



TREASURER'S MESSAGE

How often are we exposed to death, funerals, sadness and annual memorials? How often are we called to the gravesite of those who loved us dearly and who we loved so much? When do we commit the time and thought to visit and extend our love to those sanctified at the same graves we watched over at a burial? When do we think of death and our own parting, and do we care if those who survive us will care and tend to our own graves. Will

anyone? Do we believe that our own lives will continue for an eternity, and that we are invincible?

Our Aunt Ruth always said "Life is for the living." She meant that we continue to share responsibilities to each other. After all if we don't, who will?

I am privileged to have found a letter written by our Grandmother, Bertha Jacobson, who wrote to her children six years before her own death. Her words are a prolific statement to life. They could have been written by any or all of our parents and the message contained is a wish for continued love and care and an unending bond to our families.

Dear loved ones,

The inevitable must happen, that is the order of the universe. We were assigned to this life only so long. Be prepared and accept it as we all must do. I fervently hope you will be sensible and not take it hard. Each of you has your own lives to live and obligations to your dear families. You must not neglect them.

I hope with the grace of G-d, you will always be united and happy with your dear ones.

I also hope it will be unity between your brothers and sisters, and be ready at all times to extend a helping hand to one another. I also hope, with all my heart, you will be big enough not to take offense. I am fully confident that you will do just that.

I pray G-d should give all of you strength and health and presence of mind till the end of time.

*God bless you all,
Mother 1955*

Thus the Friends' appreciation for our partnership with you, instilling the ability to provide care and maintenance for our loved ones' place of rest. We need to ask you once again to contribute from your heart, after all, "Life Is For The Living."

Barry Rosengarten

CEMETERY TOURS

The feedback on our Cemetery Tours continues to be enthusiastic, enabling many of you to locate and visit your family graves with your cousins and friends. Because most of you live at a considerable distance from Perth Amboy -- representing the "Perth Amboy Diaspora" --- we have tried to schedule these tours at times when many of you will be visiting the area for other reasons --- such as high school reunions, etc. We have also offered private tours, whenever possible, for those traveling to the area for other personal reasons.

We plan to continue these tours throughout 2010 and will try to plan our schedule at times that will be convenient for you. Please notify us --- as far in advance as possible --- of your reunion and travel plans, so that we can select the best tour dates for you.

Our final 2009 Cemetery Tour will take place on Sunday, October 11 --- intended to coincide with the reunions of the Perth Amboy High School Classes of 1954 and 1959.

At its recent 45th Reunion, members of the PAHS Class of 1964 visited several cemeteries in addition to the Hebrew Fraternity and Congregation Shaarey Tefilah Cemeteries, and we helped several classmates locate their grandparents' graves. We are always happy to visit other cemeteries too, especially in an effort to help you locate your relatives' graves. If you can't visit in person, we will be glad to visit for you and will place stones on the graves too. Please contact us for more information through our Web site at www.friendsofjewishcemeteries.org, by phone at 856-222-1418, or by e-mail to friends@friendsofjewishcemeteries.org.

Our 2010 Cemetery Tour schedule will be on our Web site by December 31, 2009, along with other news updates. We will also send the 2010 schedule to all those for whom we have e-mail addresses. If you aren't receiving our e-mail updates and would like to be on our distribution list, please send your e-mail address to us at friends@friendsofjewishcemeteries.org.



Left - Hebrew Fraternity Cemetery in Hopelawn, NJ
Right - Congregation Shaarey Tefilah Cemetery in Perth Amboy, NJ

JEWISH COMMUNITY HISTORY BOOK UPDATE

As most of you already know, Friends of Perth Amboy Jewish History – a group of your friends, neighbors, and maybe even relatives -- is publishing a book about the history of the Perth Amboy Jewish Community, and the project is well underway. Many of you have already sent stories and photos, and many families have come together to sponsor Family Tribute Pages as a special way to honor their ancestors. Because the original deadlines for submission of material presented an obstacle to many families, the book's organizers have extended the deadlines for submission of both Family Tribute Pages and Quarter-Page Family Commemorations. If you need more time --- or if you need assistance in contacting and organizing your family --- or if you need help with the preparation of your family history, be sure to let the organizers know by contacting Marilyn Millet Goldberg at marilynmga@aol.com or at 609-655-2351.

CEMETERY REGISTRY

In response to the wonderful suggestions of several genealogists, we have undertaken the daunting but very important task of creating a registry of all those interred at our cemeteries. We are very grateful to Carol Roberts, our project coordinator, and to her dedicated team of volunteers --- Marcia Weinstein Stern, Richard Stern, Miriam Katz Daitz Vogel, Norma Jacobson Messing, and Mona Shangold --- who have spent many hours at our cemeteries --- recording monument inscription data and photographing the monuments. The information has already helped many of you locate the graves of your ancestors, and upon completion this project promises to help genealogists worldwide in locating graves and tracing ancestry. We plan to post this information on our own Web site as well as on the JewishGen Web site as part of the Jewish Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR) project.

We are seeking volunteers who can contribute time and/or financial support for this huge undertaking -- one of many projects our organization has initiated.



Mark Chazin, Lillian Faffer



Martin Clawans, Fran Clawans Anderson, Shep Sewitch



Daniel Chazin, Bert Faffer James

INTERNATIONAL JEWISH GENEALOGY CONFERENCE

Representatives of our organization attended the recent 29th IAJS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Philadelphia August 2-7, 2009, where we had a chance to discuss both genealogy and cemetery issues with others who share our concerns. We know that many of you share our interest in both and recognize that cemeteries represent a crucial link to our ancestry. Several attendees reminded us of the sad fate of many cemeteries that lacked a group of proactive and dedicated supporters. We hope we can count on your continued support, so that our cemeteries can remain beautiful and dignified forever and so that they can provide the link future generations will need to connect with their pasts.

THANKING OUR DONORS

The following list includes all donations received and processed between February 1, 2009 and September 12, 2009. All donations received prior to February 1, 2009 were listed in previous issues of THE ETERNAL VINE. All donations received after September 12, 2009 will be listed in the next issue of THE ETERNAL VINE. We gratefully acknowledge generous donations from the following individuals:

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Marilyn Rosenberg Roth – *in memory of Bertha and Joseph Rosenberg; in memory of brother Bernie Rosenberg on his 1st Yahrzeit*
Benjamin Safirstein – *in memory of the Plavin and Safirstein Families*
Hannah Miller Sarnoff – *in memory of the Miller and Levinson Families*
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Mona Shangold – *in memory of Rabbi Aaron Chomsky; in memory of Sara Ann Bunin Joselson*
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Lydia Singer – *in honor of Mona Shangold's and Kenny Mirkin's birthdays; in memory of Rabbi Aaron Chomsky; in memory of Sara Ann Bunin Joselson*
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Murray Toborowsky – *in memory of the Toborowsky and Sher Families*
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Beryl Toborowsky Wild – *in memory of the Toborowsky and Sher Families*
Matilda Witkin
Elaine Sacarny Zack – *in memory of sister Sarah Sacarny*
Joanne and Stanley Zimmerman

DONATIONS

Thanks very much for your continued support of our mission. We appreciate the difficulty and challenge of raising funds in today's economic climate, and we understand that honorable cemetery maintenance is competing with many other worthy causes for your generosity. We are appreciative that so many of you have continued to contribute as much as you can --- as often as you can.

We are particularly grateful to all who have given at our Honor Roll levels --- \$1,000 or more annually. All who donate at least \$1,000 during calendar year 2009 will be listed in our 2009 Annual Honor Roll, which will be published in our Spring 2010 newsletter.

Because we are a federally tax-exempt organization as determined by the IRS under Section 501(c)(13), all contributions are tax-deductible as provided by law --- and are mitzvot too!

**Friends for Preservation of
Middlesex County Jewish Cemeteries, Inc.**

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www.friendsofjewishcemeteries.org

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(left to right) Julius Meister, Bernice Bender, Marilyn Millet Goldberg, Charlie Bender, Joan Sher Meister, Barry Katz, Beryl Toborowsky Wild, Lillian Faffer, Shep Sewitch, Sandra Toborowsky Capolupo, Louis Sher, Amy Sussman Shearer, Rhoda Reitman Juskow, Sheldon Chouse

(left to right) Norma Jacobson Messing, Rebecca Parnes Singer, Bert Faffer James, Sol James, Daniel Chazin



Amy Sussman Shearer, Joan Sher Meister



Rebecca Parnes Singer

**FLORIDA REUNION
BREAKFAST -
FEBRUARY 2010**

Perth Amboy Breakfasts in Boca! In February 2009 we began a new tradition intended to provide an opportunity for socializing and reminiscing with others who grew up in Perth Amboy and are now in South Florida (either year-round or during the winter). We intend to do this again in February 2010 and are providing more advance notice so that more of you will be able to attend. **If you plan to be in South Florida during the weekend of February 6-7, 2010, please let us know (through our Web site, by phone, or by e-mail), so that we can invite you and send you the details.**