

Oakland Township Historical Society

It's Your Memory, It's Our History, It's Worth Saving
384 W. Predmore Road, Oakland, Michigan 48363

May 2008



*Photo courtesy of
WSU Walter P. Reuther Library*

Walter Philip Reuther (1907 – 1970), man of vision, was a remarkable world leader for social justice and improvement of working conditions. *Time Magazine* ranked him twelfth in the Millennium's 100 most influential people. While closely associated with labor and industry in Detroit, he championed equal opportunity, open housing, human rights, universal health care and environmental cleanups for Lake Erie and our own Paint Creek. His innovative ideas went beyond the labor movement and during WWII he helped make Detroit the Arsenal of Democracy.

Walter lived with his family in Oakland Township from 1950 to his untimely death in 1970. Walter, wife May, and their two daughters participated and contributed to community life near Goodison. Only their neighbors and the UAW staff knew about their modest home on Paint Creek even to this day. The Reuther legacy is stored at Detroit's *Wayne State University Walter P. Reuther Library* and in a small part, in the hands of their old friends and neighbors in Oakland. This story needs to be told publicly.

To celebrate Reuther's 100th birthday year and tell people about the township's most noted citizen, Oakland Township Historical Society (OTHS) has an opportunity to host the impressive Reuther Library exhibit, *No Greater Calling*, in Goodison at Paint Creek Cider Mill this fall, appropriately as its first stop. OTHS will add the Reuther family community contributions to the exhibit. Cider season will bring many visitors to see this free exhibit.

OTHS is a 34-year-old, non-profit organization continuing to accomplish impressive projects to preserve our local heritage. To host this exhibit, OTHS has just begun a sponsorship drive. We have a limited time to raise funds to cover the costs of the exhibit. We hope you can be generous.

All contributions are gratefully accepted and are tax-deductible!
Donations over \$200, over \$100, and over \$50 will be honored at the Opening Reception and listed as sponsors.

Please make a contribution to: *OTHS – Reuther Exhibit*, and mail to:
OTHS, 384 W. Predmore Road, Oakland MI. 48363.

Your timely response is appreciated and we sincerely thank you!

--OTHS Reuther 100 Committee: *Colleen Barkham, JoAnn Kelly Bourez, Carolyn Dulin, Janine Saputo and Dottie Spitsbergen.*

Information and questions to Colleen Barkham at 248-652-0712, or THSBarkham@hotmail.com

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