



TREASURER'S MESSAGE

Like many of you, I did not grow up in Perth Amboy and, in fact, have never lived there. However, my Perth Amboy roots are deep and strong. I have many fond memories of my grandfather, Rev. Hirsch L. Chazin, who served as the cantor of Congregation Shaarey Tefiloh for over 50 years -- a distinction

that earned him a place in *The Guinness Book of World Records*. My family would spend the High Holidays in Perth Amboy, which enabled me -- along with my father, my Uncles Ted and Meyer, and my cousins -- to sing in the Shaarey Tefiloh choir and accompany my grandfather.

Unfortunately, the beautiful shul on Madison Avenue is no more, and the Perth Amboy Jewish community has dwindled to a handful of families. But the memories of a more vibrant Jewish community in Perth Amboy live on when one visits the Perth Amboy cemeteries and reads the inscriptions on the monuments.

In my recent visits to these cemeteries, I have been very impressed by how beautiful and dignified they look. We have all read about old cemeteries that no one cares for any more. Thankfully, because of the dedicated efforts of the leaders of the Friends for Preservation of Middlesex County Jewish Cemeteries, the Perth Amboy cemeteries are maintained in a dignified condition that honors the memory of those who are buried in these cemeteries. I was so impressed by the efforts of these outstanding individuals that I decided to add my own efforts to this cause.

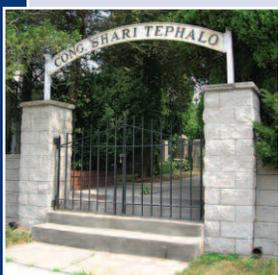
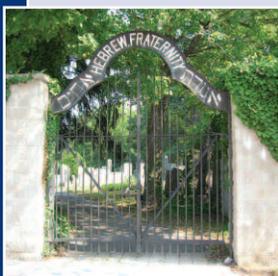
From my involvement, I have learned that the inscriptions on the monuments convey a wealth of fascinating and valuable information about our history and genealogy. I have also come to realize that people will appreciate the significance of our cemeteries even more after they have visited and observed them first-hand.

If you haven't visited these cemeteries recently, I encourage you to plan a visit soon. Let us know how we can help you explore your own roots. We hope you will visit with us, so that we can honor the memory of our ancestors together.

The cost of maintaining these cemeteries is quite significant, and we are dependent on your generous support to enable us to continue to provide for their upkeep in the future. Not only do we have to pay for routine landscaping, but we also incur extraordinary expenses to repair damage that results when trees or monuments fall down. Without your donations, we will be unable to continue our important work to preserve and maintain these cemeteries. I therefore urge you to continue to contribute generously to our organization.

We are grateful for your past support, and we hope we can count on your support in the future!

Daniel D. Chazin



Top - Hebrew Fraternity Cemetery in Hopelawn, NJ
Bottom - Congregation Shaarey Tefiloh Cemetery in Perth Amboy, NJ

CEMETERY TOURS

Our Cemetery Tours continue to provide a wonderful opportunity for us to visit our cemeteries together --- honoring the memories of our loved ones, helping many of you locate their graves, reuniting with distant relatives, and reminiscing with each other. Our final 2010 Cemetery Tour will take place at 12 noon on Sunday, October 17 --- intended to coincide with the 50th Reunion of the Perth Amboy High School Class of 1960. This tour will begin at the Hebrew Fraternity Cemetery entry gate on New Brunswick Avenue in Hopelawn. After visiting this cemetery, we will drive to the Congregation Shaarey Tefiloh Cemetery and the Congregation Beth Mordecai Cemetery on Florida Grove Road. We will follow this Cemetery Tour with an optional visit to a local restaurant. Please let us know in advance, if possible, if you plan to attend, especially if you want us to help you locate any specific graves.

We plan to continue these tours throughout 2011 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. 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 2011 Cemetery Tour schedule will be on our Web site by December 31, 2010, along with other news updates. We will also send the 2011 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.



Julius Meister, Joan Sher Meister, Benjamin Seligman, Sheldon Cheuse

UPDATING CEMETERY RECORDS

Congregation Shaarey Tefiloh is updating its cemetery records --- prompted both by our assistance in collecting data for the JewishGen JOWBR (Jewish Online Worldwide Burial Registry) and by inquiries from those seeking to purchase cemetery plots near their loved ones. Your assistance is needed for this project.

A number of vacant plots are currently listed as “reserved” for potential future use by family members. If you or anyone you know has reserved a plot at any cemetery owned by Shaarey Tefiloh, please let us know if you plan to use this plot --- or contact the synagogue directly at 732-826-2977 with this information. If you don’t plan to use it, the synagogue would like to sell it to someone else. If you plan to use it, the synagogue would like you to purchase it now. If you have a deed showing that you have already purchased it, please let Shaarey Tefiloh know whether you plan to use it. If not, the synagogue will be grateful to have you donate it back to the synagogue.

In addition, some family plots are surrounded by concrete borders that increase landscaping expenses and, in some cases, extend onto neighboring plots. If your family plot is surrounded by a border, Shaarey Tefiloh would like your family to remove the border, pay Shaarey Tefiloh to remove the border, or pay a surcharge for the added maintenance costs created by the border.

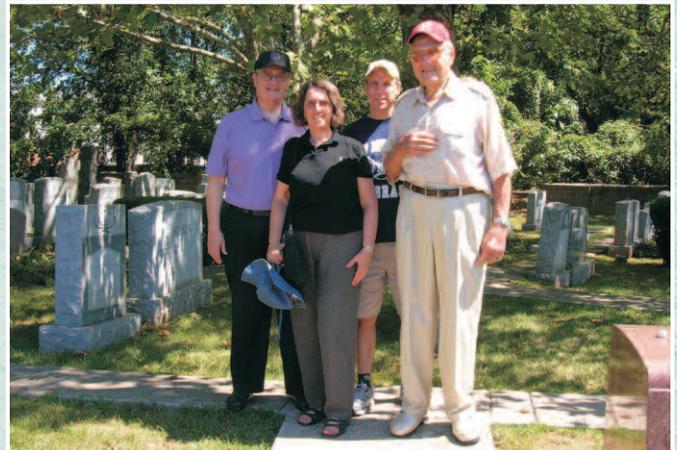
Please contact Shaarey Tefiloh or us if you have any questions.

GENEALOGISTS’ VIEWPOINT

Age and wisdom have led many of us to explore our genealogical roots --- seeking some answers our grandparents could have provided --- if only we had had the wisdom to ask them while they were still alive. Unfortunately most of us don’t recognize the importance of asking these questions until our grandparents are no longer here to answer them. I was actually lucky enough to ask my grandfather --- Rev. Hirsch L. Chazin --- about our family history, and he provided me with a wealth of information that inspired more questions and sparked my lifelong passion for genealogy.

Among the many sources available to inquisitive genealogists are cemetery monument inscriptions --- filled with valuable names, dates, and often additional historical information. I have helped several people learn the names of their ancestors from monument inscriptions at these cemeteries. Genealogists worldwide explore these and other cemeteries for similar information. Please join me in supporting this mission in order to preserve these cemeteries --- and all the information resting there --- for all generations to come.

Lillian Faffer



Richard Stern, Marcia Weinstein Stern, David Weiss, Shep Sewitch

SEARCHING FOR FAMILIES

The monuments of the following 25 individuals have fallen: Sadie Allen, Jennie Baum, Morris Bendet, (Mr. or Mrs.) Buncher, Abraham Davidson, Anna Fisher, Frances Fine, Ethel Kiel, Mr. D. Kramer, Dora Kramer, Philip Kramer, Anna Melman, Bertha Miller, Sylvia Packer, Yetta Paley, Murray Risch, Rose Risch, Barney Silverman, Rebecca Slobodien, Leah Spivack, William Stolz, May Tarry, Samuel Trauberman, Jake Wilner, and Hyman Young. Please contact us if you are related to any of these individuals or if you know anyone who is. We are eager to locate any family members so that we can discuss arrangements for repairs.

THANKING OUR DONORS

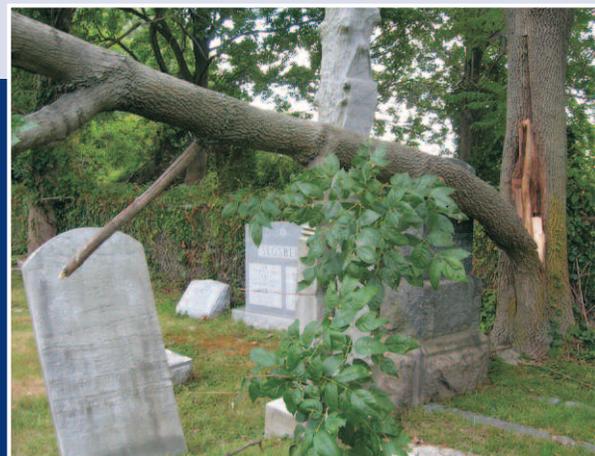
The following list includes all donations received and processed between February 14, 2010 and September 4, 2010. All donations received prior to February 14, 2010 were listed in previous issues of THE ETERNAL VINE. All donations received after September 4, 2010 will be listed in the next issue of THE ETERNAL VINE. We gratefully acknowledge generous donations from the following individuals:

Anonymous (1)
Anonymous (1) – *in memory of Henrietta Rosenshein Herbert*
Leta Rubin Arad – *in memory of Martha and Ed Rubin and Aviva Rubin Tepley*
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Geri and Mike Kaplan – *in memory of their families*
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Bonnie Messing – *on behalf of The Morris and Helen Messing Foundation*
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Nancy and Fred Okun – *in memory of George Kagan*
Herman and Anita Fuchs Price
Arthur and Carol Roth
Marilyn Rosenberg Roth – *in memory of Bertha, Joseph, and Bernie Rosenberg*
Benjamin Safirstein – *in memory of Sidney Safirstein*
Rose Sandler – *in memory of Sam Sandler*
Hannah Miller Sarnoff – *in memory of the Miller and Levinson Families*
Larry, David, and Sheila Stess Schechtman – *in memory of Melvyn Schechtman on his Yahrzeit*
Sheila Stess Schechtman, Diane Stess-Kirschner, and Family – *in memory of Dr. Leo Stess, Jeanette Stess, and Alta Davidson on their Yahrzeits*
Gary and Nona Schwartz – *in memory of Reuben Levine*
Joan and Vevy Sewitch
Harold Sher – *in memory of the Sher Family*
Edna Kesselhaut Siegel – *in memory of grandparents Sarah and Max Sacarny, cousin Sarah Sacarny, and Zelda Brody Belafsky*
Freda Silverman – *in memory of Alton Silverman*
Melvin Silverman
Samuel Silverman
Lydia Ginzberg Singer – *in honor of Mona Shangold's and Kenny Mirkin's birthdays*
Beverly Franklin Solomon
Richard and Marcia Weinstein Stern – *in memory of Ruth Jacobson Harris*
Richard and Judi Stess – *in memory of Dr. Robert Stess*
Murray Toborowsky – *in memory of the Toborowsky and Sher Families*
Stewart and Jane Perlin Weinstein – *in memory of Matt Perlin*
Arnold Weiss
David Weiss – *in memory of Joseph, Andy, Dave, Tony, and Paul Weiss; Elaine Lang; Anne Goldfarb; and Agnes Kestenbaum*
Rhoda and Sheldon Whitman
Matilda Witkin
Elaine Sacarny Zack – *in memory of Sarah Sacarny*

RECENT CEMETERY DAMAGE

Soon after a healthy 60-foot pine tree toppled across the Hebrew Fraternity Cemetery during a heavy rainstorm, adverse weather conditions split the trunk of another large tree, toppling it and causing additional damage. In addition, several monuments have tilted and fallen as a result of structural problems. In our efforts to preserve beauty and dignity at our cemeteries, we face an uphill battle with unanticipated and increasing costs for repairing damage from both natural and unnatural events.



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

Box 306, Moorestown, NJ 08057

856-222-1418

www.friendsofjewishcemeteries.org

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(Top Left) *Howard Cohen*

(Top Center) *Joan Sher Meister, Benjamin Seligman*

(Top Right) *Shep Sewitch, Kenneth Mirkin, David Weiss*

(Left) *David Weiss*

(Right) *Board members (front row L-R): Mona Shangold, Daniel Chazin, Norma Jacobson Messing; (back row L-R): Gary Shangold, Barry Rosengarten, Shep Sewitch, Bardin Levavy*

(Bottom Right) *Barry Goldsmith, Bob Goldsmith*



FLORIDA REUNION BREAKFAST - FEBRUARY 2011

Another Perth Amboy Breakfast in Boca! The enthusiastic response to our Florida Reunion Breakfasts in 2009 and 2010 has encouraged us to continue the tradition --- providing another opportunity for socializing and reminiscing in February 2011. Please let us know if you are interested in attending, so that we can inform you of the date and location.



Joan Sewitch, Vevy Sewitch, Seymour Buchsbaum

