

Nordlinger, Zelda K., Papers

Zelda K. Nordlinger Papers
1970-2008

Title Statement

Nordlinger, Zelda K., Papers A Guide to the Zelda K. Nordlinger Papers, 1970-2008 M 89

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

M 89

Unit ID

/repositories/5/resources/574

Unit Date

1970-2008

Language

English

Creator

Nordlinger, Zelda Kingoff

source

Nordlinger, Zelda Kingoff

Extent

3.59 Linear Feet 4 Boxes

Repository

VCU James Branch Cabell Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

Gift of Zelda K. Nordlinger in 2000, and Betsy Brinson in 2008.

Preferred Citation

Zelda K. Nordlinger papers, 1970-2008, Collection # M 089, Special Collections and Archives, James Branch Cabell Library, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA.

Biographical / Historical

Zelda Kingoff Nordlinger was an active participant in movements for women's rights in Richmond, Virginia and co-founder of the Richmond branch of the National Organization for Women (NOW). She was born on January 29, 1932, in Greenville, South Carolina to Joseph Kingoff and Alice Heiner Kingoff. She graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in 1950. She later attended Marjorie Webster Jr. College in Washington, D.C. in 1952 and Sally Tompkins School of Practical Nursing in 1963. She married Martin Stanford Nordlinger (1930-2002) in 1963. Nordlinger later attended Virginia Commonwealth University graduating with a Bachelor of General Studies degree in 1985.

Nordlinger was a staunch advocate for the national legalization of abortion. Prior to the Roe v. Wade decision in 1973, she assisted women in Richmond in finding legal avenues for safe abortions. She co-founded the Richmond chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) with Mary Holt Woolfolk Carlton in 1969, gaining its charter in 1973. She maintained membership with multiple women's activism groups in the Richmond area including the Women's Lobby of Virginia, Virginia Foundation for Women (VFW), and Planned Parenthood.

As a member of NOW, Nordlinger participated in various efforts in the Richmond area to ensure reproductive rights, rape victim protection, and to end sexual segregation. She led a sit-in to integrate the all-male soup bar of the Richmond Thalhimers Department Store in 1970. At NOW conventions and demonstrations, she often delivered speeches discussing various topics in regard to women's rights. Additionally, Nordlinger furthered her activism as a freelance writer, composing essays and short stories which highlighted the social injustices women faced. Nordlinger regularly submitted her writings for publication in feminist and mainstream magazines such as *The Back Page*, *The New Yorker*, and *Ms. Magazine*.

Nordlinger died March 18, 2008, in Richmond, Virginia.

Sources:

Robertson, Ellen and McKelway, Bill. "Zelda K. Nordlinger, feminist activist, dies," *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. [\(Article link\)](#)

VCU Libraries, VCU Libraries Digital Collections, Zelda Kingoff Nordlinger Interviews. [\(Interview link\)](#)

Scope and Contents

The Zelda K. Nordlinger Papers, 1970-2008, is a collection of files used by Richmond, Virginia feminist and women's rights activist Zelda Kingoff Nordlinger. The papers provide insight into the second-wave feminist movement in the Richmond area with examples of the experiences, methods of activism, and organizations Nordlinger and her colleagues used to further their goals.

Series 1: Personal Files, 1970-2008: The bulk of the collection is comprised of the personal papers of Zelda Nordlinger regarding her work in women's activism in the Richmond area. The material consists of various newsletters, mailings, and pamphlets distributed by feminist groups to disseminate information relevant to their goals. Much of the material focuses on lobbying for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) or other legislation to further the rights held by women.

Included with these materials is Nordlinger's collection of political and activist buttons. The buttons display images and messages related to Nordlinger's areas of interest such as the ratification the ERA, advocating for abortion rights, and promoting women's equality.

Informational pamphlets within the collections explore topics ranging from the effects of rape on society, the role of women throughout history, women's medical rights, and the roles of consent in relationships. Others act as political promotional material, often supporting feminist-oriented candidates for office or new legislation, such as the ERA and bills supporting LGBTQ rights. A series of pamphlets in Dutch is also included in the collection, exploring sexism in the Netherlands and its effects on wages and women's roles in Dutch society in the 1970s.

Correspondence written by and to Nordlinger provides insight into Nordlinger's professional and personal life. Professional correspondence provides examples of negotiations with publishers for her short stories and essays, donation of personal materials to libraries in Virginia, and coordinating events such as NOW meetings. Personal correspondence provides an emotional viewpoint of the feminist movement in the Richmond area, as letters by Nordlinger and various Richmond women explain the impact which the women's movement has played on their lives.

Examples of Nordlinger's speeches, research notes, and personal and professional correspondence are represented in the collection. Speech note cards created for use by Nordlinger in delivering speeches and presentations on women's issues provide examples of the most pertinent issues for Nordlinger, such as the impact of pornography on women. Research notes contain information compiled by Nordlinger from various sources for use in her writings. Such writings include several short stories portraying the struggles of women in modern society, as well as historical essays examining how world politics affect women globally. Examples of her works are represented in this series as selections of essays and short stories.

Series 2: Subject Files, 1972-2000: The collection also contains a significant compilation of subject files which Nordlinger used for research into topics related to women's advocacy. These subject files are comprised of newspaper articles and magazine features which focus on then-contemporary analyses of the place of women in various aspects of society. Such topics explored in the subject files include women's fight for the right of abortion, the impacts of feminism, and the detrimental effects of pornography on the roles of women.

Additionally, Series 2 includes assorted magazines which Nordlinger used in her research, such as multiple issues of the feminist-oriented publications *Ms. Magazine*, *The Woman's Calendar*, and *Mother Jones*. Other magazines used for her research include the first issue of *Playgirl* and an issue of *Time*. All magazines used in Nordlinger's research contain articles regarding the benefits of feminist attitudes or examples of why feminism is needed in modern society.

Keywords

Women -- Political activity -- Virginia -- Richmond

Women's rights

Nordlinger, Zelda Kingoff

Nordlinger, Zelda Kingoff

National Organization for Women

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into two series: Series 1: Personal Files, 1970-2008 and Series 2: Subject Files, 1972-2000.

Description of Subordinate Components

Series 1: Personal Files

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59813

Unit Date 1970-2008

Button Collection

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59855

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 4 (box)

Scope and Contents

Nordlinger's collection of 80 political and feminist activist buttons. The buttons display images and messages relevant to promoting Nordlinger's activism, many including messages to ratify the ERA, advocate the right to abortion, and general desire for women's equality. The buttons are displayed on a plank of foam-core board. Each button is identified by a number in bottom right corner of each corresponding button.

Cassette Recordings

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59826

Unit Date 1973-1987

Mixed Materials [A11423648236] 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Scope and Contents

These files contain a series of audio cassettes with recorded audio of various speeches and presentations regarding feminist ideals. Several cassettes were recorded by Nordlinger while attending events. Others were purchased previously-recorded lectures. The cassettes are stored in file folders for ease of access and storage.

Cassette Recordings

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59827

Unit Date 1973-1987

Mixed Materials [A11423648236] 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Scope and Contents

These files contain a series of audio cassettes with recorded audio of various speeches and presentations regarding feminist ideals. Several cassettes were recorded by Nordlinger while attending events. Others were purchased previously-recorded lectures. The cassettes are stored in file folders for ease of access and storage.

Correspondence - College of William and Mary

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59828

Unit Date 1998-1999

Mixed Materials [A11423648236] 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Correspondence - Library of Virginia

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59829

Unit Date 1998

Mixed Materials [A11423648236] 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Correspondence - Personal

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59830

Unit Date 1972-2005

Mixed Materials [A11423648236] 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Correspondence - Professional

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59831

Unit Date 1972-2005

Mixed Materials [A11423648236] 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Correspondence - Publishers

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59832

Unit Date 1985-1991

Mixed Materials [A11423648236] 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Essays - Book Reviews

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59817

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423648236] 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Essays - "The Pornography Dilemma"

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59821

Unit Date 1986

Mixed Materials [A11423648236] 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Essays - "Unpaid Workforce"

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59823

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423648236] 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Essays - Untitled Cold War Essay

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59824

Unit Date 1991

Mixed Materials [A11423648236] 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

First Women's Bank Account Files

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59833

Unit Date 1974-1989

Mixed Materials [A11423648236] 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Mailings

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59834

Unit Date 1977-2000

Mixed Materials [A11423648236] 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

National Organization for Women - Equal Rights Amendment

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59835

Unit Date 1975-2002

Mixed Materials [A11423648236] 1 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

National Organization for Women - General

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59836

Unit Date 1970-2006

Mixed Materials [A11423648236] 1 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

National Organization for Women - Richmond Branch

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59837

Unit Date 1970-2001

Mixed Materials [A11423648236] 1 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

National Organization for Women - Virginia Branch

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59838

Unit Date 1997-1998

Mixed Materials [A11423648236] 1 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

Newsletters

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59839

Unit Date 1973-1977

Mixed Materials [A11423648236] 1 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

Newsletters

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59840

Unit Date 1978-1995

Mixed Materials [A11423648236] 1 (box)

Container 19 (folder)

Newsletters

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59841

Unit Date 1995-2007

Mixed Materials [A11423648236] 1 (box)

Container 20 (folder)

Newsletters - Emily's List

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59842

Unit Date 1995-2006

Mixed Materials [A11423648236] 1 (box)

Container 21 (folder)

Obituaries

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59843

Unit Date 2008

Mixed Materials [A11423648236] 1 (box)

Container 22 (folder)

Pamphlets - Dutch Feminism

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59844

Unit Date 1974-1975

Mixed Materials [A11423648236] 1 (box)

Container 23 (folder)

Pamphlets - Informational

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59845

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423648236] 1 (box)

Container 24 (folder)

Pamphlets - Political

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59846

Unit Date 1979-1990

Mixed Materials [A11423648236] 1 (box)

Container 25 (folder)

Pamphlets - Women's History

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59847

Unit Date 1985-2005

Mixed Materials [A11423648236] 1 (box)

Container 26 (folder)

Photographs from Sex Role Stereotyping Class

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59848

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423648236] 1 (box)

Container 27 (folder)

Research Notes

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59849

Unit Date 2001, undated

Mixed Materials [A11423648236] 1 (box)

Container 28 (folder)

Short Stories - "A Woman of Many Talents"

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59816

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423648236] 1 (box)

Container 29 (folder)

Short Stories - "Back Page"

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59818

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [A11423648236] 1 (box)

Container 30 (folder)

Short Stories - "Her Own Way"

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59819

Unit Date 1985

Mixed Materials [A11423648236] 1 (box)

Container 31 (folder)

Short Stories - "Looking for the Real Thing"

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59820

Unit Date 1986

Mixed Materials [A11423648236] 1 (box)

Container 32 (folder)

Short Stories - "The Grand Old Lady's Revenge"

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59822

Unit Date 1986

Mixed Materials [A11423648236] 1 (box)

Container 33 (folder)

Short Stories - "VOKAL"

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59825

Unit Date 1985

Mixed Materials [A11423648236] 1 (box)

Container 34 (folder)

Speeches

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59850

Unit Date 1990, undated

Mixed Materials [A11423648236] 1 (box)

Container 35 (folder)

Virginia Foundation for Women

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59851

Unit Date 1997

Mixed Materials [A11423648236] 1 (box)

Container 36 (folder)

Women's Literature Catalogues

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59852

Unit Date 1989-1992

Mixed Materials [A11423648236] 1 (box)

Container 37 (folder)

Women's Literature Catalogues

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59853

Unit Date 1992-1993

Mixed Materials [A11423648236] 1 (box)

Container 38 (folder)

Women's Literature Catalogues

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59854

Unit Date 1995-1999

Mixed Materials [A11423648236] 1 (box)

Container 39 (folder)

Series 2: Subject Files

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59888

Unit Date 1972-2000

Abortion

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59889

Unit Date 1972-1999

Mixed Materials [A11423648244] 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Athletes

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59890

Unit Date 1995-1998

Mixed Materials [A11423648244] 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Domestic Violence

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59891

Unit Date 1994-2000

Mixed Materials [A11423648244] 2 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Education

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59892

Unit Date 1989-2000

Mixed Materials [A11423648244] 2 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Entertainment

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59893

Unit Date 1994-2000

Mixed Materials [A11423648244] 2 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Equal Rights Amendment

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59894

Unit Date 1994

Mixed Materials [A11423648244] 2 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Feminism - General

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59895

Unit Date 1975-2000

Mixed Materials [A11423648244] 2 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Feminism in Politics

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59896

Unit Date 1975-2000

Mixed Materials [A11423648244] 2 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Global Feminism

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59897

Unit Date 1995-2000

Mixed Materials [A11423648244] 2 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Honor Killings

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59898

Unit Date 1999

Mixed Materials [A11423648244] 2 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

LGBTQ Women

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59899

Unit Date 1994-2000

Mixed Materials [A11423648244] 2 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Magazines - Playgirl

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59900

Unit Date June 1973

Mixed Materials [A11423648244] 2 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Language English

Magazines - Mother Jones

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59901

Unit Date April 1980

Mixed Materials [A11423648244] 2 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Language English

Magazines - Ms. Magazine

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59902

Unit Date August 1972

Mixed Materials [A11423648244] 2 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Language English

Magazines - Ms. Magazine

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59903

Unit Date July 1977

Mixed Materials [A11423648244] 2 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Language English

Magazines - Ms. Magazine**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/59904**Unit Date** August 1982**Mixed Materials [A11423648244]** 2 (box)**Container** 16 (folder)**Language** English**Magazines - Ms. Magazine****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/59905**Unit Date** August 1987**Mixed Materials [A11423648244]** 2 (box)**Container** 17 (folder)**Language** English**Magazines - Ms. Magazine****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/59906**Unit Date** December 1999**Mixed Materials [A11423648244]** 2 (box)**Container** 18 (folder)**Language** English**Magazines - The Woman's Calendar****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/59907**Unit Date** 1978**Mixed Materials [A11423648252]** 3 (box)**Container** 1 (folder)**Language** English**Magazines - Time Magazine****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/59908**Unit Date** March 1972**Mixed Materials [A11423648252]** 3 (box)**Container** 2 (folder)**Language** English**Marriage****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/59909**Unit Date** 1972-1999**Mixed Materials [A11423648252]** 3 (box)**Container** 3 (folder)**Men****Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/59910**Unit Date** 1992-2000**Mixed Materials [A11423648252]** 3 (box)**Container** 4 (folder)

Motherhood

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59911

Unit Date 1994-2000

Mixed Materials [A11423648252] 3 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Pornography

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59912

Unit Date 1980-1994

Mixed Materials [A11423648252] 3 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Rape

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59913

Unit Date 1998

Mixed Materials [A11423648252] 3 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Sexual Harrassment

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59914

Unit Date 1986-2000

Mixed Materials [A11423648252] 3 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Title IX Litigation

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59915

Unit Date 1995-1997

Mixed Materials [A11423648252] 3 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Women in Prison

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59916

Unit Date 1973-1999

Mixed Materials [A11423648252] 3 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Women in Religion

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59917

Unit Date 1991-1998

Mixed Materials [A11423648252] 3 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Women in the Military

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59918

Unit Date 1995-2000

Mixed Materials [A11423648252] 3 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Women in the Workforce

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/59919

Unit Date 1971-2000

Mixed Materials [A11423648252] 3 (box)

Container 13 (folder)