Ohio, 1955, 1957, 1971
9. Auxiliary 324, Long Beach, Calif., 1954-56
10. Auxiliary 328, New Toronto, Ont., 1954-59
- 11-12. Auxiliary 337, Buffalo, N.Y., 1967-68
13. Auxiliary 339, Charles City, Iowa, 1966-72
- 14-15. Auxiliary 341, Milpitas, Calif., 1967-71
16. Auxiliary 342, Decatur, Ill., 1966-71
17. Auxiliary 344, Dubuque, Iowa, 1970-75
18. Auxiliary 348, Tyler, Texas, 1959
19. Auxiliary 349, Milwaukee, Wisc, 1958
20. Auxiliary 351, Birmingham, Ala., 1958, 1968
- 21-22. Auxiliary 352, Danville, Ill., 1957-9
23. Auxiliary 353, Manchester, Mo., 1967
24. Auxiliary 354, Newark, Ohio, 1970
25. Auxiliary 356, Tonawanda, N.Y., n.d.
26. Auxiliary 357, Columbus, Ohio, 1966-69
27. Auxiliary 358, Aurora, Ill., 1967-73
28. Auxiliary 359, Lorrain, Ohio, 1970

Box 9

1. Auxiliary 360, London, Ont., 1967-71
2. Auxiliary 362, Racine, Wisc, 1967-75
3. Auxiliary 363, St. Louis, Mo., 1966-72
4. Auxiliary 368, Traverse City, Mich., 1961-64
5. Auxiliary 370, Saginaw, Mich., 1967-74
6. Auxiliary 372, East Moline, Ill., 1962-63
7. Auxiliary 373, Ft. Dodge, Iowa, 1965-70
8. Auxiliary 374, Denver, Colo., 1963-73
9. Auxiliary 375, Louisville, Ky., 1964-67
10. Auxiliary 376, Oklahoma City, Okla., 1967-68
11. Auxiliary 377, Chicago, Ill., 1965-69
12. Auxiliary 378, Muskegon, Mich., 1965-67
13. Auxiliary 379, Marshalltown, Iowa, 1965-71
14. Auxiliary 380, Wilmington, Del., 1965-72
15. Auxiliary 382, Columbus, Ohio, 1966-67
16. Auxiliary 383, Lansing, Mich., 1966-71
17. Auxiliary 384, Wixom, Mich., 1964-68
18. Auxiliary 385, East Peroria, Ill., 1970-72
19. Auxiliary 386, Kokomo, Ind., 1969-71
20. Auxiliary 387, St. Thomas, Ont., 1968-72
21. Auxiliary 388, Hurst, Texas, 1970, 1972
22. Auxiliary 389, Newton Falls, Ohio, 1970-74
23. Auxiliary 390, Columbus, Ohio, 1970-71
24. Auxiliary 391, Marion, Ind., 1970-71
25. Auxiliary 392, Springfield, Ohio, 1970-73

Box 10

1. Auxiliary 393, Kalamazoo, Mich., 1970-71
2. Auxiliary 394, Lubbock, Texas, 1971
3. Auxiliary 395, Bedford, Ind., 1970-72
4. Auxiliary 396, Noblesville, Ind., 1972
5. Auxiliary 397, Detroit, Mich., 1972-73
6. Auxiliary 398, New castle, Dela., 1972-75
7. Miscellaneous UAW Local Auxiliaries, 1970-75

Series IV
UAW Regional Women's Auxiliaries, 1945-1976
Boxes 10-12

Correspondence and reports reflecting the programs of the UAW Auxiliaries at the regional level. The files relate mainly to organizing, planning and arranging conferences. The bulk of the material is from the Canadian Region and reflects the work at the UAW Educational Center at Port Elgin, Ontario. Files are arranged alphabetically and the chronologically.

Box 10

- 8-18. Canadian Region, 1955-76
19. Correspondence, Canadian Region, G. Burt, 1953-68
20. Correspondence, Canadian Region, W. MacDonald, 1953-67

Box 11

1. Correspondence, Canadian Region, M. Tallon, 1960-62
2. Literature, General, Canadian Region, 1961-71
3. Membership Lists, Canadian Region, 1967-68
- 4-7. Minutes, Canadian Region Conferences, 1956-74
- 8-9. Minutes, Canadian Region Labor Congress, 1959-61
10. Questionnaire, Canadian Region, 1968
11. Questionnaire, Canadian Region Conference, 1971
- 12-13. Region 3, 1960-71

Box 12

- 1-3. Region 3, 1960-71 (cont'd from Box 11)
4. Region 4, 1970-75
- 5-8. Region 10, 1959-73
9. Regional Conferences, Miscellaneous, 1945-73

Series V
AFL-CIO Regional and National Auxiliaries, 1955-1973
Boxes 12-15

Correspondence and reports, mainly from the years the UAW Auxiliaries were affiliated with those of the AFL-CIO, but there is some material from the years after the disaffiliation. These papers reflect Catherine Gelles' work as a vice-president on the Executive Board of the AFL-CIO Auxiliaries and document her efforts to get local auxiliaries to join the National and Regional AFL-CIO Auxiliaries. Correspondence from auxiliaries not connected with those of the UAW is to be found in this series and shows the scope of the women's auxiliary movement. Files are arranged alphabetically by organization, then subject, and finally chronologically.

Box 12

- 10-14. Michigan State AFL-CIO Auxiliaries, 1960-68

Box 13

- 1-2. Michigan State AFL-CIO Auxiliaries, 1960-68 (cont'd from Box 12)
3-5. Michigan State AFL-CIO Auxiliaries, Reports, 1960-68
6-8. Miscellaneous State AFL-CIO Auxiliaries, 1963-66
9-12. Miscellaneous State AFL-CIO Auxiliaries, Reports, 1957-67
13-14. National AFL-CIO Auxiliaries, 1960-62
15-16. National AFL-CIO Auxiliaries, M. Beatry, 1963-68

Box 14

- 1-4. National AFL-CIO Auxiliaries, M. Beatty, 1963-68 (cont'd from Box 13)
5. National AFL-CIO Auxiliaries, Civil Rights Committee, 1961-63
6. National AFL-CIO Auxiliaries, Detroit Fed. of Musicians, 1967-68
7-8. National AFL-CIO Auxiliaries, Executive Board, 1960-68
9. National AFL-CIO Auxiliaries, 4th Const. Convention, 14-19 Nov 1963
10. National AFL-CIO Auxiliaries, C. Gelles, 1958-60
11-12. National AFL-CIO Auxiliaries, E. Luebbert, 1964-67
13. National AFL-CIO Auxiliaries, Mail Handlers, 1966-67
14. National AFL-CIO Auxiliaries, N. Porter, 1967-68
15. National AFL-CIO Auxiliaries, Reports, Committees, 1959-63
16. National AFL-CIO Auxiliaries, Reports, Financial, 1959-67
17-18. National AFL-CIO Auxiliaries, Reports, Officers, 1962-67

Box 15

1. National AFL-CIO Auxiliaries, Reports, Organization Committee, 1964
2-4. National AFL-CIO Auxiliaries, Resolutions
5. National AFL-CIO Auxiliaries, Questionnaires, 1962
6. National AFL-CIO Auxiliaries, Training Institute 12-17 Jul 1964
7. National AFL-CIO Auxiliaries, Training Institute, 1965

-10-

Series VI
General Information, c. 1940-1963
Boxes 15-16

Literature, plays, news clippings, and educational materials relating to the activities of the various auxiliaries represented in this collection. They reflect the programs and activities of the auxiliaries during the years covered in this collection. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box 15

8. Consumerism, 1967-71
9. Educational Materials, 1945-70
- 10-11. General Information
- 12-13. Heart of Gold Volunteer Award, 1968-71

Box 16.

- 1-2. News Clippings
3. Organizing Literature
4. Pamphlets, "Wife in Step," "Installation of Officers"
5. Plays and Songs
6. Political Literature
7. Right to Work Publications
8. Union Label Emblems
9. Union Label Literature

Index to Subjects and Correspondence
(correspondence is indicated by an asterisk)

- | | | |
|---|------|---|
| *Beatty, Marcella, 6:20, 9:3-4,
13:15-16 | | *Hart, Philip, 4:1-2 |
| *Burt, George, 10:8, 10:19 | | *Hatcher, Lillian, 4:3, 4:4, 7:5, 7:9-10
8:15 |
| Civil Rights, 3:15, 4:1, 12:14, 13:6,
13:13, 14:5, 14:10, 15:2 | | *Luebbert, Elda, 6:20, 9:4, 14:11-12 |
| Consumerism, 4:1, 10:8-10, 13:2,
13:16, 14:2, 15:2, 15:8 | | *Madar, Olga, 5:4, 6:1 |
| *Dodge, William, 10:8-9 | | *MacDonald, William, 10:8, 10:20, 11:1 |
| Education, 10:8, 11:1, 13:15, 14:1
15:2, 15:6-7, | 15:9 | *Mazey, Emil, 4:13-17, 5:1-5, 5:15-17,
6:3 |
| *Fraser, Douglas, | 4:12 | *Schroeder, Allan, 10:10 |
| *Gelles, Catherine, 3:13, 3:16,
4:1-2, 6:8, 14:10 | | Political Action, 11:12, 12:12, 12:14,
13:16, 15:2, 16:4, 16:9 |
| Goodfellow Dolls, 5:2, 5:5, 5:9 | | *Thomas, R. J., 4:5 |
| *Griffiths, Martha, 4:1 | | Union Label, 10:8, 10:14, 13:2, 13:15,
15:3-4 |