



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As some of you know, I have attended several national conferences during the past few years, to learn more about cemetery management, and I have learned that the problems facing our cemeteries are certainly not unique.

In June 2013, I attended the 11th Annual North American Chevra Kadisha and Jewish Cemetery Conference in Philadelphia, where I shared thoughts with people from all parts of North America and abroad --- including many who manage cemeteries and others who deal with other end-of-life issues (e.g., tahara, Chevra Kadisha, etc.). I learned a great deal.

The most honest, practical, and realistic information I have ever heard about cemetery costs and management was presented by David Shippen, who is currently CEO of companies that own and operate 42 cemeteries in several states. He began his cemetery career working at Beth Israel Memorial Park in Woodbridge, and he is a past president of the International Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association (ICCFA). He knows more about cemetery management than anyone else I have met in my lifetime, and he spoke very candidly. As impressed as I was by his fund of knowledge and by the information he shared, I was even more impressed by the lack of knowledge of the audience on this topic: Hundreds of people who devote enormous amounts of time and energy to Jewish end-of-life issues had no understanding of the actual costs of managing and maintaining cemeteries. I believe this audience reflected the knowledge of most Americans about cemetery expenses.

Very few people understand the complexity of cemetery management and maintenance, and --- regrettably ---- most people grossly underestimate the true costs involved. Most managers of cemeteries owned by synagogues and fraternal lodges underestimate long-term expenses and fail to prepare adequately for them. This was certainly true in the early days of our cemeteries, and it is still true today.



Hebrew Fraternity Cemetery
in Hopelawn, NJ



Congregation Shaarey
Tefilah Cemetery in Perth
Amboy, NJ

Cemetery management requires much more than selling plots, arranging burials, mowing grass, and trimming weeds --- all of which involve expected and inflationary expenses. Like any other property, every cemetery is subject to weather-related damage (storms, flooding, droughts, etc.), age-related degradation (of walls, walkways, roads, etc.), and vandalism. In the past few years, we have seen all of these, and we know that the costs of these repairs were never anticipated in the original budgets of our cemetery founders. In previous issues of our newsletter, we have presented images of enormous fallen trees and other storm-induced damage.

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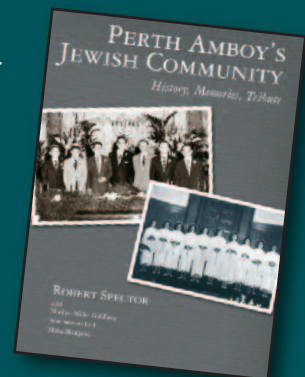
CEMETERY TOURS

Our final 2013 Cemetery Tour took place on Sunday, September 8. We plan to continue our tours throughout 2014 and will try to schedule them 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 always visit the Hebrew Fraternity, Shaarey Tefilah, and Beth Mordecai Cemeteries on our tours, and we will be 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 2014 Cemetery Tour schedule will be on our Web site by December 31, 2013, along with other news updates. We will also send the 2014 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.

JEWISH COMMUNITY HISTORY BOOK—AVAILABLE FOR SALE

Perth Amboy's Jewish Community: History, Memories, Tribute has been available for sale since December 2012, and it has received rave reviews from all those who have read it. The book is an elegant 9x12 coffee-table book that presents the complete and accurate history of the Perth Amboy Jewish Community --- with many photos, stories, tributes, and memories. According to the book's authors, it was written "to honor our ancestors and to provide a lasting record for our descendants." Those who have read the book agree that our ancestors would indeed be proud and honored. Many recent book orders have been from people who initially purchased books for themselves and now want books for their children and grandchildren so they can appreciate their Perth Amboy legacy. To purchase the book --- while supplies last --- send your request for an order form to PAJewishBook@aol.com.



REPAIRED MONUMENTS

We are pleased to report that several monuments have been repaired since we announced our search for the families of toppled monuments. We commend the families that have responded so promptly, and we hope they will inspire other families to come forward to take similar action in honoring their relatives by restoring their fallen monuments. Several repaired monuments are shown here – in tribute to these individuals and their families.



Eva Schlachter, Fredda Robinson, Gordon Hodas, Barbara Hodas, Daniel Chazin, Sheldon Cheuse

TOPPLED MONUMENTS

We are providing the following updated list of toppled monuments in an effort to locate the families of these individuals:

Sadie Allen, Jennie Baum, Morris Bendet, Myer Drourr, Frances Fine, Anna Fisher, Julia Guthoff, Abraham Kaplan, Ethel Kiel, Mr. D. Kramer, Dora Kramer, Philip Kramer, Dora Levine, Anna Melman, Yetta Paley, Sarah Plane, Morris Plane, Murray Risch, Rose Risch, Dora Sher Rosenthal, I. Z. Shipiro, Barney Silverman, Rebecca Slobodien, Samuel Slossberg, Sarah Smerling, Leah Spivack, Louis Sussman, May Tarry, Samuel Trauberman, Jacob Weisberger, Jake Wilner, Hyman Young, and Anna Zagoreen.

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. (The above list excludes the monuments of those whose families have already been notified.)

RECENT CEMETERY DAMAGE

In late June, several large branches of an otherwise healthy mulberry tree fell in a crowded section of our Hebrew Fraternity Cemetery, threatening all graves in the area. We were very fortunate that prompt attention and careful removal of the tree prevented damage to any nearby monuments. However, this event reminded us again that we must be prepared --- both physically and financially --- for unexpected natural disasters, which can add significantly to cemetery maintenance expenses.



Fallen tree branches at Hebrew Fraternity Cemetery



Tree stump and surrounding graves following careful removal of the tree

THANKING OUR DONORS

The following list includes all donations received and processed between March 3, 2013 and September 21, 2013. All donations received prior to March 3, 2013 were listed in previous issues of THE ETERNAL VINE. All donations received after September 21, 2013 will be listed in the next issue of THE ETERNAL VINE. We gratefully acknowledge generous donations from the following individuals:

Art Aneckstein – *in memory of the Aneckstein and Shangold Families*
Ron and Roni Berkowitz
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Rachel and Jason Borofsky – *in memory of Frances Perlin*
Judy Margaretten Bronston – *in memory of her beloved family who gave her so much: Pauline and Morris Margaretten and Lena and Bessie Avchen*
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Betty Margaretten Cohen – *in memory of the Margaretten Family and Lena Avchen*
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Ken Lichtman
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Merle Kaplowitz LoNano – *in memory of Betty, Leo, and Barry Kaplowitz*
Barbara Manbach – *in memory of William Allen*
Marcia Robinson Metzger
Jennie Parnes Miller
Rabbi and Mrs. Julius Parnes
Gilda Resnick – *in memory of Abe Resnick*
Carol Roberts – *in honor and appreciation of Mona Shangold for her wonderful work restoring our cemeteries, keeping everyone informed, and outreach*
Arthur and Carol Roth – *in memory of Willy Allen*
Carl Rubenstein – *in memory of Leah and Nathan Rubenstein*
Henry Safran – *in memory of Ira and Phyllis Safran*
Rose Sandler – *in memory of Sam Sandler and the Sandler Family*
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Mona Shangold – *in memory of Susie Klegman Horowitz*
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Murray Toborowsky – *in memory of the Toborowsky and Sher Families*
Miriam Daitz Vogel
Stew and Jane Perlin Weinstein – *in memory of Frances Perlin*
Arnold Weiss
Jill Weitzen – *in memory of Clifford Weitzen and Joan Sewitch*
Beryl Toborowsky Wild – *in memory of the Toborowsky and Sher Families*
Elaine Sacarny Zack

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In this issue, we display photos of large tree branches that fell in late June without warning or explanation. Unanticipated events add greatly to the challenges and costs we face in preserving our cemeteries. Many other cemeteries around the world are in the same situation as ours --- with insufficient funds and distant and diminishing supporters to manage and protect the immobile cemeteries left behind when communities relocate and disseminate.

More than eight years have passed since we initiated our efforts to preserve our cemeteries, and we have learned a great deal in the

process. We have devoted a very significant amount of time and effort to our mission ---- raising awareness, interest, and funds ---- and we remain humbled by the immensity of the task still ahead.

We remain very grateful for all of your past support, and we hope we can continue to count on your support both now and in the future. In a quote from the High Holy Day appeal of Bruce Matez (President of Congregation M'kor Shalom – my synagogue), “no donation is too small, and no donation is too large.”

Mona Shangold

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Barbara Hodas and Gordon Hodas



(Above) - Abe Greenhouse, David Greenhouse, Sara Greenhouse, Eric Silverman, Sheldon Cheuse. (Right) - Eva Schlachter

