



President's Message

Eleven years have passed since we formed this organization, and our mission has grown considerably since then. Although we have accomplished a lot, much work remains to be done.

Our primary goal continues to be raising funds for our cemeteries — all of which hold our heritage and our history — and all of which cost much more to preserve than our founding ancestors ever imagined. As we continue working toward this primary goal, though, we have expanded our mission to honor our ancestors in many other ways too.

We have helped many people explore their ancestry — not only locating and translating monuments, but also educating people about their roots and our community history. We are especially glad to help members of the younger generations learn about their individual genealogy, so that they can develop an interest and learn while many of their ancestors are still alive. Most of us become interested in genealogy as we age — regrettably after most of our ancestors are no longer here to answer our questions. It is refreshing and inspiring to see some of our children and grandchildren at our Cemetery Tours — already interested in genealogy while we are still here

to answer their questions.

With this in mind, we have provided the information on Congregation Shaarey Tefiloh's cemetery monuments, memorial plaques, and Yahrzeit cards to JewishGen as part of its Jewish Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR) project. Adding this information to the JOWBR database will memorialize forever the names and Yahrzeit dates of our community ancestors in a way that will make this information available to future generations. Thanks very much to Carol Roberts, Marcia Weinstein Stern, Richard Stern, Miriam Katz Daitz Vogel, Norma Jacobson Messing, Barry Rosengarten, Daniel Chazin, Lillian Faffer, and Ada Green for their assistance in collecting these data and implementing this enormous project.

It is understandable that our cemeteries are valued by genealogists as an important source of historical information, and I remind all of you that regular cemetery maintenance is required — forever — in order to preserve cemetery accessibility to visitors and legibility of monument inscriptions. As we have pointed out before, few people appreciate the true and increasing costs of cemetery maintenance, and even

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

CEMETERY TOURS

Since inception, our Cemetery Tours have provided a unique 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. 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 community.

2016 Cemetery Tours

have been scheduled on the following Sundays:

- May 8 (Mother's Day)
- June 19 (Father's Day)
- October 9 (between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur)

All tours begin at noon at the Hebrew Fraternity Cemetery entry gate on New 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. **Wear very comfortable clothes and shoes** — appropriate for standing and walking outdoors for 2 hours, and please wear a head cover too. All tours are 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. 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.

For more information contact us by phone at 856-222-1418, through our Web site at www.friendsofjewishcemeteries.org, or by e-mail to FPMCJC@gmail.com. Check our Web site frequently for more information about the tours, including any schedule changes.

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most cemetery owners tend to underestimate these costs.

Paraphrasing the words of John F. Kennedy, I remind all of you, including all genealogists, to "ask not what our cemeteries can do for you — ask what you can do for our cemeteries." To honor our ancestors and ensure that future generations will be able to visit our ancestors' graves and read their monument inscriptions, we encourage your donations to our cemeteries now

and in the future.

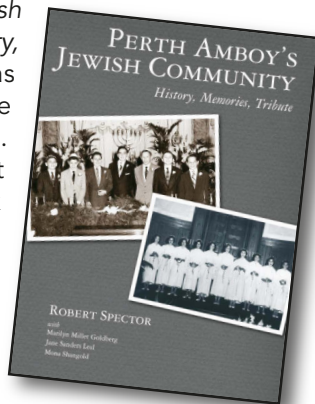
Please join us at our next Cemetery Tour on Sunday, May 8 (Mother's Day), so we can explore our genealogy and visit our ancestors' graves together. We are very grateful for your past contributions, and we hope we can count on your continued support too.

Mona Shangold

Perth Amboy's Jewish Community – History, Memories, Tribute

Book Available for sale

Perth Amboy's Jewish Community: History, Memories, Tribute has been available for sale since December 2012. The book is an elegant 9x12 coffee-table book that presents the complete and accurate history of the Perth Amboy Jewish Community — with many photos, stories, tributes, and memories. According



to the book's authors, it was written "to honor our ancestors and to provide a lasting record for our descendants." Many recent book orders have been from people who initially purchased books for themselves and now want books for their children and grandchildren so they can understand and appreciate their Perth Amboy legacy. To purchase the book — while supplies last — please send your request for an order form to PAJewishBook@aol.com or call 856-222-1418.



David Greenhouse, Sara Greenhouse, Ken Oettle, Mona Shangold, Lenore Stess Kopelovich and Sheldon Cheuse

Thanking Jay Kaplan

We are very grateful to Jay Kaplan for generously donating web hosting services for our website since the inception of our organization in 2005 — and for doing so despite his many other commitments and responsibilities. In addition, his wisdom and talent guided us successfully through several complicated website communication problems. Because his other responsibilities will prevent him from continuing to host our website in the future, we have transitioned our website to a new host. We know that Jay's ancestors, many of whom are buried at our cemeteries, would be proud and honored by his generous contribution.

2015 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 2015:

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Mona Shangold

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 Geri and Mike Kaplan

Thanking our Donors

The following list includes all donations received and processed between October 1, 2015 and March 1, 2016. All donations received prior to October 1, 2015 were listed in previous issues of **The Eternal Vine**. All donations received after March 1, 2016 will be listed in the next issue of **The Eternal Vine**. We gratefully acknowledge generous donations from the following individuals:

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 Mona Shangold – *in memory of Harriet and Jack Shangold, Gussie and Morris Ginzberg, and Ida and Israel Shangold; in memory of Sheldon Weinstein; in honor of Josh Singer's Oscar Award*
 Burton Sher – *in memory of*

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