

**Oral History Interview  
Sandy Spector Goldberg  
WH026**

(written transcript and digital audio)

On January 16, 2009, Sandy Spector Goldberg was interviewed at the Main Library in Woodbridge Township at 10:00 A.M. by Brenda Velasco.

*Brenda Velasco:* We're going to be talking about congregation Adath Israel which was a conservative Jewish synagogue in Woodbridge on Amboy Avenue at one time.

***1. Identify individual-name, section, date of birth.***

My name is, formally, Sandra Goldberg.

*Brenda Velasco:* What was your maiden name, I want that?

*Sandy Goldberg:* Spector.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay.

*Sandy Goldberg:* I'm presently living in Iselin, New Jersey.

*Brenda Velasco:* I also want to know your date of birth.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Oh, April 2, 1936.

*Brenda Velasco:* Alright, so you saw the changes in Woodbridge?

*Sandy Goldberg:* Absolutely.

***2. How long have you lived in Woodbridge?***

Let's see, I would say 37 years.

*Brenda Velasco:* About 37 years?

*Sandy Goldberg:* Yes.

***3. When did you or your family move to Woodbridge?***

December, 1956.

*Brenda Velasco:* Why did you move to Woodbridge, because you originally didn't grow up here?

*Sandy Goldberg:* No.

*Brenda Velasco:* Where were you born?

*Sandy Goldberg:* I was born in Newark, New Jersey. At the age of 15, my family moved to Perth Amboy. My father had a business there and the commute was getting too hard for him so we moved.

*Brenda Velasco:* What type of business did he have?

*Sandy Goldberg:* My father had a butcher business which was located in the farmer's market on Elm Street in Perth Amboy.

*Brenda Velasco:* Alright, now, Perth Amboy had a large Jewish population at that time.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Yes, it did.

*Brenda Velasco:* And what shul did you belong to in Perth Amboy?

*Sandy Goldberg:* My family belonged to Beth Mordecai, which was located on High Street in Perth Amboy.

*Brenda Velasco:* That's one of the older congregations in Middlesex County.

*Sandy Goldberg:* I think they celebrated 110 anniversaries, something like that, recently. (2007)

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, so eventually did you move to Woodbridge after you were married?

*Sandy Goldberg:* Yes, when we got married, which was December, 1956, we took an apartment at Woodbridge Village on South Park Drive.

*Brenda Velasco:* And it's still there.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Yes, and then we moved to Martool Drive and stayed there for a few years and then moved to Clayton Court in Woodbridge. So we kind of did a zigzag.

*Brenda Velasco:* Alright, so you were still close enough though to Perth Amboy to continue with Beth Mordecai.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Well, I joined Adath Israel in 1957, my husband and I, I should say.

**4. What changes have occurred over the years in the area you lived?  
-houses of worship?**

**a) Shuls b) Location c) Dates d) Rabbis e) Famous Cantors f) Congregants**

*Brenda Velasco:* We're going to go into the history of Adath Israel. You weren't there from the beginning because you're too young for that.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Oh, thank you.

*Brenda Velasco:* It makes you feel good though, right, but when was the original temple founded, Adath Israel?

*Sandy Goldberg:* 1913. A small group of Jewish families founded it and it incorporated, actually, in 1913 when they had enough people for a minyan which is 10 people to be counted for prayer.

*Brenda Velasco:* Which meant 10 men at that time because they were Orthodox, yes?

*Sandy Goldberg:* 10 men at that time.

*Brenda Velasco:* Where was it originally located because Amboy Avenue wasn't its first location?

*Sandy Goldberg:* No, they met originally for the High Holidays at the Masonic Hall and that was until 1915. Then they went to Main Street in Woodbridge and they meet at Morris Chopper's store in the loft.

*Brenda Velasco:* But before we go on, the Masonic Hall is still here.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Yes, it is.

*Brenda Velasco:* That's on Green Street.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Right in Woodbridge.

*Brenda Velasco:* Not too far from the Amboy Avenue location; and then Main Street, Morris Chopper's loft, which, that was a department store?

*Sandy Goldberg:* I believe so.

*Brenda Velasco:* Alright, and then what happened?

*Sandy Goldberg:* Then in 1923, a synagogue was constructed on School Street in Woodbridge. In 1938, they adopted a written constitution and by-laws. A Hebrew school was organized in 1939.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, so finally the Hebrew school came about.

*Sandy Goldberg:* In 1939.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay.

*Sandy Goldberg:* In 1945, they hired the first full time rabbi.

*Brenda Velasco:* During this time was this the only synagogue in Woodbridge?

*Sandy Goldberg:* To the best of my knowledge, yes. Perth Amboy had probably three or four.

*Brenda Velasco:* I recall from my tour of Perth Amboy that Perth Amboy had three or four.

*Sandy Goldberg:* And a community center.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, but their Jewish population goes way back.....

*Sandy Goldberg:* Yes.

*Brenda Velasco:* From Middlesex County. Do you recall who that first full time rabbi was?

*Sandy Goldberg:* The United Synagogue of America which is the parent organization of conservative synagogues.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, so it was in the 1940s that they became an affiliate of.....

*Sandy Goldberg:* Right.

*Brenda Velasco:* The United Synagogue.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Of America, yes.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, and do you recall the name of the first rabbi?

*Sandy Goldberg:* Rabbi Samuel Neuberger, who served the congregation until 1968.

*Brenda Velasco:* That's a long time: that's 20 years.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Yes.

*Brenda Velasco:* So, he witnessed it grow?

*Sandy Goldberg:* Yes, it was a very flourishing congregation. I don't recall the amount of families at that time. I would say probably 300 or 350.

*Brenda Velasco:* Now why did they move from School Street to Amboy Avenue?

*Sandy Goldberg:* The congregation was growing, they needed a bigger facility and that was the reason.

*Brenda Velasco:* How were you able to get this land for Adath Israel?

*Sandy Goldberg:* Well, we're very fortunate. A gentleman by the name of Abraham Neiss donated the land on which the congregation was built.

*Brenda Velasco:* He just donated the land then.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Yes.

*Brenda Velasco:* And what was his business?

*Sandy Goldberg:* He was in the concrete business, I believe.

*Brenda Velasco:* Ah, okay. So he was a contractor of the building?

*Sandy Goldberg:* Yes, he was. He saw the need for this, you know, synagogue, and he very generously donated the land.

*Brenda Velasco:* He sure was generous. Okay, then do you recall when it was first opened, the synagogue, because we have Rabbi Neuberger coming in, he was hired in 1945?

*Sandy Goldberg:* '46.

*Brenda Velasco:* '46, oops, sorry.

*Sandy Goldberg:* I'm going by Morty and his son.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, when was the synagogue ready?

*Sandy Goldberg:* I would say 1948.

*Brenda Velasco:* 1948, okay. It was dedicated.....

*Sandy Goldberg:* In June, I believe.

*Brenda Velasco:* In June, 1948?

*Sandy Goldberg:* I think that said June 20<sup>th</sup>, I think.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, but it was in 1948, in the summer, which was good weather.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Yes, right.

*Brenda Velasco:* You still were in Perth Amboy at the time, 1948?

*Sandy Goldberg:* Yes, no, no, actually I was in Newark. I came to Perth Amboy in 1950.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, okay. Alright, alright, though, your father had the business in Perth Amboy.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Yes, I came to Perth Amboy in December of 1950.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, we mentioned that Rabbi Neuberger was here for a good 20 years. Could you describe the facility, the new facility?

*Sandy Goldberg:* The new facility was a three story building and it had a chapel which probably seated maybe 150 to 200 people and then it opened up into a large auditorium. So for the High Holy Days, where you got more people coming, they would open up these folding doors; and at one time the seats, it was a big auditorium..... it was filled to the brim, including the stage, there were seats up on the stage....

*Brenda Velasco:* Wow!

*Sandy Goldberg:* For the overflow.

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes, this was for the High Holy Days.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Right.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Upstairs were the Hebrew school classrooms and I believe there were four, maybe four, rooms up there and on the main floor we had the synagogue, the hall, the rabbi's study and there was a room, which was called the Board Room. In later years it was dedicated to Charles Huttner; it was called *Charles Huttner Room*. Charles Huttner was a young man who died prematurely and was the son of Cyril and Bea Huttner, the early founders of Adath Israel.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay and we have a picture of Cyril Huttner as one of the founders with the dedication. Alright, so this room was dedicated in the memory of Charles Huttner.

*Sandy Goldberg:* I don't remember the year but it was a long time.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, now you mentioned that it had three floors.

*Sandy Goldberg:* And the basement was a large room which was used for parties, for different events. There was another smaller room off that which was like a teen lounge where the kids would congregate, you know.

*Brenda Velasco:* So this became a youth center as well?

*Sandy Goldberg:* Yes, it was actually called the Woodbridge Jewish Community Center at one time. It had like two names.

*Brenda Velasco:* And the other name being?

*Sandy Goldberg:* Congregation Adath Israel.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, and what type of parties would you host there?

*Sandy Goldberg:* Bar mitzvah parties, bat mitzvah parties. I mean I had my own daughter's bat mitzvah party there in 1972; and in 1976 my son had his bar mitzvah there.

*Brenda Velasco:* Alright, and were weddings there?

*Sandy Goldberg:* There were weddings and anniversary parties. In fact, in 1987, my first grandchild had his bris there.

*Brenda Velasco:* Wow!

*Sandy Goldberg:* Yes, yes.

*Brenda Velasco:* Alright, so this was a very busy....

*Sandy Goldberg:* Vibrant, yes, very vibrant busy congregation.

*Brenda Velasco:* And where was the cooking done?

*Sandy Goldberg:* Oh, I forgot.

*Brenda Velasco:* How could you forget cooking, this is the center!

*Sandy Goldberg:* There was a kitchen there but in the 1980s, late '70s or '80s, there was an addition put on the existing building and at that time the front entrance, which used to have these steps leading up to the building, was all enclosed and a lobby was made there and a beautiful state of the art kitchen was installed at that time.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, that's the center of any party.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Yes, yes, state of the art.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Oh, and there was another kitchen downstairs and there was a dumbwaiter that would go up to the kitchen, you know, so if there was an overflow, that's how busy it was. They would use the dumbwaiter and send stuff upstairs and downstairs.

*Brenda Velasco:* Wow, what a thriving shul.

*Sandy Goldberg:* It certainly was.

*Brenda Velasco:* I wanted to find out about the interior.

*Sandy Goldberg:* I think I covered just about everything. Let me just review my notes. Downstairs was the auditorium, there was the kitchen, the youth lounge that was in the basement, and actually the room downstairs which was eventually donated to the Hutt's, Stuart and Irene Hutt and their family, you know, who were very generous contributors to the congregation.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay and I think Stu Hutt is still in Woodbridge right now.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Yes he is; the family is still in Woodbridge.

*Brenda Velasco:* Were there other rabbis who came as well?

*Sandy Goldberg:* After Rabbi Neuberger retired, we had a rabbi by the name of Sholom Stern who was there for maybe two or three years. After Rabbi Stern, we had Rabbi Gerald Solomon who also was there for maybe three or four years. Then Rabbi Milton Kula, who had been a principal in a Hebrew school and a teacher, was ordained as a rabbi; and then he became the rabbi until the synagogue closed in May of 2006.

*Brenda Velasco:* 2006 is when it closed?

*Sandy Goldberg:* Right.

*Brenda Velasco:* When was Rabbi Kula ordained?

*Sandy Goldberg:* All I know, he bar mitzvahed my son, so Rabbi Kula was there in 1976. He was there before that as a, you know, a Hebrew school principal/teacher, so I would imagine he was ordained in the early '70s.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, and then it closed in May, 2006 and where did the congregants....

*Sandy Goldberg:* It was a congregation decision to merge with Neve Shalom, which is located in Metuchen, New Jersey.

*Brenda Velasco:* And that's Rabbi Zelitzer?

*Sandy Goldberg:* Rabbi Zelitzer.

*Brenda Velasco:* How did you go about making that decision? Did you vote?

*Sandy Goldberg:* Prior to the decision to close the building, there were many anguishing moments and many avenues explored to try to keep the congregation going. Unfortunately, due to demographics, due to finances and the age of the congregation, it just became fiscally impossible to continue. Do you want to know about the merger now?

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes, but you know, because some of us are non-Jews... how do you go about making a decision? Does the rabbi say it? Do the people.....

*Sandy Goldberg:* Well, after exhausting different avenues there were some split feelings on this decision. So, prior to the negotiations with Neve Shalom, we had visited other synagogues in the area. We had explored the idea of renting space to a yeshiva there. We even thought of a nursery school there. I mean we went through the gamut and then finally after negotiations with Neve Shalom we had a meeting at which time a vote for the merger was taken. I believe that was probably February or March prior to the closing.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay.

*Sandy Goldberg:* A difficult decision.

*Brenda Velasco:* And painful.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Very painful.

*Brenda Velasco:* You have so many good memories.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Many, many people had a lot of wonderful history. There were some who were realistic and realized we didn't have a choice and unfortunately there were some people who were unhappy with the decision. I think we were all unhappy but for different reasons.

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes, because this was a vital Jewish center for so many years.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Yes, I mean I always said, even when things were lean, I will stay until the doors close, which is what I did.

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes, I know you don't live in Woodbridge Proper anymore you moved to....

*Sandy Goldberg:* I live in Iselin. We lived in Edison for 15 years in a townhouse.

*Brenda Velasco:* Oh!

*Sandy Goldberg:* Oh, and by the way, I was the first woman president, I forgot about that.

*Brenda Velasco:* Oh, okay. Well, that will come in with Question 7 (Q.5), okay.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Okay, alright, okay.

*Brenda Velasco:* So we're going to hold off on that. Just looking at the shul again, how the decision was made. It was through lengthy discussions.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Very lengthy.

*Brenda Velasco:* And then visiting other congregations in the area you had negotiations with Neve Shalom.

*Sandy Goldberg:* We decided Neve Shalom was our best prospect because it is a very vibrant congregation. In conservative congregations, there are what we call egalitarian and non egalitarian congregations. The meaning of that means in egalitarian congregations women are counted in all rituals as prayer and various other things.

*Brenda Velasco:* They're counted in minyans.

*Sandy Goldberg:* They're counted in minyans and so most conservative congregations, a good percentage of them now, are egalitarian today, but that was not always the case. You know, as far as proximity, it wasn't too far, you know, because there weren't that many people living in Woodbridge Proper anyhow anymore. So geographically it was a good choice and those of us that decided to go there I think, you know, have felt they made the right decision.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay.

*Sandy Goldberg:* You know, I mean, they got the money. I don't know if you want to talk about that part.

*Brenda Velasco:* Well, that's part of the negotiations.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Yes, Neve Shalom received the assets of the sale of Congregation Adath Israel and in turn we negotiated an agreement for our members for reduced membership for ten years.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Plus endowments.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, and that concludes the life of Adath Israel, but we're going to go back a little bit more. Who were some of the cantors?

*Sandy Goldberg:* Actually, Rabbi Neuberger served as both.

*Brenda Velasco:* Wow!

*Sandy Goldberg:* He was a cantor and the rabbi and after he left, we started hiring cantors just for the High Holy Days. I sat in on many of those auditions and there were people who just would come for the High Holy Days and we had a number of cantors who were hired.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, so no one specific person.

*Sandy Goldberg:* No, nobody specifically, no.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay.

##### ***5. What services did they provide for your family?***

*Brenda Velasco:* Because you had different organizations.

*Sandy Goldberg:* The synagogue was more than just a synagogue. It was really a community center. When my husband and I first got married we joined a group called, something like, The Young Married Couples Group and we still have several of those friends to this day: 50 something years later. In the auditorium there was a basketball hoop there.

*Brenda Velasco:* Very important for children.

*Sandy Goldberg:* So for the kids it was great because they could shoot basketball and it was an ongoing problem that the floor always needed work there but somehow it never got done and they had U.S.Y., which is the youth group. KADIMA is also a youth group, that's for the younger children. So, you know like, the kids would go there for, you know, they would have parties; they would have all kinds of things going on. Hadassah met there, the women's organization, I think at one time B'nai B'rith, there were other Jewish organizations that used the facility for meeting purposes.

*Brenda Velasco:* Alright, now you mentioned that you were the first president of.....

*Sandy Goldberg:* First woman president.

*Brenda Velasco:* Oh, first.....

*Sandy Goldberg:* I mean, in a non egalitarian, that was a biggie at that time.

*Brenda Velasco:* And what was the organization?

*Sandy Goldberg:* For the temple, the congregation.

*Brenda Velasco:* The temple?

*Sandy Goldberg:* Yes, and the sisterhood. I had done the sisterhood prior to that. Oh, and we had a sisterhood, a woman's group, I'm sorry.

*Brenda Velasco:* You can't leave out anything.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Actually, we had a very flourishing sisterhood.

*Brenda Velasco:* About how many members did you have?

*Sandy Goldberg:* We must have had about three hundred and some families.... The sisterhood's function is to, the women met and part of their thing was to raise money for the congregation and they would make donations to, you know, day things, youth programs and it was very, very busy. It was to, really, benefit the congregation, be like a helping hand.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay.

*Sandy Goldberg:* They also had a men's club, it's all coming back to me now. The men's club I can't tell you as much about.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, what was the purpose of the men's club then?

*Sandy Goldberg:* The men's club was sort of like the sisterhood. The men would also have social events, fundraisers, you know, it was a social group.

*Brenda Velasco:* Alright, did they advise the rabbi at all?

*Sandy Goldberg:* The men's club and the sisterhood's presidents had a seat on the Board of Directors of the congregation, so their input was very important.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay and you said you were part of the temple's Board of Directors?

*Sandy Goldberg:* Right.

*Brenda Velasco:* You were the first?

*Sandy Goldberg:* Yes, I was on the Board of Directors until it closed.

*Brenda Velasco:* How many years was that?

*Sandy Goldberg:* I figure, well from late 1970s until.....

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay to 2006.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Yes, a lot of years.

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes, that about 30 years, 30 years or so: 25 or 30.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Yes, and the sisterhood, I was president of that for a couple of years. That was usually a two year term. After me, there were two other women presidents, one being Jewell Hirschorn. Do you know Jewell?

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes, I know Jewell.

*Sandy Goldberg:* I can't tell you the years off hand and Estelle Marcus was the president when the congregation closed. Let's see what else, oh, as far as services, most importantly, there was a Hebrew school.

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes.

*Sandy Goldberg:* So our children had a religious upbringing and it was a very flourishing thing. At one time I would say there were probably 200 children in the school: 250, you know. It was a bustling place and then, as the congregation aged, the Hebrew school got smaller and so, I would say, in the late '70s Beth Shalom, Beth Mordecai and Adath Israel formed a regional Hebrew school.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, now when you say Beth Shalom.....

*Sandy Goldberg:* In Iselin, I'm sorry, Beth Shalom which was located in Iselin, New Jersey and Beth Mordecai, which was located in Perth Amboy.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay.

*Sandy Goldberg:* We formed a regional Hebrew school.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay and when did this meet for the children? Was it on Sundays?

*Sandy Goldberg:* No, the religious school met like three days a week.

*Brenda Velasco:* Three days a week after public school?

*Sandy Goldberg:* After public school they would meet for their religious education and children generally started at the age of 8, you know, it was a five year program until they reached the bar or bat mitzvah age. What happened with the regional school it was incorporated and the congregation would pay a certain per capita amount for each child that they had in the school. So we would alternate, sometimes, the religious classes. Most of the religious classes were in Woodbridge because we had the best facilities. Then in the early '80s when Beth Shalom merged with congregation Adath Israel, so you know it was, Beth Mordecai and Adath Israel, children in the religious school.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay.

*Sandy Goldberg:* That religious school functioned, at least, 20 to 25 years that we operated that and on different festivals and holidays they would alternate between the different synagogues so that .....

*Brenda Velasco:* Like Purim, we're talking about Shavuot?

*Sandy Goldberg:* Yes, Purim, Shavuot, Chanukah, Passover. They would alternate the celebrations in a different congregation so that these children would still maintain the identity of their individual congregation. As far as services, I mean, it was a great place. You know, our friends were there, the sisterhoods would have luncheons there. You know, they had a theatre group which was the Adath Israel Players. You can find information on that on the Adath Israel blog. We'd put on shows. I mean, there was so much going on there. That was way before the community center was built on Oak Tree Road so this was kind of the place.

*Brenda Velasco:* Oh, okay.

*Sandy Goldberg:* I mean, there was no community center on Oak Tree Road at that time.

*Brenda Velasco:* No, no that's fairly recent.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Yes, yes.

*Brenda Velasco:* In the 1990s or late 1980s.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Yes, something like that.

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes, yes.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Well, that's another story. You know, when the Y burnt down in Perth Amboy, I don't know if you're interested in that.

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes.

*Sandy Goldberg:* There was a YMHA in Perth Amboy.

*Brenda Velasco:* That's because it had four synagogues.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Yes, on Madison Avenue in Perth Amboy. Unfortunately they had a fire a number of years ago. So Edison and the outer lying areas started to grow, you know, and people were moving out of the area... So there was a lot of controversy about locating a community center up in Edison, you know, which was like undeveloped, shall we say, at the time. So they constructed a small building in Perth Amboy and then they built the facility on Oak Tree Road in Edison.

*Brenda Velasco:* Which now has?

*Sandy Goldberg:* Merged with the YMCA which is a joint venture with the Jewish Community Center of Edison, I guess they call it and the YMCA. The one in Perth Amboy was, maybe in the last ten years I would say, was sold. But there have been a small group of people still meeting there.

*Brenda Velasco:* Because Perth Amboy was very vibrant.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Was the hub.

*Brenda Velasco:* That was the hub.

*Sandy Goldberg:* It was, it was.

*Brenda Velasco:* That was the hub not only for Jewish people but it was also the hub in this area for shopping.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Yes, actually I was in Perth Amboy on Wednesday and I was surprised to see, on Madison, a lot of new little stores being built.

*Brenda Velasco:* Mom and pop shops?

*Sandy Goldberg:* Yes, yes.

*Brenda Velasco:* You grew up in Perth Amboy too.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Well sort of, high school days, yes.

*Brenda Velasco:* Right, right, right. Can you think of any other services? I think you did a good job covering that; I think you did.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Well, I mean, it was important to have a rabbi too for all these life cycle events.

*Brenda Velasco:* Yes, those are your milestones in your life.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Yes, well, life styles meaning funerals, weddings, births, bris, everything.

*Brenda Velasco:* It's part of life, it's part of life.

*Sandy Goldberg:* The life cycles

*Brenda Velasco:* The life cycles.

*Sandy Goldberg:* I personally will always be an affiliated Jewish person, you know, because I feel it's important to support the community.

*Brenda Velasco:* And you had a rabbi there all the time.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Right, exactly.

#### **6. What did you like about living in your section? Woodbridge?**

I loved living in Woodbridge in the park section, as it's called, in Woodbridge Proper. It was great, I mean, the kids could walk to the synagogue and to the Hebrew school. When they were in elementary school they would walk through the parking lot and they would be at the, you know, elementary school and the synagogue which were next to each other. The Ross Street School, the playground of the school and the parking lot of the synagogue were adjacent to each other.

*Brenda Velasco:* Right, so when they went to Hebrew school this was on their way home.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Exactly.

*Brenda Velasco:* It wasn't out of their way and you didn't have to get in the car.

*Sandy Goldberg:* We didn't have busing in those days. So, it was great and then living in the park, you know, we had the pond there and the kids would go ice skating. You know, when they got a little older they could walk into town. There was a real neighborhood, you know, where they had friends to play with. We still have, three or four couples, my husband and I, over 50 years that we're still good friends from those days.

*Brenda Velasco:* So you have happy memories.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Yes, I do. Yes, I do.

*Brenda Velasco:* And you haven't moved too far.

*Sandy Goldberg:* No.

*Brenda Velasco:* You're in Iselin.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Iselin, yes.

*Brenda Velasco:* So you still must like Woodbridge.

#### **7. What do you like about Woodbridge today?**

I like Woodbridge and it's an excellent location and as I said to people, I'm not going to Exit 8A.

*Brenda Velasco:* In Monroe.

*Sandy Goldberg:* That's it, yes. No, it's a wonderful location and my husband and I now live in Woodbridge Hills, which is an over 55 community and it's very pleasant living there, you know. No house to worry about, something leaks somebody fixes it; it's great and you can't beat the location.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay, you're the second person I've interviewed from there.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Oh, really.

*Brenda Velasco:* And she loves it too. This is Marge Lomonico. She's the mother of Judy Kazimir. She lived on Fulton Street and moved around and is back in Woodbridge and loves it, too.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Its fine, you know. You reach a point in life where you, you know, don't need much. There's a little clubhouse there. Last night I played mah-jongg and they show movies.

*Brenda Velasco:* There are activities there.

*Sandy Goldberg:* There are.

*Brenda Velasco:* Not only somebody to take care of the leaks and shovel.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Yes. No there are, if people wish to participate, it's there. I would say most people don't but it's there if you want it.

*Brenda Velasco:* It's their choice.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Exactly.

*Brenda Velasco:* It's their choice.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Exactly, so for us it's fine.

### ***8. Do you have family members still living in Woodbridge today?***

No.

*Brenda Velasco:* No family members. Where did your children move?

*Sandy Goldberg:* My daughter lives in Westfield. She's married 23 years and actually my son works in Woodbridge.

*Brenda Velasco:* Oh!

*Sandy Goldberg:* He works for AXA and he's in the Wilentz Building on Woodbridge Center Drive, but he lives in Tinton Falls.... he works in Woodbridge.

*Brenda Velasco:* Okay.

*Sandy Goldberg:* And he still has his Woodbridge friends, he's still connected. Its' funny my daughter had one good friend that she kept in touch with, that was from Woodbridge, and they had lost touch. Just last night she had gone on *Facebook* and they found each other.

*Brenda Velasco:* Wow!

*Sandy Goldberg:* So they went and had dinner together.

*Brenda Velasco:* How nice.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Yes, she's had a tough time, this gal, you know, her friend, so they reconnected last night. So I haven't had a chance to talk to her since.

*Brenda Velasco:* Well, you're going to have to follow up with a phone call.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Yes, my son still goes to the Knights of Columbus with his friends. Yes, he has a lot of friends still living in Woodbridge that he's in touch with.

*Brenda Velasco:* Knights of Columbus on Amboy Avenue?

*Sandy Goldberg:* Yes.

*Brenda Velasco:* Not far away from where the shul was.

*Sandy Goldberg:* He doesn't lose a friend. My daughter-in-law, the two of them do not lose a friend.

*Brenda Velasco:* That's good, that's good and everybody has happy memories of Woodbridge then.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Yes, it changes, yes.

*Brenda Velasco:* Excellent.

*Sandy Goldberg:* So, I don't know what else.

*Brenda Velasco:* I think we've covered everything.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Okay, great, I enjoyed doing it.

*Brenda Velasco:* I thank you so much for giving me your time.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Yes, listen, yes, it made me feel older but...

*Brenda Velasco:* No, no, no. You reminisced and you had some good memories.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Yes, I do.

*Brenda Velasco:* But, thank you again, Sandy Goldberg.

*Sandy Goldberg:* Yes, thank you, it was my pleasure.

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A few days later, Sandy Goldberg recalled some other facts which are included below.

*I remembered that my cousins, Harvey and Anita Spector had a kosher meat market in Woodbridge from 1955-1965. It was located on Rahway Avenue near Green Street in that group of stores. There was another butcher named Jack Pank for a few years. After he went out of business, my cousins were the only kosher meat market in Woodbridge. My cousins now reside in Florida. They left Woodbridge in 1973.*