

Pine Brook Jewish Center
Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest Archives

Prepared by Jennifer McGillan and David Druce; Revised by Jill Hershorin (3-6-08)

Record Group: 1

Collection Number: 17-00

Creator:

Chevra Agudas Achim Anshy Congregation, Pine Brook Jewish Center

Inclusive Dates:

1906-present

Extent:

9cf

Abstract:

Historical Documents of the Pine Brook Jewish Center (formerly Chevra Agudas Achim Anshy Congregation)

Acquisition information:

First acquired by the Society in 2000; returned to the Congregation the same year. Re-donated to the JHSMW in 2005.

Preferred Citation:

Pine Brook Jewish Center Collection, Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest

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:

Jews, mostly first-generation Eastern European immigrants from Newark, began to settle and farm in the Pine Brook area in the 1880's. Many farmers took in boarders in the summer, which led to hotels and a transportation service being established by the Konner family. Religious services were held in private houses, until Chevra Agudas Achim Anshy was chartered in 1896. A synagogue was built in 1912, and a community center in 1920. In 1962, Chevra changed its name to the Pine Brook Jewish Center. A conservative synagogue, it began to have

mixed seating in 1967. In 1974, Asher Krief was hired as the Rabbi, a position he served for more than twenty-five years. A new building was added in 1982, and in 1995 PBJC merged with the Lake Hiawatha. Another addition, which included a nursery school, was completed in 2000.

Lake Hiawatha was once farmland belonging to Phineas Farrand, converted into summer communities by developer Benjamin Kline. This new community was advertised to urban Jewish communities. The Lake Hiawatha Jewish Center was incorporated in 1945. It prospered until the 1980's, when members began to age or leave for Reform and Orthodox services. The Lake Hiawatha Jewish Center merged with the Pine Brook Jewish Center in 1995. Its building now belongs to the Yogi Divine Society.

A note on geography: Pine Brook is a section of Montville Township, but was once part of Caldwell.

Scope and Content:

Executive Director, Linda Forgosh urged the archivist to separate this once merged collection and in April, 2009 the collection was dismantled and rearranged. The notes below reflect the original implementation and explanation of such motivation. Please keep in mind that while the Lake Hiawatha materials have been removed from this collection, the archivist did not erase all of the folder's headings which currently read (RG1/PB-LH JC/...) The archivist simply removed the materials and made adjustments in the database and in this finding aid.

(MARCH, 2008) - The collection was discovered by the new archivist in early 2008 and re-arranged for a more thorough consistency. Because of the various name changes of the institution, the original arrangement had divided the collection into each institutional name. To better understand the collection, it was decided to arrange the collection by each series, regardless of the name of the institution. As a result, the Pinebrook Jewish Center and the Lake Hiawatha Jewish Center materials are dispersed throughout the collection.

There are two oversized boxes which contain separated materials: a membership ledger from 1906, a minutes ledger, and a sisterhood scrapbook.

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

- I. Administrative
 - a. Board Meetings
 - b. By-Laws and Constitutions
 - c. Correspondences (Memos and Letters)
 1. Incoming

- 2. Outgoing
 - d. Departments
 - e. Employees
 - f. General
 - 1. Cantor Search
 - 2. Rabbi Search
 - g. Legal
 - h. Misc. Papers
 - i. Staff
- II. Committees
- III. Education
- IV. Events
- V. Finance
- VI. General
- VII. Membership
- VIII. Press
- IX. Publications
 - a. Administrative
 - b. Events
 - c. Meetings
 - d. Publications
- VIII. Photographs
- IX. Artifacts

Conservation Notes:

The ledgers are missing binding and showing signs of age-they are almost a hundred years old. Newspaper is glued to the scrapbook

Removals:

None

Organization:

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