

## CEMETERY TOURS

Our Cemetery Tours remain popular and provide a special opportunity for us to honor and remember our loved ones together, and we hope you will be able to join us for one or more of these --- possibly arranging for a family reunion there. We have scheduled Cemetery Tours on the following Sundays during 2012:

- May 13 (Mother's Day)
- June 17 (Father's Day)
- September 9  
(before the high holidays)

All tours will begin at noon at the Hebrew Fraternity Cemetery entry gate on New



Joan Sher Meister

Brunswick Avenue in Hopelawn. After visiting the Hebrew Fraternity Cemetery, we will drive to the Congregation Shaarey Tefiloh Cemetery and the Congregation Beth Mordecai Cemetery on Florida Grove

Road. We will follow this Cemetery Tour with an optional visit to a local restaurant. Please let us know in advance, if possible, if you plan to attend, especially if you want us to help you locate any specific graves. If you can't visit in person, we will be glad to visit for you and will place stones on the graves for you too. Please contact us for more information through our Web site at [www.friendsofjewishcemeteries.org](http://www.friendsofjewishcemeteries.org), by phone at 856-222-1418, or by e-mail to [friends@friendsofjewishcemeteries.org](mailto:friends@friendsofjewishcemeteries.org).

## MONUMENT PHOTOS AND TRANSLATIONS

Please contact us if you would like our help in translating any Hebrew monuments – at our cemeteries or elsewhere – or if you would like a photo of any monument at any of our cemeteries. We are happy to offer these services – and we will certainly welcome any contributions you would like to send us in appreciation.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As most of you know, our organization was formed in 2005 by a group of concerned individuals who recognized that the cost of maintaining these cemeteries forever will exceed the initial expectations of their owners and will become impossible to meet without significant additional support. The founders of our organization --- nearly all of whom are still on our Board --- also realized that the Jewish Community has left Perth Amboy and the descendants of those interred at these cemeteries are now scattered all over the world. Although many former Perth Amboy residents have contacted us and are eager to help, we have been unable to locate many others --- some of whom may believe there is still a Jewish Community in Perth Amboy that will care for these cemeteries.

Our original mission has not changed: raising funds for the cemeteries owned by Congregation Shaarey Tefiloh. Since inception, we have spent \$127,615 on cemetery landscaping maintenance and repairs --- all raised from your support --- and we have also paid for the necessary costs of doing business (printing and mailing this newsletter, accepting credit card payments, accounting and administrative fees, etc.). Our Board members are all unpaid volunteers who receive no financial compensation for their efforts.

While our mission has not changed, we have also been happy to offer many other services --- helping people locate the graves of their loved ones, assisting people with genealogical research, visiting graves with and without family members, helping people locate their living relatives, translating Hebrew monuments, etc. Many people have sent donations in appreciation for these services, and we are very grateful for all such support. We will continue to offer these services, of course, because we think it is important to do so, even though we are uncompensated volunteers and these services are beyond our basic mission.

Our task remains daunting and becomes even more challenging as time passes, since fewer members of the former Perth Amboy Jewish Community remain to raise the funds needed to provide cemetery care in perpetuity. We hope all of you --- and your children and grandchildren --- will rise to the challenge. As always, we are very grateful for your support.

Mona Shangold



Top - Hebrew Fraternity Cemetery in Hopelawn, NJ  
Bottom - Congregation Shaarey Tefiloh Cemetery in Perth Amboy, NJ

## PERTH AMBOY JEWISH COMMUNITY HISTORY BOOK UPDATE

The large quantity of material received by the book organizers in response to their requests required additional time to process, organize, and insert into the book --- leading to a revised publication schedule. They now expect the book to be published and ready for distribution by Rosh Hashanah, following advance sales in June. All those receiving this newsletter will receive a letter and order form in May, describing the book, the pricing structure, and special discount opportunities. If you know any individuals interested in purchasing this book who are not on our mailing list, please send their names and contact information to Marilyn Millet Goldberg at [jaymarilyn@aol.com](mailto:jaymarilyn@aol.com) or 609-655-2351.

Many of the photos they received were copied from originals, and some of these reproductions are not of book-quality because they were scanned at low resolution. Marilyn has contacted many people who submitted old photos that were not originals, in order to obtain better photos for reproduction in the book. All originals will be returned to their owners as soon as possible. Updated information about the book will be sent by e-mail to all those on our e-mailing list.

## 2011 ANNUAL HONOR ROLL

We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of the following donors, each of whom contributed at least \$1,000.00 to our organization during calendar year 2011:

**\$1,000+**

**Norma Jacobson Messing**

**Gary Shangold**

**Mona Shangold**

**Myron P. Shevell**

**Neil and Blanche Eisemann Sosland**



Board members (front row L-R): Mona Shangold, Daniel Chazin, Norma Jacobson Messing; (back row L-R): Gary Shangold, Barry Rosengarten, Shep Sewitch, Bardin Levavy

## SEARCHING FOR FAMILIES

Many of you contacted us in response to the list we published in our Fall 2011 newsletter, asking for your help in finding the families of individuals whose cemetery monuments had fallen, and many of these monuments have been repaired or will be repaired as soon as conditions permit.

In addition to those whose families we sought because of fallen monuments, we are seeking the families of a few individuals whose monuments and old records have left their identities uncertain because family names are lacking. We have already identified a few such individuals --- including some who were important members of the Perth Amboy Jewish Community --- and we are asking for your help in identifying a few more. If you --- or anyone you know --- had a relative named Shayna Libbe who died in October 1918, please contact us. A photo of her cemetery monument is shown here, to the right.



# THANKING OUR DONORS

The following list includes all donations received and processed between September 15, 2011 and February 22, 2012. All donations received prior to September 15, 2011 were listed in previous issues of THE ETERNAL VINE. All donations received after February 22, 2012 will be listed in the next issue of THE ETERNAL VINE. We gratefully acknowledge generous donations from the following individuals:

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Box 306, Moorestown, NJ 08057

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

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