Descriptive Summary

Creator: Village Writers' Group.
Title: Village Writers' Group records, 1979-2019
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 657
Extent: 2.25 linear feet (5 boxes), 3 oversized bound volumes (OBV), 1 oversized papers box (OP), and 10 MB born digital material (21 files)
Abstract: Records of Village Writers' Group, including general records, printed material, photographs of group members, speakers, meetings, and born digital material.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access
Special restrictions apply: Access to processed born digital materials is only available in the Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library (the Rose Library). Use of the original digital media is restricted.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction
All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

Source

Custodial History
Christopher Valley, Letitia Sweitzer, and Helen Friese were all members of the Village Writers' Group.

Citation
[after identification of item(s)], Village Writers' Group records, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.
Appraisal Note
Acquired by Rose Library Director, Linda Matthews, as part of Rose Library's holdings in Southern literature and the history of Emory University.

Processing

Born digital materials processed, arranged, and described by Brenna Edwards, 2020. Born digital materials include files taken from one compact disc. For information as to how these materials were processed, see the processing note in the description of series 2, Collected printed material.

Collection Description

Historical Note
The Village Writers' Group (also known as VWG) began officially on January 22, 1980 when the Articles of Incorporation, Charter Seal, and Bylaws were adopted at a Board of Directors meeting after an Evening at Emory Course on "Unblocking Writer's Block," co-taught by DeKalb News/Sun editor Spencer Ragsdale and Neil Schuman, M.D., had ended in 1978. Reluctant to give up their regular meetings, the small band of writers decided to meet at Ed Green's Restaurant in Emory Village (hence the name for the group) and continue to offer one another professional support. Membership skyrocket from the original handful of members to over two hundred within the first few years of its founding. With the elections of Frances Patton Statham and Helen Friese to its presidency, the VWG further defined its mission and purpose, expanded its community services, and gained recognition from other art groups. By the late 1980s, the Georgia and DeKalb Council for the Arts were partially funding the group. Since its inception, literary luminaries such as Pat Conroy, Erskine Caldwell, and Anne Rivers Siddons have addressed their meetings and offered important networking connections.

Scope and Content Note
The Village Writers' Group records consist of three series. The first, general records, contains the articles of incorporation, by-laws, minutes and agendas, and financial records for the group and cover the years 1979-1989. Series 2, collected printed material, includes the VWG magazine (The Village Writers' Group Newsletter and the Village Writer) and newsletters in their various guises, as well as announcements, anthologies, and flyers, spanning the years 1979- present . Series 3 is comprised of photographs of group members, speakers, and meetings. Most are not dated or labeled, but appear to be from the early 1980s. The records also include scrapbooks that contain newspaper articles, correspondence, and applications for membership.

Organization Note
Organized into three series: (1) General records, (2) Collected printed material, (3) Photographs.
Description of Series

Series 1: General records
Series 2: Collected printed material
Series 3: Photographs
### Series 1

**General records**

**Box 1: folder 1-14, OP1**

#### Organizational records

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<th>Content</th>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>Articles of Incorporation, Oct 4, 1979</td>
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<td>Action of the Board of Directors, May 5, 1979</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>By laws, 1997, n.d.</td>
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<td>Membership roster, 2011</td>
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<td>Minutes and Agendas, 1979-1980</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Minutes and Agendas, 1981</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Minutes and Agendas, 1982</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Minutes and Agendas, 1984, 1996, 2003</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Operating manual, 2002-2019</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Organizational History</td>
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<td>Past Presidents of VWG, 1979-1985</td>
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<td>OP1</td>
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<td>Certificate of Recognition from Georgia Governor Joe Frank Harris, 1989 [two copies]</td>
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#### Financial records

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<td>Treasurer's report, 1981-1982</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Internal Revenue Service forms, 1979-1980, 1982</td>
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<td>Stock Transfer ledger, blank, n.d.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Commercial Blanket Fund, May 1, 1983</td>
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Series 2
Collected printed material
Box 1: folder 15 - Box 3: folder 15, RRL

Scope and Content Note
The series includes the VWG magazine (The Village Writers' Group Newsletter and the Village Writer) and newsletters in their various guises, as well as announcements, anthologies, and flyers, spanning the years 1979- present. Born digital material includes digital copies of The Village Writer from 2005 to 2007.

Restrictions on Access
Special restrictions apply: Access to processed born digital materials is only available in the Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library (the Rose Library). Use of the original digital media is restricted.

Processing Note
Forensic disk images were created from the compact disc using GuyMager. Individual files were extracted using FTK Imager and scanned for viruses using McAfee’s anti-virus software; none were found. Duplicate and system files have been removed, and files were scanned for personally identifiable information; none were found. Text-based files were migrated to PDF using Adobe Acrobat. File dates have been changed from the original creation date. Access copies retain original file names.

VWG Magazine - VWG Newsletter

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VWG Magazine - The Village Writer

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<td>Vol. 10, 1988</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Vol. 11, 1989</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Summer, Winter 1990</td>
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**Newsletters**

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**Newline**

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**Misc. materials**

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<td><em>VWG’s Greatest Hits</em>, Anthology of articles from the Village Writer, 1982 (4 copies)</td>
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<td>New Voices by Fulton County High School students, n.d.</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous flyers</td>
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Series 3
Photographs
Box 3: folder 16 - Box 4, OBVs 1-3

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<td>Writers' Conference, n.d.</td>
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Memorabilia, n.d.

**Scrapbooks**

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<td>Scrapbook (partial), 1996-1997</td>
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