

~ REMEMBERING ~
Bardin Levavy



Bardin Levavy

As our organization's secretary and one of its founders, Bardin Levavy (known as "Bardy" to his many friends) played a major role in our organization from our inception in 2005 until his death this year. His wisdom and legal knowledge guided us, and his witty humor entertained us — regularly and consistently.

He had many close friends — collected from every stage of his life — including his childhood in Perth Amboy and his alma maters Rutgers Preparatory School, Johns Hopkins University, and Harvard Law School. Those who knew him well considered him an aficionado of music, literature, and baseball, as well as a gifted wordsmith and a keen student of history.

Somewhat less well known was the fact that he was a direct descendant of the Vilna Gaon (the great genius of Vilnius) — through his maternal grandfather, Charles Bardin — and was a distant relative of many who are interred in our cemeteries. Bardy's great-grandfather, Kalman Bardin, was one of the founders of the first Orthodox congregation in Rochester, NY (Beth Israel Congregation), where he served as cantor and shochet. Bardy's family was an integral part of the Perth Amboy Jewish Community for many years. Those who grew up in Perth Amboy remember shopping for many gifts in Sarah Bardin's Gift Shop, and many of us had Bardy's aunt, Gladys Bardin, as a 6th grade teacher in the Perth Amboy Grammar School. Members of Congregation Shaarey Tefilah surely remember Bardy's father, Zvi Levavy, chanting the Haftarah annually on Yom Kippur — an honor he had earned and deserved.

Bardy is survived by his wife, Sue-Ellen, and his children, Rafi and Sara. His death is a loss to all of us and a loss to our organization, and we will all miss him.

— *Mona Shangold and Norma Jacobson Messing*

CEMETERY TOURS

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.

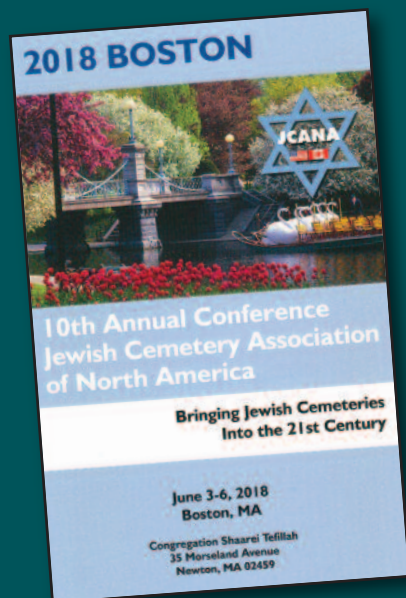
Our final 2018 Cemetery Tour took place on Sunday, September 16. We plan to continue our tours throughout 2019 and will try to schedule them at times that will be convenient for you. Our 2019 Cemetery Tour schedule will be posted on our website in January (2019) and will be listed in our Spring 2019 newsletter. 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.

Please contact us for more information by website at www.friendsofjewishcemeteries.org, by phone at 856-222-1418, or by e-mail to FPMCJC@gmail.com. Check our website frequently for more information about the tours, including any schedule changes.

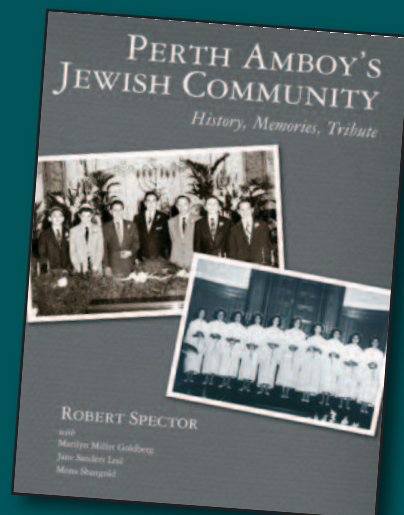
JEWISH CEMETERY CONFERENCE REPORT: 10th Annual Conference of The Jewish Cemetery Association of North America – June 2018



The 10th Annual Conference of the Jewish Cemetery Association of North America took place June 3-6, 2018 at Congregation Shaarei Tefillah in Newton, MA. (Note that the host synagogue has a very familiar name, but its English spelling is different from that of Congregation Shaarey Tefiloh in Perth Amboy.) Conference attendees included Jewish cemetery owners and managers, in addition to others who — like us — have great concerns for the futures of our cemeteries. The conference presented a wonderful opportunity to share information and learn from the conference speakers and from each other. All of us recognize that we will not be here forever, but our cemeteries (hopefully) will be.

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.



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