

Ed Brody Collection
Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest Archives
Prepared by Jill Hershoin – October, 2011

Record Group: RG1

Collection Number: 1-93

Creator: Ed Brody

Inclusive Dates: 1993 and 2011

Extent: 1 cf

Abstract: Personal papers from Ed Brody

Acquisition information:

Records in the collection were donated by Ed Brody

Preferred Citation:

Ed Brody Collection, Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest

Access restrictions:

The collections of the Society shall be available for examination and study by any member of the public under the normal security procedures and other special procedures established for the protection of the specific collections.

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History:

Ed Brody graduated West Side High School, Newark, NJ with top honors in math and science for male students 1942. In the Army of the United States he was the base pharmacy technician with rank of sergeant between the years 1943-1945. After his military service ended, he graduated cum laude Illinois College of Chiropody and Foot Surgery, 1948.

After practicing chiropody for a few years, Ed married and joined the family children's shoe business in 1952 in Newark, NJ. By 1985, he sold both Brody's StrideRite shoe stores which had relocated to Woodbridge Center, Woodbridge, NJ.

His work in the community includes: his membership on the board of the Bergen Street Merchants Association, 1952-1978; he was a founding board member of Woodbridge Center Lions Club, 1971-1985; and he was a member of the board of the Woodbridge Center Merchants Association, 1984-1985.

In addition, throughout the 1990s he began lecturing on topics that loved. He spoke about his life as a Newarker and he presented lecture series to senior groups on Hitler's Entartete Kunst/Degenerate Art Exhibit of 1937-1942.

As former board member of The Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest (JHSMW,) he also co-chaired the Oral History Committee. As a result of his work, the JHSMW has a Manual for Oral Historians which Ed created. He continues to lecture on how to produce an oral history. Ed has been writing his personal reminisces for years and has produced unpublished manuscripts which include the "Merchants of Newark," about Newark business owners' experiences and reactions to the 1967 riots and another essay about the shoe business, titled "The Shoe Dog's Book." Additionally, Brody published the essay: "What is Ignostic Judaism? Thoughts of a Secular, Humanistic, Cultural, "Ignostic" Jew Regarding Science, Religion and Faith." This item will be added to the collection upon arrival to JHSMW.

Scope and Content:

In 1993, the JHSMW established the Ed Brody Collection which contained some personal documents, his unpublished manuscripts and some papers of his son, Jeffrey Brody. No additional materials were added until 2011, when Brody gave the Society 3 cf of material. After surveying and weeding the materials, the archivist retained all pertinent documents and deaccessioned the remaining back to Brody.

This collection is comprised of paper and photographs and is divided into one series as follows:

I. Personal Papers – General Subjects