

Congregation B'nai Jeshurun
Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest Archives
Prepared by Jill Hershorin – February, 2009 and reprocessed in August, 2011

Record Group: 1

Collection Number: 15-98

Creator: Congregation B'nai Jeshurun

Inclusive Dates:
1846-2002

Extent: 6 cf

Abstract:

This collection contains records from Congregation B'nai Jeshurun. The collection includes correspondence, congregational handbooks and a few photographs.

Acquisition information:

These materials have been acquired by the Society in 1998 from Bob Cowen

Preferred Citation:

Congregation B'nai Jeshurun, Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest

Access restrictions:

N/A

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History:

In 1847 a small group of families who had emigrated from Central Europe settled in Newark, New Jersey. Their first priority was to establish a new spiritual home in America.

The Jews of the near west side began to have a minyan (a quorum for worship services) in the attic of Isaac S. Cohen on Washington Street. The services were humble, the congregation's only Torah scroll being the personal property of Cohen. When B'nai Jeshurun incorporated in 1848 it was the first synagogue in Newark and the second in New Jersey, another group in Paterson having incorporated in 1847 with the same name, "B'nai Jeshurun." The name "B'nai Jeshurun" means "Children of the Upright." As the Congregation quickly grew

and flourished, it built its own synagogue, moving, over the decades, from Washington Street to High and Waverly Streets in Newark to South Orange, until finally settling in its present structure on South Orange Avenue in Short Hills in 1968.

With growth came change, not only in location but also in manner of worship. B'nai Jeshurun moved rapidly from its original Orthodox Judaism to Reform Judaism. By the turn of the century, B'nai Jeshurun had become one of the foremost Reform Congregations in the United States.

Please visit: <http://www.newarkhistory.com/hopewell.html> for more information.

Scope and Content:

After receiving materials from Robert Cowen and Rabbi Barry Greene's wife, the collection was re-processed in 2011.

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

- I. Administrative
- II. Building
- III. Cemetery Association
- IV. Committees
- V. Constitution
- VI. Clubs & Groups
- VII. Education
- VIII. Employees
- IX. Events
- X. Finance
- XI. General Subjects
- XII. History
- XIII. Minutes
- XIV. Miscellaneous
- XV. Photographs
- XVI. Press
- XVII. Publications

Conservation Notes:

Brittle newspaper clippings have been photocopied onto acid-free paper.

Removals:

N/A

Organization:

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