

**Congregation Beth Torah (Florham Park)**

**Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest Archives**

Prepared by Jill Hershoin – February, 2009

**Record Group: 1**

**Collection Number: 13-01**

**Creator:**

Congregation Beth Torah (Florham Park)/ The Suburban Jewish Center of Morris County

**Inclusive Dates:** 1985-1998

**Extent:** .5 cf

**Abstract:**

Institutional records of the Suburban Jewish Center of Morris County, consisting of newspaper clippings, synagogue newsletters, and Dinner Dance journals.

**Acquisition information:**

N/A

**Preferred Citation:**

Congregation Beth Torah (Florham Park)/ Suburban Jewish Center of Morris County, Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest

**Access restrictions:**

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**History:**

In the absence of a synagogue in East Morris County (East Hanover, Florham Park, and Madison) in 1979 lawyer Allan Goldstein met with local Jewish families, with the intent to organize Jewish education for children in the area. A Pre-School was formed, which soon expanded to serve elementary school children in various locations, such as a realtor's office. 1982 saw the purchase of a home on Ridgedale Avenue in Florham Park to serve as a synagogue and home for a Sunday school. This place of worship was named the Suburban Jewish Center of Morris County and followed the tenants of Conservative ideals. With the desire to encourage and support a new, developing temple, ritual items, such

as a Torah, were donated from Congregation Beth Torah in Orange, NJ. In 1985, Rabbi Michael A. Birnbaum was hired as its first rabbi. The congregation of around seventy-five families was active in the Jewish community activities, such as raising money for Ethiopian immigration to Israel, and in ecumenical events, such as an interfaith Thanksgiving service. In 1987, the SJCMC expanded its synagogue by building on an adjacent lot and hired a cantor.

In 1995 the synagogue changed its name to become Congregation Beth Torah.

**Scope and Content:**

The synagogue has had one name change since its inception and the collection is named for the current synagogue name, Congregation Beth Torah. This collection is comprised of printed documents, including photocopies of newspaper articles. All journals are in bound booklets. In addition, there is a letter to Beth Torah of Orange and a brief early history of the synagogue.

This collection is comprised of paper and photographs and is divided into 4 series as follows:

- I. Correspondence
- II. History
- III. Press
- IV. Publications

**Conservation Notes:**

None

**Removals:**

None

**Organization:**

The materials are organized alphabetically, then chronologically.