

**The Jewish Center of Sussex County**  
**Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest Archives**  
Prepared by Jill Hershoin - November, 2008

**Record Group: 1**

**Collection Number: 15-01 and 13-08**

**Creator:** The Jewish Center of Sussex County

**Inclusive Dates:**

1955 – 2007, the bulk of the collection is from the 1980s

**Extent:** 3 cf

**Abstract:**

Congregational records of The Jewish Center of Sussex County. The collection includes correspondence, newsletters and photographs.

**Acquisition information:**

These materials have been acquired by the Society in 1996 from Ruth Mendel (former accession number 17-96) and in 2008 from Sanford Hollander

**Preferred Citation:**

The Jewish Center of Sussex County, Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest

**Access restrictions:**

N/A

**Copyright:**

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**History:**

Records show that the first Jewish family settled in Newton, New Jersey in about 1890. In 1892 another Jewish family moved to Branchville and in the early 1900s the Jewish population grew in the area with the wave of Jewish immigrants to this country.

Meeting at homes to worship, the families practiced Orthodox Judaism, bringing in a rabbi from New York City to conduct services on High Holy Days. In the early 1920s the congregation purchased a private house at 13 Washington Street in Newton. The building provided living quarters for the Rabbi and a small

synagogue. The congregation was called "Reuben Shimon" named after the father of founding members Nathan and Solomon Fogelson.

During the depression, the congregation could no longer afford a full-time rabbi and efforts were made through the formation of YMHA and YWHA groups to reorganize the Hebrew School. In 1936 the building was remodeled and a cemetery was purchased on North Church Road in Hardyston.

In 1951 a large addition was built to house the sanctuary and renovations provided class and meeting rooms. On August 30, 1951 the new synagogue was dedicated; a permanent Rabbi was hired; and the name of the congregation was changed to "The Jewish Center of Sussex County".

Today's Jewish Center has a congregation of approximately 85 families.

### **Scope and Content:**

**NOTE: There are 2 finding aids and 2 entries in Past Perfect for this congregation. The earlier entry (Acc#15-01) was processed and the archivist inadvertently processed new materials (Acc #13-08) without noticing the previously processed collection.**

**For complete description please look at both entries in Past Perfect.**

This collection is comprised of paper and photographs and is divided into 9 series as follows:

- I. Administrative
- II. Correspondence
- III. Events
- IV. Finance
- V. Meetings
- VI. Photographs
- VII. Press
- VIII. Publications
- IX. Sisterhood

### **Conservation Notes:**

Most of these materials have been removed from scrapbooks compiled by Ruth Mendel and Renee Fogelson in 1990. The materials were placed in photographic albums, which have adhesive. Some material could not be removed safely from

these photo albums and the entire pages were left intact. They remain in the collection and will need to be attended to in the future.

**Removals:**

N/A

**Organization:**

The materials are arranged alphabetically, then chronologically within the series.