

Temple Sha'arey Shalom
Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest Archives
Prepared by Jill Hershorin, March, 2009

Record Group:

1

Collection Number:

16-03

Creator:

Temple Sha'arey Shalom

Inclusive Dates:

1962-2006

Extent:

6.5 cf

Abstract:

Sha'arey Shalom is a Reform synagogue in suburban Springfield, New Jersey. Contained are the products of the synagogue's administration.

Acquisition information:

Howie Kiesel

Preferred Citation:

Temple Sha'arey Shalom Collection, Jewish Historical Society MetroWest

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History:

Temple Sha'arey Shalom ("Gates of Peace") was founded as the Suburban Reform Temple by fourteen families in the spring of 1957. The synagogue's first rabbi was Malcolm Mendolson, who was quickly succeeded by Israel S. Dresner in 1958. The first president was Mr. Phillip Gurian.

Reform since its inception, Sha'arey Shalom first met in the Parish House of the First Presbyterian Church of Springfield. Services featured a choir and later an organ and the synagogue had continues to have an active Sisterhood, Brotherhood and Youth Group.

Within a year, the congregation consisted of 100 families, with 140 children enrolled in the Hebrew school, and the need for the congregation to have its own facility was obvious. In August 1959, land was purchased on which a synagogue was completed in 1962. The new synagogue was very attractive, but it lacked a permanent sanctuary. After years of discussion, a large expansion was carried out in the early 1990s.

Building pledges did not materialize as projected after the expansion and by the late 1990s Sha'arey Shalom was in financial trouble. The congregation fell into arrears with the UAHC and a special payment plan had to be worked out.

In the late 1990s Sha'arey Shalom merged with Beth El, a reform congregation in Elizabeth.

Since 1982, Sha'arey Shalom has been led by Rabbi Joshua Goldstein.

Scope and Content:

This series consists mostly of board of trustees' minutes, letters to and from administrators, plus copies of the Scroll, plus various correspondence.

There is a history of Sha'arey Shalom in Box 15, Folder 1. There is a "Policies Based on Minutes, 1/80 to 9/00" in Box 1 Folder 7.

Lacking are photographs and minutes between 1963 and 1975

Conservation Notes:

N/A

Removals:

N/A

Organization:

The arrangement is alphabetical, then chronological. This collection is comprised of paper and photographs and is divided into twenty-three series as follows:

- I. Administrative
 - a. Board and Office Related
 - a. Board and Congregational Meeting Minutes
- II. Affiliations (UAHC)
- III. Building
- IV. Calendars

- V. Clubs & Groups
- VI. Committees
- VII. Constitution and By Laws
- VIII. Correspondence
- IX. Education
- X. Employees
- XI. Events
- XII. Finance
- XIII. History
- XIV. Legal
- XV. Membership
- XVI. Merger
- XVII. Miscellaneous
- XVIII. Other Institutions
- XIX. Presidential Files
- XX. Programs
- XXI. Publications
- XXII. Publicity
- XXIII. Press