

The Unity Club of Summit, the first organized Jewish group in the city, began in 1923, with a grand total of twelve families. Just four years later, the first teacher of Jewish education was hired, and a rabbi was brought to Summit to lead High Holiday services in the Knights of Columbus Hall. In 1929, the Jewish Community Centre of Summit was founded; the ^{then} now twenty families purchased and remodeled a house at the corner of Morris and Kent Place. Jewish immigration picked up during World War II, and as the war drew to a close, fundraising began to update the existing facility. The congregation, now sixty families, bought out their mortgage, and made a down payment towards construction of a \$120,000 new building, including a social hall, a kitchen, several classrooms, and a sanctuary. In 1962, Rabbi William Horn, now a longtime Summit resident, was hired to lead the congregation. During his tenure ^{which} lasting _{ed} nearly fifty years, the congregation grew from seventy-five families to more than 325 households upon his retirement in 2005, ~~and~~ expanded and updated the building twice more, in 1967 and 1995, and added a nursery school. Cantor Janet Roth was hired in 1991, and in 2005, was joined by Rabbi Avi Friedman, who happens to be my father. The building was

expanded once more under the 'Room to Soar' campaign in 2013, before undergoing a name change to the Congregation Ohr Shalom- Summit Jewish Community Center, one of three synagogues now present in Summit's vibrant interfaith community.