

# Guide to the Harold I. Seeley, Jr. Collection on Cherry Grove

MS 1908



compiled by Christine Connolly, Carol King, and Claryn Spies

August 2008

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1908

**CREATOR:** Seeley, Harold I., collector

**TITLE:** Harold I. Seeley, Jr. collection on Cherry Grove

**DATES:** 1924-2011

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 11.33 linear feet (18 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The materials comprise correspondence, meeting minutes, reports, printed ephemera, posters, photographs, and play scripts collected by Harold I. Seeley, Jr. that document the activities of the Arts Project of Cherry Grove, as well as the community of Cherry Grove, a lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) resort community on Fire Island, off the coast of Long Island, New York.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1908>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1908>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box  
f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Harold I. Seeley, Jr., 2008-2009.

## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

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## Preferred Citation

Harold I. Seeley, Jr. Collection on Cherry Grove (MS 1908). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Harold I. Seeley, Jr. had been a volunteer for Cherry Grove Arts Project activities since his arrival at Cherry Grove in the mid 1970s, donating his time as board member, set designer, and performer. In 1982, Seeley founded the Cherry Grove Archives, collecting materials to preserve the history of the Cherry Grove community and the arts project. He died in Brooklyn, New York, on January 7, 2012.

The Arts Project Cherry Grove (APCG) was founded in 1948 as a non-profit community service organization providing an environment receptive to showcasing various art forms. Its fundraising events include art shows; theater productions; casino and bingo nights; concerts; socials; balls; and membership parties. Monies raised benefit various organizations of Cherry Grove, a hamlet located on Fire Island, New York, and reputedly the nation's first lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender/transsexual (LGBT) community.

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## Scope and Contents

The materials comprise correspondence, meeting minutes, reports, printed ephemera, posters, photographs, and play scripts collected by Harold I. Seeley, Jr. that document the activities of the Arts Project of Cherry Grove, as well as the community of Cherry Grove, a lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) resort community on Fire Island, off the coast of Long Island, New York.

## Collection Contents

### Inventory, 1958-2006

Arts Project of Cherry Grove (APCG)		
b. 1, f. 1	Calendar	2006
b. 1, f. 2	Cherry Grove archives	1958-1959
b. 1, f. 3	Cherry Grove's Art Show	1984-1985, 1988
b. 1, f. 4	Copy of program for <i>Cherry Grove Follies of 1948</i> (first show)	1989
b. 1, f. 5	Flyers, announcements, clippings	1980s-1990s
b. 1, f. 7-17	Minutes, flyers, announcements	1958-1960, 1980-1989
b. 2, f. 1-8	Minutes, flyers, announcements	1990-1998
Notebooks and binders		
b. 2, f. 9	Drach, Ted: minutes, reports, and correspondence	1968-1969
Fowler, Nat, collection of playbills		
b. 2, f. 10	Playbills	1960-1974
b. 2, f. 11	News/stories	1981-1982
Sinisi, Nicholas		
b. 2, f. 12-16	APCG New York	1978-1980
b. 3, f. 1	APCG New York	1976-1980
b. 3, f. 2	Patrons	circa 1980
Playscripts		
b. 3, f. 3	Baker, David, <i>Red, Hot and Rose</i>	1980
b. 3, f. 4	Baker, David [adaptation], <i>Ruddigore?!?! or The Curse of the Belvederes!</i>	1985
b. 3, f. 5	Drach, Ted, <i>Grove Fever</i>	1986
b. 3, f. 6	Drach, Ted, <i>Grove Frankenstein</i>	1989
b. 3, f. 7	Stella, Leo, <i>All American Boy</i>	1983
b. 5, f. 1	Posters for Cherry Grove productions	Circa 1980-2002
b. 3, f. 8-11	Programs	1979-2006
b. 4, f. 1	West Side Discussion Group, <i>The West Sider</i> , New York	1978-1982
Cherry Grove community		

## Cherry Grove community (continued)

b. 4, f. 2	Aerial photograph	Undated
b. 4, f. 3	Civic/Memorial Fund, Inc.	1990-2006
b. 4, f. 4	Community Association	2002-2006
b. 4, f. 5	Property Owner's Association, Inc.	1981-2002
b. 4, f. 6	Community Theatre, Cherry Grove, Fire Island	1966-1970
b. 4, f. 7	The Dunes Fund, Inc.	Circa 1981
b. 6	Map	Circa 1960s
b. 1, f. 6	Imperial Court of New York	2000-2005

**Accession 2009-M-070: Additional material, 1948-2009**

Materials in this accession were taken from both the Cherry Grove Archives and the personal collection of the donor. The materials comprise meeting minutes, reports, printed ephemera, clippings, and photographs that document the activities of the Arts Project of Cherry Grove, as well as the community of Cherry Grove.

Arrangement of the materials preserves the distinction between those coming from the Cherry Grove Archives and those coming from Harold Seeley's personal collection. Therein, files are arranged topically, primarily by names of organizations.

## Cherry Grove Archives

## Arts Project of Cherry Grove (APCG)

b. 1, f. 1	By-laws, director's contract, lease, financial records	1966-1991
b. 1, f. 2	Flyers	1952-2006
b. 1, f. 3	Fundraisers, ball, membership applications	1980-2007
b. 1, f. 4	Membership cards	1978, 1991
b. 1, f. 5	Membership list	1969
b. 1, f. 6	Newsletters, correspondence	1978-2007
b. 1, f. 7-14	Programs	1948, 1978-1999
b. 2, f. 1-6	Programs	2000-2008
	Records Material removed from binders or notebooks.	
b. 2, f. 7-8	Drach, Ted Contains minutes, correspondence, meeting notes, contracts, membership, committee, and board information, and miscellaneous material (flyers, announcements, ballots, petitions).	1966-1968
b. 3, f. 1-7	1975-1988 Contains minutes, correspondence, and financial information.	1975-1988
b. 3, f. 8	Show announcements	2001, 2004
b. 3, f. 9	Tickets	1978, 1999-2003, undated
	Cherry Grove community	
b. 3, f. 10	Glen Boles publicity photograph, autographed	2002
b. 3, f. 11	Cherry Grove Community Association, Inc. (CGCAI) announcements, fundraising solicitations	2006-2009
	Cherry Grove Property Owners' Association (CGPOA)	
b. 3, f. 12	Flyers, announcements	1995-2000, undated

Cherry Grove Archives > Cherry Grove community > Cherry Grove Property Owners' Association  
(CGPOA) (continued)

b. 3, f. 13	Membership cards	1979
b. 4, f. 1-2	Ferry service schedules	1978, 1991-2007
b. 4, f. 3	Printed ephemera: flyers, ads, map, menu, hotel rates	1978-2006
b. 4, f. 4	Taxpayers' Association membership forms	1978-1979
b. 4, f. 5	Wells, Steve: clippings and drafts of articles	1989-2001
Harold Seeley material		
Arts Project of Cherry Grove		
b. 4, f. 6	Flyers, announcements, forms, fundraising	1981-2008
b. 4, f. 7	Newsclippings, mostly on Arts Project Archives	1993-2005
b. 6, f. 1	Newsclippings, mostly on Arts Project Archives	1986-2002
b. 4, f. 8	Notes on the history of the APCG	2006
b. 4, f. 9	Proposal, planning, and script for performance of <i>Jeffrey</i>	2006
Cherry Grove community		
b. 6, f. 2	Articles from newspapers and magazines	Circa 1960-1993
b. 4, f. 10	<i>As the Grove Turns</i> newsletter	2000
b. 4, f. 11	Bayview Services LLC brochure	Undated
Fire Island Association		
b. 4, f. 12	Correspondence, brochure, flyers	2003-2006, undated
b. 4, f. 13	Newsletter	1999-2008
b. 4, f. 14	Fire Island National Seashore: report and trail guide	2007, undated
Fowler, Nat, Collection		
b. 4, f. 15	Flyer for memorial service	1994 August 28
b. 4, f. 16	Stories and columns for <i>Fire Island Tide</i>	1983-1989
b. 5, f. 1	Stories and columns for <i>Fire Island Tide</i>	1983-1989
b. 5, f. 2	Newton, Esther, <i>Cherry Grove, Fire Island</i> autographed copy	1993
b. 5, f. 3	Photograph album of Cherry Grove	Undated
b. 5, f. 4	Fundraising solicitations, announcements, flyers, photograph	1987-2007
b. 5, f. 5	AIDS Walk New York program	1992 May 31
b. 5, f. 6	Imperial Court of New York: programs, invitations	1993-2005
b. 5, f. 7	SAGE (Senior Action in a Gay Environment): newsletters and flyers	1996-2008



**Accession 2015-M-058: Additional material, 1924–2011**

This accession comprises records of the Arts Project of Cherry Grove (APCG) as well as materials related to the greater Cherry Grove community. Records from APCG include financial records, assistant books and records, and general administrative and project files. Assistant books and records contain board meeting minutes, board meeting agendas, contact information for the Board of Directors, and notes on projects in progress. Financial records include treasurer reports, budgets, and ledger pages. Other records include ephemera from APCG events such as fliers and play programs, correspondence, and files related to specific projects. Materials related to the Cherry Grove community at large include correspondence and documents from other Cherry Grove community organizations, guidebooks to Fire Island, photographs, and newspaper clippings. Materials date from 1924 to 2011, with the bulk from 1951 to the mid-2000s.

Materials are arranged alphabetically.

## Arts Project of Cherry Grove

## General

b. 1, f. 1	Calendars	1978–2010
b. 1, f. 2	Cherry Grove Art Project news	1972
b. 1, f. 3	Correspondence	1955–2008
b. 1, f. 4	Fliers	2010, undated
b. 1, f. 5	Grand inaugural ball	1980
b. 1, f. 6	Minutes	1955-1956, undated
b. 1, f. 7	Minutes and notes	1979
b. 1, f. 8	Newspaper clippings	1978–1981
b. 1, f. 9	Offering circulars	1979–1980
b. 2, f. 1-2b. 1, f. 10-12	Play programs	1951–2011
b. 6, f. 1-2	Posters	1966–2011
b. 6, f. 3	Signed posters	1989-1995, undated
b. 2, f. 3-9b. 3, f. 1-11	Assistant books and records	1948–2010
b. 4, f. 1-7b. 3, f. 12-15	Finances	1948–2008
Cherry Grove community		
b. 4, f. 8	Cherry Grove Civic/Memorial Fund	Circa 2000-2001
b. 4, f. 9	Cherry Grove Community Association	2002–2007
b. 4, f. 10	Cherry Grove Property Owners Association	1987–2004

## Cherry Grove community (continued)

b. 4, f. 11	Cherry Grove rehabilitation	Circa 1924-1955
b. 4, f. 12	Fire Island guides	1962-1995
b. 4, f. 13	Harold Seeley tributes	2010-2011
b. 4, f. 14	Newspaper clippings and magazine articles	2004-2008
b. 4, f. 15	Notes on history of Cherry Grove	Circa 2008
b. 5, f. 1	"Out on the Island" English	1992-1998
b. 5, f. 2	Permanent dunes fund	1962, 1991
b. 5, f. 3-4	Photographs from Nat Fowl album	1951-1966
b. 5, f. 5	Sea shack, beach hotel, and club	1972
b. 5, f. 6	<i>The Violet Letter</i>	2010

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Community arts projects  
LGBTQ resource

### **Geographic Names**

Cherry Grove (N.Y.)  
Fire Island (N.Y. : Island)

### **Names**

Seeley, Harold I., collector

### **Corporate Body**

Arts Project Cherry Grove (APCG)