



## Guide to the Cynthia Cunningham Papers

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## Summary Information

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| <b>Repository:</b>               | University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.  |
| <b>Creator:</b>                  | Cunningham, Cynthia, 1929-1988  |
| <b>Title:</b>                    | Cynthia Cunningham Papers   |
| <b>ID:</b>                       | MS-00277  |
| <b>Date [inclusive]:</b>         | 1970-1979   |
| <b>Physical Description:</b>     | 1.48 Cubic Feet (4 boxes)   |
| <b>Physical Description:</b>     | 1.67 Linear Feet  |
| <b>Language of the Material:</b> | English   |
| <b>Abstract:</b>                 | The Cynthia Cunningham Papers date from 1970 to 1979 and document Cunningham's career as an English instructor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) and as a member of the Nevada State of Board of Education. Included are Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) materials, audio tapes, posters, newspaper clippings, survey results, and reports that explore the issue of gender bias in schools. Materials on the Health Systems Agency contain organization by-laws, memberships, agendas, minutes, correspondence, and publications. |

### Preferred Citation

Cynthia Cunningham Papers, 1970-1979. MS-00277, Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Biographical Note

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University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) English instructor Cynthia Cunningham was born January 21, 1929 in El Paso, Texas. She received her B.A. in English from New Mexico State University, Las Cruces in 1949 and her M.A. in English from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 1968. She was an English instructor at UNLV from 1968 to 1971.

Cunningham served on the Nevada State of Board of Education from 1971 to 1979, and was elected as a Democrat for the Nevada Assembly District 8 in 1976. She was active in numerous

organizations including the American Association of University Women, Nevadans for the Equal Rights Amendment, Planned Parenthood of Southern Nevada, a Red Cross volunteer, and a sustaining member of Junior League of Las Vegas. Cunningham was a founder of Young Audiences, Inc. of Las Vegas, Nevada and served as this organization's president from 1962 to 1964. She was also a member of the Health Systems Agency, located in the District Health Center in Las Vegas, to provide a meeting place for persons interested in the improvement of the medical services to the Clark County area. of member of the Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Her husband, Harold Cunningham, retired as president from Reynolds Electrical and Engineering Company. After living in Las Vegas for thirty-four years, the Cunninghams relocated to Santa Fe, New Mexico in 1986. Cynthia Cunningham passed away in Albuquerque, New Mexico on January 13, 1988.

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## Scope and Content Note

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The Cynthia Cunningham Papers (1970-1979) document Cunningham's career as an English instructor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) and as a member of the Nevada State of Board of Education. Included are Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) materials, audio tapes, posters, and newspaper clippings, survey results, and reports that explore the issue of gender bias in schools. Materials on the Health Systems Agency contain organization by-laws, memberships, agendas, minutes, correspondences, and publications. Miscellaneous items are composed of business cards and a ticket to a 1966 Service League of Las Vegas event belonging to Cynthia's husband Harold Cunningham.

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## Arrangement

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Collection remains in original order.

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## Administrative Information

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### Access Note

This collection is open for research.

### Publication Rights

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Reproductions and Use](#) on the UNLV Special Collections website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish.

### Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 1979 by Cynthia Cunningham; accession number 87-036.

### Processing Note

Material was processed in 1995 by Marie Imus. In 2017 Joyce Moore revised and enhanced the collection to bring it into compliance with current professional standards.

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## Related Materials

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### Separated Materials

Some of the publications that were acquired as part of this collection have been separated and described individually in the University Libraries catalog.

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## Names and Subjects

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- Equal rights amendments
- Sex discrimination in education -- Nevada
- Public health -- Nevada -- Clark County
- Women -- Legal status, laws, etc. -- United States
- Women's rights
- Sex discrimination against women -- Law and legislation -- United States

- College teachers -- Nevada -- Las Vegas -- Biography
- Women -- Societies and clubs -- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- Clark County (Nev.). Health Systems Agency

## Collection Inventory

| Title/Description  | Containers |              |
|--|------------|--------------|
| Health Systems Agency (HSA) of Clark County By-laws, undated   | box 1      | folder 1     |
| Health Systems Agency minutes, 1976 June 29 to 1976 September 15   | box 1      | folder 2     |
| Health System Agency reports, memorandums, reviews and recommendations, 1970s                                  | box 1      | folder 3     |
| Health care correspondence, 1976 February 4 to 1976 July 13  | box 1      | folder 4     |
| Proposed Contents Outline for Health Systems Plan and HSA Volunteers Manual, undated                           | box 1      | folder 5     |
| Health Systems Agency of Clark County publications, undated  | box 1      | folder 6     |
| Health Systems Agency planning grants, 1976-1977   | box 1      | folder 7     |
| Health Systems Agency related materials-studies, issues, notes, and map, 1975-1978                             | box 1      | folder 8     |
| Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) campaign posters-male/female, undated   | box 2      |              |
| Reports and memorandums on sexism in Clark County Schools, 1974-1975   | box 3      | folder 1     |
| Report to Nevada Board of Education to Consider Sexism in Schools, undated                                     | box 3      | folder 2     |
| Results of Sex Discrimination Survey in Nevada Public Schools and memo from J. R. Gamble, Superintendent, 1976 | box 3      | folder 3     |
| Papers for committee work, Nevada Department of Education, undated   | box 3      | folder 4     |
| National Foundation for the Improvement of Education Publications, undated                                     | box 3      | folder 5     |
| Newspaper clippings on sexism, ERA, discrimination, and corporate executives, 1974-1976                        | box 3      | folder 6     |
| Booklet: "Affirmative Action Program for Equal Employment Opportunities", 1974-1975                            | box 3      | folder 7     |
| Miscellaneous items, business card, charity event, undated   | box 3      | folder 8     |
| Audiovisual recordings   |            |              |
| Misc. Tape 4 (Labeled BPW), undated<br>Physical Description: 1 U-Matic Videotapes                              | box 4      | folder<br>20 |
| Misc. Tape 3 (Labeled BPW), undated<br>Physical Description: 1 U-Matic Videotapes                              | box 4      | folder<br>19 |
| Misc. Tape 1 (Labeled BPW), undated  |            |              |

|   |       |           |
|---|-------|-----------|
| Physical Description: 1 U-Matic Videotapes  | box 4 | folder 18 |
| "Virgo Rising- The Once and Future Women", undated<br>Physical Description: 1 Audio Cassettes                     | box 4 | folder 17 |
| ERA Debate on Las Vegas Christian Radio, undated<br>Physical Description: cassette                                | box 4 | folder 16 |
| Liz and Ely on ERA, undated<br>Physical Description: cassette   | box 4 | folder 15 |
| Dr. Bruce Thielemann: Three Talks on the Bible and the Status of Women, undated<br>Physical Description: cassette | box 4 | folder 14 |
| Phyllis Schlafly, undated<br>Physical Description: cassette   | box 4 | folder 13 |
| Barbara Smith with Phil Donahue, undated<br>Physical Description: cassette  | box 4 | folder 12 |
| Lloyd Mann Statement, undated<br>Physical Description: reel to reel audiotape                                     | box 4 | folder 11 |
| "Women in Nevada", undated<br>Physical Description: reel to reel  | box 4 | folder 10 |
| 11 News broadcasts, 1977 November 31 to 1977 December 23<br>Physical Description: reel to reel audiotapes         | box 4 | folder 9  |
| ERA Spot Package 2, 1976 September<br>Physical Description: film  | box 4 | folder 8  |
| ERA Spot Package 2, 1976 September<br>Physical Description: film  | box 4 | folder 7  |
| Bailey Deardorff, ERA, 1976 March 10<br>Physical Description: multi-reel film                                     | box 4 | folder 6  |
| Bailey Deardorff, ERA, 1976 March 10<br>Physical Description: multi-reel film                                     | box 4 | folder 5  |
| ERA UC 12, 1977 January 19<br>Physical Description: film  | box 4 | folder 4  |
| ERA meter tag, undated<br>Physical Description: film  | box 4 | folder 3  |
| ERA UC 93: Go Jack, 1977 January 19<br>Physical Description: film   | box 4 | folder 2  |
| ERA UC 100: Go Jack Sawyer, 1977 January 19   | box 4 | folder 1  |

Physical Description: film