

**White Meadow Temple**  
**Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest Archives**  
Prepared by Jill Hershoin - November, 2008

**Record Group: 1**

**Collection Number: 15-00**

**Creator:** White Meadow Temple

**Inclusive Dates:**

1955 – 2002, the bulk of the collection dates from 1962-1990

**Extent:** 8 cf

**Abstract:**

Congregational records of White Meadow Temple. The collection includes Board minutes, financial information, newsletters and photographs.

**Acquisition information:**

These materials have been acquired by the Society in 2000 and 2006

**Preferred Citation:**

White Meadow Temple, Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest

**Access restrictions:**

N/A

**Copyright:**

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**History:**

White Meadow Lake, located in Rockaway Township, became a popular vacation site for Jews from New York City and Newark in the 1940's. Benjamin Kline, a developer, bought the approximately 2,000 acres and began to sell the plots in 1945 to families from the Bronx and Brooklyn who had summer cottages in the area. Many Jewish residents were skeptical about the need for a permanent place of worship in a temporary residence, but 'block captains' encouraged them to be involved in the project. As the move from the city to the suburbia increased and the area became developed, nearly all of White Meadow Temple's residents lived in the area for the entire year.

White Meadow Temple was incorporated in 1952; worship began in 1953, months before the building was fully completed. Rabbi Jacob Weitman, hired as intern

from Yeshiva University in 1955, was given a lifetime contract and retired in 1989. White Meadow Temple's growing membership led to a 1964 groundbreaking ceremony for renovations and additions to the building situated at 153 White Meadow Road in Rockaway's White Meadow Lake. Rabbi Ralph Dalin succeeded him and remained with the Temple for a decade. Active in social causes such as Soviet Jewry, both Dalin and Weitman were active in promoting youth involvement, especially through USY. In 1983, a president boasted that '(White Meadow) has the finest religious school in all of Morris County.' In the early 1980s, building expansion plans were underway and by 1985, the Temple welcomed the addition of a new permanent sanctuary, two new kitchens, more Hebrew School classrooms and numerous other additions.

Perhaps the most notable member of the White Meadow Temple was scientist June Walker, who became National President of Hadassah in 2003. White Meadow Temple, which had hundreds of families, was known for its activities- notable guests included Eleanor Roosevelt, Elie Wiesel, Mayor Ed Koch, and musician Giora Feldman.

#### **Scope and Content:**

This collection is deficient in some important documents, namely the Certificate of Incorporation, letters from various politicians (including George W. Bush, Gov. Corzine), Township of Rockaway Proclamation, etc. While this collection is lacking in certain materials, it does hold all of the minutes from 1955-1988 and contains invaluable newsletters. The Bylaws and Constitution materials were inadvertently removed prior to description work and upon discovery were reinserted in the Legal Series (instead of the typical Administrative Series.)

Of note is an item found in Box #18 - Miniature golden shovel used for White Meadow Temple's "Dig We Must" building expansion campaign. Contributors to White Meadow Temple's building expansion program wore "gold shovels" with the inscription "Ground Breaking White Meadow Temple 8-23-64."

This collection is comprised of paper and photographs and is divided into 17 series as follows:

- I. Administrative
- II. Cemetery
- III. Committees
- IV. Correspondence
- V. Education
- VI. Events

- VII. Finance
- VIII. Legal
- IX. Outreach
- X. Membership
- XI. Men's Club
- XII. Minutes
- XIII. Photographs
- XIV. Publications
- XV. Publicity
- XVI. Sisterhood
- XVII. Artifacts

**Conservation Notes:**

N/A

**Removals:**

N/A

**Organization:**

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