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Guide to the Paul Teruel Journal of Ordinary Thought Collection

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Recommended Citation

College Archives & Special Collections, "Guide to the Paul Teruel Journal of Ordinary Thought Collection" (2023). *Collection Guides / Finding Aids*. 31.
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Columbia

COLLEGE CHICAGO

ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The Paul Teruel *Journal of Ordinary Thought* Collection

EXTENT

2 boxes, 2.6 cubic feet

COLLECTION SUMMARY

The *Journal of Ordinary Thought* Collection contains 64 issues of its 90 published issues, composed by ordinary people. First published in 1991 by Hal Adams at University of Illinois Chicago, then published by the Neighborhood Writing Alliance (NWA) from 1996 to 2013, the NWA led writing workshops, designed to encourage people to write. The *Journal of Ordinary Thought (JOT)* published “reflections people make on their personal histories and everyday experiences, founded on the propositions that every person is a philosopher, expressing one's thoughts foster creativity and change, and taking control of life requires people to think about the world and communicate their thoughts to others”.

PROCESSING INFORMATION

Processed by Heidi Marshall in 2023.

BIOGRAPHICAL / HISTORICAL NOTE

Paul Teruel served as Director of Community Partnerships at the Center for Community Arts Partnerships, Columbia College Chicago from 2004 through 2017, and is an arts administrator who works in higher education and non-profit organizations. He was co-founder / co-executive director for Street-Level Youth Media from 1992 to 2004 and has served on the Board of Directors for Young Chicago Authors, Free Street Theater, ACT Charter School, Chicago Access Network Television (CAN TV), Links Hall, and The Lupe Fiasco Foundation / M.U.R.A.L during the period of 2004 to 2021.

The *Journal of Ordinary Thought (JOT)* was a communal literary publication offering voice to the everyday person, first published by Hal Adams at University of Illinois Chicago in 1991 and published by the Neighborhood Writing Alliance (NWA), founded by Hal Adams, Deborah Epstein, and Sunny Fischer, from 1996 to 2013. The journal served as an outlet for community-based writing and thought, and opened paths for activism, as its newsletter reported on upcoming marches, gatherings, and protest; its workshops and its events created spaces for people to speak and write. *JOT's* motto: “Everyone is a philosopher” guided the NWA-held workshops in schools, libraries, churches, social service agencies, and public housing spaces, encouraging people to write. There were 70 issues of the Journal published, with more than 131,000 copies distributed. The publication received two Illinois Arts Council Literary Awards and the Chicago Theater Company adapted a stage play from the work published in *JOT*, which was named one of the top ten plays of 1999. The NWA closed in 2013 soon after the *Journal of Ordinary Thought* ceased production.

SCOPE & CONTENT/COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The *Journal of Ordinary Thought (JOT)* publications were donated by Paul Teruel, former Director of Community Partnerships at the Center for Community Arts Partnerships, Columbia College Chicago, who worked with the organization on several projects. It consists of 64 issues of the 90 published issues. The collection holds publications from 1994 to 2013; its earliest issues, from 1991 to 1994, are not present; JOT published “reflections people make on their personal histories and everyday experiences, founded on the propositions that every person is a philosopher, expressing one's thoughts foster creativity and change, and taking control of life requires people to think about the world and communicate their thoughts to others”.

ARRANGEMENT

Arranged chronologically by year.

RELATED MATERIALS

[Center for Arts Policy](#) Records, Columbia College Chicago
[University of Illinois Chicago](#), Richard J. Daley Library, Periodicals

ACQUISITION SOURCE

Paul Teruel donated the materials in 2015.

SUBJECT HEADINGS

Neighborhood Writing Alliance; American Literature-Illinois-Chicago; Adams, Hal; Epstein, Deborah; Fischer, Sunny; Teruel, Paul, *Journal of Ordinary Thought*; *JOT*, serial publication, writing & composition; September 11, 2001; grandparents; photographs.

ACCESS STATEMENT

The collection is open and available for research use.

RIGHTS STATEMENT

United States copyright laws apply. Copyright is retained by each author whose work is present in the publication.

PREFERRED CITATION

The Paul Teruel *Journal of Ordinary Thought* Collection, Archives & Special Collections, Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

INVENTORY LIST FOR *JOURNAL OF ORDINARY THOUGHT*

BOX	FILE	TITLE	DATE	DESCRIPTION
1	1	Through The Eyes Of A Villain	January 1994	Emmett School Men's Writing Group, Austin neighborhood on the West Side of Chicago. This work is a spinoff of <i>The Journal of Ordinary Thought</i> . Both are publications of the Austin Grassroots Think Tank. 15 pages.
1	1	Through The Eyes Of A Villain	August 1994	Emmett School Men's Writing Group, Austin neighborhood on the West Side of Chicago. This work is a spinoff of <i>The Journal of Ordinary Thought</i> . Both are publications of the Austin Grassroots Think Tank. 23 pages.
1	2	A Neighborhood Worth Saving	March 1995, no. 10	Writings by parents of students at Dett School, Chicago, IL. 27 pages.
1	2	Mixed Feelings	October 1995, no. 13	Writings by parents of students at Dett School, Chicago, IL. 19 pages.
1	3	We're Not Falling	April 1996, no. 14	Writings by parents of students at Dett School, Chicago, IL. 2 copies. 31 pages.
1	3	World Changers	June 1996, no. 15	Writings by parents and students in the DuSable Second Chance and P.A.S.S. programs. 27 pages.
1	3	Solo Sueños / Only Dreams	July 1996, no. 16	Writing from the Uptown Branch of the Chicago Public Library by parents from the Stockton Child Parent Center, located near the library. 2 copies. 20 pages.
1	4	Just Enough	April 1997, no. 20	Writings from the Southside. Bee and Hall Branches of the Chicago Public Library, Second Chance Small Schools Program at DuSable High School. 30 pages.
1	4	Christene's Lounge	June 1997, no. 22	Writings from the Southside. Fiske School parent writing group, University Illinois-Chicago Small Schools Workshop. Hall Branch Writing Group, the Chicago Public Library, 2 copies. 29 pages.

1	4	What's on Their Minds	July 1997, no. 23	Writings from the Near West Side. Mabel Manning Branch, Chicago Public Library Writing Group, Suder Elementary School Parent Writing Group. 2 copies. 28 pages.
1	5	Snapshots	July 1997, no. 24	Writings by women at the Uptown Branch of the Chicago Public Library. 2 copies. 38 pages.
1	5	Looking Out My Window	August 1997, no. 26	Writing from the Dearborn Homes in Bronzeville neighborhood of Chicago. 2 copies. 18 pages.
1	5	No You Don't	December 1997, no. 27	Writing from the Hall Branch of the Chicago Public Library. 37 pages.
1	6	Hijacked	January 1998, no 28	Writing from parent writing groups at Fiske Elementary School and Robeson High School, sponsored by University of Illinois -Chicago workshop. 33 pages.
1	6	Let The Shades Up	January 1998, no 29	Writing from the Suder School parents writing group and the Fuller School parent writing group. 34 pages.
1	6	The Grandparents Issue: Still In My Way	May 1998, no 30	Writing from the W.I.S.E. Grandparent Group. Sponsored by the University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service, Urban Leadership Center. 2 copies. 30 pages.
1	7	Neighborhood Watch	September 1998, no 32	Writing from the parent writing groups at the schools: Fiske, Fuller, Suder, and Robeson High. Sponsored by University of Illinois Chicago College of Education, Small Schools Workshop, and Great Cities Programs. 3 copies. 69 pages.
1	7	A Place On The Way To A Place	November 1998, no 33	Writers from the Uptown Branch Library. 54 pages.
1	8	Changed: The Grandparent Issue	April 1999, no 35	Writings from the W.I.S.E. Grandparent Group, University of Illinois Urban Leadership Center. 2 copies. 22 pages.

1	8	Things Are Happening	June 1999, no 36	Writing from parents in Chicago schools: Fiske Elementary School, Suder Elementary School, and Robeson High School in cooperation with the University of Illinois Chicago Small Schools Workshop. 26 pages.
1	8	Common Denominator	September 1999, no 37	Writing from the Uptown, Hall, and Mabel Manning Branches of the Chicago Public Library. 2 copies. 46 pages.
1	9	That's Not All	Fall 1999	Writings from Chicago Commons ETC with the Neighborhood Writing Alliance. 23 pages.
1	9	Vacant Lots/Prime Territory	December 1999	Writing from the Hall Branch of the Chicago Public Library. 2 copies. 34 pages.
1	10	All This	March 2000, Vol. X, no. 1	Writing from the Near West Side: Mabel Manning Branch Library and Parent at Suder Elementary School. 30 pages.
1	10	This Is My Job	May 2000, Vol X, no. 2	Writing from the <i>StreetWise</i> Writers Group. 34 pages.
1	10	Central Station	October 2000, Vol X, no 4	Writing from the Uptown Branch of the Chicago Public Library. 2 copies. 30 pages.
1	11	Bring It On Home	December 2000, Vol. X, no. 5	Writing from the Chicago Bee and Hall Branch Libraries, Bronzeville. 2 copies. 30 pages.
1	11	CITY 2000	December 2000, Vol. X, no. 6	On January 1, 2000, photographers across Chicago began CITY 2000, a yearlong effort to document the city at the turn of the millennium. The project was funded by Comer Foundation. 2 copies. 47 pages.
1	12	Just Passin Through	March 2001, Vol. XI, no 1	Writing from the Mabel Manning Branch Library and Parents at Suder Elementary School. 2 copies. 30 pages.
1	12	Between Us	October 2001, Vol. XI, no 3	Writing from the Hall Branch of the Chicago Public Library. 2 copies. 34 pages.

1	13	That Day	November 2001: Special Issue	1st Color Cover. "This special issue is presented in the spirit of our motto: <i>Every Person is a philosopher</i> . During the month following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, we offered participants in our groups the opportunity to write down their reaction, concerns, opinions, and thoughts." 34 pages.
1	13	Already	December 2001, Vo. XI, no 5	Writing from the Chicago Bee and Hall Branch Libraries, Bronzeville. 34 pages.
1	14	Lost In Darkness	Spring 2002	JOT writers on Home, Housing, and Homelessness. With transcript excerpts from Lakefront SRO's Oral History Project. 2 copies. 63 pages.
1	14	Things Are Not The Same	Summer 2002	Writing from the Blue Gargoyle, Chicago Commons Employment Training Center, Deborah's Place, and the Jane Addams Resource Corporation. 2 copies. 75 pages.
1	15	Shades of Gray	Winter 2003	JOT writers on the Criminal Justice System. 79 pages.
1	15	In Plain View	Spring 2003	Writing from the Blue Gargoyle, Chicago Commons Employment Training Center, King and Mabel Manning Branch Libraries, Project Hope, and Woodson Regional Library. 2 copies. 79 pages.
1	15	The Visit	Fall 2003	Writing from Bezazian, Hall, Humboldt Park, and Rogers Park Branch Libraries, Deborah's Place, and Inspiration Cafe. 83 pages.
1	16	Cause I Wanted To	Winter 2004	Writing from King and Mabel Manning Branch Libraries, The Blue Gargoyle, and Project Hope, Pausa. 2 copies. 59 pages.
1	16	Today's Programming / Programas de Hoy	Summer 2004	JOT writers on the Media. 2 copies. 75 pages.
1	17	Instead of Sleeping	Winter 2005	Writing from King and Mabel Manning Branch Libraries, and Project Hope, Pausa. 2 copies. 79 pages.
1	17	Sticky Situations	Summer 2005	Writing from Bezazian and Hall Branch Libraries, Deborah's Place, and Project Hope, Pausa. 63 pages.

1	17	Footsteps	Fall 2005	<i>JOT</i> writers on Generations. 2 copies. 95 pages.
1	18	Healthy Reminders	Spring 2006	<i>JOT</i> writers on Community and Individual Health. With oral histories from Chicago residents. 95 pages.
1	18	Step Over	Summer 2006	Writing from Bezazian, King, and Mabel Manning Branch Libraries, Albany Park Community Center, and Atonement Covenant Church in West Englewood. 2 copies. 59 pages.
1	19	An Invisible Line	Winter 2007	<i>JOT</i> writers on Borders and Boundaries. 2 copies. 88 pages.
1	19	The Search	Spring 2007	Writers from Hall, Humboldt, and King Branch Libraries, Project Hope, Pausa. 67 pages.
1	20	Lessons Outside	Summer 2007	<i>JOT</i> writers on Formal and Informal Education. 2 copies. 103 pages.
1	20	The Daily Grind	Fall 2007	Writing from Bezazian and Mabel Manning Branch Libraries, Albany Park Community Center, Lindbloom Park in Englewood, and St. Leonard's House. 71 pages.
1	21	Round About	Winter 2008	<i>JOT</i> writers on Transportation. 103 pages.
1	21	Starting Now	Spring 2008	Writing from Hall and King Branch Libraries, Project Hope, Pausa, Lindbloom Park, and San Lucas Church. 2 copies. 87 pages.
1	22	Authors of History	Summer 2008	<i>JOT</i> writer on where they were when....Writing from Bezazian, Hall, King, and Mabel Manning Branch Libraries, Albany Park Community Center, Cara Program, Herzl Elementary School, Project Hope, Lindbloom Park, San Lucas Church, and St. Leonard's House. 2 copies. 126 pages.
1	22	Stand Up	Fall 2008	Writing from Bezazian and Mabel Manning Branch Libraries, Albany Park Community Center, Lindbloom Park, St. Leonard's House, and Southwest Youth Collaborative. 69 pages.

2	1	Ask Me!	Winter 2009	<i>JOT</i> Writers Asking Questions and Generating Answers. Writing from Albany Park Community Center, Bezazian, Hall, King, and Mabel Manning Branch Libraries, Herzl Elementary School, Lindblom Park, San Lucas Church, and St. Leonard's House. 2 copies. 79 pages.
2	1	Use Your Words	Spring 2009	Writing from the CARA Program, Hall and King Branch Libraries, Project Hope, Pulaski Community Academy, and San Lucas Church. 2 copies. 63 pages.
2	2	My Walk Around the Sun	Summer 2009	<i>JOT</i> writers on making their own choices. Writing from Bezazian, Hall, King, and Mabel Manning Branch Libraries, Albany Park Community Center, Christian Community Health Center, Herzl Elementary School, Instituto del Progreso Latino, Project Hope, San Lucas Church, Southwest Youth Collaborative, and St. Leonard's House. 2 copies. 99 pages.
2	2	Time Goes On	Fall 2009	Writing from Albany Park, Bezazian, and Mabel Manning Branch Libraries, Southwest Youth Collaborative, and St. Leonard's House. 2 copies. 51 pages.
2	3	Into the Banks	Spring 2010	Writing from Alexandre Dumas Elementary School, Hall and King Branch Libraries, and San Lucas Church. 3 copies. 59 pages.
2	4	This City Bus	Summer 2010	Writing from Albany Park, Bezazian, Chicago Lawn, and Mabel Manning Branch Libraries, Nicholson Technology Academy, and St. Leonard's House. 3 copies. 59 pages.
2	5	Water on Fire	Fall 2010	<i>JOT</i> Writers on Our Environment. Writing from Albany Park, Bezazian, Chicago Lawn, Hall, King, and Mabel Manning Branch Libraries, San Lucas Church, and St. Leonard's House. 3 copies. 96 pages.

2	6	Shell and Yolk	Spring 2011	Writing from Albany Park and King Branch Libraries, Dumas Technology Academy, Nicholson Technology Academy, and San Lucas Church. 56 pages.
2	6	Testify	Summer 2011	<i>JOT</i> writers on Creative Resistance: Art as Activism. Writing from Albany Park, Bezazian, Hall, King, and Mabel Manning Branch Libraries, San Lucas Church, and St. Leonard's House. 2 copies. 75 pages.
2	7	I Believed Every Word	Winter 2012	<i>JOT</i> writers on Urban Legends, Rumors, and Tall Tales. Writing from Albany Park, Bezazian, Hall, King, and Mabel Manning Branch Libraries, San Lucas Church, and St. Leonard's House. Featuring: Found Art. 92 pages.
2	7	The Open Gate	Spring 2012	<i>JOT</i> Writers' Visions of Freedom and Liberation. Writing from Albany Park, Bezazian, Chicago Bee, Hall, King, and Mabel Manning Branch Libraries, Jane Addams Senior Caucus, Restaurant Opportunities Center-Chicago, San Lucas Church, and St. Leonard's House. Published in partnership with WBEZ. 2 copies. 95 pages.
2	8	When We Listen	Winter 2013	<i>JOT</i> Writers on Body Wisdom. Writing from Bezazian, Budlong Woods, Richard M. Daley, Hall, King, and Mabel Manning Branch Libraries, and St. Leonard's House. 2 copies. 80 pages.