



Our Message

As we continue to face unprecedented challenges during this ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we are all

devising new and different ways to accomplish all of our goals. Changing from real meetings to virtual meetings, from office work to remote work, and from store shopping to online shopping has inspired all of us to become more creative in developing new methodology in other areas too. So, we are very excited to present you with our newest idea and to invite you and your family to join Jay Greenspan and his family in our new "Family Challenge."

As Jay explains in his article (on this page), he shared his interest in family genealogy with his family, including his sister, his children, and many cousins. He raised their interest and awareness, and he encouraged all of them to support our cemeteries—the final resting places for many of their relatives and ours. His family has responded very enthusiastically, and we hope yours will do the same.

We remain very grateful for your past support, and we hope we can count on your continued generosity in the future. With your support, we plan to undertake the following projects at our cemeteries as soon as possible: repair of roadways at Beth David Memorial Park; fences at North Arlington Jewish Cemeteries; walkways at Newark Jewish Cemeteries, Samptown Jewish Cemeteries, and Shaarey Tefiloh Cemeteries; and storm damage at all. We will provide updates on these projects on our website and in future newsletters.

Our cemeteries remain in need of our support, and we hope we can count on you. Please join Jay in our new "Family Challenge." Please contact your living relatives, work together with them to construct your family tree, and ask them to join you in supporting the final resting places of your deceased relatives. We will gladly add them to our mailing list, and we hope they will visit our website too (<https://friendsofjewishcemeteries.org>).

—Mona Shangold and Bennett Epstein



Launching the Family Challenge

Like most people, I developed a greater appreciation for my ancestors and a greater interest in family genealogy as I got older. I have long known that more than 20 relatives in my family—the Greenspans of Perth Amboy—are buried in Shaarey Tefiloh cemeteries in Perth Amboy and Hopelawn, NJ, and I often visited these cemeteries to place stones on their grave markers. As the youngest member of my generation, I had never thought about what will happen to the cemeteries when I am gone. The current COVID pandemic has made most of us more aware of our own mortality and how we want to prepare the next generation. In my own family—and probably in yours too – many people were and are unaware of what is needed to maintain our cemeteries.

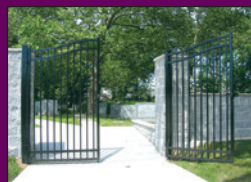
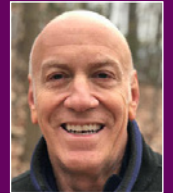
So, I undertook a project to accomplish two goals: (1) to find out who was buried in these cemeteries and to draw a family tree that went back to Russia, and (2) to share this information with my family—both near and far—and to invite them to join me in supporting and maintaining these cemeteries.

I am reaching out to all of you to share my story and to encourage you to do the same.

When I contacted my sister and cousins in my own generation, they responded very enthusiastically. I also contacted younger generations, to get them interested, and they too responded with great interest and appreciation. Everyone in my family is grateful to have a reasonably accurate family tree and the burial information about our ancestors. It is important for all of us to engage our relatives of all ages, to share information about our family genealogy, and to encourage them to support our cemeteries—the final resting places for many of our relatives.

I invite you to join me in the new "Family Challenge" of Friends of New Jersey Jewish Cemeteries, to raise interest, awareness, and funds to support our cemeteries now and in the future.

—Jay Greenspan



Thanking our Donors

The following list includes all donations received and processed between March 7, 2021 and August 30, 2021. All donations received prior to March 7, 2021 were listed in previous issues of **The Eternal Vine**. All donations received after August 30, 2021 will be listed in the next issue of **The Eternal Vine**. We gratefully acknowledge generous donations from the following individuals:

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Charitable Donations vs. Perpetual Care

Very few people appreciate and understand the complexity of cemetery ownership, management, and maintenance, and most underestimate the true costs involved – both present and future. Many people also have questions about the various components of cemetery maintenance and costs. The cemeteries for which our organization is raising funds are owned by cemetery associations, which sell individual “plots” that are actually burial rights. (The cemetery association owns the land, and the plot owner has a right to be buried in a single grave.) The plot owner has the right to place a monument on the grave and to plant vegetation on the grave; the costs of these are the responsibility of the plot owner, and future repairs to monuments and maintenance of vegetation are also the responsibility of the plot owner.

When the plot owner purchases “perpetual care” to maintain the vegetation that has been planted, this pays for only the maintenance of this individual grave’s vegetation. The rest of the cemetery is the responsibility of the cemetery association, and this includes maintenance of all common areas, walkways, roadways, walls, and gates, as well as repairs for both expected and unexpected damage. While many cemetery associations have “Maintenance and Preservation Funds” to pay for such maintenance and repairs, these funds usually have strict limitations on the amounts that can be withdrawn for these purposes. Most cemetery associations have insufficient funds to pay for the true costs of maintenance and repairs long-term. It is the goal of our organization to pay for some of the necessary maintenance and repairs, so that the cemeteries’ funds can be preserved for a longer time.

Cemetery Tours

From 2006 to 2019, our organization held Cemetery Tours several times each year at the cemeteries in Perth Amboy and Woodbridge for which we were (and still are) raising funds. Although we had planned to continue our tours at these cemeteries and also schedule tours at our new cemetery partners, the current pandemic forced us to cancel our tours during 2020 and 2021. We remain hopeful that we can resume safely in 2022. We will provide more information as soon as possible. We hope many of you were able to visit our cemeteries, either individually or through the Community Relations Committee of Greater MetroWest NJ, which sponsored its annual Newark Cemetery Visiting Day on September 12, 2021.

Please contact us for more information about our organization —or if you can help us in any way — through our website at <https://friendsofjewishcemetaries.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.

Many Ways To Give

Friends of New Jersey Jewish Cemeteries, Inc. offers many ways for you to support our cemeteries financially. We accept donations by check, credit card, securities, transfers from IRA plans and other retirement plans, grants from donor-advised funds, and legacy gifts. If you are interested in donating appreciated securities, please contact us for instructions. If you are over age 70.5, you can make direct charitable gifts from your IRA or other retirement account; such gifts will count towards your required minimum distributions (RMD) and will NOT be included in your adjusted gross income. We urge you to consider the many tax advantages of donating directly from your IRA or other retirement account, and we encourage you to discuss these with your tax advisor. We also welcome legacy gifts and gifts from donor-advised funds. Please contact us at 856-222-1418 or FPMCJC@gmail.com for more information about any of these options.

Contact Information for all Cemeteries

The cemetery office (for all of our partner cemeteries) will provide information about these and other services at all of the cemeteries:

- Purchasing cemetery plots
- Planting grave covers
- Arranging for perpetual or annual care of plantings
- Constructing or repairing cemetery monuments and/or foundations
- Cleaning (acid-washing) discolored cemetery monuments
- Inquiring about individual cemetery plots

Office: 908-245-7100



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<https://friendsofjewishcemeteries.org>

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~ 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, visit our website at <https://friendsofjewishcemeteries.org> or send your request for an order form to FPMCJC@gmail.com.

