

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Friends for Preservation of Middlesex County Jewish Cemeteries, Inc. was formed in February 2005 as a new nonprofit organization. Although the initial intention was to raise funds to restore and guarantee perpetual maintenance of the cemeteries owned by



Congregation Shaarey Tefiloh, our goals continue to expand, in large part because of the suggestions and inspiration of many of you.

Both our organization and our Web site (www.friendsofjewishcemeteries.org) have received rave reviews from many individuals reflecting diverse backgrounds. Those who grew up in Perth Amboy find that these cemeteries and the virtual tour on our Web site provide a splendid, and often emotional, chance to walk back in time, offering wonderful opportunities to remember and reminisce, locate old friends, and rekindle old friendships. Many are discovering the locations of their ancestors' graves for the



first time. Even those who grew up "out of town" are finding great interest and attraction in our project since it provides a unique glimpse into a very special Jewish community of the past.

We are thrilled that our preservation efforts have succeeded in reuniting this community and its descendants, and we are very gratified by the overwhelming encouragement and support we have received. This project is indeed bringing us together as a new community – both virtual and actual – to honor those who built the Perth Amboy Jewish Community and are now interred at these cemeteries. Read on to learn more about restoration, tours of the cemeteries, our partnership with Federation, future plans, and acknowledgments of our contributors to date. We welcome all of your comments and suggestions.

Mona Shangold

CEMETERY TOURS

In response to excellent suggestions and requests we have received from our supporters, we plan to offer Cemetery Tours, beginning in the Spring of 2006. These tours will provide an excellent opportunity to visit the graves of your loved ones; honor the memory of the entire Perth Amboy Jewish Community of yesteryear; learn interesting historical information about these cemeteries, those interred there, and the community in which they lived; and observe the current condition of the cemeteries and our progress in restoring them. The tours will be free, and all are welcome and invited to attend. Check our Web site frequently for more information about the tours, including dates and times.

Tentative tour dates for Spring 2006 are:

March 19 • April 23 • May 14 (Mother's Day) • June 18 (Father's Day).

All tours will begin at 12:00 noon at the Hebrew Fraternity Cemetery entry gate on New Brunswick Ave. in Hopelawn. After a 1-hour tour of the Hebrew Fraternity Cemetery, we will drive to the Congregation Shaarey Tefiloh Cemetery on Florida Grove Road and Bingle Street for a 1-hour tour of that cemetery. WEAR COMFORTABLE CLOTHES AND SHOES.

For those who are unable to attend a scheduled group tour, especially those who live at a distance and plan to visit this area at another time, we will be happy to arrange for a private tour at another time. Please contact us to make such arrangements.

Although all tours are free, advance registration and contact information (via our Web site or phone) are recommended, so that we can notify you of any changes (bad weather or other emergencies, etc.).

ANNOUNCING OUR NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH FEDERATION

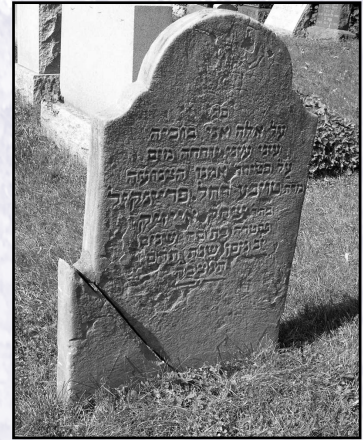
We are pleased to announce that we have formed a new partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County to enable our two organizations to work together to achieve our mutual goals. A few members of our Board attended the annual Florida reunion February 12, 2006 in Boca Raton, where our partnership was announced and our goals were explained. Many attendees of this event have roots in the Perth Amboy Jewish Community and the surrounding communities, have relatives and friends interred at these cemeteries and are eager to help our efforts.

DONATIONS

HOW MUCH TO GIVE?

When we launched our fundraising campaign in October 2005, we asked you to look into your hearts and reach into your pockets, and many of you did. As a result of your generosity, we have raised \$30,000 to date. We are very grateful for the support you have given us, and we are asking you, once again, to look into your hearts and reach into your pockets.

In response to many questions about our costs and needs, we are providing some guidelines to help many of you in deciding how much to give. Although some people have inquired about the cost of restoring and maintaining one grave, we intentionally avoided individual calculations because we wanted to encourage giving *by the community for the community*, emphasizing the unselfish philosophy that is fundamental to our organization. However, in planning your gift, it may be helpful for you to know that restoration and maintenance of these cemeteries will probably cost a total of about \$30,000 per year (in current dollars, based on current costs), with maintenance for one single grave probably averaging \$30 per year. Remember, however, that our goal is not to restore and maintain these cemeteries for only one year or even 50 years, but rather to preserve these historic cemeteries forever – long after all of us are gone. To achieve this goal, we must raise enough funds now to finance the landscaping using investment interest alone. Thus, our initial fundraising goal is to raise one million dollars to provide sufficient principal to generate the necessary investment income. This is an ambitious undertaking, but we remain confident that everyone will give as generously as possible – even stretching as much as possible – to help us achieve this goal.



BIRTHDAY AND YAHRZEIT DONATIONS

If you can't visit the cemeteries for a real tour, be sure to take the virtual tour on our Web site. Anytime you can't visit the graves of your loved ones in person, you can visit them online through our Web site. Instead of placing a stone on the grave during a real visit, you can send a donation to Friends for Preservation of Middlesex County Jewish Cemeteries, Inc. in memory of your loved ones ---- before the holidays, on a birthday or Yahrzeit, or at any other time. We will gladly place a stone on the graves for you. We do not want to compete with any synagogues or other institutions to which you are sending Yahrzeit donations. Please continue to send those donations, which are important to you and to the recipient institutions, but please consider this an additional opportunity to honor and remember your loved ones, worthy of an additional donation to Friends for Preservation of Middlesex County Jewish Cemeteries, Inc.



GIVING OPTIONS

We offer many giving options, including checks, stock gifts, annuities, bequests, credit card donations, and recurring credit card billing. While a one-time credit card payment is a common method of donating, some prefer to arrange for automatic monthly credit card payments, thereby making installment payments that are automatically charged each month. Owners of appreciated stock can obtain substantial tax benefits by donating the appreciated stock directly to our nonprofit organization, thereby avoiding capital gains tax on the donated stock. Please contact us if you want information about any of these options.

FUTURE PLANS

We are planning to publish a cookbook in the near future, with several goals in mind:

- (1) to preserve the best recipes of many of the excellent cooks from the Perth Amboy Jewish Community of yesteryear,
- (2) to honor the memory of these cooks and the eaters they fed,
- (3) to raise awareness of the cemeteries and the community interred there, and
- (4) to raise funds for the restoration and long-term maintenance of these cemeteries.

Please contact us if you think you will have recipes to contribute. Although this project is still in the very early stages of planning, it will be very helpful to know how many are interested in helping in any way.

CEMETERY RESTORATION NEWS

Several members of our group serve on the Cemetery Committee of Congregation Shaarey Tefilah. Through this committee, we are planning to begin restoration and regular maintenance at the cemeteries this spring. You can follow our progress by visiting the cemeteries (either alone or with our group tours), or you can visit our Web site for progress updates.

THANKING OUR DONORS

The following list, which appears in chronological order of the date of gift receipt, includes all donations received and processed by February 24, 2006. Please contact us if your name does not appear in the following list and you believe we should have received your donation by this date.

We gratefully acknowledge generous donations from the following individuals, noting memorial gifts when specified and excluding anonymous gifts when specified:

Drucker, Math and Whitman
Mona Shangold – *in memory of Harriet, Jack, Ida, Israel, Fanny & Abraham Shangold and Gussie, Morris, & Meyer Ginzberg*

Bardin Levavy
Gary Shangold – *in memory of Harriet and Jack Shangold*
Kenneth Shangold Mirkin – *in memory of Harriet and Jack Shangold*
Alan Goldsmith
Rebecca Parnes Singer
Hank Wallace
Morton Rosenberg
Jane Perlin Weinstein and Frances Perlin – *in memory of Matthew Perlin and Ida Goldsmith Perlin*
Kathy Goldsmith Cohen
Carole Meistrich Corral
Stanley Bey – *in memory of Mollie and Sam Bey*
Susan Klegman Horowitz
Norma Jacobson Messing – *in memory of Jean K. and Murray B. Jacobson*
Joel Jacobson
Betty Margaretten Cohen
Sheila Stess Schechtman – *in memory of her grandparents, Alta & Abbe Davidson, and her great-grandparents, Sarah & Kalman Davidson*
Marilyn Millet Goldberg
Jay P. Goldsmith – *in memory of the Meyer Miller and Jacob P. Goldsmith Families*
Larry P. Goldsmith
Sidney Josen
Melvin Silverman
Carol Howard Laibstain
Howard S. Kroop – *in memory of Claire and Louis Kroop*
Rita and George Kagan – *in memory of their parents, the Doctofskys and the Kagans*

Anita Fuchs Price
Robert M. Toborowsky
Leah Y. Kramer
Susan Lee Griffis
Sarah B. Schlesinger
Sandra and Joe Capolupo – *in memory of Julia and David Toborowsky and Larry Toborowsky*
Elaine Singer – *in memory of Anna and Jacob Singer*
Barry Rosengarten
Lydia Singer – *in memory of her family*
Ruth Bronston – *in memory of Pauline and Morris Margaretten*
David Isaacson
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Sandler – *in memory of their parents*
Murray Toborowsky – *in memory of David and Julie Toborowsky*
Alfred and Sylvia Barkan Rimm – *in memory of Reva and Harry Barkan*
Annellen and Murray Guth – *in memory of Dr. & Mrs. H.P. Fine and Family and Mr. & Mrs. Max Guth and Family*
Paul S. Miller – *in memory of the Goldsmith Family*
Abe Resnick
Russell Bey
Iris Davidson Schwartz – *in memory of Hyman and Betty Davidson*
Phyllis Machta
Nancy and Scott Sewitch
Davia Berlfein – *in memory of her family*
Elaine Sacarny Zack – *in memory of grandparents Sarah & Max Sacarny, and sister Sarah*

Faye Penn Schreier
Alvin (Avi) Golub – *in memory of Esther and Irving Golub*
Malvina Perlman Becker – *in memory of Pauline and Bernard Rosenzweig*
Arlene Feinberg Feinblatt
Bob and Abby Belafsky
Sherman and Jean Ancier – *in memory of Max and Sarah Sacarny and Jacob Gaier*
Marlene C. Kastleman – *in memory of Abraham D. Rubin*
Arthur and Sandra Cohen
Joan Sher Meister – *in memory of Dorothy and Charles Sher*
Ralph Stess
Alan Pollak – *in memory of the Pollak and Sobel Families*
Leo Sacarny
Rae Joselson
Howard Cohen – *in memory of Henry and Ida Cohen*
Powell Saks

Gordon and Barbara Hodas
Donna Joselson Faktor, Jeff Joselson, and Matilda Joselson
Joanne and Murray Kaplan – *in memory of Martin M. Singer*
Janice Bey Shevell
Harold T. Sher – *in memory of Charles and Mary Sher*
Judith Margaretten Bronston – *in memory of Pauline and Morris Margaretten*
Burton Sher – *in memory of Charles and Mary Sher*
Ruth Eisemann Fost
Mona Shangold – *in memory of Rae Rosengarten*
Zelda Brody Belafsky
Mona Shangold – *in memory of Donna Sewitch*
Jack Singer
Michael Perlin
Bernard and Zalma Gelber
Martin Clawans – *in memory of E. David, Sylvia, and Stanley Clawans*
Sam Sandler
Richard Millet – *in memory of Sadie and Abraham Millet*
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Roni and Ronald Berkowitz
Marilyn Hochheiser Sapiro
Susan Cohen Meyer
Michael Cohen and Alison Hill
Arthur Aneckstein – *in memory of Anne, Morris, Sara, Ada, Raymond, Ethel & Meyer Aneckstein; Ida, Israel, & Bella Shangold; and Sylvia Clawans*
Roy and Maureen Doctofsky
Miriam Daitz Vogel
Mildred Sacarny Asbell – *in memory of Sarah Sacarny*
Edna Kesselhaut Siegel – *in memory of Max & Sarah Sacarny*
Mark W. Kaplowitz – *in memory of Leo & Betty Kaplowitz*
David Scott
Linda Meistrich Rothenberg
Nancy and Bill Levine – *in memory of Henry and Ida Cohen*
Diane Stess-Kirschner and Jeanette Stess – *in memory of Leo Stess*
Harriet Shangold Prussack – *in memory of grandparents Abraham & Fanny Shangold*
Eugene Galen – *in memory of Dora & Samuel Galen*
Susan M. Goldsmith – *in memory of David & Rose Gittes Goldsmith, Minerva Goldsmith Oppenheim, Sadie Goldsmith Kasdan, and Paul B. Goldsmith*
Brian Goldsmith and Florence Goldsmith
Herbert Lipman
Jeanette Schoenbaum
Arthur and Carol Roth
Susan Feldman Weiss – *in memory of Jack and Anne Feldman*
Robert Goldfarb
Lowell and Julie Singer
Matilda Witkin – *in memory of Donna Sewitch*
Lynn Goldstein Josell
Marcy Sanders Bezark – *in memory of Dr. & Mrs. Irving Sanders*
Rhoda Malett Miller
Elliot and Martha Leibowitz Rothman – *in memory of Donna Goldman Sewitch and Fannie & Max Goldman*
Eleanor Leibowitz – *in memory of Donna Goldman Sewitch and Fannie & Max Goldman*
Eileen Klegman
Shirley Jacobson Laiks – *in memory of Sol and Ruth Jacobson*
Marcia Weinstein Stern
Edward Saiff
Bradley Singer
Sylvia Sinett
Jaclynn Faffer Silverstein
Mona Shangold – *in memory of Sylvia Katz*
Herbert Zagor, David & Fern Zagor, Harriet & Jeffrey Kelman, and grandchildren – *in memory of Natalie Usdin Zagor and the Zagor, Benjinson, Lader and Jacobson Families*
Mona Shangold – *in memory of Rabbi Pinchos Chazin*
Lynn Kreil Silverman
Mona Shangold – *in memory of her father, Jack Shangold, on his Yahrzeit*
Bruce Goss
Rhena Chazin Kelsen - *in memory of Hirsch L. Chazin and Pinchos Chazin*
Frances Parnes Diener
Anonymous (6)

Contact us:

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