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# Gene Bruskin Papers

1963-2024

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Read collection overview

Gene Bruskin arrived at Princeton in 1964 as a basketball player and left as a political radical. After taking part in the Second Venceremos Brigade, Bruskin got involved in antiracist, cultural, and labor organizing in Boston. As president of the United Steelworkers of America local during the busing crisis of the 1970s, he helped win overwhelming support among the city's bus drivers to have the union represent them, leading successful campaigns for better wages and working conditions and for safety for the children. In the years since, he has held numerous high-profile positions nationally and internationally, including as labor director for Jesse Jackson's Rainbow Coalition, Secretary Treasurer for the Food and Allied Service Trades Department of the AFL-CIO, and co-convenor of U.S. Labor Against the War, an organization promoting peace and the demilitarization of U.S. foreign policy and an initiator of the National Labor Network For Ceasefire (NLNC). Bruskin was a major figure in the largest private union election in the history of the United Food and Commercial Workers when he led the successful campaign to unionize 5,000 workers at Smithfield Foods in North Carolina. Since retiring in 2012, he has continued to consult with unions and has played an active role as mentor for Amazon workers organizing across the country. In addition he has returned to some of his earlier undertakings in producing cultural works as a poet, songwriter, and playwright, centered on social justice and working class themes including three original musicals.

Documenting nearly fifty years of activism, Gene Bruskin's papers are an exceptional resource for the labor movement in the 1970s through early 2000s, and particularly its radical flank. Although Bruskin's early years are relatively sparsely represented, there is a significant run of *Brother*, the first anti-sexist, "male liberation" journal that he helped found while in Oakland, and the collection includes important material from his work in Boston with the Hyde Park Defense Committee, the Red Basement Singers, and especially with the School Bus Drivers and their tumultuous three-week strike in 1980.

The collection also contains a rich assortment of material on labor left and antiwar organizing in the 1990s and 2000s, the Justice at Smithfield campaign, and Bruskin's work on behalf of single payer insurance, for International Solidarity, the American Federation of Teachers, and the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees.

Also included are materials about the US labor movements solidarity with workers in Gaza in 2024 as well as a range of documents about Amazon workers organizing, including important materials about the historic organizing victory of Amazon workers in Staten Island in 2022.

In addition, there are a number of digital files of interviews with Gene about his work, past and present. Bruskin's cultural work includes materials from his three original musicals, dozens of poems, and recorded original songs.

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## Background

### Autobiography, by Gene Bruskin



Gene Bruskin

I was born into a Jewish working class family in South Philadelphia in 1946. My father had just come back from several years in the infantry in Europe during WWII. He had been active as a high school Communist Party cell leader in the 1930s in Philadelphia but later grew disillusioned with the Party. He became a TV repairman in the late 1940s when televisions were novelties and remained one, working constantly, until he died at the early age of 61 in 1977. I have an older sister-Francine, now deceased, and a younger sister Denise. My mom raised and loved the children, gave me unconditional love and made our home work.

My mother's family had emigrated from antisemitic conditions in Rumania to Philadelphia by way of Montreal around 1925. My father's parents fled a pogrom in Vitebsk, in the Jewish Pale of Settlement near Minsk, Byelorussia, around 1906, and somehow reached Philadelphia. Story has it that my great grandparents -- hat makers for the Cossacks -- were thrown down a well by the Cossacks in a pogrom. My grandparents opened a small store, Bruskin's Hardware, on the corner of Fifth and Porter Streets in South Philadelphia, and the family lived above the store. The store closed in 2021, more than 100 years since it opened, when my cousin Irv, who lived above the store and operated it, died. My mother's family ran a small upholstery store in Philadelphia until the Second World War.

Growing up, my family lived a few blocks away from the hardware store in South Philadelphia on a street that was Jewish on one half and Catholic on the other. We all got along. My family was loving, but in its own way dysfunctional; my mother suffered from serious mental illness at a time when there were few good treatment options. My dad didn't know how to help, and my strategy was to get out of the house every second that I could.

In 1954, hoping for better schools, we moved to Upper Darby, in an almost entirely white Christian neighborhood, where we stayed until I graduated high school. While I got good grades, my obsession was basketball. In my junior year in high school, our team lost in final rounds for the state championship, and with good fortune I received scholarship offers to several colleges, ending up at Princeton in 1964, which was at its height as a national basketball power led by Bill Bradley.

By my junior year of college, I stopped playing basketball due largely to injuries and became engulfed in the cultural and radical political and antiwar movements sweeping college campuses. Upon graduation in 1968 I was able to get a teaching job at a South Bronx elementary school which, ironically, gave me a draft deferment, presumably under the logic that it was riskier to teach there than to go to war. In 1969 I was married to Meredith Means from Vermont, and we lived in Washington Heights in Manhattan.

## **After College**

My first day teaching in September 1968 was the opening day of the citywide strike by the teachers union (AFT/UFT) against the community forces exercising local control, led by community leaders in Ocean Hill Brownsville, Brooklyn. This was the first of three strikes, and I wholeheartedly supported the first two. By the third and longest strike, I became convinced that the largely Jewish teachers' union was working against the interests of the mostly Black and Latino communities. While the city and the school system were in chaos, I joined a small effort at my school, by a group of experienced teachers who led about 100 children from the community across the picket lines and opened the school. For several weeks, I taught under these conditions. Ironically crossing a picket line was part of my first union experience. The conflict seriously injured the historic Jewish-Black coalition that for decades had played an important role in New York City and that represented the Jewish tradition with which I most closely identified.

Teaching in the South Bronx was a radicalizing experience for me. For the first time I witnessed the impact of a school system in crisis and deep institutionalized poverty on poor Black and brown children. After eighteen months, with the encouragement of my good friend, since deceased, Jeff Perry, I left, feeling that the systemic discrimination was so deep that I, as a young untrained teacher, could not help the kids in that context and in fact was becoming part of the oppressive system. In one instance, for example, I took a small, exasperated, and regrettable, swat at one of my favorite fourth graders who would not stop disrupting the class, only to find out from another student that his father had killed his mother that morning, and that they sent him to school, not knowing what else to do with him. I had to get out.

Again, with Perry's encouragement, my wife, Meredith, and I took part in the second Venceremos Brigade to Cuba in February 1970, along with 800 other mostly young Americans. We were breaking the U.S. blockade of Cuba and spent six weeks cutting sugar cane (incredibly difficult) and two weeks crisscrossing the country in an enormous effort by Cuba called The Year of the Ten Million tons. We met and cut cane with Fidel Castro and also with revolutionary delegations from all over the world: the Tupamaros from Uruguay, the Movimento Popular de Libertacao de Angola, the National Liberation Front from South Vietnam and others. It was a profound lesson on international solidarity and a transformative experience for me.

Inspired by our Cuba experience, following the Brigade in June 1970, my wife and I moved to Springfield, Mass., with a group of Brigadistas and joined with local activists to attempt to create a community-based revolutionary movement. We reached out to local working-class youth, created a women's center that helped women get what were then illegal abortions, supported the Black Panther Party, marched against the war, provided draft counselling for local youth and started a food coop. The group dispersed a year later in internal confusion over the challenges posed by the emerging women's and gay liberation movements.

## **Boston**

After a year in Oakland, California struggling around the personal and social issues raised in Springfield, my wife and I moved to Boston in 1972 where I lived for eighteen years. We ended our marriage there but remain friends. During those years I held a series of part-time jobs, including as a day care worker at a year-round after school center for poor white kids north of Boston. There we organized a union (short-lived) and I met Evie Frankl, who eventually became my wife and life partner.

I remained politically active. Around 1973, I helped found the Red Basement Singers, a song group that performed at left/progressive events, on picket lines, at rallies and even on the Boston T.(subway). We sang a range of pro-union, antiwar, labor, and international songs. This was the first initiative for me in countering the lack of a political culture in many of the eras U.S. left and progressive movements, particularly in the labor movement, with the civil rights and the women's movements being notable exceptions.

In 1975, my friend Ira Wood and I wrote and produced a musical, The Stolen Bicycle Blues. Both Ira and I grew up in families that loved musicals, but we had no real musical or theatrical experience. We gathered friends and the talent to create the show and performed at community events and at youth centers. The play was eventually turned into a radio show with the help of host Danny Schechter, and it aired on WBAI and other radio stations. The play was based on a true story of a bike being stolen from a friend in downtown Boston and our chase and capture of a young white working-class kid from Southie that followed. The theme of the play was about theft and class in the United States. I was thrilled.

On 1974 a Federal judge ordered the desegregation of Boston's highly segregated school system, a ruling that came after decades of attempts by the African American community to get the School Committee to develop an effective desegregation plan. This set off a fierce and violent reaction from the white communities where African American children were being bussed into, while many white students were bussed to African American neighborhoods. These developments profoundly shaped my experience during the 70s.

One result was that African American families who dared to move out of their confined geographies and into mostly white neighborhoods often faced intense violence. I became active in creating a group called the Hyde Park Defense Committee. This group kept a 24 hour a day vigil for a year at the home of Susan Page

and her family in the Hyde Park neighborhood, to prevent harassment by the white neighborhood youth and their parents. Eventually those in the neighborhood who most violently objected moved and Susan and her family stayed.

In 1977, Ira Wood and I spent a summer interning with the legendary San Francisco Mime Troupe, formed in the early '60s. Ira Wood and I wrote a play called *It's Not the Bus* which was based on a fictitious story of a black family facing violence when they moved into a white neighborhood. We created an integrated collective to workshop and develop the play. Unfortunately, the play had a very short run, in part because of the difficulty of Black and white folks working together during so much tension around racism in Boston, and in part due to other tensions within the collective.

In January 1977, both Evie and I took jobs as Boston school bus drivers, jobs created due to desegregation bussing, in a move that was to change my life. My motivation in choosing the job was that the hours included long morning breaks while the kids were in school, during which I thought I could do writing and other theater work. That next September, however, the two privately contracted bussing companies cut the drivers' pay by 88 cents per hour, down to \$5.89 an hour, without benefits or guaranteed hours. I became intimately involved in an organizing drive for the 200 plus drivers, and in December, we held one of a series of strikes to have an election, bring the union in and get a contract. I was one of two people arrested for striking against an injunction. We won the election, and I became president of one of the two locals formed with the United Steelworkers of America. During my ten years there, we built a powerful multi-racial union that included strong women's leadership, including gay women. We won several strikes, many people went to jail, and the local became a model for militant, democratic, anti-racist, community-oriented trade unionism in the city. The strong ties between Black and white workers we built during the stark divisions within the city created a model for me that inspired my union work for the next forty years. Years after my leaving, by 2020, hundreds of Boston school bus drivers, many of them Haitian, made well over \$25 an hour with benefits.

In Boston during the 1970s there was great ferment among many on the left who had emerged from the civil rights, antiwar, and women's movements. Many leftists went to work in the industrial and medical workplaces in the city and either organized unions or became active in reforming them. In many cases, they took over union locals, activating what had been a cautious and conservative labor movement in the area. There were intense debates and study circles among leftists attempting to build Marxist Leninist organizations that had a broad revolutionary vision, linked to the revolutionary upsurge that was happening around the world, particularly in third world countries. Eventually most of these groups folded as people matured and cultivated deeper roots in the working class, even while maintaining a strong anti-capitalist perspective.

I became active in City Life/Vita Urbana, a socialist-oriented organization based in Jamaica Plain that focused on housing, and I helped create a workplace committee with City Life labor activists. We produced a city-wide paper for unions called *The Labor Page*. City Life still exists in Boston and is more vibrant and relevant than ever.

In the late seventies, at the urging of my partner Evie Frankl, I became involved in Re-evaluation Counseling, also known as Co-Counseling. The organization was founded on peer-based methods of mutual support to help people deal with the many emotional effects that come from various forms of hurts and oppressions we all experience (as a child, woman, African American, etc.) in Capitalist society. Co-counseling has been a tremendous aid for me throughout my life in dealing with the many discouragements and difficult moments that come with organizing and life in general, including helping me to understand those of people I was working with or trying to organize.

With an increasingly activated Boston labor movement in the 1980s, we developed a multi union labor community organization called the Massachusetts Labor Support Project (MLSP). The MLSP created militant picket lines for strikes and organizing efforts, held cultural events and hosted visits from international trade unionists. In many ways, this was the precursor of the national organization *Jobs With Justice* that developed later in the decade.

In 1986 I left the bus driver's union, partly because of back trouble aggravated by the driving and because both Evie and I were ready for a change after ten years as bus drivers. In 1987, I was hired by the small Laundry and Dry Cleaners International Union (AFL-CIO) Local 66 as their only organizer in the Massachusetts region. I organized a small chemical company in Chelsea as well as the biggest industrial laundry in Boston, Hospitals Laundry, which was owned by a consortium of Harvard hospitals. The diverse immigrant and Black workforce there, including a large Cape Verdean group, made the organizing a major challenge and learning experience for me.

My experience in the Boston left labor movement was tied to solidarity with international labor movements including visits to the Philippines under the Marcos dictatorship, Poland during the Solidarnosc period, Mexico, and solidarity in the anti-apartheid movement, Salvadoran, Puerto Rican, Cuban, and Nicaraguan struggles. International solidarity work, with a labor focus, continued to be integrated with my work for the rest of my life, including visits to the occupied Palestinian territories and Israel, and building US labor opposition to the Gulf war among DC based local unions, DC Labor for Peace.

## **Washington DC and the National Stage**

Evie and I moved to Washington, D.C., in 1990 along with my friend Bill Fletcher and his wife Candace, to work for a newly elected African American leadership in the National Postal Mailhandlers Union, a division of the Laborers International Union of America (LIUNA). During this one-year stint, I served as the National Field Director for their postal contract campaign and Bill was assistant to the President. This was my first experience with a national union and the culture of international labor unions based in Washington. Evie and I decided to stay in DC. Both my sisters and their families lived in the area and my mother was in a nursing home nearby in Baltimore. Evie became a teacher in the D.C. public schools. I was hired as a community outreach coordinator for an eighteen-month stint with the D.C.-based initiative of the national Justice for Janitors Campaign, SEIU Local 500. At this point Justice for Janitors was developing as a national militant organizing model for labor to fight back against the anti-union restructuring of many formerly unionized industries.

In June 1992, with support from SEIU, I was hired by Reverend Jesse Jackson to assist in mobilizing African American and labor voters for the national and state elections that year. I remained as Jackson's labor deputy after the elections until 1994, charged with building labor support for the National Rainbow Coalition, at that point based in Washington, DC. Working closely with Reverend Jackson and the Rainbow was an eye-opening and challenging role and gave me an opportunity to develop a national network of progressive trade union connections. I left the Rainbow after adopting four year old Nadja (Anastasia) from a Russian orphanage in January 1994: truly a transformational moment for me and Evie, and one of the great continuing joys of my life.

After leaving the Rainbow I was hired by the Food and Allied Service Trades (FAST), a trades department of the AFL-CIO. I worked for Jeff Fiedler at FAST, a major influence on my development as an organizer and campaigner. FAST and Jeff were significant leaders in the development of Comprehensive/Strategic Campaigns in the 1980s, when some unions began using points of leverage in addition to strikes against major corporations in contracts and organizing fights, to combat the aggressive corporate anti-unionism that was flourishing under Reagan. My initial campaign was a coordinated effort between SEIU and UFCW to organize the massive national nursing home chain, Beverly Enterprises. I subsequently became the Secretary Treasurer of FAST, participated in AFL-CIO Executive Board meetings, and organized hotel workers in Hilton Head, S.C., nurses for the AFT in various locations, laundry workers, and more.

During the early years of the 21st century I participated in several gatherings of left trade unionists from across the country to consider strategies to move the labor movement to the left, an effort that was ongoing since the 80s and continues today.

While at FAST, labor veteran Bob Muehlenkamp and I initiated U.S. Labor Against the War (USLAW) to oppose the anticipated invasion of Iraq. The USLAW coalition was formed in a Chicago Teamster union hall in January 2003. It became a bottom-up national organization that created an unprecedented movement of unions against a major military invasion by our country, and it eventually persuaded the AFL-CIO to pass an anti-Iraq war resolution drafted by USLAW. USLAW developed close ties of solidarity with Iraqi unions that lasted for the 15 years of USLAW's existence, including bringing Iraqi trade unionists to the US and sending US trade unionists to Iraq.

In January 2006 I went on loan from FAST to UFCW to lead a campaign to organize the massive slaughterhouse owned by Smithfield Foods in Tar Heel, N.C., where workers kill 32,000 hogs a day, which had been an organizing target since it was opened in 1991. The three years I worked on that campaign, resulting in a successful December 2008 election for 5000 workers, were in many ways a high point of my work in the labor movement. FAST and Jeff Fiedler played a major role in that struggle, at that point the biggest labor election victory in the 21st Century. A powerful film, Union Time, was made about the campaign.

Following the Smithfield Campaign, I was by hired the American Federation of Teachers to create and direct a new Strategic Campaigns Department. The new department, which including some FAST researchers I brought with me, was charged with analyzing and developing strategies to combat the massive influx of private money and ideology into public education, particularly with Charter schools and vouchers. It included organizing the non-union charter industry and working with AFT Healthcare struggles.

## **Retirement**

Life since my 2012 retirement (I called it Redeployment) as head of the AFT International Strategic Campaigns department has been unexpectedly rich. Although I left intentionally with no plans many adventures have since come to pass.

Initially I continued working as a consultant with AFT on an extensive organizing effort in the expanding Los Angeles charter school market. As such I was able to build connections with the incoming new progressive leadership of United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA). UTLA, along with the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU), who have made a substantial mark on the development of the progressive teachers' unions across the

country, including expanding the concept of Bargaining for the Common Good, membership mobilization and the power of a strong majority strike. I have had the good fortune to be connected to the evolution of both of those unions.

Starting in 2014, Peter Olney and I were hired by the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way (BMW/IBT) as consultants to create a national member-to-member internal organizing and communications network, a significant challenge due to the uniqueness and complexity of the railroad industry, the Railroad Labor Act that governs labor, and the divisions among RR unions. BMW workers maintain the track all over the country and are frequently on the road in the equivalent of work gangs. We worked in that capacity until 2018 along with Carey Dall, who we brought in to run the program. This campaign was an effort to create a transformation of member involvement within BMW as an integral part of their national railroad contract fight in 2017-2018, and beyond. The program was better received by the members than by many of the local leaders but showed the potential to build member led movements even in industries where the members have been long neglected.

Around the same time, I was hired by the visionary Larry Hanley, the since deceased president of the Amalgamated Transport Workers Union (ATU). Larry asked me to work with the DC area ATU Local 698 to design a strategy and program to involve members in building a community/labor coalition to fight the growing privatization of transit in the area. This included work with Jobs with Justice (JWJ), the Metro DC Labor Council and the area IAF group. I learned a lot about the world of public transit but for a variety of reasons the program wasn't successful.

In 2020 I began working with worker leaders of the National Audubon Society. Their several hundred workers across the country were fed up with the management's hypocrisy, racist practices, lack of respect and incompetence. I worked with them in forming Audubon for All and helped them bring in CWA as their union representative and eventually win a union election. As of 2024 they gained their first contract.

In 2020 I began working as a mentor and advisor for Amazon workers in various parts of the country who were beginning to organize inside Amazon warehouses. This started with helping young workers in Philadelphia who had gone to work at Amazon as salts (inside organizers) and were staying in for the long haul. It spread to providing various types of support to workers in New York, NC, Detroit and the West Coast and helping to develop a national network of organizers and Amazon workers, including staff organizers from the Teamsters. The work included helping the Amazon Labor Union (ALU) in Staten Island win their historic 2022 election and continuing to support their efforts in various capacities, including assisting the successful internal reform movement and the affiliation with the IBT in 2024.

In 2023 the book *Labor, Power and Strategy* was published by PM press. It included an essay I wrote about my experience in the Justice@Smithfield campaign. I participated in many panels in person and online including one shown in the UK, discussing organizing strategies and choke points, mostly to audiences of eager young organizers.

## **Cultural Work**

A major change for me in retirement was returning to my interest in musical theater, which I originally explored in the late 1970s with two musicals I co-wrote with Ira Wood and produced in Boston for community venues. I spent several years writing the book, lyrics and the music for and producing *Pray for the Dead*, a Musical Tale of Morgues, Moguls and Mutiny, ([www.prayforthedeadmusical.com](http://www.prayforthedeadmusical.com)) a musical play intended for non-theater going working class and labor audiences. I received extensive help from Tom Smerling and Glenn Pearson with the music and Mike Thornton as the director. The play was performed in union halls and in community settings as a professionally staged musical reading in the summer of 2016. The catastrophic election of Trump interrupted the momentum of the productions although *Pray* was distributed nationally in a radio show format in 2016/2017.

After more than two years of writing, workshops and rehearsals my second musical, *The Moment Was Now* ([www.themomentwasnow.com](http://www.themomentwasnow.com)) (with Glenn Pearson again as the musical director and Darryl! Moch as the director) played in Baltimore in 2019 and again in 2020 before being shut down by covid in March 2020, as it was about to go on the road to Boston and to Houston for the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists Convention (CBTU). For many of the show's, unions bought out the house and we did one well received show for high school students. *Moment* takes place during Reconstruction in 1869 in Baltimore as a fictional meeting of famous historical characters seeking to build unity between the labor, women's and freedom movements at the dawn of post-Civil War industrial boom. An excellent quality film was produced of a live performance by Mike Wicklein and continues to be used as an educational tool in unions and community groups. The musical was successful beyond my wildest dreams, particularly with the amazing performances of the since deceased Julia Nixon as Francis Ellen Watkins Harper. I hope some day to revive it.

My third musical, *The Return of John Brown* ([www.thereturnofjohnbrown.com](http://www.thereturnofjohnbrown.com)) was performed as a staged musical reading in the spring of 2024 in DC, Baltimore and on the grounds of the Kennedy Farm near Harpers Ferry, WV where John Brown staged his legendary 1859 raid against slavery. The story imagines Brown magically returning to the present, being rearrested and put on trial followed by a dramatic plot twist where

Brown builds unity between Black and White farmers fighting for their land against a pipeline company. The musical is currently (2024) searching for a venue for a full production.

## **Palestinian Solidarity/Gaza**

From the outset of the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7, 2024, I have been helping to create labor support for the movement for a permanent ceasefire, a halt to US arms shipments to Israel and an end to the occupation. This work has included building an unprecedented network of national unions, the National Labor Network for Ceasefire (NLNC) ([www.laborforceceasefire.org](http://www.laborforceceasefire.org)) and a large network of individual workers and local unions that support the ceasefire petition campaign and have been actively engaged. As a Jew who has visited the occupied territories and Israel and done Palestinian solidarity work earlier in my life, I have been outraged at Israel's conduct and heartened by the large movement, including many young Jews, that has been built for peace and justice. I have been asked to speak in several venues, including at a press conference sponsored by Congresswoman Corrie Bush, along with Shawn Fain from the UAW. The work is ongoing as is the war.

In the last couple of years I have been asked to speak about my personal history and experience in person and on line, including several podcasts, with lots of interest from young organizers.

Through it all I have been a happy and very lucky father to Nadja and husband to Evie, relationships that ground me and nourish me and make it possible for me to do all the work I have done in the rest of the world while feeling loved.

## **Scope of collection**

Documenting nearly fifty years of activism, Gene Bruskin's papers are an exceptional resource for the labor movement in the 1970s through early 2000s, and particularly its radical end. Although Bruskin's early years are relatively sparsely represented, there is a significant run of *Brother*, the first anti-sexist, "male liberation" journal that he helped found while in Oakland, and the collection includes important material from his work in Boston with the Hyde Park Defense Committee, the Red Basement Singers, and especially with the School Bus Drivers and their tumultuous three-week strike in 1980. The collection also contains a rich assortment of material on labor left and antiwar organizing in the 1990s and 2000s, the Justice at Smithfield campaign, and Bruskin's work on behalf of single payer insurance, for International Solidarity, the American Federation of Teachers, and the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees.

## **Series descriptions**

### [Series 1. Labor activism](#)

1964-2024

In 1977, Bruskin settled in Boston and was writing and working in radical politics when he took his first job with organized labor. For the next forty years, he held a succession of positions with a number of unions, as organizer, local officer, strategist, and campaigns director, among other things. Series 1 contains records of the full breadth of Bruskin's union activities, including his early days in Boston, labor/left linkages, his work in international solidarity, and work with laundry workers, health care workers, and Justice for Janitors.

Of particular importance in this series are rich materials for four initiatives, the Massachusetts Labor Support Project (MLSP), the Boston School Bus Drivers Union, U.S. Labor Against War (USLAW), and the Justice @ Smithfield campaign. Content for the MLSP and USLAW is relatively limited, but the former is highly innovative effort and militant organizing in Boston in the mid-1980s, while the latter is an important effort by organized labor to oppose war.

The Boston School Bus Drivers (United Steel Workers Local 8751) records cover the years between 1977 and 1986, Bruskin served as a bus driver, organizer, and union official. The materials offer an exhaustive record of union efforts during the tense years of the busing crisis in Boston, ranging from the initial organization and formation of two locals through a series of strikes and contract negotiations, and media coverage.

The Justice@Smithfield Campaign materials are even more extensive, documenting a highly successful campaign to unionize the Smithfield Foods pork processing operations in North Carolina. The records include notes and communications, legal filings and depositions, media coverage, and some realia.

### [Series 2. Personal and political](#)

1963-2016

Series 2 contains materials relating to Bruskin's personal life, education, and engagement in social justice and political causes other than the labor movement. Bruskin's radicalization during his college years can be seen in his transformation from a working class student playing basketball at Princeton to his time in the Springfield Collective in the early 1970s that established a People's Coop and printed an underground

feminist newspaper. His formal political commitments appear through files accumulated while serving as labor deputy for Jesse Jackson's National Rainbow Coalition in the 1990s, and files from his support of Mel King's candidacy for Mayor of Boston. Bruskin was also involved in an important "underground" newspaper Brother, which may have been the first "men's liberation"

The series also includes an interesting assortment of Marxist and radical pamphlets collected by Bruskin and dozens of pinback buttons for political and labor causes, ranging from the anti-apartheid struggle and opposition to U.S. intervention in Central America to support for strikes and unions.

### [Series 3. City Life/Vida Urbana](#)

1979-1991

City Life/Vida Urbana was a Socialist-oriented organization that Bruskin became involved in during the 1970s and 1980s. Based in Jamaica Plain, City Life focused on issues in housing, and Bruskin was involved with other labor activists in the group in studying workplace issues. The series includes materials stemming from several of City Life's studies, and an extensive run of the newspaper they produced for unions, The Labor Page.

### [Series 4. Cultural Work](#)

1970-2024

Series 4 contains materials related to Bruskin's creative and cultural outputs. In his retirement, Bruskin returned to his love for theater, writing three musicals: Pray for the Dead, a Musical Tale of Morgues, Moguls, and Mutiny; The Moment Was Now; and The Return of John Brown. Scripts, pictures, videos, and other public relation materials from all of the musicals are included in the series. The series also contains Bruskin's other cultural projects including various poems and songs he has written and his plays It's Not the Bus and Stolen Bicycle Blues. Materials from the Red Basement Singers, a singing group that performed at left and progressive events, are also included.

## Inventory

Series 1. Labor activism

1964-2024

Amazon Worker Organizing

2021-2024

digital hard-drive

Contains material from the Amazon Labor Union (ALU), including Democratic Reform Caucus Charter, election notice, meeting notes, petitions, newsletters, and articles.

American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees

1991

Box 1: 1

American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees: Leadership development

1993

Box 4: 12

BMWED-Railroad Workers: plans, statements, meeting notes

2018

Box 7: 3

Boston Jobs Coalition

1983-1984

Box 1: 6

Schall, John Anthony: Racial discrimination in the construction industry in the Boston area: an overview and recommendations

1983

Box 1: 6

Boston Jobs Coalition statement

1983

Box 1: 6

Boston (Mass.): An ordinance establishing the Boston Residents Jobs Policy

1983

Box 1: 6

Boston Jobs Coalition

1984-1985

Box 1: 7

Boston Labor: Boston initiative

1992

Box 1: 8

Boston Labor: Hotel workers

1982-1989

Box 1: 9

Boston Labor: Laundry workers

1986-1990

Box 1: 15

Boston Labor: Laundry workers

1990-1995

Box 1: 16

Boston Labor: Laundry workers (articles by Gene Bruskin)

ca.1986-1992

Box 1: 17

Boston Labor: Massachusetts Labor Support Project

1984

Box 1: 10

Boston Labor: Massachusetts Labor Support Project

1985-1986

Box 1: 11

Boston Labor: Massachusetts Labor Support Project

1987-1988

Box 1: 12

Boston Labor: Massachusetts Labor Support Project

ca.1986-1988

Box 1: 13

Boston Labor: Massachusetts Labor Support Project: 100th anniversary of the Eight Hour Day strikes

1985-1986

Box 1: 14

Boston Labor: University of Massachusetts course

1985

Box 1: 18

Community Labor Coalition

1984

Box 4: 13

Consulting: American Federation of Teachers

2009-2012

Box 1: 21

Consulting: Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

ca.2015-2018

Box 1: 22

Food and Allied Service trades Department (FAST)

2003-2005

Box 1: 23

Food and Allied Service trades Department (FAST)

2005

Box 1: 24

Gaza Labor Solidarity

2024

digital hard-drive

Contains letter to President Biden about aiding Israel, statements from the National Labor Network for Ceasefire (NLNC), petitions, and correspondence. There are also remarks recorded by Gene regarding the situation Gaza, such as those given at the Congressional Press conference, and an interviews on WPFW and the Ralph Nader Radio Hour. There is also a poem written by Gene entitled "Israel, My Israel?"

International: Israel

1988

Box 1: 25

International: Israel

1989

Box 1: 26

International: Middle East

1988-1989

Box 1: 27

International: Middle East Labor Bulletin

1988-1989

Box 1: 28

International: Palestine

1984-1983

Box 1: 29

International: Palestine  
1988  
Box 1: 30  
International: Palestine  
1989  
Box 1: 31  
International: Palestine  
1990  
Box 1: 32  
International: Palestine: Gottlieb, Roger S., The dialectics of national identity: Left-wing anti-semitism and the Arab-Israeli conflict  
ca.1978  
Box 1: 33  
International: Palestine: Hands around Jerusalem  
1989  
Box 1: 34  
International: Palestine: Jewish Labor Committee  
1988-1989  
Box 1: 35  
International: Palestine: Jewish Labor Committee  
1990  
Box 1: 36  
International: Palestine: Unions  
1988-1989  
Box 1: 37  
International: Palestine Solidarity: newsletters, articles, and flier  
1990  
Box 7: 1  
International: Philippine Solidarity: articles and circular letter  
1987-1991  
Box 7: 2  
International: Poland Solidarity  
1981-1982  
Box 1: 38  
International: Poland Solidarity: Analysis  
ca.1981  
Box 1: 39  
International: Poland Solidarity: Tymowski, Andrzej, The strike in Gdansk, August 14-21, 1980  
ca.1981  
Box 1: 40  
Jobs With Justice  
undated  
Box 3: 18  
Justice for Janitors  
1991-1992  
Box 1: 41  
Justice for Janitors: Photographs  
1991-1992  
Box 1: 42  
Labor Action to Defend Democracy: member correspondence, circular letter, proposals  
2020  
Box 7: 4  
Labor Campaign for Single Payer  
2009  
Box 1: 52  
Labor ephemera  
ca.1980-1990  
Box 4: 14  
Labor history of the South  
1968-1976  
Box 5

These documents relating to labor in the south were given to Bruskin by his friend James Tramel.

Bethel, T. N., Conspiracy in coal  
ca.1970  
Box 1: 54  
News clippings  
1968-1976

Box 5: 19  
News clippings  
1977-1981  
Box 5: 20  
Offprints  
1973-1980  
Box 1: 53  
The sit down strikes of the 1930s: from baseball to the bureaucracy. Root and Branch Pamphlet 4  
ca.1971  
Box 1: 55  
Southern Student Organizing Committee  
1964  
Box 1: 56  
Theobald, Robert: The cybernation revolution  
1964  
Box 1: 56  
Theobald, Robert: A conversation: jobs, machines, and people  
1964  
Box 1: 56  
Ulmer, Al, Cooperatives and poor people in the south  
1969  
Box 1: 57  
United Mine Workers Journal  
1967  
Box 1: 58  
Williams, Jim: Students, Labor, and the south  
1964  
Box 1: 56  
Labor/left  
2000-2001  
Box 1: 59  
Labor/left  
2001-2002  
Box 1: 60  
Labor/left  
2002-2003  
Box 1: 61  
Labor/left: articles  
1991-2000  
Box 5: 21  
Labor/left: materials from Labor-Community Strategy Center (Eric Mann)  
1996-2000  
Box 2: 1  
Labor/left: printed materials  
1996-2000  
Box 5: 22  
Labor: media  
2006-2016  
DVD, VHS  
Box 6  
Can't Take No More: The Story of a Strike to Win a Union  
1987  
VHS  
Box 6  
Gene Bruskin on Iraqi Labor  
2004  
VHS  
Box 6  
Meeting face to face: the Iraq-US Labor Solidarity Tour  
2006  
DVD  
Box 6  
Real price of the Iraq occupation, the War on Terror, and Military Spending, 3d ed.  
2006  
DVD  
Box 6  
Union Time: Fighting for Workers' Rights  
2016

DVD  
Box 6  
Why are we in Afghanistan?. By Michael Zweig  
2009  
DVD  
Box 6  
Labor newsclippings and miscellaneous  
1981-1985  
Box 4: 15  
Labor publications  
ca.1980-1989  
Box 4: 16  
Labor Power and Strategy: book and flier  
ca.2022  
Box 7: 5  
Laudry Workers: articles and statements  
1981-19899  
Box 7: 6  
Leadership development unionism, by Jeff Crosby and Paul McLennan  
2000  
Box 2: 2  
Letter from Jesse Jackson Jr. to ATC worker  
1999 Jun. 3  
digital hard-drive  
National Conference Call: Convening to Form Labor for Single Payer notes  
2008 Sep. 10  
digital hard-drive  
Newsletters: Miscellaneous  
1978-1986  
Box 4: 17  
Newsletters: NAFTA Countdown  
1993  
Box 4: 18  
Newsletters: Service Employees International Union Local 82: Action  
1992  
Box 4: 19  
Newsletters: United Steelworkers of America District 1: Rank and File Steelworkers Voice  
1978-1981  
Box 4: 20  
Newsletters: United Steelworkers of America District 15: The Sentinel  
1980  
Box 4: 21  
Newsletters: United Steelworkers of America District 31. Women's Caucus Bulletin  
1981  
Box 4: 22  
Newsletters: United Steelworkers of America Locals 8744-8751: Union Bulletin - Hazard Lights  
1979-1980  
Box 4: 23  
Newsletters: United Steelworkers of America Local 8751: Union Bulletin  
1981-1986  
Box 4: 24  
Nursing home workers  
1983-1995  
Box 2: 3  
Nursing home workers  
1996-2000  
Box 2: 4  
Nursing home workers  
2002-2003  
Box 2: 5  
Nursing home workers  
ca.1996-2003  
Box 2: 6  
Nursing home workers: Financial analysis  
1992-1994  
Box 2: 7  
Nursing home workers: Industry analysis  
1992-1994

Box 2: 8  
Nursing home workers: newspaper articles  
1994-2000  
Box 5: 19  
Nursing home workers: newspaper clippings  
1994-2000  
Box 5: 23  
Nursing home workers: Photographs (Local 1527, Memphis)  
1999  
Box 2: 9  
Nursing home workers: printed materials  
undated  
Box 5: 24  
Nursing home workers: published report  
1995  
Box 5: 25  
NYNEX strike (Communication Workers of America)  
1988-1989  
Box 4: 25  
Occupy My Thoughts: notes on national labor movements  
undated  
digital hard-drive  
Reflecting on rank and file strategy: a draft discussion document for the 2002 Solidarity Labor retreat  
2002  
Box 2: 10  
School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751)  
1974-1991  
Boston busing, analysis and history  
1974  
Box 1: 2  
Baraka, Amiri: Crisis in Boston  
ca.1974-1976  
Box 1: 2  
Committee to Free the East Boston Black Defendants: Free the East Boston Black defendants!  
1976  
Box 1: 4  
Highlights of the history of the Boston public schools  
ca.1975  
Box 1: 4  
More Than I Bargained For: an article on Bussing strikes by Gene Bruskin  
ca.2016 Dec. 18  
digital hard-drive  
Prairie Fire Distributing Committee: Anti-Racist Committee busing questionnaire  
ca.1975  
Box 1: 4  
Preliminary staff research for decision making purposes to the United States Commission on Civil Rights on  
the crisis and controversy concerning the desegregation of public schools in Boston, Massachusetts  
1974  
Box 1: 2  
Proletarian Unity League: It's not the bus: busing and the democratic struggle in Boston, 1974-1975  
1975  
Box 1: 2  
Proletarian Unity League: It's not the bus: busing and the democratic struggle in Boston, 1974-1975, 2d  
edition  
1975  
Box 1: 3  
Race in Boston: historical perspective  
1979-1987  
Box 4: 11  
Radical America: Racism and busing in Boston  
1975  
Box 1: 4  
Radical America: Racism and busing in Boston  
1975  
Box 1: 4  
Restore Our Alienated Rights  
1975  
Box 1: 4

Supply and demand: who came to the United States from where, to where, when and why  
ca.1975

Box 1: 5

UMass thesis on Boston School Bus Drivers

ca.2023

digital hard-drive

Bus Drivers: Diary, notes, and poems

1977-1983

Box 1: 19

Bus Drivers: The history of the Boston School Bus Drivers (USWA Local 8751 Union Bulletin)

1983

Box 1: 20

School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751)

1976

Box 2: 11

School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751)

1977 Oct.-Nov.

Box 2: 12

School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751)

1977 Dec.

Box 2: 13

School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751)

1977 Dec.

Box 2: 14

School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751)

1978 Jan.-Feb.

Box 2: 15

School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751)

1978 Feb.-Mar.

Box 2: 16

School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751)

1978 Apr.

Box 2: 17

School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751)

1978 May-June

Box 2: 18

School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751)

1978 Aug.-Sept.

Box 2: 19

School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751)

1978 Oct.-Dec.

Box 2: 20

School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751)

1979 Jan.-May

Box 2: 21

School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751)

1979 June-Aug.

Box 2: 22

School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751)

1979 Sept.-Dec.

Box 2: 23

School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751)

ca.1979

Box 2: 24

School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751)

1980 Jan.-May

Box 2: 25

School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751)

1980 July-Sept.

Box 2: 26

School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751)

1980 Oct.

Box 2: 27

School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751)

1980 Nov.-Dec.

Box 2: 28

School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751)

1981 Jan.-Mar.

Box 2: 29  
School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751)  
1981 May  
Box 2: 30  
School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751)  
1982 Feb.-Mar.  
Box 2: 31  
School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751)  
1982 May-Dec.  
Box 2: 32  
School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751)  
ca.1982  
Box 2: 33  
School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751)  
1983 Jan.-June  
Box 2: 34  
School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751)  
1983 July  
Box 2: 35  
School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751)  
1983 Aug.-Oct.  
Box 2: 36  
School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751)  
ca.1983  
Box 2: 37  
School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751)  
1984 Jan.-Mar.  
Box 2: 38  
School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751)  
1984 Apr.-Dec.  
Box 2: 39  
School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751)  
1985 Jan.-Sept.  
Box 2: 40  
School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751): Labor agreement between National School Bus Service, Inc., and United Steelworkers of America, AFL-CIO-CLC for the City of Boston  
1985 Sept.  
Box 2: 41  
School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751)  
1985 Nov.-1986 Jan.  
Box 2: 42  
School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751)  
ca.1983-1985  
Box 2: 43  
School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751)  
1986 Jan.  
Box 2: 44  
School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751)  
1986 Sept.-Dec.  
Box 2: 45  
School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751)  
ca.1985-1986  
Box 2: 46  
School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751): National activity  
ca.1977-1980  
Box 2: 47  
School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751): National activity  
1980  
Box 2: 48  
School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751): News clippings  
1974  
Box 5: 1  
School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751): News clippings  
1975  
Box 5: 2  
School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751): News clippings  
1976  
Box 5: 3

School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751): News clippings  
1977

Box 5: 4

School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751): News clippings  
1978-1979

Box 5: 5

School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751): News clippings  
ca.1978-1979

Box 5: 6

School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751): News clippings  
1980

Box 5: 7

School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751): News clippings  
1981

Box 5: 8

School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751): News clippings  
1982

Box 5: 9

School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751): News clippings  
1983

Box 5: 10

School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751): News clippings  
1984

Box 5: 11

School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751): News clippings  
1985

Box 5: 12

School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751): News clippings  
1986

Box 5: 13

School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751): News clippings  
1987, 1991

Box 5: 14

School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751): News clippings  
undated

Box 5: 15

School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751): Oral history, interview with Gene Bruskin  
2022

digital hard-drive

Interviewed by Maci Mark as part of the Boston School Bus Drivers Union Oral History Project. This and other interviews from the project are available digitally through the [UMass Boston Joseph P. Healey Library](#).

School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751): Photographs  
ca.1983

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School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751): Photographs  
ca.1983

Box 2: 50

School Bus Drivers Union (United Steel Workers Local 8751): Photographs  
ca.1983

Box 2: 51

An inscription inside the cover the of the album (now discarded) read: "Property of Local 8744. . . Liz Casey, took many of the photos, some by others."

Smithfield: Justice at Smith Campaign  
1992-2012

Justice at Smith Campaign  
2006-2007

Box 2: 52

Justice at Smith Campaign  
2007

Box 2: 53

Justice at Smith Campaign  
2008

Box 2: 54

Justice at Smith Campaign: Anti-union materials  
ca.2006

Box 2: 55  
Justice at Smith Campaign: Background research  
2002

Box 2: 56  
Justice at Smith Campaign: Campaigns  
ca.2005-2007

Box 2: 57  
Justice at Smith Campaign: Employee Free Choice Act  
2004-2007

Box 2: 58  
Justice at Smith Campaign: Employee policies  
ca.2006-2008

Box 2: 59  
Justice at Smith Campaign: Events  
2006-2008

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Justice at Smith Campaign: Immigration issues  
ca.2006-2008

Box 2: 61  
Justice at Smith Campaign: International operations  
2006-2007

Box 2: 62  
Justice at Smith Campaign: Litigation: Loin Line action  
2006

Box 2: 63  
Justice at Smith Campaign: Litigation: National Labor Relations Board  
2006-2007

Box 2: 64  
Justice at Smith Campaign: Litigation: Ramos  
2005-2006

Box 2: 65  
Justice at Smith Campaign: Litigation: RICO (1 of 4)  
2008

Box 2: 66  
Justice at Smith Campaign: Litigation: RICO (2 of 4)  
2008

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Justice at Smith Campaign: Litigation: RICO (3 of 4)  
2008

Box 2: 68  
Justice at Smith Campaign: Litigation: RICO (4 of 4)  
2008

Box 2: 69  
Justice at Smith Campaign: Litigation: RICO: Bruskin deposition  
2007-2008

Box 2: 70  
Justice at Smith Campaign: Litigation: RICO: Media and articles  
2008

Box 2: 71  
Justice at Smith Campaign: Litigation: Smithfield Foods v. United Food and Commercial Workers International  
Union (RICO)  
2006-2007

Box 2: 72  
Justice at Smith Campaign: Litigation: Smithfield Foods vs. United Food and Commercial Workers  
International Union (RICO): exhibits 1-25  
2008

Box 4: 27  
Justice at Smith Campaign: Litigation: Smithfield Foods vs. United Food and Commercial Workers  
International Union (RICO): exhibits 26-50  
2008

Box 4: 28  
Justice at Smith Campaign: Litigation: Smithfield Foods vs. United Food and Commercial Workers  
International Union (RICO): exhibits 51-75  
2008

Box 4: 29  
Justice at Smith Campaign: Litigation: Smithfield Foods vs. United Food and Commercial Workers  
International Union (RICO): exhibits 76-101  
2008

Box 4: 30  
Justice at Smith Campaign: Media and public relations  
2006 Jan.  
Box 3: 1  
Justice at Smith Campaign: Media and public relations  
2006 Nov.  
Box 3: 2  
Justice at Smith Campaign: Media and public relations  
2006 Dec.-2017  
Box 3: 3  
Justice at Smithfield Campaign: Media and Public relations: DVDs  
2008-2012  
DVD  
Box 6  
Bruskin, Gene: Deposition at Smithfield  
2008  
DVD  
Box 6  
2007 March for Justice  
2007  
DVD  
Box 6  
Farmers demonstration, Poland, Warsaw  
2008  
DVD  
Box 6  
Now, with David Brancaccio  
2008  
DVD  
Box 6  
Smithfield workers, Yes we can  
2008  
DVD  
Box 6  
Storytelling about successful alliances: SEIRN Annual Conference  
2012  
DVD  
Box 6  
Union power for Smithfield workers  
2008  
DVD  
Box 6  
Witness a voice for Justice at Smithfield  
2008  
DVD  
Box 6  
You don't have to work in danger  
2008  
DVD  
Box 6  
Justice at Smith Campaign: news clippings  
2001-2006  
Box 4: 26  
Justice at Smith Campaign: news clippings  
2008  
Box 5: 27  
Justice at Smith Campaign: newsletters  
2005-2008  
Box 5: 28  
Justice at Smith Campaign: newspaper article reprints  
2006 -2008  
Box 5: 29  
Justice at Smith Campaign: Photographs  
1997-2008  
Box 3: 4  
Justice at Smith Campaign: posters  
ca.2006 -2008  
Box map case: drawer 4

Justice at Smith Campaign: printed materials (labor campaign)  
ca.2006 -2008  
Box 5: 30  
Justice at Smith Campaign: Justice at Smith Campaign: published reports  
ca.2006 -2008  
Box 5: 31  
Justice at Smith Campaign: Justice at Smith Campaign: Published works  
2009-2010  
Box 3: 5  
Justice at Smith Campaign: Justice at Smith Campaign: T-shirt "Justice at Smithfield Witness"  
ca.2008  
Box 6  
Justice at Smith Campaign: Justice at Smith Campaign: Timeline and overview  
1992-2006  
Box 3: 6  
Justice at Smith Campaign: Justice at Smith Campaign: Union vote  
2008  
Box 3: 7  
Justice at Smith Campaign: Justice at Smith Campaign: Union vote, post-election  
2008-2012  
Box 3: 8  
Justice at Smith Campaign: Justice at Smith Campaign: Washington, D.C., campaign  
2008  
Box 3: 9  
Unity and Independence newsletter  
2017 Mar.  
digital hard-drive  
U. S. Labor Against War  
1990-1991  
Box 1: 43  
U. S. Labor Against War  
1991 Jan.-Feb.  
Box 1: 44  
U. S. Labor Against War  
1991 Feb.-June  
Box 1: 45  
U. S. Labor Against War  
1991 July-1992  
Box 1: 46  
U. S. Labor Against War  
2003-2012  
Box 1: 47  
U. S. Labor Against War: antiwar articles  
ca.1990-2005  
Box 5: 16  
U. S. Labor Against the War: event program, notes, statements, photographs  
2006-2022  
Box 7: 7  
U. S. Labor Against War: Gene Bruskin writings  
1991-1992  
Box 1: 48  
U. S. Labor Against War: news clippings  
1990-1991  
Box 5: 17  
U. S. Labor Against War newsletters  
1990-1991  
Box 1: 49  
U. S. Labor Against War photographs  
ca.1990-1992  
Box 1: 50  
U. S. Labor Against War press releases  
1990-1991  
Box 1: 51  
U. S. Labor Against War: published reports  
1990-2003  
Box 5: 18  
U. S. Labor Against the War: talks and speeches  
2006-2008

digital hard-drive  
Series 2. Personal and political  
1963-2016  
Anti-apartheid  
1985-1986  
Box 3: 10  
Anti-apartheid: Photographs  
ca.1985-1986  
Box 3: 11  
Boston Irish political machines, 1830-1973, by Steven E. Miller (Working Paper #15), part 1  
1974  
Box 3: 12  
Boston Irish political machines, 1830-1973, by Steven E. Miller (Working Paper #15), part 2  
1974  
Box 3: 13  
Brother: a male liberation newspaper  
1971  
Box 5: 32  
Brother: a male liberation newspaper  
1972-1973  
Box 5: 33  
Combating race and gender bias (draft), supplement to the basic workshop AFL-CIO Common Sense  
Economics Education Program  
2000 June  
Box 3: 14  
External hard-drive  
1999-2024  
Box 7: 8  
High school basketball: photographs and clippings  
1963-1964  
Box 3: 15  
Hyde Park Defense Group  
1976-1977  
Box 3: 16  
It ain't necessarily so: myths and facts about racism and the Klan in Boston  
1980  
Box 3: 17  
It's not the bus: promotional ephemera  
ca.1976  
Box 5: 34  
King, Mel: Mayoral race with Ray Flynn  
1983  
Box 3: 18a  
King, Mel: Mayoral race with Ray Flynn: newsclippings  
1983  
Box 3: 18b  
Marxist materials  
1973-1981  
Box 3: 19-20  
Allen, Theodore W.: Class struggle and the origin of racial slavery: The invention of the white race  
1975  
Box 3: 19  
Haywood, Harry: For a revolutionary position on the Negro question. S.I.: October League (M-L)  
1975  
Box 3: 19  
July 4th Bulletin  
1976 June  
Box 3: 19  
Line of March : The OCIC's phony war against white chauvinism and the demise of the fusion line  
1981  
Box 3: 19  
Line of March, no. 11  
1983  
Box 3: 20  
October League (Marxist-Leninist): Building a new Communist Party in the U.S.  
1973  
Box 3: 20  
Philadelphia Workers' Organizing Committee: A Communist approach to strategy, Tactics, and program

ca.1977  
Box 3: 20  
Philadelphia Workers' Organizing Committee: On trade unions and the rank and file movement  
ca.1977  
Box 3: 20  
Philadelphia Workers' Organizing Committee: Black liberation today: Against dogmatism on the national question  
ca.1977  
Box 3: 20  
Marxist materials: photocopies  
ca.1979  
Box 3: 21  
The Moment Was Now: program and publicity  
2019  
Box 5: 36  
National Rainbow Coalition  
1990-1993 May  
Box 3: 22  
National Rainbow Coalition  
1993 June  
Box 3: 23  
National Rainbow Coalition  
1993 July-Oct.  
Box 3: 24  
National Rainbow Coalition  
1993 Oct.-Nov.  
Box 3: 25  
National Rainbow Coalition  
1994-1995, undated  
Box 3: 26  
National Rainbow Coalition: NAFTA  
1991-1992  
Box 3: 27  
National Rainbow Coalition: NAFTA  
1993 Jan.-July  
Box 3: 28  
National Rainbow Coalition: NAFTA  
1993 Aug.-Nov.  
Box 3: 29  
National Rainbow Coalition: Newsletters  
1986-1994  
Box 3: 30  
National Rainbow Coalition: Photographs  
ca.1990-1995  
Box 3: 31  
National Rainbow Coalition: printed materials  
1984-1994  
Box 5: 35  
National Rainbow Coalition: Weekly reports  
1993  
Box 3: 32  
Oral history with Aaron Rubinstein  
2021 Apr. 8  
02:10:45  
digital hard-drive  
Prairie Fire/Weather Underground  
1974-1977  
Box 3: 33  
Prairie Fire: The politics of revolutionary anti-imperialism: Political statement of the Weather Underground  
[Boston reprint]  
1974  
Box 3: 33  
Sojourn, Celia and Billy Ayres: Politics in command  
ca.11975  
Box 3: 33  
Split of the Weather Underground organization. Seattle: John Brown Book Club  
1977  
Box 3: 33

Prairie Fire/Weather Underground: Osawatamie, no. 1-3; vol. 2,2  
1975-1976

Box 3: 34

Pray for the dead: a musical tale of morgues, moguls, and mutiny, by Gene Bruskin  
2016

DVD

Box 6

Realia: pinback buttons for labor, political, and social causes  
ca.1984-2016

70 items

Box 6

Includes buttons for: Justice for Janitors; NYNEX strike; School Bus Drivers; Solidarity; anti-apartheid; peace and antiwar; health care; Central America; Mel King; presidential campaigns 1984, 1988, 1992, 2008, 2016

Round table on race

2001

Box 3: 35

Solidarity conference: Puerto Rican independence

1979-1980

Box 3: 36

Springfield Collective

ca.1970

Box 3: 37

Springfield Collective: People's Food Coop Newsletter, vol. 1, no. 1-4, 6, 9

ca.1970

Box 3: 38

Springfield Collective: Small Arms [newspaper], vol. 1, no. 4 and 6

ca.1970

Box 3: 39

Standley, Art: Eulogy

1991

Box 3: 40

Venceremos Brigade: FBI files on Gene Bruskin

1970-1983

Box 3: 41

Series 3. City Life/Vida Urbana

1979-1991

City Life/Vida Urbana: City Life strike at ARA, Readville-Bayside, bus driver strike

1980 Oct. 30

DVD

Box 6

City Life/Vida Urbana: Core study

1985-1986

Box 4: 1

City Life/Vida Urbana: Core study

1985

Box 4: 2

City Life/Vida Urbana: Electoral study

1983-1984

Box 4: 3

City Life/Vida Urbana: City Life: Lessons of the first five years, by Kathy McAfee Radical America 13

1979

Box 4: 4

City Life/Vida Urbana: Workplace Committee

1982-1984

Box 4: 5

City Life/Vida Urbana: Workplace Committee: Shop by shop evaluations

1980

Box 4: 6

City Life/Vida Urbana: Workplace Committee study

1980-1983

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Newsletters: Community News

1979-1981

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Newsletters: City Life

1984-1986

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Newsletters: The Labor Page  
1982-1991  
Box 4: 10  
Series 4. Cultural Work  
1970-2024  
Cultural Worker Ensemble: musical program and flier  
2020-2024  
Box 7: 9  
"It's Not the Bus"  
1976  
Box 7: 10  
"It's Not the Bus": full script  
1976  
Box 7: 11  
The Moment Was Now musical: photos, script, flyers, reviews, video  
2019-2020  
digital hard-drive  
Poem: Bus Drivers (Roll On)  
1977  
Box 7: 12  
Poem: Justice for Janitors (rappin' 'bout risin')  
1991  
Box 7: 13  
Poem: Smithfield (if we change the White House we can change the Hoghouse)  
2009-2012  
Box 7: 14  
Poems by Gene Bruskin  
1979-2023  
digital hard-drive  
Pray For The Dead musical  
2016  
digital hard-drive  
Red Basement Singers: notes  
1973-1975  
Box 7: 15  
Red Basement Singers: songs  
1970-1975  
Box 7: 16  
The Return of John Brown musical: program, photos, PR release, videos  
2024  
digital hard-drive  
Songs by Gene Bruskin  
1976-2016  
digital hard-drive  
"Stolen Bicycle Blues" Radio Script  
1976  
Box 7: 17  
"Stolen Bicycle Blues" Script and Music  
1976  
Box 7: 18

## **Administrative information**

### **Access**

The collection is open for research.

### **Provenance**

Gift of Gene Bruskin, April 2018.

### **Processing Information**

Processed by I. Eliot Wentworth, April 2018; additional material processed by Nia Alves, 2024.

### **Language:**

English

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## Search terms

### Subjects

- Boston (Mass.)--History--20th century
- Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees
- Bus drivers--Massachusetts--Boston
- Busing for school integration--Massachusetts--Boston
- Jackson, Jesse, 1941-
- Labor unions--Massachusetts
- National Rainbow Coalition (U.S.)
- North American Free Trade Agreement (1992 December 17)
- Peace movements--Massachusetts
- Segregation--Massachusetts--Boston
- Smithfield Foods, Inc.
- Strikes and lockouts
- United Food and Commercial Workers International Union
- United Steelworkers of America. Local 8751

### Contributors

- Bruskin, Gene [main entry]

### Genres and formats

- Newsletters

### Link to similar SCUA collections

- [Antiracism](#)
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- [Massachusetts \(East\)](#)
- [Peace](#)
- [Photographs](#)
- [Political activism](#)
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