



Guide to the Nancy Ellen Webb Williams Papers

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Williams, Nancy Webb
Title:	Nancy Ellen Webb Williams Papers
ID:	MS-00391
Date [inclusive]:	1983-1996
Physical Description:	0.23 Cubic Feet (1 Box)
Physical Description:	0.21 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Nancy Ellen Webb Williams Papers (1983 to 1996) are related to William's career as a writer. The papers include newspaper clippings, photos, fliers, and correspondence. Also included is one of Williams' books of poetry, "The Soul Side: Big Mama Remembers."

Preferred Citation

Nancy Ellen Webb Williams Papers, 1983-1996. MS-00391. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Poet and educator Nancy Ellen Webb Williams (1935-1998) was born in Quincy, Illinois on August 1, 1935. She attended Quincy College on a scholarship and graduated valedictorian in 1957. After graduating, she taught at Shelby County Training School in Memphis, Tennessee. She also began graduate studies at Tennessee State University. In 1961 she was offered and accepted a teaching position in Las Vegas, Nevada. When she arrived in Las Vegas, the school board, realizing she was African American, withdrew the offer. Through an affirmative action program, Williams was hired by Clark County Juvenile Services and became the first African-American probation officer in the city. She also became the first African American department supervisor and eventually director of Child Haven. She received a Master's degree in public administration from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Williams authored four books of poetry under the pen name

of "Big Mama," *When We Were Colored* (1986), *Dinah's Pain* (1988), *Them Gospel Songs* (1990), and *The Soul Side* (1996). Former Governor of Nevada Mike O'Callaghan said that, "Nancy was a delightful lady who helped make Nevada a better place." Nancy Ellen Webb Williams passed away June 18, 1998.

Source:

"Mrs. Child Haven' Williams dies at 62". *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, June 22, 1989, <http://lasvegassun.com/news/1998/jun/22/mrs-child-haven-williams-dies-at-62/>. Accessed July 22, 2015.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Nancy Ellen Webb Williams Papers (1983 to 1996) are related to William's career as a writer. The papers include newspaper clippings, photos, fliers, and correspondence. Also includes is one of Williams' books of poetry, "The Soul Side: Big Mama Remembers."

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Arrangement

Material remains in original order.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

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 1997 by Nancy Ellen Webb Williams; accession number 1997-10.

Processing Note

Materials were processed by the Special Collections staff in 1997. In 2015, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, John Grygo revised and enhanced the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards

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Names and Subjects

- African American women -- Nevada -- Clark County
- Children -- Nevada -- Clark County -- Social conditions
- Race discrimination
- Affirmative action programs -- Nevada -- Clark County
- African American poets
- photographs

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
"Quincy Women: Courage, Beauty and Faith 1838 to 1996", by Ginny Kroeter, undated	box 01
Newspaper articles:, 1983-1990	
Las Vegas Sun: Sunday, article Child Haven's Nancy Williams, 1983 January 23	box 01
"A case of Affirmative Action", 1990 March 20	box 01
"Former Quincyian spices poetry with folksy humor", 1986 October 5	box 01
"Thirty years of youth problems in Las Vegas", 1991 October 5	box 01
"Poems of a Black woman", undated	box 01
"LV Poet shows Humor, irony of being black", 1986 March 16	box 01
Pamphlet: The Soul Side: Big Mama Remembers, 1980	box 01
Promotional pamphlet: When We Were Colored, 1980	box 01
Flier: Big Mama presents, undated	box 01

Highlights and Images of Professional Women conference booklet, 1989 July 15	box 01
Book: "The Soul Side: Big Mama Remembers", 1996	box 01
Letter from Western Illinois University, 1990 March 8	box 01
Letter from University of Nevada Press, 1996 November 12	box 01
Flier: Kwanzaa, 1996 December 27	box 01
Flier: ABC's of Writing, undated	box 01
Photo: Nancy Webb Williams and Wendy O. Altamera Ph.D., 1988	box 01
