



President's Message

Seeing or hearing the words "Le-Dor Va-Dor" — whether chanted in a prayer or emblazoned over the entry doors of Sinai Temple in Los Angeles — always reminds me of the importance of our cemeteries in connecting past, present, and future generations. We visit cemeteries to honor and remember the deceased — and to learn about them from the inscriptions on their cemetery monuments. As you know, many of you have contacted us for photos of cemetery monuments and for translations of the inscriptions, in order to acquire valuable genealogical information. Most of you have replied with expressions of gratitude upon receiving the information you sought. Conversely, most people are very disappointed when monuments cannot be located. Genealogists understand the importance of cemeteries worldwide — and also understand the consequences of cemetery destruction (e.g., in Eastern European cemeteries, etc.). Although genealogists are understandably upset when this valuable information is lost, many others are distressed too — and all of us should be upset and should try to prevent the damage that occurs when any cemeteries are abandoned, overgrown, or neglected.

Most of us have become more interested in genealogy as we age, and it is unfortunate that very few of us have the necessary interest and incentive to ask these questions while our ancestors are still alive and able to answer them. It is encouraging to see young people

with an interest in their own heritage and the wisdom to understand that it will be harder to find many answers as time passes and ancestors age and die. We should all try to educate our children about family heritage and should work to preserve our cemeteries for our ancestors and our descendants. Our history book (Perth Amboy's Jewish Community: History, Memories, Tribute) was dedicated to our ancestors and our descendants for the same reason.

As we plan for the future of our cemeteries, we know that future expenses will exceed our expectations. This is true at all cemeteries — not only ours. Costs can be expected to rise, and damage can be expected to occur — as result of adverse weather, aging structures, and vandalism. I can tell you that my own personal home landscaping expenses have increased significantly over the years — at the same property and using the same landscaper — due to both the rising cost of regular maintenance and the un-

anticipated need for additional work. I'm sure you have experienced the same increases at your own homes. All cemetery owners face increasing and ongoing needs to generate revenue. Whatever was set aside in previous plans will become insufficient to meet the needs of the future. We understand the reality of these needs, and we will continue to work hard to raise funds for our cemeteries. We remain very grateful for your past support, and we hope we can count on your continued generosity in the future.

— Mona Shangold



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

CEMETERY TOURS

For more than 10 years, our Cemetery Tours have provided a unique opportunity for us to honor and remember our loved ones together — and to see how attentive landscaping maintenance has improved the appearance of each of our cemeteries. These tours have also provided many attendees with opportunities to meet friends and relatives, connect with their pasts, explore family genealogy, locate graves of special interest, understand cemetery art and traditions, and learn about the fascinating history of our community.

Our final 2017 Cemetery Tour took place on Sunday, September 24. We plan to continue our tours throughout 2018 and will try to schedule them at times that will be convenient for you. We hope you will be able to join us for at least one of these tours.

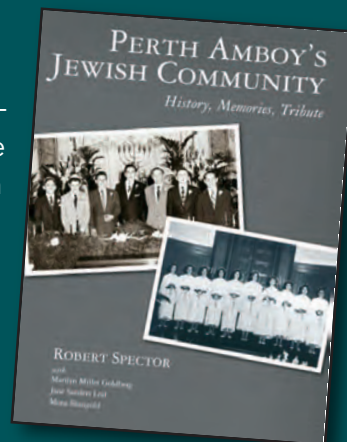
All tours begin at noon at the Hebrew Fraternity Cemetery entry gate on New Brunswick Avenue in Hopelawn. After visiting the Hebrew Fraternity Cemetery, we will drive to the Congregation Shaarey Tefilah Cemetery and the Congregation Beth Mordecai Cemetery on Florida Grove Road. WEAR VERY COMFORTABLE CLOTHES AND SHOES — appropriate for standing and walking outdoors for 2 hours, and please wear a head cover too. All tours are followed by an optional visit to a local, casual restaurant for continued socializing with old friends.

Although all tours are free, advance registration is recommended so that we can notify you of any weather-related cancellations and can locate any family graves of special interest to you. If you can't visit in person, we will be glad to visit for you and will place stones on the graves for you too.

For more information contact us by phone (856-222-1418), email (FPMCJC@gmail.com), or website (friendsofjewishcemeteries.org). Check our website frequently for more information about the tours, including any schedule changes.

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.



Daniel Chazin



Sheldon Cheuse, Marilyn Millet Goldberg



Barbara Hodas and Gordon Hodas

Anonymous- 2
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Box 306 • Moorestown, NJ 08057

856-222-1418

www.friendsofjewishcemeteries.org

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