

Chatham Colony Association
Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest Archives
Prepared by Jill Hershoin (Feb. 2012)

Record Group: 7

Collection Number: 20-00

Creator: Chatham Colony Association

Inclusive Dates: 1922-1970

Extent: .25 cf

Abstract: Records from the Chatham Colony Association

Acquisition information: Acquired by the Society in 2000

Preferred Citation: Chatham Colony Association, Jewish Historical Society

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:

The Chatham Colony Association was founded in 1924 as a socioeconomic experiment in communal living. Russian and other eastern European immigrants living in New York City wanted to pursue a natural environment with the freedom to live and think and educate their children outside of the metropolitan environment in the city.

Sufficient interest was garnered from advertising in the Jewish Daily Forward newspaper, and the Chatham Colony Association purchased approximately 100 acres of land in Chatham Township. A constitution was incorporated in 1924 with 70 members.

Members drew lots to determine individual acreage. They built a community house. They manually expanded the natural spring and stocked it with fresh fish. Later they drilled an artisan well, filled the pool and added chlorine in 1928 for

the first Colony Pool. Also in 1928, the association sold a strip of land to Public Service Co. for a high tension line.

Toward the late 1960s membership in the Chatham Colony Association dwindled, and in 1969 Chatham Township purchased the pool area and the association closed. Land along Southern Boulevard was donated to the Long Hill Volunteer Fire Department for the construction of a firehouse.¹

Scope and Content:

This collection contains only photocopies of documents found at the Chatham Historical Society. This is merely a representation of what can be found at the Chatham Historical Society.

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

- I. Administrative – Assorted Documents, 1922-1970

Conservation Notes:

N/A

Removals:

N/A

¹ <http://chatham.patch.com/articles/history-in-chatham-township-colony-association#photo-5323810>