

# **Berniece Ball Perry Papers**

## **6122012.BBPP.DW**

**Finding aid prepared by Dustin Witsman**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Shorefront Legacy Center

June 12, 2012

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Shorefront Legacy Center
<b>Title</b>	Berniece Ball Perry Papers
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1922-1997
<b>Extent</b>	2.0 Linear feet
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>Berniece Ball Perry (1915-1995) was an African American women's labor leader who lived and worked in Evanston, Illinois. She was an active member of a number of social and civic clubs and organizations and worked to ensure fair treatment of African-Americans in the workplace. The Berniece Ball Perry papers span from 1922 to 1997 and cover Perry's personal and professional life's work, especially with the International Ladies Garment Worker's Union and the A. Philip Randolph Institute.</p>

## Biographical Note

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Berniece Ball Perry (1915-1995) was an African American women's labor leader who lived and worked in Evanston, Illinois. She helped organize and was a member of the Local 208 International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU), and she held the offices of Secretary, Vice President, and President from 1959-1973. She was appointed as AFL-CIO Staff Representative of the Labor-Welfare Service Department, Welfare Council of Metropolitan Chicago in 1971; she later served as Director of the Welfare Council of Metropolitan Chicago. In 1973, Berniece Ball Perry became Field Representative of the United Way Crusade of Mercy, the position from which she retired in 1985. She was married to Benson Perry, Sr.

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## Scope and Contents note

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The Berniece Ball Perry papers are arranged in to five series: "Personal/Family," "Benson Perry, Sr.," "Professional Work," "Photographs," and "Artifacts." The collection spans from 1922 to 1997 and covers both the personal and professional lives of Berniece Ball Perry. It includes, especially, her work with the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU), the A. Philip Randolph Institute, and her research concerning African-American—especially women—in the workplace.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Shorefront Legacy Center June 12, 2012

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## Controlled Access Headings

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Subject(s)

- African American--History.
- African Americans--Illinois--Evanston.
- Civil Rights
- Labor Unions
- Labor--Illinois--History.
- Women labor leaders
- Women--Societies and clubs.

## Series I. Personal/Family,

**Collection Inventory****Series I. Personal/Family, 1922-1977****Scope and Contents note**

This series is comprised of material relating to the personal and family affairs of Berniece Ball Perry.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Biographical/Personal Life 1922-1973	1	1
Family 1953-1980	1	2
Correspondence 1937-1982	1	3-4
Mildred Boston 1945-1973	1	5
Dillard Estate 1961-1963	1	6
Obituaries 1976-1997	1	7
Income Tax Returns and Statements 1942-1944	1	8
Receipts 1949, undated	1	9

**Series II. Benson Perry, Sr., 1967-1999**

**Series III. Professional Work,****Scope and Contents note**

This series is comprised of material relating to Berniece Ball Perry's husband, Benson Perry, Sr., and includes business correspondence and records as well as membership information and artifacts relating to the Playboy Club.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Playboy Club 1972	1	10
Benson Family Reunion 1999	1	11
Bryant's Currency Exchange 1967-1968	1	12
Automobile Mechanics' Local Number 701 1999	1	13

**Series III. Professional Work, 1930-1985****Scope and Contents note**

This series contains material relating to the professional work done by Berniece Ball Perry. It includes newspaper clippings, International Ladies Garment Workers Union organizational materials, and other resources concerning African-American labor history.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
A. Philip Randolph Institute 1969-1979	1	14-16
Chicago's Black Labor Leaders 1973	1	17
International Ladies Garment Workers Union 1958-1970	1	18-20

**Series IV. Photographs,**

Labor History Press Releases and Articles 1985	1	21
Women Workers in Illinois 1964	1	22
News Clippings 1930-1972	1	23
Membership and Business Cards 1975, undated	1	24
Awards 1969	1	25
Pay Stubs 1971	1	26

**Series IV. Photographs, undated****Scope and Contents note**

The "Photographs" series contains both personal and professional photographs relating to the life and work of Berniece Ball Perry. The International Ladies Garment Workers Union is especially well represented.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Photographs undated	2	27-28
		<b>Box</b>
Oversized Photographs undated		2
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Oversized Photograph undated	2	OS1



## Series V. Artifacts,

**Series V. Artifacts, undated****Scope and Contents note**

“Artifacts” is comprised of physical items such as pins, sewing kit items, ashtrays, and Pullman Porter hand towels.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
International Ladies Garment Workers Union undated	2	29
		<b>Box</b>
Various Artifacts undated		2