Brief History

In 1962 Cesar Chavez organized the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA). Three years later the NFWA joined the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee (AWOC) in strikes against grape growers in the San Joaquin Valley of California.

In 1966 the NFWA and AWOC, with primarily a Filipino-American membership, merged under a charter from the AFL-CIO to form the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee (UFWOC). A year later, to promote awareness of the strikes and the plight of farm workers, the UFWOC launched a national campaign to boycott grapes.

In 1972 the UFWOC was officially chartered by the AFL-CIO and was called, The United Farm Workers, AFL-CIO, (UFW). By that time the union was striking the lettuce fields and other crops as well as grapes. In 2005 the UFW broke its affiliation with the AFL-CIO and joined the Change to Win Federation. The UFW continues to fight for farm workers’ rights to the present day.

UFW Logo

In 1962, César Chávez and his cousin Manuel conceived of the black eagle to symbolize the farm worker struggle. They used a simple design so it could be reproduced easily – even on a typewriter. (Taylor, Ronald B. *Chavez*, p. 116)

Scope of UFW Collections:

The United Farm Workers Union collections cover the period roughly from 1940 to 2000. César Chávez and Dolores Huerta founded the UFW; currently Arturo Rodriguez serves as UFW president. The UFW collections consist of, primary source documents, oral history transcripts, audio-visual formats (films, tapes, still images) 3-dimensional objects (buttons, badges) graphics (posters, broadsides, oversize flyers), publications and published secondary sources. Note: Both English and Spanish predominate the collections.
Restrictions:
There is a 15-year restriction on UFW collections. All online guides to UFW collections are open. Privacy laws and restrictions imposed by the Library prohibit the use of names and other personal information that might identify an individual, except with written permission from the UFW president or his designee.

How to Search the Walter P. Reuther Collections:
Access http://www.reuther.wayne.edu. In the search bar at the upper right, type in your search term. A list of UFW collections and personal names will appear. A reference archivist will assist if necessary. Click on the desired collection and access the finding aid.

Vertical Files:
Subject: United Farm Workers
Biographical: Chávez, César; Huerta, Dolores, Rodriguez, Arturo

Common Keywords/Search Terms/Subject Headings:
- Boycotts--United States
- Braceros (Mexican laborer)
- César Chávez /Dolores Huerta
- Child labor--agriculture
- Huelga (Strike)
- Pilgrimage/Peregrinacion
- Teamster jurisdictional disputes
- Grape/Lettuce boycotts
- Community Service Organization
- Pesticides--adverse effects
- Filipino farm workers
- Immigration—migrant labor
- Pesticides--agricultural workers
- UFW Martyrs

General Reference Works:
Most frequently requested. Note: No books or reference works circulate at the Reuther Library.

• De Witt, Howard. *Violence in the Fields: California Filipino Farm Labor Unionization During the Great Depression*, 1980. [http://elibrary.wayne.edu/record=b2639505~S47; HD1525.4 V54](http://elibrary.wayne.edu/record=b2639505~S47; HD1525.4 V54)


**General Reference Circulating Works:**
Most of the above secondary sources can be accessed through the Wayne State University catalog.

**Print Indexes to UFW Records:**
All print UFW finding aids are located at the Walter P. Reuther Library.

**Online Indexes to UFW Records:**
All UFW finding aids are available online: [http://www.reuther.wayne.edu/taxonomy/term/17](http://www.reuther.wayne.edu/taxonomy/term/17)

**External Resources:**
The following Web sites offer historical as well as current data on the United Farm Workers Union and its history:

- [www.ufw.org](http://www.ufw.org)
The official Web site of United Farm Workers of America.

- [www.farmworkermovement.org](http://www.farmworkermovement.org)
Primary source accounts: photographs, oral histories, videos, essays and historical documents from the United Farm Worker Delano grape strikers and the UFW volunteers who worked with César Chávez. Created by LeRoy Chatfield and managed by the University of California San Diego.

- [www.ufwfoundation.org](http://www.ufwfoundation.org)
Founded in 2006 in Los Angeles, its mission is to serve low-income farm workers and other immigrants living in more remote, underserved communities in central and northern California.

- [http://www.chavezfoundation.org/](http://www.chavezfoundation.org/)
Founded by César Chávez. Paul Chavez is currently director of the board.

- [http://www.doloreshuerta.org](http://www.doloreshuerta.org)
The Dolores Huerta Foundation (DHF) was founded for grassroots community organizing.
http://chavez.cde.ca.gov/ModelCurriculum/resources.htm
California Department of Education: Resources on César Chávez.

http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/about.htm
Seattle Civil Rights and Labor History Project: Recommended tool for comprehensive covering of UFW in Washington State.

http://libguides.utsa.edu/content.php?pid=118009&sid=1306621
University of Texas at San Antonio, finding aids on UFW Texas.

Most Frequently Accessed UFW Collections: Note: There are no digitized collections available online.
- Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee
- Dolores Huerta Papers
- National Farm Workers Association
- UFW Office of the President: Cesar Chavez Papers, Parts 1 and 2
- UFW Administration Department Records, Parts 1-3
- Larry Itliong Papers

Published Dissertations Available at the Reuther Library:


Audio-Visual Image Resources:

UFW Image Gallery:
http://www.reuther.wayne.edu/image/tid/21

Selected Film/Videos available:
Huelga (1966); Decision at Delano (1966); ¡HUELGA! (1968); Nosotros Venceremos (1971); SI SE PUEDE (1972); Road to Delano (1972); Fighting For Our Lives (1973); Wrath of Grapes (1986)

The UFW audio-visual formats are accessible by contacting the Walter P. Reuther’s A-V Department. An appointment is necessary in order to conduct research using UFW films, tapes and still images. Refer to the Reuther’s Web site for instructions for access:
http://reuther.wayne.edu/node/116

Print Publications:
• El Malcriado, 1965-1989;
• Food and Justice, 1985-1996;
• The President’s Newsletter, 1977-1979
• UFW Publications Collection, Finding aid online
• UFW Clipping Collection: News clippings 1966-1979 (See Reference Archivist or Kathy Schmeling for assistance.)

Related Articles:
Magazine articles and other published works contained in journals and subject-specific publications can be located throughout the UFW collections. In addition, the Agricultural Worker’s History Collection and the UFW Publications Collection contain a number of articles focusing on UFW history specifically and agricultural history in general.

Subject Searching for Online Peer-Reviewed Articles in the Wayne State University Library System (Ebsco database)
The following link provides an example result of the search term, “grape AND boycott”:


Ask the Reference Archivist for assistance for further subject searching using this database.
Most Frequently Accessed UFW Related Collections at the Walter P. Reuther Library:

- Agricultural Workers History Collection: Agricultural reports and UFW publications, 1940s-1980s
- Richard Alatorre Papers: California State assemblyman, 1973-1985; political supporter of the UFW
- Farm Labor Organizing Committee Records, FLOC: Farm worker union in Midwest and southern regions
- Ronald Haughton Papers: Early strike arbitration; DiGiorgio and Schenley growers
- Dolores Huerta Papers: Co-founder of UFW with Cesar Chavez
- Larry Itliong Papers: Filipino farm worker organizer and UFWOC co-founder; 1st UFW V-P
- Marion Moses, M.D. Papers: Founded Pesticide Education Center in California
- National Farm Worker Ministry Records, NFWM: Religious support; migrant workers and UFW
- Orange County Interfaith Committee to Aid Farm Workers Records: Calif. Orange County support group
- Fred Ross Papers: Community organizing: Cesar Chavez’s organizing reports
- Phillip Vera Cruz Papers: Filipino farm workers; UFW organizing

Selected Published Authors:

- Frank Bardacke – UFW history
- Professor Matthew Garcia – UFW history; Filipino farm workers; Immigration
- Professor Dawn Mabalon -- Filipino farm workers
- Miriam Pawel -- UFW history; Cesar Chavez biography
- Professor Stephen Pitti, UFW history; Chavez biography
- Professor Margaret Rose – Women’s participation in the UFW
- Professor Dennis Valdes – Organized agricultural labor and migration
- Professor Alan Watt – Religious support and the farm workers movement

Oral History Transcripts:

For more information on the Walter P. Reuther Library’s Oral History collections: [http://reuther.wayne.edu/memory](http://reuther.wayne.edu/memory)

The following list refers to oral histories relating to the United Farm Workers Union history:

- Cesar Chávez, Individual Oral History Interviews
- Paul Schrade (UAW support), Individual Oral History Interviews
- Jesse de la Cruz, 20th Century Trade Union Women OH Collection
Legacy Exhibit Online:
www.reuther.wayne.edu/ex/ufw.html

Painting by Nora Mendoza