



President's Message

Recent reports of cemetery vandalism present both new and ongoing concerns about the long-term preservation and security of our cemeteries. While vandalism at cemeteries in St. Louis, Philadelphia, and Rochester made national news, monument damage at many other cemeteries — including our own — has not been publicized (or even reported) although it has occurred on an ongoing basis for a long time. Some of the damage at our cemeteries has probably been done by vandals — possibly expressing religious intolerance, but more likely demonstrating only bad behavior and disrespect for property. Other damage has likely resulted from natural causes (adverse weather, soil erosion, tree root growth, etc.). While these problems are not unique to our cemeteries, they represent additional challenges and expenses.

Some damage can be avoided or minimized by close attention to regular maintenance and proper construction and placement of foundations and monuments. It has been my observation that tall monuments are at greatest risk for toppling and damage, and their repairs are likely to be most expensive. While trees provide beauty and shade, growing roots often destabilize or dislodge

foundations and monuments nearby, and falling trees and branches often damage monuments in their paths. Some damage from natural causes can be minimized by careful planning and monitoring, but much is inevitable and represents an ongoing expense at all cemeteries.

Cemetery security presents an additional problem. Locking all gates and surrounding all cemeteries with high fences would provide increased security, but this construction would exclude respectful visitors too. On-site security guards and/or video surveillance systems are very expensive — much more expensive than most cemeteries can afford.

Some of you have contacted us with questions and suggestions about security at our cemeteries, and we certainly welcome and appreciate your ideas — and we also welcome and appreciate your support. We assure you that we remain fully committed to the long-term security and preservation of our cemeteries, and we will continue to explore all options. As I have attempted to explain, maintaining and protecting our cemeteries forever will be expensive — much more expensive than our founding ancestors anticipated — and we hope we can count on your ongoing support — and the support of your children and grandchildren too!

— Mona Shangold



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.

2017 Cemetery Tours

have been scheduled on the following Sundays:

- May 14 (Mother's Day)
- June 18 (Father's Day)
- September 24 (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 (856-222-1418), email (FPMCJC@gmail.com), or website (friendsofjewishcemeteries.org). Check our website frequently for more information about the tours, including any schedule changes.

2016 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 2016:

\$1000+

B. Harrison and Phyllis Frankel
Dorothy Lemelson

Norma Jacobson Messing
Jennie Parnes Miller

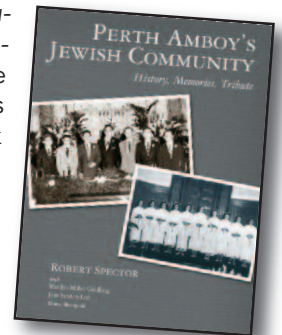
Mona Shangold
Blanche and Neil Sosland

Bonnie, Robin and Susan Messing on behalf of
the Morris and Helen Messing Family Charitable Fund

BOOK AVAILABLE FOR SALE

Perth Amboy's Jewish Community History, Memories, Tribute

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 — send your request for an order form to FPMCJC@gmail.com or call 856-222-1418.



Repairing toppled monuments is very expensive.

Art Aneckstein – *in memory of the Aneckstein and Shangold Families*
 Janet Batlan
 Larry Benjamin – *in memory of Al and Rose Benjamin and Max and Mary Benjamin*
 Samuel and Lynn Bergner
 Susan Blecker – *in honor of the Alpert, Brody, Gelber, and Gavronsky Families*
 Esther Parnes Boaro – *in memory of David Lee Parnes, Molly Pecarsky, Frances Diener, and Anna and Jacob Parnes*
 Judy Margaretten Bronston – *in memory of Pauline and Morris Margaretten, Lena Avchen, and Bessie Avchen; in memory of Clare Simon Shulman*
 Mark and Frankie Busch – *in memory of the Miller and Wilentz Families*
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 Rita Ruderman Chazin – *in memory of Lionel Abraham Chazin, Eta and Tevel Ruderman, Lillian Ruderman Deitel, Norman Ruderman, Ellen Deitel, and Francine Deitel*
 Arthur and Sandy Cohen – *in memory of the Cohen, Siskind, and Fox Families*
 Betty Margaretten Cohen – *in memory of Pauline and Morris Margaretten and Lena Avchen*
 Cathy and Ira Cohen – *in memory of Bessie and William Levine*
 Rabbi Michael Cohen and Alison Hill
 Ira Deutsch – *in memory of Jacob and Sylvia Deutsche*
 Warren Deutsch
 Drucker, Math and Whitman
 Melva Eidelberg – *in memory of Lena and Samuel Podelefsky*
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 Brian and Maxine Goldsmith
 Sarah Ann Goldstein – *in memory of Rebbetzin Sarah Peshah Malinsky*
 Avi Golub – *in memory of the Golub, Belafsky, and Rubinoff Families*

Thanking our Donors

The following list includes all donations received and processed between October 16, 2016 and March 24, 2017. All donations received prior to October 16, 2016 were listed in previous issues of **The Eternal Vine**. All donations received after March 24, 2017 will be listed in the next issue of **The Eternal Vine**. We gratefully acknowledge generous donations from the following individuals:

Warren Greenhouse – *in memory of Hyman Greenhouse*
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 Susan Griffis
 Annellen and Murray Guth – *in memory of Dora Fine*
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 Bonnie, Robin, and Susan
 Messing on behalf of the Morris and Helen Messing Family Charitable Fund – *in honor of Norma Messing*
 Norma Jacobson Messing – *in memory of Saul Buchband; in memory of Steve Rineberg*
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 Sheryl Silverman – *in memory of Max and Julia Silverman*
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 Rebecca Parnes Singer and Milan Zahorcak – *in memory of the Parnes Family*
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 Mitzi Weitzen – *in memory of Edward Koplowitz*
 Beryl Toborowsky Wild – *in memory of the Toborowsky and Sher Families*

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

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www.friendsofjewishcemeteries.org

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Donations have helped to repair weather-related damage from fallen trees and branches.