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Guide to Willamette Writers Guild Records, 1976-1986

A-046

Collection processed by: Tiah Edmunson-Morton, 2005

Inventory encoded by: Tiah Edmunson-Morton, 2006

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Collection Number: A-046

Creator: English, Foreign Language and Speech Department (Joyce Salisbury)

Title: Willamette Writers Guild Records

Dates: 1976 -1986

Quantity: 1.2 c.f. (3 boxes)

Summary: Records of the Willamette Writers Guild including correspondence, project and topic files, and files of correspondence, poems, and biographical information on poets and writers. From Joyce Salisbury.

Location of Collection: Lane Community College Archives, Center Building

History of the Willamette Writers Guild:

The Willamette Writers Conference was formed in 1976 by writers and literature instructors from Lane Community College, the University of Oregon, Oregon State University, Linn-Benton Community College, Willamette University, and Chemeketa Community College. The Guild wanted to offer high quality community events to foster interest in the literary arts and humanities. The Willamette Writers Conference became the Willamette Writers Guild in 1977.

The Guild sponsored programs with poets W.S. Merwin, Gwendolyn Brooks, Richard Hugo, John Ashbery, and Oregon poet-laureate William Stafford; the science fiction team of Kate Wilhelm and Damon Knight; philosopher/novelist William Gass; screenwriter Paul Schrader; and fiction editor Gordon Lish.

The Guild was funded largely by grants from agencies and foundations. The instructors contributed their time, and each college provided financial support and use of college facilities. The group was set up as a three-year consortium program; at the end of the period of formal stewardship, the Guild looked into establishing a non-profit organization and offering programs

on a more informal basis. However, the group faded after 1979.

Content Description:

The Willamette Writers Guild records were created by Joyce Salisbury between the years of 1975 and 1986. Included are administrative records, information about writers, materials related to WWG events, and newsletters or publicity materials for the WWG. In addition to organizing smaller lectures, the WWG hosted "Writing & Publishing: A Colloquium," which was a three day colloquium on writing and publishing held February 15th through 17th, 1977.

Joyce Salisbury was an instructor in the English, Foreign Language & Speech Department at Lane Community College, 1972-2000.

Arrangement:

Series A: Administrative, 1976-1978, .4 c.f.

Series B: Writer Information, 1976-1986, .4 c.f.

Series C: Events, 1976-1983, .2 c.f.

Series D: Publicity & Newsletters, 1975-1979, .2 c.f.

Subjects:

Authors, American

Colleges and universities

Lane Community College (Eugene, Or.)

Lorde, Audre

Novelists, American

Poets, American

Publishers and publishing Vocational guidance

Rich, Adrienne

Salisbury, Joyce

Screenwriters, American

Willamette Writers Conference

Willamette Writers Guild

Writing & Publishing: A Colloquium (1977: Eugene, Or.)

Writing as a profession

Alternative Forms Available:

Repository maintains guide to collection on an in-house database. A guide to the collection is also available on the repository's website.

See also: [Willamette Writers Conference - schedule for the workshop], Eloise and William McGraw papers, Ax 243, Special Collections & University Archives, University of Oregon Libraries, Eugene, Oregon.

Administrative Information:

Restrictions on Access: None

Restrictions on Use: None

Preferred Citation:

Willamette Writers Guild Records, 1976-1986 (A-046), Lane Community College Archives, Eugene, Oregon

Custodial History:

Joyce Salisbury created these records during her tenure at Lane Community College. She left them in her office when she retired in 2000. They were found by Jeff Harrison, who sent them to Archives in 2002.

Processing Note:

Collection was processed and described in the fall of 2005 by Tiah Edmunson-Morton.

CONTAINER LIST**Series A: Administrative, 1976-1978, .4 c.f.**

These are records documenting the day-to-day operation of the Willamette Writers Guild (forms, financial statements, funding received). The series also contains information about future projects; potential sources of funding (grants, bills, endowments); and general correspondence between members, organizations, and authors.

Correspondence, 1978-1979 [1/1]

Art and Education Bill, 1977 [1/4]

Danforth Foundation, 1978 [3/1]

Financial Statements, 1976-1978 [2/21]

Forms, 1978 [2/20]

Foundations, 1977-1978 [3/2]

Future Projects, 1977 [1/10]

Hero, Peter [Executive Director of Oregon Arts Commission], 1977 [2/11]

LCC Development Fund, 1976 [3/4]

Literature in the Third World, 1978 [1/11]

Local Community Organization, 1976-1984 [1/2]

Miscellaneous, 1977, 1982 [1/3]

National Endowment for the Arts, 1977 [3/5]

National Endowment for the Humanities, 1977 [3/6]

Oregon Arts Commission, 1977 [3/7]

Oregon Community Foundation, 1977-1978 [3/8]

S & H Lectureship Program, 1974-1975, 1977-1979 [3/9]

Science & Humanities, 1976-1977 [1/15]

Women Support Audiotape, 1977-1979 [1/20]

Series B: Writers, 1976-1986, .4 c.f.

This series contains correspondence, publicity materials, curriculum vitas, publications, schedules of events, and photographs from authors the Willamette Writers Guild included in programs or authors the Guild was interested in including in future programs. The bulk of the

collection is from 1977 through 1979; however, in 1983 and 1984, there was a renewed interest with the Visiting Lectures Program and “Black Women Writers on Racism & Sexism” conference in 1983. The files contain a range of materials, from an undated photo or copy of an author’s work to personal correspondence.

The writers in this collection are from a wide range of genres: screenwriters, poets, dramatists, novelists.

Adam, Helen n.d., photo included [2/1]
 Ashbery, John, 1978 [2/2]
 Bangs, Carol Jane, 1983-1984 [2/3]
 Barnes, Dick, 1978 [2/4]
 Biggerstaff, Diane [2/5]
 Chinosole, 1982, 1986 [2/6]
 Crawford, Oliver, 1979, photo included [2/7]
 Creeley, Robert, 1978 [2/8]
 Harder, James A., 1977-1978 [2/9]
 Harkness, Ed, 1978 [2/10]
 Hugo, Richard, 1977-1978 [2/12]
 Karp, David, 1979 [2/13]
 McDade, Carolyn, 1983 [2/14]
 Miscellaneous Poets [2/15]
 Platt, Polly, 1978, photo included [2/16]
 Rich, Adrienne and Audre Lorde, 1982 [2/17]
 Schisgal, Murray, n.d., photo included [2/18]
 Wakoski, Diane, 1976 [2/19]

Series C: Events, 1976-1983, .2 c.f.

The bulk of this series is dedicated to lectures and fundraising events sponsored by the Willamette Writers Guild in 1977 and 1978.

Of particular note is “Writing & Publishing: A Colloquium” (February 15-17, 1977), which was a three day colloquium on the conditions in the field of writing and publishing. Panelists included philosopher and novelist William Gass, poet Richard Hugo, fiction editor Gordon Lish, African-American feminist poet Gwendolyn Brooks, film director Victoria Hochberg, small press publisher Len Fulton, screenwriter Paul Schrader, essayist Richard Kostelanetz, and agent Rhonda Weyr.

“Writing & Publishing: Science Fiction” (March 7-10, 1978) was a series of one-day workshops and evening lectures. Workshop leaders included editor Ben Bova, writers-editors Kate Wilhelm and David Knight, writer Vonda McIntyre, writer Dean Ing, and scholar Reginald Brentor.

“Poetry & People: Art in the Community” (April 11-28, 1978) was a three-week program of short residencies and public readings. Participating poets included W.S. Merwin, John Ashbery, Elizabeth Bishop, Robert Creeley, Robert Duncan, Carolyn Kizer, and Oregon poet-laureate William Stafford.

“The UFO Experience” and “Realities of the Close Encounter” (1978) were part of a series of lectures given by Dr. James Harder.

Additionally, there is information about a major literary event entitled “Black Women Writers on Racism & Sexism” on January 23, 1983. Audre Lorde, Gloria Watkins, Sylvia Wynter, and Pat Warner spoke at the Hult Center for Performing Arts.

[See also: Writers, 2/17 for correspondence between Adrienne Rich and WWG members]

[Black Women Writers on] Racism & Sexism, 1983 [1/14]
Arts Alliance, 1978 [1/5]
Colloquium: Writing & Publishing, Artists, 1977 [1/6]
Colloquium: Writing & Publishing, Evaluations, 1977 [1/8]
Colloquium: Writing & Publishing, Planning, 1976-1977 [1/7]
Community Projects, 1978 [1/9]
[The] Impact of Native American Resurgence Upon Contemporary US Lit & Society, 1979 [1/12]
Poetry & People: Art in the Community, 1978 [1/14]
Science Fiction Proposal, 1977-1978 [1/17]
Theater & the Media in the Community, 1978 [1/18]
Walk-a-thon; Jog-a-thon, 1978 [3/10]
Willamette Writers Conference, 1977-1978 [1/19]
Wine Tasting and Fund Raising, 1978 [3/11]
Writing & Publishing, [Willamette Writers Conference] 1977-1978 [1/21]

Series D: Publicity & Newsletters, 1975-1979, .2 c.f.

This series contains publicity and promotional materials. Included are newsletters from the Willamette Writers Guild and other literary organizations, fliers, and news-clippings (1977-1979). It also contains mailing lists and telephone numbers.

Newsletter, 1977-1978 [3/14]
Other Promotional Materials, 1977-1978 [3/13]
Poetry Calendar (newsletter), 1975-1976 [1/13]
Telephone Numbers, n.d. [2/22]
Various Newsletters (3 folders), 1976-1979 [3/15], [3/16], [3/17]
WWG Mailing Lists, 1979 [2/23]
WWG Publicity 1978 [3/12]