

Ruth Lebau Brewster Collection
Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest Archives
Prepared by Jill Hershoin – March 7, 2013

Record Group: RG1

Collection Number: 23-12

Creator: Ruth Lebau Brewster

Inclusive Dates: 1942-2013

Extent: 1 cf

Abstract:

The bulk of this collection contains the memoirs of Brewster's father, Harry Lebau. Also included is a newspaper column about the donation of the memoirs to JHSNJ and an obituary of Brewster's husband, Harold Brewster.

Acquisition information:

Records in the collection were donated by Ruth Lebau Brewster

Preferred Citation:

Ruth Lebau Brewster 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:

The Lebau-Brewster family has a history of community involvement in Elizabeth, NJ. This family includes Harry Lebau, who served as the executive director of the YM-YWHA in Union County for four decades and also played a major role in other organizations, including the Elizabeth chapter of UJA and the United Way. Also included is Lebau's daughter Ruth Brewster, who was the first female president of the Union Y. Ruth Brewster's husband, Harold served as the Y's president from 1985-1987. The facility bears the name "Harry Lebau Center" in memory of him.

Of interest is the early development of the Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey which had its roots in Elizabeth. Lebau was instrumental in the development of this organization. The Jewish Council of Elizabeth was created

eventually becoming The Elizabeth Jewish Council with Harry Lebau as Executive Secretary. (For more information, see the Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey Collection)

Scope and Content:

The bulk of the collection is Harry Lebau's memoirs. These memoirs (1942-1966) are recollections of his professional career. He organized these papers in chronological order, beginning with chapter LXXXXI, page number 1240. It seems as though these documents are a continuation of his work and also have no complete conclusion. The Jewish Historical Society of New Jersey is hoping that the donor has additional material to add to this body of work. The collection has been kept in the original order. Photographs, correspondence and newspaper clippings are peppered throughout this body of work.

A summarization of the memoirs is on a separate document.

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

- I. Harry Lebau - Genealogy
- II. Harry Lebau – Memoirs
- III. Harry Lebau - Writings
- IV. Publications – Newspaper Clippings