

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

### Gould family legacy told in personal memoir

By Alicia Doyle

At 84 years old, Dorothy Gould is preserving her history with a personal memoir that's been two years in the making.

"I'd been thinking about doing a memoir for a long time," said Gould of Windsor Square.

"I am the last of a large family," said Gould, the youngest of eight children. "If I don't put something down, nobody will know our history."

After the death of her husband Joseph in 2005, Gould hired Loren Stephens, an Emmy-nominated documentary filmmaker who helps people transform the family stories into written memoirs.

Gould and Stephens have conducted endless hours of interviews, which have resulted in several hundred pages of transcript.

With an anticipated 18 chapters, the book's working title, "You've Come A Long Way Baby," reflects her father's attention over the years.

"Her dad always called her baby," Stephens said. "She was spoiled with love and affection."

The book tells how she was the daughter of Russian immigrants who came to Chicago, where Gould was born.

"We came from a poor background—my parents were immigrants who came here for freedom," Gould said. "We had no money, but we had love, attention and time."

The family first settled in Boyle Heights in Los Angeles. When Gould was still a child, they moved to Ventura, where Gould's father established himself as a leader in a small, tight-knit Jewish community.

She lived with her parents until she got married in 1947 to Joseph Gould, a man in the trucking business who she met through her sister, Becky.

"Dorothy was a very precocious, bright young lady," said Stephens, adding that the memoir includes how the lives of women like Gould have evolved since World War II.

For instance, when she was 20 years old, she got a job working for the district attorney at the Ventura County Courthouse as a stenographer.

"Everyone was encouraging me to become a lawyer. On the weekends I used to research cases—it was a very exciting place to be," Gould recalled. "Pat Brown was the attorney general of the state of California—I saw him quite often—and Earl Warren used to visit the courthouse when he was governor of California. But instead of pursuing a legal career, I got married."



**THE PERSONAL** memoir of Dorothy Gould (right) has involved two years of interviews with Loren Stephens.

The memoir also tells about her struggle to finish earning her bachelor's degree.

"I couldn't get into college because they were holding places for the G.I.s," recalled Gould, who had already completed two years of college but was later unable to re-enroll

because the soldiers were given priority.

Her husband didn't want her to work, so she channeled her energy volunteering. She became president of the PTA, and helped nurses and counselors at her two sons' schools.

She also served as president of Hadassah/Beverly Hills, and

has been a member of numerous committees of the Jewish Federation.

"In the early 1970s, the Federation asked me to be an observer at an international conference in Brussels, Belgium on the plight of Soviet Jewry," she recalled. "All the meetings were held in the royal palace, and as luck would have it I sat right next to Prime Minister Golda Meier, who was the honorary chair of the entire conference."

Over the years, Gould and her husband—who quit the trucking business and became the president of numerous banks including the Pan American Bank—served as hosts to more than 20 foreign graduate students from Israel, Pakistan, Thailand, and Korea studying in Los Angeles.

"Our home became a little United Nations," Gould said. "No student was turned away who needed a helping hand to adjust to life in Los Angeles."

In 1994, she discovered she had breast cancer, and has since recovered with a clean bill of health.

"I've had many experiences," Gould said. "The world is my oyster...and I'm enjoying it."

*If you're interested in creating a personal memoir, contact Loren Stephens at 310-826-6217 or visit [www.writewisdom.com](http://www.writewisdom.com).*