



Hebrew Fraternity Cemetery in Hopelawn, NJ



Congregation Shaarey Tefiloh Cemetery in Perth Amboy, NJ

WHAT THE COMMUNITY IS SAYING...

"When you contacted me last year about your project, I did not know that I had relatives buried in those cemeteries, and I did not know any of my father's cousins. Thanks to you, I have located the graves of two uncles, an aunt, and my grandparents. I have learned the names of my great-grandparents. And now, I have found a whole raft of distant cousins!!! And among them is the family of one of my son's closest friends!"

Marcia Weinstein Stern

We're delighted that so many of you have communicated your interest, enthusiasm, and support of our tours and of our restoration and maintenance efforts.

We'd love to share your comments in our newsletter and on our Web site, another way for you to reach out to the virtual community of people with Perth Amboy roots. You can send your comments (for publication) to us at friends@friendsofjewishcemeteries.org.



VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have enjoyed seeing many of you at our Cemetery Tours and hope you will return often. We plan to continue these tours and are glad we have enabled many of you to visit the graves of your ancestors and reminisce with old friends.

We are very grateful for your interest and support, as a result of which these cemeteries look very respectful and attractive. But while we are very proud of what your help has enabled us to accomplish in such a short time, we remain very concerned

about the long-range care of the cemeteries – long after all of us are gone. To succeed in our mission – **raising enough funds now to be able to pay for all future maintenance forever** – I am asking all of you to be even more generous than you have been in the past. I know you all share my concerns about the long-term future of the cemeteries, and I am confident we can count on you to be as generous as you can be. Many of us have witnessed what happens to cemeteries that have been forgotten. *Please, do not allow it to happen to ours.* Thanks very much for your support!

Shep Sewitch

GENEALOGY NETWORK

A number of you have contacted us for help in locating specific graves. Often we observed that several of you independently shared an interest in the same grave, suggesting that you were relatives who had not met each other. It has been very gratifying to help so many of you locate the graves of your ancestors and connect with family you had not met before.

Many of you, we have learned, have a strong interest in genealogy. Thus we have established our own network to help you communicate with others who share your interest in genealogy – some of whom may actually be your cousins! If you are interested in joining our organization's



new genealogy network, please contact us through our website at

www.friendsofjewishcemeteries.org,

by e-mail to

friends@friendsofjewishcemeteries.org,

or by phone to 856-222-1418.

FAMILY RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

Many of our supporters have a strong interest in tracing their family histories. Joan Sher Meister, another one of our active volunteers, has graciously agreed to provide assistance with family research to anyone who donates a minimum of \$1,000.00 to our organization.

Joan grew up in Perth Amboy and has many relatives interred at these cemeteries. She has traced her own family back to the 1700's and has connected with relatives from Perth Amboy and around the world. Although not a genealogist by profession, she has extensive knowledge of Jewish genealogical resources, experience with Eastern European Archives, and connections to Jewish genealogical organizations.

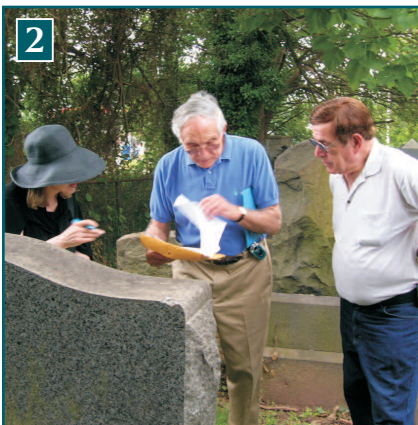
We are grateful for Joan's generous commitment to our mission and her willingness to act as family research facilitator. Please contact us for more information.

LANDSCAPING PROGRESS AND PLANS

If you have visited the cemeteries recently, we know you are as pleased as we are about their beautiful and respectful appearance. Our landscapers (D & S Landscaping) have cleaned, trimmed, and maintained our cemeteries throughout 2006 and 2007. With your continued support, we plan to be able to continue this maintenance in the future. Because we are a nonprofit organization, all charitable contributions must be made to our organization's general funds and used for general cemetery maintenance; no contributions may be made for work on any specific graves.

While most of you have expressed satisfaction and gratitude for the improvement you have seen at the Hebrew Fraternity Cemetery and the Congregation Shaarey Tefilah Cemetery, some of you have expressed disappointment at the neglect and overgrowth you have seen at other cemeteries, and some of you have asked us to get involved in the care of these cemeteries too. We share your concerns about the conditions of *all* cemeteries, and we are eager to help if we can.

However, we are able to provide maintenance only at cemeteries that have authorized us to do so. While we are interested in hearing about neglect at other cemeteries and are willing to entertain requests to help them, we require authorization from the cemetery's owner and financial support from the families of those interred there before we can initiate any action. Please contact us to discuss any such requests.



CEMETERY TOURS



Our Cemetery Tours have been very popular and helpful, with some of you returning multiple times. Please note the following schedule change for 2007.

Cemetery Tours will take place on
SEPTEMBER 2 and
OCTOBER 28
 (rescheduled from October 14)

All tours begin at 12:00 noon at the Hebrew Fraternity Cemetery entry gate on New Brunswick Avenue in Hopelawn. After a 1-hour tour of the Hebrew Fraternity Cemetery, we will drive to the Congregation Shaarey Tefilah Cemetery on Florida Grove Road and Bingle Street for a 1-hour tour of that cemetery. **WEAR VERY COMFORTABLE CLOTHES AND SHOES.** All tours will be followed by a visit to a local, casual restaurant.

Although all tours are free, advance registration is recommended.

Register through our Web Site at
www.friendsofjewishcemetaries.org
 by phone to 856-222-1418
 or by e-mail to
friends@friendsofjewishcemetaries.org

We will notify you of any weather-related cancellations. Check our Web site frequently for more information about the tours, including dates and times.



Is it time to review your will?

Please consider honoring your families with a bequest to Friends for Preservation of Middlesex County Jewish Cemeteries, Inc.

THANKING OUR DONORS

The following list includes all donations received and processed between February 16, 2007 and August 1, 2007. Please contact us if your name does not appear and you believe we should have received your donation during this time interval. Donations received prior to February 16, 2007 were listed in previous issues of THE ETERNAL VINE. Donations received after August 1, 2007 will be listed in the Spring 2008 issue.

We gratefully acknowledge generous donations from the following individuals, noting memorial gifts when specified and excluding anonymous gifts:

Abby and Robert Belafsky – *in memory of their family*
Charles and Bernice Bender – *in honor of their grandchildren*
Samuel and Lynn Bergner
Ron and Roni Berkowitz – *in memory of Morris & Rose Berkowitz;*
Lou & Sadye Goss; Ida Shechter
Russell Bey
Alan Braun
Seymour (Simon) Buchsbaum – *in memory of Dorothy Schenkman*
Buchsbaum and Min & Harry Schenkman
Joe and Sandra Toborowsky Capolupo – *in memory of the Toborowsky*
and Sher Families
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Martin Clawans and Fran Clawans Anderson – *in memory of Ida Shechter*
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Martha Copleman – *in memory of Sarah & Philip Levine*
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Joseph Fishkin – *in memory of Hyman and Bessie Fishkin, on their Yahrzeits*
Sheldon Freidenreich
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Florence Fried – *in memory of Larry Fried*
Shirley Fried – *in memory of Murray Fried*
Zalma and Bernard Gelber
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Belle, Al, and Minerva
Simon and Maria Kaufman
Rhena Chazin Kelsen – *in memory of Rabbi Pinchos J. Chazin, on his*
1st Yahrzeit
Jack Klein
Shirley Jacobson Laiks – *in memory of Sol and Ruth A. Jacobson*
Vicki Lemberg – *in memory of great-grandparents Eliezer & Mikla Isenberg*
and grandparents Leo & Etta Isenberg Jacobson
Cathy Levine-Cohen – *in memory of Benjamin & Matilda Moslovitz*
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Ruth, Irving, and Joan Sanders
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on her Yahrzeit
Fred Ockrim – *in memory of Max and Mary Benjamin and*
Annette Benjamin Goldstein
Sherry and Seymour Oliet
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Emily and Lou Rubinfield – *in memory of the Isenberg and Jacobson Families*
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Hannah Miller Sarnoff – *in memory of Sarah and Morris Miller*
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Leo Stess, on his Yahrzeit; in memory of Lakey Dekoff;
in memory of Roberta Stess Swerdlhoff
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Elaine Toborowsky Schneiderman – *in memory of Carl and*
Elizabeth Toborowsky
Iris Davidson Schwartz – *in memory of Hyman and Betty Davidson*
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Gary Shangold – *in memory of Harriet, Jack, Ida, Israel, Fanny,*
and Abraham Shangold and Gussie, Morris, and Meyer Ginzberg
Mona Shangold – *in memory of Harriet, Jack, Ida, Israel, Fanny,*
and Abraham Shangold and Gussie, Morris, and Meyer Ginzberg;
in memory of Harriet Shangold, on her Yahrzeit
Burton Sher
Harold Sher – *in memory of Mary and Charles Sher*
Mel Silverman – *in memory of Alton, Jeanne, Ethel, and William Silverman*
Lydia Singer – *in memory of Harriet Ginzberg Shangold, on her Yahrzeit;*
in memory of Ruth Singer; in honor of Kenny Mirkin's Harvard
graduation
Harriet Greenfader Spevack – *in honor of Judith Isenberg Greenfader*
Marcia Weinstein Stern – *in honor of her cousins, the descendants of*
Louis and Millie Baros Isenberg; in memory of Abe Weinstein and
Private Benjamin Weinstein
Richard and Judi Stess – *in memory of Robert and Eleanor Stess*
Bob Taber – *in memory of Charles and Ida Toborowsky*
Murray Toborowsky – *in memory of the Toborowsky and Sher Families*
Robert Toborowsky – *in memory of Carl and Elizabeth Toborowsky*
Arnold Weiss
Ida Berman Whitman – *in memory of the Berman Family*
Jack Wilentz – *in honor of Shep Sewitch*
Constance Hess Williams
Matilda Witkin – *in memory of Paul Witkin*
Joyce Yaffe and Ila Miller – *in memory of Lena Ginsberg*



ANNOUNCING OUR DONOR HONOR ROLL

To recognize those who have contributed at least \$1,000.00 since our inception in 2005, the Spring 2008 newsletter will publish our *First Honor Roll*. In addition to the First Honor Roll, all of our Spring newsletters will include an *Annual Honor Roll* for donors who have contributed at least \$1,000.00 during the previous calendar year. Of course we are grateful for donations at *all levels* – to mark Yahrzeits, memorials, honors – and will continue to print our entire donor list in each newsletter.

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

Box 306, Moorestown, NJ 08057

856-222-1418

www.friendsofjewishcemeteries.org

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1. Robert and Abby Belafsky
2. Joan Sher Meister, Burton Sher, Louis Sher
3. Burton Sher, Harold Sher
4. Susan Klegman Horowitz
5. Hannah Miller Sarnoff
6. *Standing:* Stephen Kass, Joan Kass, Harriet Greenfader Spevack, Emily Harris Rubinfeld, Carol Levine Roberts, Vicki Harris Lemberg, Marcia Weinstein Stern.
Seated: Nancy Isenberg Freifeld, Judy Isenberg Greenfader, Tara Freifeld, Ruth Jacobson Harris, Martha Copleman (front), Ollie Rosengart, Ralph Copleman.
7. Roy Doctofsky, Sheldon Weinstein, Miriam Katz Daitz Vogel.
8. Board members Norma Jacobson Messing, Bardin Levavy, Mona Shangold, Shep Sewitch, Gary Shangold, Barry Rosengarten
9. Miriam Katz Daitz Vogel, Marcia Weinstein Stern, Louis Sher, Sheldon Cheuse, Joan Sher Meister, Burton Sher
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11. Barbara Spector Eisner, Marilyn Hochheiser Sapiro, Robert Blau, Ronna Belafsky Blau, Leta Rubin Arad, Mark Belafsky

Design and Production: Wayne Inman and Atlantic Color Limited, Inc. / www.atlanticcolorlimited.com