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Connecting those with roots in the Perth Amboy Jewish Community

A publication of Friends for Preservation of Middlesex County Jewish Cemeteries, Inc. • Issue Number 18 • FALL 2014



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Demographics change, and synagogues come and go, but cemeteries are here forever. My recent travels, both in and out of the United States, have included visits to synagogues and cemeteries, and my experiences have only reinforced my belief that the problems and

challenges we face are not unique. I have seen synagogues in all phases of their lives: birth, growth, prosperity, decline, and demise. I have also seen cemeteries in widely varying conditions, ranging from exceptionally wellmaintained to abandoned and neglected. I am more committed than ever to ensuring the dignity of our cemeteries, in order to honor the memory of those who built the Jewish community of Perth Amboy — our ancestors.

My travels also reminded me how indebted we all should be to our ancestors, without whose courage and initiative none of us would be here now, and without whom we would likely not enjoy our current level of comfort and prosperity. Although I have long recognized the personal sacrifices our ancestors made, my son recently admonished me for grossly underestimating the challenges they overcame. His network of international friends and colleagues is even greater than my own, and observing firsthand how difficult it is to immigrate to the US, he reminded me how much more difficult it was for our ancestors to do this 100 years ago with fewer assets, resources, and support.

So I reach out to all of you to remind you of the importance of our mission. Our cemeteries represent our history and our heritage. Preserving them is more expensive than our founding ancestors ever anticipated. Photos in this newsletter reveal examples of necessary repairs that are expensive and recurrent. The final resting place of our loved ones requires our commitment and support. As always, we thank you for your past contributions, and we hope we can count on all of you to be as generous as possible now and in the future.

Mona Shangold



Hebrew Fraternity Cemetery in Hopelawn, NJ



Congregation Shaarey Tefiloh Cemetery in Perth Amboy, NJ

CEMETERY TOURS

Our final 2014 Cemetery Tour took place on Sunday, September 28. We plan to continue our tours throughout 2015 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 Tefiloh, 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. 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 2015 Cemetery Tour schedule will be on our Web site by December 31, 2014, along with other news updates. We will also send the 2015 schedule to all those for whom we have e-mail addresses. If you would like to be on our e-mail distribution list, please send your e-mail address to us at friends@friendsofjewishcemeteries.org.

SHAAREY TEFILOH SHUL ITEMS FOR SALE



As many of you know, Shaarey Tefiloh sold its building on April 10 and is disposing of all synagogue

contents. Many items are

being sold and others are being given away. If you know any individuals or synagogues who are interested in acquiring any items please call 732-826-2977 or send a message to PAShulSale@aol.com (include your name, contact information, and items of interest). A list of memorial plaque names will soon be distributed to those who have expressed an interest in these. (Shaarey Tefiloh light box, pictured above, available for sale).

SEEKING MEMBERS FOR NEW COMMITTEE

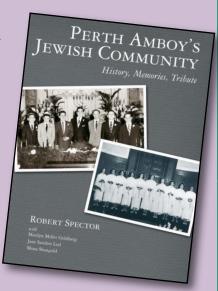
Several years ago, a small group of us who were concerned about the future of the Jewish cemeteries in the Perth Amboy area formed our organization. Our small group has succeeded in increasing awareness of the importance of providing for the continued care of these cemeteries and arranging for their maintenance, so that those who visit them can be proud that the dignity of their ancestors is being ensured. We now plan on creating a new committee to assist us with future planning for our

organization and our cemeteries. In particular, we would like to identify members of the next generation — children of those who grew up in Perth Amboy and would like to honor their grandparents and great-grandparents — who would be interested in serving on this committee. Please contact us at friends@friendsofjewishcemeteries.org if you would like to join this committee or nominate anyone else to join this committee. Let us know how you would like to serve and what special interests you have.

PERTH AMBOY'S JEWISH COMMUNITY – HISTORY, MEMORIES, TRIBUTE

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 along 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 or call 856-222-1418.



Bingle Street Cemetery wall in need of repair



Bingle Street Cemetery wall in need of repair

THANKING OUR DONORS

The following list includes all donations received and processed between March 3, 2014 and October 3, 2014. All donations received prior to March 3, 2014 were listed in previous issues of THE ETERNAL VINE. All donations received after October 3, 2014 will be listed in the next issue of THE ETERNAL VINE. We are a federally tax-exempt organization as determined by the Internal Revenue Service under Section 501(c)(3). All contributions are tax-deductible as provided by law. We gratefully acknowledge generous donations from the following individuals:

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