Temple Beth Hillel of South Windsor
collection 2010.12

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Biographical / Historical

In the summer of 1960, Rabbi Alexander Schindler, the immediate past president of UAHC came from Boston to South Windsor to help a group of residents finalize plans to form Temple Beth Hillel, a new congregation East of the river. Reverend Roy Hutcheon, minister of the Wapping Community Church, offered his church to our new congregants. Rabbi Schindler came from Boston to lead some of the Friday evening services. When a rabbi was not available, the congregation led their own service. Religious School started immediately, and was held in the public schools on Sunday morning.

On August 25, 1961, we held a service to celebrate our first anniversary and to welcome our first part-time rabbi, Paul L. Shiman, a professor of philosophy and religion at Wesleyan University. Moses Maskel donated land from his parents' farm for a building which, was dedicated in 1964. In 1966, the Brett family provided money to purchase a Torah, which is
still used today. A larger Torah was donated by Temple Beth Israel of West Hartford. The
valance for the Ark, which was saved from a synagogue in Germany during World War II, was
donated by members Kay and Ed Nabel.

In 1973, after five part-time rabbis, our congregation hired our first full-time rabbi, Neil
Kominsky. In December, 1993, land on the corner of Governors Highway and Baker Lane in
South Windsor was donated to our Temple by Paul Capuano for the site of a new building,
which was completed in 2000. The congregation had grown to over 220 families.

Scope and Contents

Small collection assembled by staff that includes programs for the Temple Beth Hillel ball
(1961 and 1963) and news clippings.

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Friends of Wood Memorial Library and Museum

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P.O. Box 131
South Windsor, CT 06074
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- South Windsor (Conn.)