

Collection #
SC 2930
DVD 0242-0243

**DORIT PAUL
ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW, 2011**

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 folder, 2 DVDs

COLLECTION DATES: 2011

PROVENANCE: Indiana Historical Society project, 2011-

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Gerald Paul Interview, SC 2929, DVD 0241; Paul Harris Stores, Inc. collection, 1971-2001, M 1021, OMB 0127, BV 3784, CT 2152-2153

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2012.0120m0003

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Dorit Paul (1928-), nee Selig, was born in Mannheim, Germany to Bertha and Rudolph Ludwig Selig. In response to Hitler's anti-Semitic campaign, her family moved to Switzerland and then to New York City in 1938. She attended public school until transferring to a private high school where she enjoyed studying history, math, English literature, and biology. She attended Radcliffe College and continued on to Columbia University to complete graduate studies in English Literature.

After meeting him on a blind date, she married Gerald Paul in 1954 and moved to Indianapolis, Indiana. They began a family in 1956 eventually having two daughters. Gerald began Paul Harris Stores, a women's retail store, with Earl Harris in 1954. Dorit frequently helped her husband with the business during his time at the helm.

Beyond Paul Harris, Dorit has made a lifelong commitment to volunteerism. Her experiences include providing books for the patients at Central State Hospital, being a docent for the Indianapolis Museum of Art, and serving as a member on myriad local boards, such as the Greater Indianapolis Jewish Federation, Indianapolis Early Music, Indianapolis Opera, and Phoenix Theatre.

She often traveled with Gerald on business. During these trips they amassed an extensive collection of contemporary and traditional artwork. They collect mostly contemporary art, and their collection includes pieces by Betty Woodman, Willem de Kooning, and Antoni Tàpies. She and her husband are supporters of The Children's Museum, Indiana Historical Society, and Dance Kaleidoscope, among other organizations. IUPUI Herron School of Art and the Eiteljorg Museum of Western Art and the American Indian both named galleries in honor of Dorit and Gerald Paul for their continual support of each institution.

Sources: Material from the collection

1940 U.S. Census, New York County, New York, population schedule, 17th Representative District, New York City, enumeration district (ED) 31-553, page 5751, sheet 1A, dwelling 8, R. L. Selig household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 27 September 2012).

New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957. Year: 1938; Arrival: New York; Microfilm Serial: T715; Microfilm Roll: T715_6178; Line: 9; Page Number: 8, database on-line, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 27 September 2012).

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Folder 1 contains the transcript of an oral history interview with Dorit Paul and a life history form. The DVDs contain a WAV file audio recording of Paul's oral history interview (1 master and 1 copy). Paul was interviewed as part of the Indiana Community Builders Oral History Project (ICB), an ongoing project collecting oral histories of outstanding individuals who continually work to advance Indiana. The primary goal of this project is to collect life stories from remarkable people whose involvement in Indiana philanthropy, business, politics, religion, and education continues to enhance the Indiana community. Through these individual lives, we can witness the development of Indiana's recent past. IHS believes collecting these reflections also extends our capacity as Indiana's Storyteller because we can better understand Indiana history from a personal and professional perspective. Including both perspectives illustrates each individual's contributions to Indiana and their personal connections to all Hoosiers. Interview topics include: influences provided by family while growing up; elementary, secondary, and post-secondary education; employment/volunteer experiences; challenges and successes faced; philanthropy; and change of Indianapolis/Indiana over time. The interview was conducted by Kendra E. Clauser on October 6, 2011 at Paul's home. Clauser has been the Project Archivist for ICB since April of 2011.

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Dorit Paul oral history interview transcript

CONTAINER

Folder 1

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Elem/secondary education	Pg. 4	00:06:45
University	Pg. 5	00:09:55
Gerald Paul	Pg. 6	00:10:56
Indianapolis	Pg. 7	00:12:36
Family and Paul Harris	Pg. 8	00:14:15
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Phoenix Theatre Indianapolis Opera Dance Kaleidoscope Indiana Historical Society	Pg. 30 Pg. 31	01:06:20 01:10:23

Life history form

Dorit Paul oral history interview, audio WAV file on DVD
(1 master and 1 copy)

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