



President's Message

As we begin the new year (5777), we face new challenges and new opportunities. We have worked hard to raise funds, interest, and awareness — but we have a lot more work to do. We remain inspired and encouraged by our growing list of supporters, and we will need your involvement and contributions even more in the future.

We have learned a great deal by attending national Jewish cemetery conferences, and we have shared some of this information with you in past issues of our newsletter. We remain mindful of what we have learned from cemetery experts about costs and responsibilities. As we have stated previously, very few people understand the complexity of cemetery management and maintenance, and most people grossly underestimate the true costs involved. Most managers of cemeteries owned by synagogues and fraternal lodges underestimate the long-term expenses and fail to prepare adequately for them. The futures of such cemeteries eventually become bleak, and many of them face abandonment. Cemetery management requires much more than selling plots, arranging burials, mowing grass, trimming weeds, planting verdure, and keeping records — all of

which involve both anticipated and unanticipated expenses.

Stan Kaplan (former chair of the Jewish Cemetery Association of North America and current executive director of the Jewish Cemetery Association of Massachusetts) has stated "By the time a cemetery is full, it should have 20 times its annual operating expenses in an endowment — but few do." Gary Katz (past president and current vice president of New York's Community Alliance for Jewish-Affiliated Cemeteries) has predicted that "Based on current practices, substantially all Jewish cemeteries will be unable to pay for their upkeep within 25 to 50 years after their last grave is sold." Many cemeteries have formed alliances to face the future together, but — unfortunately — most financially healthy cemeteries do not become interested in this problem until their funds have become depleted.

On Yom Kippur, we recited the long confession *Al Chet*. Among the sins we were called upon to atone for are those committed *bi-tzorus ayin*. The literal translation is "with a begrudging eye," and the commentary explains that it refers to one who does not give generously to charity. As we all resolved to be more generous, our Yom Kippur Yizkor service provided us with a

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Top: Hebrew Fraternity Cemetery in Hopelawn, NJ.
Bottom: Congregation Shaarey Tefilah Cemetery in Perth Amboy, NJ

CEMETERY TOURS

Our final 2016 Cemetery Tour took place on Sunday, October 9. We plan to continue our tours throughout 2017 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 try to select dates that will coincide with these. 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. For more information contact us by phone (856-222-1418), email (FPMCJC@gmail.com), or website (friendsofjewishcemeteries.org).

Our 2017 Cemetery Tour schedule will be posted on our Web site by December 31, 2016, along with other news updates. We will also send the 2017 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 FPMCJC@gmail.com.



Eva Schlachter

Comments From Our Supporters

"When I was a child, my grandmother regaled me with tales about growing up in Perth Amboy. So when I became involved in documenting our family's history, I naturally began to investigate my grandmother's roots there. I had a DNA match with a cousin on that side, but we couldn't confirm how we were related. So I turned to **Friends for Preservation of Middlesex County Jewish Cemeteries** for help. I sent an e-mail offering to make a donation if someone could provide me with a photo of my great-grandfather's *matzevah* (tombstone.) Fortunately, I knew the date he passed away, and in a couple of days, Mona Shangold sent me the photo I had requested, bridging the information gap that 91 years away had created. When my cousin and I compared each of our great-grandfathers' *matzevahs*, we discovered that they were father and son, solving the mystery of how we were related! Not only that, the photo also provided me with the name of my second great-grandfather, growing our family tree. I couldn't have done it without the help of **FPMCJC**. Thank you for the hard work you do, preserving the dignity of our ancestors' final resting place, and helping put current and future generations of descendants back in touch with their Jewish roots. "

Cynthia Penn Klein, Grass Lake, Michigan

Descendant of Frank Katz and Etta Katz Tatken (Perth Amboy High School Class of 1919)



Barbara Kagan Littman

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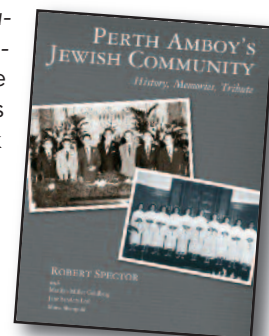
strong emotional and spiritual opportunity to remember our deceased loved ones. Linking this resolution with these memories reminds us that we need to honor our ancestors by preserving the cemeteries that serve as their final resting places. To all of you who are already supporting our mission, we thank you sincerely for your generosity and hope we can count on your continued support. To all of you who haven't supported our mission yet, we hope you will consider a donation now — as an especially meaningful way to link your Yom Kippur resolutions and prayers. We encourage all of you to be as generous as you can afford to be. Remember that no gift is too small — and no gift is too large. We wish all of you a healthy and happy new year.

— Mona Shangold

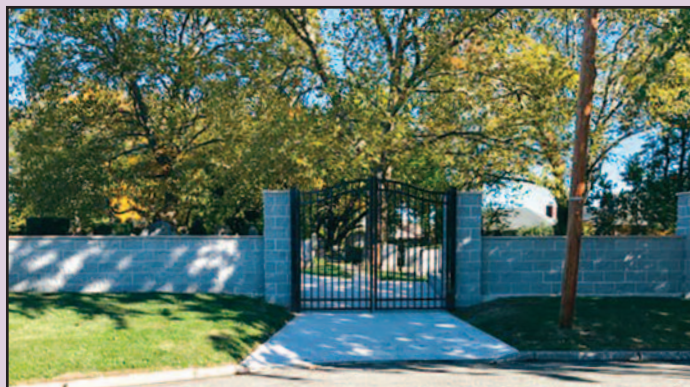
BOOK AVAILABLE FOR SALE

Perth Amboy's Jewish Community History, Memories, Tribute

Perth Amboy's Jewish Community: History, Memories, Tribute has been available for sale since December 2012. 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." 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 understand and appreciate their Perth Amboy legacy. To purchase the book — while supplies last — send your request for an order form to FPMCJC@gmail.com or call 856-222-1418.



Reconstructed Bingle Street wall – recently completed

Art Aneckstein – *in memory of the Aneckstein and Shangold Families*
 Anonymous
 Marilyn Silverman Berkowitz – *in memory of Arthur Silverman*
 Ron and Roni Goss Berkowitz
 Stanley Bey – *in memory of Samuel and Mollie Bey*
 Susan Blecker
 Esther Parnes Boaro
 Judy Margaretten Bronston
 Judy Meistrich Buchband – *in memory of the Meistrich, Buchband, and Schwartzman Families*
 Cassie Buerki – *in memory of the Kelsey Family*
 Harriet Robinson Bussel – *in memory of the Kelsey and Koplowitz Families*
 Mark H. Chazin – *in memory of Cantor H.L. and Dora Chazin*
 Rita Ruderman Chazin – *in memory of Lionel Abraham Chazin, Eta and Tevel Ruderman, Lillian Ruderman Deitel, Norman Ruderman, Ellen Deitel, and Francine Deitel*
 Sheldon Cheuse
 Betty Margaretten Cohen – *in memory of Morris and Pauline Margaretten and Lena Avchen*
 Warren Deutsch – *in memory of the Deutsch Family*
 Donna Joselson Faktor – *in memory of Arthur Joselson on his Yahrzeit*
 Peter Feldman – *in memory of Anne Feldman, Jack Feldman, and Susan Feldman Weiss*
 Robert Fischbein – *in memory of Sheldon G. Weinstein (1940-2016)*
 B. Harrison and Phyllis Frankel
 Sheldon and Barbara Freidenreich
 Florence Fried – *in memory of Lawrence, Shirley, and Murray Fried*
 Samuel Friedman
 Judy Klein Gilbert
 Vivian Goldfarb – *in memory of Manny and Ira Goldfarb*

Thanking our Donors

The following list includes all donations received and processed between March 1, 2016 and October 15, 2016. All donations received prior to March 1, 2016 were listed in previous issues of **The Eternal Vine**. All donations received after October 15, 2016 will be listed in the next issue of **The Eternal Vine**. We gratefully acknowledge generous donations from the following individuals:

Anita Goldman Hannoeh – *in memory of all dear departed*
 Charney Madrazo Herst – *in memory of her family*
 Hillary Gelber Goldstein – *in memory of Morris and Tillie Gelber*
 Annellen and Murray Guth – *in memory of Iris Davidson Schwartz*
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 Rae Joselson
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 Marlene Glaser Kimball – *in memory of Sylvia and Jacob Glaser*
 Cynthia Klein – *in honor and appreciation of Mona Shangold*
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 Gary Kroop – *in memory of Louis and Claire Kroop*
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Janis Levine – *in memory of twin sister Ethel Herman*
 Cathy Levine-Cohen – *in memory of Matilda, Benjamin, and Milton Moslovitz*
 Amy Levine-Samuels – *in memory of Suzanne and Stanley Levine on their Yahrzeits*
 Marty Lipman – *in memory of David Lipman*
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 Rabbi Julius and Rebitzen Hannah Parnes
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 Barbara Pivnick – *in memory of Lena and Joseph Lewkowitz*
 Ann Lonky Preminger – *in memory of all her loved ones*
 Anita Fuchs Price – *in memory of Minnie and Leo Fuchs*
 Rissa and Michael Ratner – *in memory of Minerva Spivack*

Marilyn Rosenberg Roth – *in memory of Bertha and Joseph Rosenberg and Bernard Ross*
 Henry Safran
 Rose Sandler – *in memory of Sam Sandler*
 Larry Schechtman and David Schechtman – *in memory of Melvyn Schechtman on his Yahrzeit*
 Sheila Stess Schechtman and Diane Stess-Kirschner – *in memory of Hannah Strom*
 Sheila Stess Schechtman, Diane Stess-Kirschner, and their families – *in memory of Leo Stess on his Yahrzeit; in memory of Alta Davidson on her Yahrzeit*
 Mona Shangold – *in memory of Freda Silverman*
 Jay and Geri Sher – *in memory of the Sher Family*
 Clare Simon Shulman
 Beverly Franklin Solomon
 Alex and Sandi Stern – *in memory of Sheldon Weinstein*
 Jonathan Stern – *in memory of the Weinstein Family*
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 Murray Toborowsky – *in memory of the Toborowsky and Sher Families*
 Miriam Daitz Vogel – *in memory of Harry and Sylvia Katz*
 Stewart and Jane Perlin Weinstein – *in memory of Matt and Fran Perlin*
 Mitzi Weitzen – *in memory of Clifford Weitzen and Joan Sewitch*
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 Beryl Toborowsky Wild – *in memory of the Toborowsky and Sher Families*
 Les Wurtzel – *in memory of Ruth and Charles Wurtzel*

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

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www.friendsofjewishcemeteries.org

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