

Collection #  
SC 3346  
DVD 1149-1153

**KATHY SARRIS  
ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW AND TRANSCRIPT, 2015**

[Collection Information](#)

[Biographical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Contents](#)

Processed by

Melanie Hankins  
September 2017

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department  
William Henry Smith Memorial Library  
Indiana Historical Society  
450 West Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

[www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org)

## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript folder; 5 DVDs

COLLECTION DATES: 2015

PROVENANCE: Indianapolis/Central Indiana LGBT Oral History Project

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2016.0143m0038

NOTES: Forms part of the Indianapolis/Central Indiana LGBT Oral History Project.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

In 2014 the Indiana Historical Society began the Indiana LGBT Collecting Initiative to collect, preserve, and make accessible materials that document the rich history, tradition, and culture of Indiana's LGBT communities. Part of the collecting initiative includes the Indianapolis/Central Indiana LGBT Oral History Project. During the time period of 2014-2015, interviews were conducted of individuals, couples and families from all walks of life in Central Indiana area. This collection centers around the oral history interview of Kathy Sarris conducted by Mark Lee on January 21, 2015.

Kathy Sarris (b. 1953) grew up in Chicago, Illinois. Sarris worked as a political consultant for many years, as well as owning several businesses, including the restaurant Aesop's Table. While being an activist for causes close to the Indiana LGBT community such as marriage and civil rights protections, she was a key member of Indiana Equality, Justice Inc., and the National Gay Lesbian Task Force. She and her partner, Bonnie, have been together since 1981, and they currently reside in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Sources:

Information found in the collection.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The interview was transcribed from one video recorded interview with Kathy Sarris conducted on January 21, 2015 by Mark Lee, lead project manager for the Indianapolis/Central Indiana LGBT Oral History Project. The interview, which includes the video recording and the transcript, is housed at the William H. Smith Memorial Library, Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, Indianapolis, Indiana.

The video recorded interview is approximately two and a half hours long and is recorded on five DVDs. The collection includes one folder with a preliminary questionnaire with Kathy Sarris, newspaper articles from the *Indianapolis Star* from 1983 to 2013, and the oral history interview transcription.

The following is an index to the oral history transcript listing the topics discussed and the pages on which they can be found.

### TRANSCRIPT

#### Interview

Introduction to Kathy Sarris.....	3
Moving to Indianapolis/Meeting Bonnie, her partner.....	4
Differences between Indianapolis and Chicago.....	6
Working with Justice Inc., Indiana statewide LGBT Lobbying firm.....	7
Failure of Justice Inc./Sarris political consultation.....	9
Helping set up AIDS Testing Centers in Indiana.....	10
Facing death threats/Congressional testimony.....	12
Civil Rights Ordinance under Governor Robert Orr.....	14
AIDS Movement.....	15
Working to pass Indiana state laws protecting human rights.....	17
Politics behind passing the Human Rights Amendment.....	19-20
Working on Marriage Equality Legislation.....	21
Legalization of same sex marriage across the United States.....	23

Dealing with the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA).....	25
Working with Governor Mitch Daniels for LGBT rights.....	26
Navigating Indiana politics.....	28
Working on National Gay Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF).....	29
Working with Farmer Communities.....	30
Owning the restaurant, Aesop's Table.....	31
Working with prominent figures in Indiana's LGBT community.....	33-35
Changes in the Indianapolis LGBT community.....	36
Differences in International and European cultures.....	38
Future of LGBT life in Indiana.....	39

## CONTENTS

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Preliminary Questionnaire; Newspaper articles (1983-2013); Interview Transcription	Folder 1
Sarris Oral History Interview Disc 1, user copy	DVD 1149
Sarris Oral History Interview Disc 2, user copy	DVD 1150
Sarris Oral History Interview Disc 1, master copy	DVD 1151
Sarris Oral History Interview Disc 2, master copy	DVD 1152
Digital Transcription and Photographs	DVD 1153