



Our Message



We are all overwhelmed by the Israeli war with Hamas — following the unprovoked attack by Hamas on Israel — and this war remains our top concern as our newsletter is printed. We pray for the safety of all remaining hostages, for the souls of those whose lives have been lost, and for the comfort of their families and loved ones. However, we must also remain focused on our responsibility to our cemeteries, which are the final resting places for our ancestors and our Jewish communities.

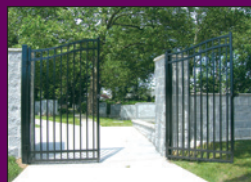
We remain very grateful for your past and continued support, which has enabled us to undertake and complete many repairs at some of our partner cemeteries, photos of which have appeared in previous issues of this newsletter. Because we invite you to specify the cemeteries toward which you want us to direct your donations, we have received much more support for some of our cemeteries than for others. We are committed to continuing our efforts to restore and maintain all of our partner cemeteries. However, our ability to fund additional projects at individual cemeteries will depend on receiving enough support to do so. As soon as we receive sufficient funding from your donations, we plan to undertake additional projects at our cemeteries, including repair of walkways, fences, roadways, storm damage, and vandalism. While repairing damage to individual monuments is the responsibility of individual families (not the cemetery), our organization has also funded the repair of monuments of some deceased individuals who have no surviving family members or whose families are unknown, and we will continue to do so. We will provide updates on these projects on our

website and in future newsletters. We hope we can count on your continued support now and in the future.

Our Cemetery Tours have continued to provide all of us with great opportunities to honor and remember our deceased relatives, friends, and community leaders — and also to learn about the histories of these cemeteries and the communities they represent. We have learned a lot from those of you who have attended these tours, some of whom are descendants of the community leaders who built these communities and their cemeteries. We are grateful to all of you who have attended these tours, and we hope many more of you will be able to join us at our Cemetery Tours in the future. We will announce the dates of our 2024 Cemetery Tours on our website early in 2024, and the 2024 Cemetery Tour schedule will appear in our Spring 2024 newsletter.

As we all pray for Israel — both the country and its citizens — following the unconscionable, unprovoked attack by evil terrorists, we are reminded that the horrors that plagued our ancestors in the past have not ended. Although it is difficult to focus on anything but the tragic loss of innocent lives, we must remember that it is our responsibility to honor our ancestors, our communities, and those whose sacrifices enabled us to live the lives we have had. We encourage all of you to reach out to help Israel at this incredibly difficult time, and we hope we can also count on your continued support for our cemeteries, which are the final resting places for many of our ancestors and those who built the Jewish communities in which we grew up and lived.

—Mona Shangold and Bennett Epstein



Thanking our Donors

The following list includes all donations received and processed between March 23, 2023 and October 20, 2023. All donations received prior to March 23, 2023 were listed in previous issues of *The Eternal Vine*. All donations received after October 20, 2023 will be listed in the next issue of *The Eternal Vine*. We gratefully acknowledge generous donations from the following individuals:

- Anonymous** – 9
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 Gail M. Wohl
 Stuart Yourish – *in memory of Yourish Family members in North Arlington*
 Stacy and Lawrence Zeller – *in memory of Louis and Dora Zeller*
 Zuckerberg Descendant

Contact Information for all Cemeteries

Cemetery Office: 908-245-7100

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

Cemetery Tours

Our Cemetery Tours resumed in 2022, after pausing during the pandemic, and they have continued to provide a unique opportunity for us to honor and remember our loved ones together. 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 communities.

Our 2023 Cemetery Tours took place on the following Sundays at the locations indicated:

- May 21 – Shaarey Tefiloh Cemeteries (in Perth Amboy and Woodbridge)
- June 11 – McClellan Street section of Newark Jewish Cemeteries
- June 25 – Beth David Memorial Park (in Kenilworth)-*weather cancellation*
- July 23 – Samptown Jewish Cemeteries (in South Plainfield)
- August 13 – North Arlington Jewish Cemeteries (in Kearny)
- September 24 – Newark Jewish Cemeteries (joining the Community Relations Committee of Greater MetroWest NJ at its annual Newark Cemetery Visiting Day in Newark)

All tours (except Newark Jewish Cemeteries on Sept. 24) began at noon and lasted approximately 2 hours; our Newark Cemetery Tour was held 9 am – 12 noon at the annual Newark Cemetery Visiting Day sponsored by the Community Relations Committee of Greater MetroWest NJ. All were welcome to attend these free tours, at which we visited graves of interest to attendees, discussed the cemeteries' histories and the communities' histories, and honored and remembered those interred there.

We plan to continue our Cemetery Tours in 2024 and will provide the schedule and other information on our website and in our Spring 2024 newsletter.



Friends of NJ Jewish Cemeteries, Inc.

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<https://friendsofjewishcemetaries.org>

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