

# VILLAGE WRITERS' GROUP.

## Village Writers' Group records, 1979-2019

Emory University  
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### 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.

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### 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

Gift of Christopher Valley, 1988. Letitia Sweitzer donated additions to the collection in 1993. Helen Friese donated additions to the collection in 1995, 1996 and 1998.

#### 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.

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**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**

Processed by Sarah E. Gardner, Completed June 1993, Additions, 1995, 1998, 2019.

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.

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**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**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
1	1	Articles of Incorporation, Oct 4, 1979
1	2	Action of the Board of Directors, May 5, 1979
1	3	By laws, 1997, n.d.
5	1	Membership roster, 2011
1	4	Minutes and Agendas, 1979-1980
1	5	Minutes and Agendas, 1981
1	6	Minutes and Agendas, 1982
1	7	Minutes and Agendas, 1984, 1996, 2003
5	2	Operating manual, 2002-2019
1	8	Organizational History
1	9	Past Presidents of VWG, 1979-1985
OP1	1	Certificate of Recognition from Georgia Governor Joe Frank Harris, 1989 [two copies]

**Financial records**

1	10	Treasurer's report, 1979-1980
1	11	Treasurer's report, 1981-1982
1	12	Internal Revenue Service forms, 1979-1980, 1982
1	13	Stock Transfer ledger, blank, n.d.
1	14	Commercial Blanket Fund, May 1, 1983

**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**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
1	15	Vol. 1, 1979
1	16	Vol. 2, 1980

**VWG Magazine - The Village Writer**

1	17	Vol. 3, 1981
1	18	Vol. 4, 1982
1	19	Vol. 5, 1983
2	1	Vol. 6, 1984-1985
2	2	Vol. 7, 1985
2	3	Vol. 8, 1986
2	4	Vol. 9, 1987
2	5	Vol. 10, 1988
2	6	Vol. 11, 1989
2	7	Summer, Winter 1990
2	8	Winter 1991
2	9	Spring 1992
5	3	2002-2007
5	4	2008-2016

5 5 2005-2007, compact disc [Original RESTRICTED]  
RRL Access copies of processed born digital material [Reading room access ONLY]

**Newsletters**

3 1 1984  
3 2 1985  
3 3 1986  
3 4 1987  
3 5 1989  
3 6 1992-1998

**Newsline**

3 7 1989  
3 8 1990  
3 9 1991  
3 10 1993

**Misc. materials**

3 11 Announcements, 1986-1997, n.d.  
3 12 *VWG's Greatest Hits*, Anthology of articles from the Village Writer, 1982 (4 copies)  
3 13 New Voices by Fulton County High School students, n.d.  
3 14 Miscellaneous flyers  
3 15 "Frustration Spawns Area's Most Prestigious Writer's Group," *DeKalb Neighbor Newspaper*, 5 Oct 1989

**Series 3****Photographs****Box 3: folder 16 - Box 4, OBVs 1-3**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
3	16	Lynn Alpern
3	17	Anne Ashford
3	18	Faith Brunson
3	19	Ralph Bugg
3	20	Evelyn Campbell
3	21	Carol Carter
3	22	Sarah Carver
3	23	Pat Conroy
3	24	Bill Diehl
3	25	Helen Elliot
3	26	Chet Fuller
3	27	Cindy Goldwaithe
3	28	Ed Green/ Ed Green's Restaurant
3	29	Tom Green
3	30	Angela Greer
3	31	Joe Frank Harris
3	32	Carolyn Haskell
3	33	Louis Isaf
3	34	Lynn Keating
3	35	Gene Gabriel Moore
3	36	Shirley R. Murphey
3	37	Wayne Nardy
3	38	Ludlow Poch
3	39	Janet Reiner
3	40	Neil Schulman
3	41	Leara Smith
3	42	Vern Smith
3	43	Morris West
4	1	VWG meeting, Manuels Tavern, n.d.
4	2	Unidentified speakers
4	3	VWG Workshops, 1981, n.d.
4	4	Writers' Conference, n.d.
4	5	VWG meetings, n.d.
4	6	VWG, outdoor activity, n.d.
4	7	Negatives

4 8 Memorabilia, n.d.

**Scrapbooks**

OBV1 - 1979-1980

OBV2 - 1979-1984

OBV3 - 1980-1984

4 9 Scrapbook, 1994-1996

4 10 Scrapbook (partial), 1996-1997

4 11 Scrapbook, 1997-1998

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