

Collection #
SC3682

**SANDY EISENBERG SASSO
ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW, 21 NOVEMBER 2013**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript folder, 1 digital file

COLLECTION DATES: 21 November 2013

PROVENANCE: Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, Carmel, Indiana

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RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2021.0033

NOTES: This forms part of the Indianapolis Women's Oral History Project Archives

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg Sasso was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1947 to Israel Eisenberg (1919-1984) and Freda Plotnick Eisenberg (1921-2016). She grew up in Philadelphia, graduating from Cheltenham High School in 1965. She attended Temple University, where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Comparative Religion in 1969 and Master of Arts in Religion in 1972. She then went on to study nearby at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (RRC), receiving her ordination in 1974—the first woman at RRC to do so. While studying at RRC, she met fellow rabbinical student Dennis Sasso, whom she married in 1976. After her ordination, she served as rabbi to the Manhattan Reconstructionist Havurah in New York City. In 1977, both she and her husband were hired by the congregation Beth-El Zedeck in Indianapolis, Indiana to serve as co-rabbis, becoming the first husband and wife to serve together as rabbis to the same congregation. She served in that position until her retirement in 2013. While serving in Indianapolis, she completed a Doctor of Ministry from the Christian Theological Seminary in 1996.

Rabbi Sasso also lectures on women and spirituality as well as the discovery of the religious imagination in children and has written and published a number of children's books, several of which are nationally acclaimed, such as *God's Paintbrush* and *In God's Name*. In addition, she has been involved with several community organizations in Indianapolis, including serving as president of Gleaner's Food Bank, chair of the Spirit & Place Board of Advisors, and a board member of the Julian Center, the Lake Institute of Faith and Giving, and Women4Change (of which she is also a co-founder). She is the founding director of the Religion, Spirituality, and the Arts Initiative at Herron School of Art and Design at Indiana University, Indianapolis.

Rabbi Sasso and her husband have two children—Dr. David Sasso and Dr. Debora Sasso Herold.

Sources:

Materials in the collection.

“Rabbi Sandy Sasso.” <https://www.rabbisandysasso.com/>

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The following interview is one of a collection of oral history interviews devoted to collecting life stories of prominent Indiana women involved in business, education, law, philanthropy, politics, and religion. All of the women interviewed for this project were selected from within the membership of The Gathering, an informal networking group of approximately 175 Indiana women leaders that began around 1990. The Indianapolis Women's Oral History Project (initially known as The Gathering Oral History Project) was organized in 2013 by the members of The Gathering and conducted with the assistance and supervision of the Indiana Historical Society (IHS).

This manuscript was transcribed from a digitally recorded interview conducted on November 21, 2013, in the chambers of Judge Sarah Evans Barker, Birch Bayh Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse, Indianapolis, Indiana by Sara Evans Barker, a member of The Gathering. Data Logistics Control, INC, located in Indianapolis, Indiana, transcribed the interview in 2015, and Wendy L. Adams, director of oral history at IHS, lightly edited the transcript in 2020. The interview, which includes the audio recording and transcript, is housed at the William H. Smith Memorial Library, Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, Indianapolis, Indiana

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Oral History Interview Transcript, 21 November 2013

Oral History Interview Audio, 21 November 2013

CONTAINER

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