

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our organization's growth and your enthusiasm continue to excite and encourage us. While we remain firmly committed to our primary goal of raising funds for the perpetual care of the cemeteries owned by Congregation Shaarey Tefiloh, we have added several new initiatives to our already growing list of projects, most of which have arisen in response to your ideas and all of which are described in this newsletter.

We find it very gratifying to help so many of you locate the graves of your ancestors and connect with your relatives, often as a result of observing that several of you independently share an interest in the same graves. The popularity of our **Cemetery Tours** has encouraged us to continue scheduling them. Many of you read about our accomplishments in the NY Times and saw us in action during a televised tour. We were as thrilled as you to have such excellent **publicity!** To encourage your cemetery visits between our tours and to be sure you can find stones to place on the graves of your loved ones, we have left a bag of stones at each cemetery, inviting you to help yourselves.

We are also planning to help in the preparation of a **book about the history of the Perth Amboy Jewish Community** as another means of honoring the memory of those interred at our cemeteries. Many of you enjoyed socializing at our first "**Reunion Breakfast**" and at **post-tour gatherings**, and we understand how important the social and community aspects of our organization are to our basic mission. We also came together as a community to repair the recently **vandalized cemetery monuments**, all of which were quickly restored as a result of our efforts.

Despite our tremendous pride in our accomplishments thus far, we acknowledge that fundraising for cemetery maintenance remains the cornerstone of our existence and recognize that we still have a very long way to go to accomplish our goal of raising enough funds to maintain these cemeteries forever. We believe that the success of our mission depends on our ability to attract people who feel the same sense of community and generosity that has inspired us to come together to save our cemeteries. We remain very grateful for your support and encouragement, which we know we can count on to continue our work.

Mona Shangold



Hebrew Fraternity Cemetery in Hopelawn, NJ



Congregation Shaarey Tefiloh Cemetery in Perth Amboy, NJ



LANDSCAPING PROGRESS AND PLANS

If you have visited the cemeteries recently, you will have noticed that our landscapers (D & S Landscaping) have cleaned, trimmed, and maintained the cemeteries beautifully throughout 2006. We know that you were as pleased as we were because so many of you expressed compliments and gratitude. Following our plans to maintain the cemeteries in this respectful manner, we have renewed our contract with D & S Landscaping throughout 2007.

It is still our intention to respect all plantings and stones purchased by the deceased and their families, and we have no plans to modify any existing structures. Because we are a nonprofit organization, all charitable contributions must be made to our organization's general funds and must be used for general cemetery maintenance; no contributions may be made for work on any specific graves. Anyone wishing to arrange for repairs or maintenance on specific graves should make private arrangements and may directly contact D & S Landscaping (732-549-6387) for this purpose.

CEMETERY TOURS



The success and popularity of our Cemetery Tours, which began in March 2006, continues. Many of you have taken advantage of these tours to visit the graves of your loved ones and to honor the memory of the Perth Amboy Jewish Community as well as to observe the current condition of the cemeteries and our progress in restoring and maintaining them. Some of you have learned about these tours through newspaper articles and television programs covering them. At each tour we provide historical information about the cemeteries, those interred there, and the community in which they lived. We also include a few prayers to enhance our memorial tribute and follow each tour with a visit to a local restaurant to extend our reminiscing and socializing. The tours are free, and all are welcome and invited to attend. Many tour attendees have returned frequently, as a means of honoring and remembering deceased relatives and reminiscing with old friends.

Cemetery Tours for 2007 have been scheduled for

April 15 (Yom Hashoah)
May 13 (Mother's Day)
July 8
August 5
September 2
October 14

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

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, registration in advance is strongly recommended, through our Web site at:

www.friendsofjewishcemeteries.org

by e-mail to: friends@friendsofjewishcemeteries.org

or by phone to: 856-222-1418

so that we can notify you of any weather-related cancellations. Check our Web site frequently for more information about the tours, including dates and times.

If you can't join us for a cemetery tour, we will be happy to visit the graves of your relatives for you. Please contact us to request this service.

DONATIONS

We are grateful for your generous donations to our initial fundraising campaign and to our Annual Giving campaign, as a result of which we were able to restore and maintain the cemeteries throughout 2006. However, your continued support is essential to our success in raising enough funds to achieve both our immediate goal of maintaining these cemeteries now and our long-term goal of maintaining them forever.

Because we are a federally tax-exempt organization as determined by the IRS under Section 501(c)(13), all contributions are tax-deductible as provided by law and are mitzvot too. We encourage all of you to consult your tax advisors about the best ways for you to help us. In some cases, gifts of appreciated stock, recommended gifts from donor-advised foundations, matching funds from corporate employers, recurring credit card billing, and bequests may provide greater advantages to both you and our organization. We encourage all of you to be as generous as you can afford to be. Please contact us if you need more information about any of these giving options.

PERTH AMBOY JEWISH HISTORY BOOK

In 2001 a group of former Perth Amboy residents (Joan Seguire-LeVine, Marilyn Millet Goldberg, Jane Sanders Leal, and Ila Ginsberg Miller) initiated plans to write a book about the history of the Perth Amboy Jewish Community. We would like to join them in the preparation of this book and believe that we have among our supporters the necessary talent and knowledge to bring this project to fruition. If you can help in any way – by providing historical information or photographs, by writing a chapter, or by contributing financial support – please contact us through our website at:

www.friendsofjewishcemeteries.org

by e-mail to: friends@friendsofjewishcemeteries.org

or by phone to: 856-222-1418

VANDALISM

We were deeply saddened and disheartened in September 2006 when vandals toppled 35 monuments at the Florida Grove Road cemeteries owned by both Congregation Shaarey Tefilah and Congregation Beth Mordecai.

Our organization worked together with both synagogues to restore and repair the toppled and damaged headstones as quickly as possible. All three organizations will appreciate any donations sent to offset the costs incurred by this restoration effort. We are happy to report that all toppled monuments have been restored.

NEW BOARD MEMBER

We welcome Norma Jacobson Messing to our Board of Directors. She shares our dedication to these cemeteries and our commitment to the success of our mission.

THANKING OUR DONORS

The following list, which appears in chronological order of the date of gift receipt, includes all donations received and processed between August 1, 2006 and February 15, 2007. Please contact us if your name does not appear in the following list and you believe we should have received your donation during this time interval. All donations received prior to August 1, 2006 were listed in previous issues of THE ETERNAL VINE. All donations received after February 15, 2007 will be listed in the next issue of THE ETERNAL VINE.

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

Seymour Oliet – *in memory of Asher & Sarah Oliet; Morris, Ida, & Sophie Zalutsky; Frank & Virginia Braines; Irving, Joan, Sam, & Ruth Sanders; Abraham & Sadie Millet; Ralph, Rose, Ethel, Sidney, Rose, Meyer, & Rose Roseff*
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Jeanette Stess, Diane Stess-Kirschner, and Sheila Stess Schechtman – *in memory of Alta Davidson, on her Yahrzeit*
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Carl Fields
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Sandra Toborowsky Capolupo – *in memory of Julia, David, & Larry Toborowsky and Barney, Ida, & Sylvia Sher*
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Elaine & Seymour Langer and Gertrude Koblentz – *in memory of Jeanette Stess*
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Flynn & Son Funeral Homes – *in memory of Jeanette Stess*
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Abe and Gilda Resnick – *in memory of Edythe Resnick Seidenberg*
Marc Stoltz – *in memory of grandmother Jeanette Stess*
Cliff Levine – *in memory of Ida Kaplowitz*
Seymour Buchsbaum – *in memory of Yetta & Isadore Buchsbaum*
Marvin Mankowitz – *in honor of Mankowitz and Fleishman Families*
Nona Schwartz
Susan and Richard Blecker
Bernard and Sandra Belafsky Ruthberg – *in memory of Fay & Nat Belafsky*
Alvin Alster
Frances Parnes Diener
Geri and Mike Kaplan
Ann and Bill Drouir – *in memory of Ben Drouir*
Robin Messing, Bonnie Messing, and Susan Messing on behalf of
The Morris and Helen Messing Foundation – *in memory of the Benjinson, Jacobson, Lader, and Zagor Families*
Judith Klein Mishell – *in memory of Rebecca & Leo Klein*
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Alan Spivack – *in memory of Minerva & Bernard Spivack*
Brian and Maxine Goldsmith
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Carol Roberts – *in memory of George D. Marvil*
William A. Cradle
Sheila Stess Schechtman – *in memory of Annette Benjamin Goldstein*
Sheila, Larry, and David Schechtman and Diane Stess-Kirschner – *in memory of Jeanette Stess*
Mona Shangold – *in memory of Jack Shangold and Meyer Ginzberg, on their Yahrzeits*
Kenneth Mirkin – *in memory of grandfather Jack Shangold, on his Yahrzeit*
Gary Shangold – *in memory of Jack Shangold, on his Yahrzeit*
Susan Feldman Weiss – *in memory of Sidney Herbert and Edward Herbert*
Mona Shangold – *in memory of Theresa Faffer*
Gary Shangold – *in memory of Theresa Faffer*
Norma Jacobson Messing – *in memory of Jean K. Jacobson, on her Yahrzeit*
Gary Shangold – *in memory of Ellen Cohen*
Anonymous (4)

**Friends for Preservation of
Middlesex County Jewish Cemeteries, Inc.**

Box 306, Moorestown, NJ 08057

856-222-1418

www.friendsofjewishcemeteries.org

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Box 306

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REUNION BREAKFAST



As shown in these photographs, many of our supporters enjoyed the opportunity to socialize at our Reunion Breakfast and Planned Charitable Giving Seminar on Sunday, November 5 at The Barge in Perth Amboy. We were very grateful to Merrill Lynch for sponsoring this event and to Ronald Drucker (CPA, attorney, and Founding Partner of Drucker, Math & Whitman), Matt McKean (Vice President and Private Wealth Specialist with Merrill Lynch Trust), Seymour Nowicki (Senior Financial Advisor with Merrill Lynch), and Sheldon Whitman (CPA and Founding Partner of Drucker, Math & Whitman) for generously donating their time and sharing their expertise with us at this event. In response to your interest, we intend to plan similar events in the future. If you have any specific suggestions or requests, please let us know.