



## **Book Lover's Club Records (K0901)**

**Collection Number:** K0901

**Collection Title:** Book Lover's Club Records

**Dates:** 1915-2011

**Creator:** Book Lover's Club of Greater Kansas City

**Abstract:** This collection consists of the organizational records of the Book Lover's Club of Greater Kansas City. Records include club history, constitution and bylaws, membership information, minutes, financial information, yearbooks, correspondence, event information, reading lists, photographs of club members and events, and video tapes of events held by the club.

**Collection Size:** 2.25 cubic feet  
(63 folders, 4 oversize folders, 320 photographs, 44 negatives, 3 VHS tapes)

**Language:** Collection materials are in English.

**Repository:** The State Historical Society of Missouri

**Restrictions on Access:** Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City](http://www.shsmo.org). If you would like more information, please contact us at [kansascity@shsmo.org](mailto:kansascity@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

**Restrictions on Use:** The Donor has given and assigned to the University all rights of copyright, which the Donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Book Lover's Club* (K0901); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Kansas City].

**Donor Information:** The records were donated to the University of Missouri by Mai Gray on November 21, 2007 (Accession No. KA1572). An addition was made on December 9, 2013 by Linda Lee (Accession No. KA2175).

**Processed by:** Processed by Mimi Loran, August 2018

**Historical Note:**

The Book Lover's Club of Greater Kansas City is a book club specifically for African American women, with a focus on educational outreach in the community. The mission of the Club is to broaden intellectual awareness through reading, study, and discussion. The Club was conceived in 1904 by Mrs. Callie J. Edwards, Mrs. Daisy Cook, and Miss Anna H. Jones. The three women were reading "Souls of Black Folks," and wanted to discuss their feelings and findings with a larger group. The three women called on fifteen other women, and the Book Lover's Club was born.

Initially, meetings were held every week; however, by the 1920's, meetings were held twice a month. The Club expanded throughout this time to twenty-five active members, and with this expansion came new ways of discussing the literature. While club meetings generally focused on book discussions, members presented papers, preformed vignettes, and wrote reviews regarding books that were read. In addition, the Club held a variety of events throughout the years including public lectures and book readings.

Member of the Book Lover's Club were also actively involved in education. The Club occasionally gave scholarships to young women to help them further their education. Members also frequently participated in the African American Read-In, where members held a discussion or event for young African Americans in the community during Black History Month.

In 2004, the Book Lover's Club celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Club still meets regularly to share and exchange ideas, making it the oldest active African American women's club in Kansas City.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into the following four series with twelve subseries. Items have been arranged by material type and materials within folders have been arranged chronologically:

## Organizational Records

- History
- Constitution and Bylaws
- Membership
- Meeting Minutes
- Financial
- Yearbooks
- Correspondence
- Club Events

## Publications

## Audio Visual Materials

- Photographs
- Negatives
- Video Tapes

## Oversize

- Membership

**Scope and Content Note:****Organizational Records**

This series contains materials related to the Book Lover's Club organization, its members, and events. There is a history of the organization, along with publications and event material related to the Club's 75<sup>th</sup>, 85<sup>th</sup>, 90<sup>th</sup>, and 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. Included are the Club's constitution and bylaws and a membership handbook. Of particular interest is the membership subseries, which includes membership lists, biographies of founding and prominent members, and obituaries of members lost throughout the years.

In addition, the meeting minutes and financial reports of the Club are included in this series. There is also a large collection of club yearbooks. The yearbooks include the year's theme, the books being read throughout the year, the calendar for the year's events, and a list of current members. Lastly, there is a subseries containing material related to Book Lover's Club events. This includes meeting agendas, reading lists, book discussions, book reviews, special event programs, and newspaper clippings. Some of the special event material includes material related to the African American Read-In events that the Club held and the many public lectures that the Club held throughout the years.

**Publications**

This series contains materials of interest to the Book Lover's Club, specifically focusing on issues of African American history. Included are two publications related to African American history, a newsletter related to the neighborhood of Westport, Kansas City, Missouri, and the book, *And So I Sing*. The book was the topic of a lecture, "Afternoon of Word and Song," presented by the Book Lover's Club, where the author, Rosalyn Story, was the lecturer.

**Audio Visual Materials**

This series contains photographs, negatives, and video tapes related to the Book Lover's Club and the events that the Club held. The photographs depict the various events that the Club held throughout the years, some of which have been dated and identified. There are also group photographs of members, with members identified when possible. The negatives correlate to corresponding photographs, and have been identified to indicate this. The video tapes subseries consists of events held by the Book Lover's Club. There are two copies of the event, "Afternoon of Word and Song," which includes musical performances by Roberta Gumble and a lecture regarding the book, *And So I Sing*, by author, Rosalyn Story. One of these tapes also includes a concert performed by Roberta Gumble. The final tape is of the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the Book Lover's Club. The event was held at the Unity Temple, and the event was called "Reminiscing the Past, Lest we Forget." The event included choral singing, the remembrance of past members, and several speakers.

**Oversize**

This series contains oversize materials related to the Book Lover's Club. Included are membership biographies and list of all deceased members, newspaper clippings, and oversized photographs.

**Container List:**

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| f. 1-36  | Organizational Records  |
| Box 001  | f. 1-5 History  |
|          | f. 1 History, no date   |
|          | f. 2 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 1979                           |
|          | f. 3 85 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 1989                           |
|          | f. 4 90 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 1994                           |
|          | f. 5 100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 2004                          |
|          | f. 6-7 Constitution and Bylaws                                    |
|          | f. 6 Constitution and Bylaws, 1982-2002                           |
|          | f. 7 Handbook, 2003   |
|          | f. 8-11 Membership  |
|          | f. 8 Membership Lists, 1985-2003                                  |
|          | f. 9 Biographies, no date   |
|          | f. 10 Obituaries, 1988-2003                                       |
|          | f. 11 Honors and Awards, no date                                  |
|          | f. 12-14 Meeting Minutes, 1963-2006                               |
|          | f. 15-16 Financial  |
|          | f. 15 Bank Statements, 1987-1993                                  |
|          | f. 16 Treasurer's Reports, 1987-1993                              |
|          | f. 17-24 Yearbooks, 1915-2005                                     |
| Box 002  | f. 25 Yearbooks, 2006-2008  |
|          | f. 26-27 Correspondence, 1943-2011                                |
|          | f. 28-36 Club Events  |
|          | f. 28 Book Club Meetings, 1981-2009                               |
|          | f. 29 Reading Lists, 1987-2005                                    |
|          | f. 30 Book Discussion, 1992-1994                                  |
|          | f. 31 Book Reviews, 1989-2003                                     |
|          | f. 32 Special Event Programs, 1943-2007                           |
|          | f. 33 African American Read-In, 1997-2010                         |
|          | f. 34 "Take Flight" Game, 2010                                    |
|          | f. 35 Flyers, 1991-2008   |
|          | f. 36 Newspaper Clippings, 1984-2010                              |
| f. 37-40 | Publications  |
|          | f. 37 "And So I Sing," 1990                                       |
|          | f. 38 Backpages Newsletter, 2004                                  |
|          | f. 39 Celebrating Black History, no date                          |
|          | f. 40 Exploring a Common Past, 2000                               |
| f. 41-59 | Audio Visual Materials  |
|          | f. 41-55 Photographs  |
|          | f. 41-54 Club Events, 1986-2008                                   |
|          | f. 55 Club Members, 1988  |
|          | f. 56 Negatives, 1995-1998  |
|          | f. 57-59 VHS Tapes  |
|          | f. 57 Afternoon of Word and Song, 1992                            |
|          | f. 58 Afternoon of Word and Song and St. Theresa Concert,<br>1992 |
|          | f. 59 90 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, 1994              |
| f. 60-63 | Oversize  |

Box 003	f. 60-61	Membership
	f. 60	Membership Information, no date
Drawer 15	f. 61	Deceased Members List, no date
	f. 62	Newspaper Clippings, 1993-2004
	f. 63	Photographs, no date

**Index:**

Index Term	Folder	Image
African American women--Societies and clubs	1-63	Yes
Alioth, Gertrude K.	9	
Allen, Eloise B.	9, 44	Yes
Banks, Mila	45	Yes
Belser, Evelyn J.	9	
Book clubs (Discussion groups)--Missouri	1-63	Yes
Book Lover's Club of Greater Kansas City	1-63	Yes
Brooks, Marie G.	10, 45, 60	Yes
Busch-Staples, Janes	9	
Bush-Marshall, Rosemary	9	
Cameron, Carolyn	9, 43-44	Yes
Collins, Enestine	9, 43-44, 61	Yes
Cook, Daisy	1-9, 17-25, 61	
Dandridge, Deborah	9	
Davis, Desdemona	10	
Edwards, Callie J.	1-9, 17-25, 60-61	
Fletcher, Joan B.	9, 47	Yes
Gates, Anna Mae	45	
Glore, Jeannine	9, 44	Yes
Gray, Mai H.	9-10, 43-44	Yes
Gumbel, Marietta S.	9	
Gumbel, Roberta	57-58	
Gumbel, Wilma	9	
Hinton, V. Janice	10	
Jones, Anna H.	1-9, 17-25, 60-61	
Jones, Ione V.	10	
Keith, Gertrude	9-10, 60	
Kerford, Ruth E.	9, 43	Yes
Lee Robinson, Willa	9, 45	Yes
Lee, Linda	9	
Lillard, Dorathy	45	Yes

<b>Index Term</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Image</b>
Lison, Eleanor A.	9	
Phillips, Mary Louise	9, 43	Yes
Price, Geneva	9, 43-44	Yes
Rowell, Hazel Lee	10	
Smith, Kathryn	44	Yes
Story, Rosalyn M.	37, 48, 57-58	Yes
Thomas, Delois	9	
Webster, Fern	9-10, 45, 60	Yes
Willoughby, Glee	45	Yes
Woodson, Velma	9, 45	Yes