

## CEMETERY TOURS

Our cemetery tours have remained popular and have attracted families, friends, supporters, and historians — many of whom have returned multiple times. Recent visitors have come from as far away as Florida, California, Israel, and Australia. Our 2008 cemetery tours have been scheduled on the following dates:

- April 13
- May 11 (Mother's Day)
- June 15 (Father's Day)
- July 13
- August 17
- September 21
- October 26

All tours will 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**, appropriate for standing and walking outdoors for 2 hours. All tours will be 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.

Please register through our Web site at:  
[www.friendsofjewishcemeteries.org](http://www.friendsofjewishcemeteries.org)

by phone to  
856-222-1418

or by e-mail to

[friends@friendsofjewishcemeteries.org](mailto:friends@friendsofjewishcemeteries.org)

Check our Web site frequently for more information about the tours, including any schedule changes.

Many families have planned reunions around our cemetery tours, which have enabled them to locate and visit their ancestors' graves together, connect or reconnect with both close and distant cousins, honor the memories of their deceased relatives, and reminisce and socialize with their cousins. We have found it very gratifying to play such a pivotal role in facilitating these reunions and encourage all of you to contact us for help in planning such events.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As you know, our very ambitious proactive efforts are intended to ensure that our cemeteries will avoid the neglect and abandonment that have befallen so many other cemeteries when families moved to distant locations and neighborhoods changed in ethnic composition. Our situation

certainly is not unique. We have received many letters and calls describing similar problems at other cemeteries, some of which request our help and most of which compliment our efforts. We remain inspired and encouraged by your interest and support, and we are grateful for the many ideas you have sent us, as a result of which we have expanded our plans even further.

We plan to continue our **Cemetery Tours**, which have enabled many of you to locate and visit the graves of your ancestors, connect with your cousins, and reminisce with old friends. These tours have become the cornerstone for many **Family Reunions**, and we have shared in the enthusiasm of many families as we have helped them plan these events. We hope even more families will take advantage of these tours to reunite and reconnect.

The growing number of genealogists among our supporters has led us to form our own **Genealogy Network**, which we hope you will be interested in joining. We are also assisting with the preparation of a book about the **History of the Perth Amboy Jewish Community** and are thrilled that this important project is off to a great start.

The improved appearance of our cemeteries remains our greatest achievement, and plans to continue this project remain our greatest challenge. To achieve this daunting goal, we have expanded our fundraising plans — creating a **Donor Honor Roll** to acknowledge our most generous supporters. We remain very grateful for your past support, and we hope we can count on you to be even more generous in the future.

*Mona Shangold*



Hebrew Fraternity Cemetery in  
Hopelawn, NJ



Congregation Shaarey Tefilah  
Cemetery in Perth Amboy, NJ

## FIRST DONOR HONOR ROLL

We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of the following donors, each of whom has contributed at least \$1,000.00 from inception in 2005 through December 31, 2007:

**\$25,000+**

Robin Messing, Bonnie Messing, and Susan Messing  
on behalf of The Morris and Helen  
Messing Foundation

**\$15,000+**

Gary Shangold  
Mona Shangold

**\$3,000+**

Anonymous (1)  
Norma Jacobson Messing

**\$2,000+**

Martin Clawans and Fran Clawans Anderson  
Lewis Kaden  
Joan Sher Meister  
Shep Sewitch

**\$1,000+**

Art Aneckstein  
Drucker, Math & Whitman  
Donna Joselson Faktor, Matilda Joselson and Jeff Joselson  
Jay Goldsmith  
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Rae Joselson  
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Richard Kagan  
Bardin Levavy  
Rosalind Levine  
Leonard and Barbara Kagan Littman  
Barry Rosengarten  
Burton Sher  
Harold Sher  
Myron Shevell  
Jack Singer  
Herbert Zagor and Family

## FAMILY RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

Many of our supporters have a strong interest in tracing their family histories. Joan Sher Meister, another one of our active volunteers, has graciously agreed to provide assistance with family research to anyone who donates a minimum of \$1,000.00 to our organization.

Joan grew up in Perth Amboy and has many relatives interred at these cemeteries. She has traced her own family back to the 1700's and has connected with relatives from Perth Amboy and around the world. Although not a genealogist by profession, she has extensive knowledge of Jewish genealogical resources, experience with Eastern European Archives, and connections to Jewish genealogical organizations.

We are grateful for Joan's generous commitment to our mission and her willingness to act as family research facilitator. Please contact us for more information.

## 2007 ANNUAL HONOR ROLL

We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of the following donors, each of whom has contributed at least \$1,000.00 to our organization during calendar year 2007:

**\$25,000+**

Robin Messing, Bonnie Messing, and Susan Messing  
on behalf of The Morris and Helen  
Messing Foundation

**\$5,000+**

Gary Shangold  
Mona Shangold

**\$3,000+**

Anonymous (1)  
Norma Jacobson Messing

**\$2,000+**

Lewis Kaden  
Shep Sewitch

**\$1,000+**

Martin Clawans and Fran Clawans Anderson  
Drucker, Math & Whitman  
Richard Kagan  
Bardin Levavy  
Leonard and Barbara Kagan Littman  
Joan Sher Meister  
Myron Shevell

## DONATIONS

We remain very grateful for your generous donations to our initial fundraising initiative, which enabled us to restore and maintain the cemeteries throughout 2006 and 2007. However, we still have a very long way 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, of course! We encourage all of you to consult your own tax advisors about the best ways for you to help us — including gifts of appreciated stock, recommended gifts from donor-advised foundations, matching funds from corporate employers, recurring credit card billing, and bequests. We hope you can find it in your hearts to reach even more deeply into your pockets! Please contact us if you need more information about any of these giving options.



# THANKING OUR DONORS

The following list includes all donations received and processed between August 1, 2007 and February 1, 2008. All donations received prior to August 1, 2007 were listed in previous issues of THE ETERNAL VINE. All donations received after February 1, 2008 will be listed in the next issue of THE ETERNAL VINE. We gratefully acknowledge generous donations from the following individuals:

Anonymous (5)  
Art Aneckstein  
Leta Rubin Arad – *in memory of Leah Eta Rubin, Bess Gavronsky, Rose Brody, and Fanny Alderman*  
Zelda Brody Belafsky  
Samuel and Lynn Bergner – *in memory of Philip and Sarah Levinston*  
Ronna Belafsky Blau – *in memory of Jacob and Ida Belafsky*  
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Rabbi Michael Cohen and Alison Hill  
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Warren Deutsch – *in memory of Ella and Zoltan Deutsch*  
Frances Parnes Diener  
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Joel Jacobson – *in memory of Murray and Jean Jacobson*  
Sol and Bert Faffer James – *in memory of Rhoda Faffer Mendelson, Samuel Faffer, Cantor Hirsch L. Chazin, and Dora Chazin*  
Rhoda Reitman Juskow – *in memory of Elliott Juskow*  
Richard Kagan Family  
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Martin Kesselhaut – *in memory of Max and Sarah Sacarny*  
Judy Kaplan Kurtz – *in memory of Kappy and Dinah Kaplan*  
Bardin Levavy  
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Martin Lipman – *in memory of David Lipman*  
Leonard and Barbara Kagan Littman  
Irwin and Barbara Mancbach  
Marvin Mankowitz – *in memory of Bess Mankowitz*  
Joan Sher Meister – *in memory of Dorothy and Charles Sher, Bessie and Jacob Sher, and Barbara Sher Levy*  
Norma Jacobson Messing – *in memory of Howard Laiks*  
Robin Messing, Bonnie Messing, and Susan Messing  
on behalf of The Morris and Helen Messing Foundation  
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Leo Sacarny  
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Sam Sandler – *in memory of the Sandler Family*  
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Sheila, Larry, and David Schechtman – *in memory of Melvyn Schechtman, on his Yahrzeit*  
Sheila Stess Schechtman, Diane Stess-Kirschner, and Family – *in memory of Alta Davidson, on her Yahrzeit; in memory of Jeanette Stess, on her 1st Yahrzeit*  
Sarah Schlesinger  
Faye Penn Schreier – *in memory of Irving Penn and Bernard Penn*  
Deborah Sewitch – *in memory of Myron and Barbara Sewitch*  
Rosann Sewitch  
Shep Sewitch – *in memory of Donna Sewitch*  
Ted Sewitch  
Mona Shangold – *in memory of Tanya Auerbach; in memory of Howard Laiks; in memory of Ida Eisenberg Shangold, Meyer Ginzberg, and Jack Shangold, on their Yahrzeits*  
Myron Shevell  
Edna Kesselhaut Siegel – *in memory of grandparents Sarah & Max Sacarny and cousin Sarah Sacarny*  
Arthur Silverman and Marilyn Silverman Berkowitz – *in memory of Ida, Nathan, Sylvia, and David Silverman*  
Melvin Silverman  
Samuel Silverman  
Sydell Spinner  
Alan Spivack – *in memory of Bernard and Minerva Spivack*  
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Ralph and Lori Taber – *in memory of the Wilk and Bender Families*  
Ruth Margaretten Terner – *in memory of Samuel Margaretten*  
Murray Toborowsky – *in memory of the Toborowsky and Sher Families*  
Treistman Family  
Sharyn Bey Turchin – *in memory of Mollie and Sam Bey*  
Jane Perlin Weinstein – *in memory of the Perlin Family*  
Leonard Weiss  
Mitzi Weitzen – *in memory of Clifford Weitzen*  
Ida Berman Whitman – *in memory of the Berman Family*  
Beryl Toborowsky Wild  
Connie Hess Williams  
Matilda Witkin  
Joyce Ginsberg Yaffe – *in memory of Lillian Bushin*  
Elaine Sacarny Zack  
Stanley and Joanne Zimmerman

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

Box 306, Moorestown, NJ 08057

856-222-1418

[www.friendsofjewishcemeteries.org](http://www.friendsofjewishcemeteries.org)

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Box 306

Moorestown, NJ 08057



### NEW BOARD MEMBER

We welcome Jaclynn Faffer Silverstein to our Board of Directors. She shares our commitment to our mission and brings experience, enthusiasm, and energy to our Board.

### PHOTO CAPTIONS (all photos identified from left to right)

1. Martin Kesselhaut, Arlene Kesselhaut, Julius Zack, Elaine Sacarny Zack, Edna Kesselhaut Siegel, Leo Sacarny
2. Art Aneckstein, Marty Lipman
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### RECENT CEMETERY VANDALISM

We were deeply saddened by the recent vandalism and destruction at the Poile Zedek and Etz Ahaim Cemeteries in New Brunswick and Highland Park, and we were eager to help them. Although we remain far from reaching our own fundraising goals, we reached out to help them by contacting those on our mailing list and encouraging them to support the fundraising effort organized by Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County at [www.jewishmiddlesex.org](http://www.jewishmiddlesex.org). We share the pain of these synagogues and the family members of those interred at these cemeteries, and we hope you will be generous to this initiative without diminishing your support to our own cause.