



President's Message

As I've explained in previous newsletters, I have learned a lot about Jewish cemeteries by attending national and international conferences and talking to cemetery leaders from all over North America. We face many of the same problems and challenges, and we all benefit from sharing our knowledge and experience. To learn even more, I plan to attend the 10th Annual Jewish Cemetery Association of North America (JCANA) Conference in Boston in June.

This year's conference will include sessions on cemetery preservation, fundraising, prudent investing, and liability issues. We will also have a chance to visit several historic cemeteries in the Boston area. Some of my relatives are buried there, and you may be surprised to learn that some of yours might be there too.

JCANA promotes a Code of Ethics as a guide for its members and for all cemetery managers, encouraging ethical business, regulatory, and religious standards. These include ensuring accurate burial records at all times, maintaining dignified burial ground conditions, providing for cemetery preservation and continuity in perpetuity, managing the financial affairs of the cemetery with integrity and fiduciary trust, and cultivating endowment funds consistent with long-term funding needs of cemetery continuity. These are indeed worthy standards for all cemetery owners and managers.



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

Very few people appreciate the complexity of cemetery ownership, management, and maintenance, and most underestimate the true costs involved, especially long-term. Most cemeteries owned by synagogues and fraternal lodges underestimated what expenses would be in future years and failed to prepare adequately for them. This was true in the early 20th century and is still true today.

We have devoted a great amount of time and effort to our mission — raising awareness, interest, and funds — and we remain humbled by the immensity of the task still ahead of us. We are grateful to all of you for your past support, and we hope we can continue to count on your generosity both now and in the future.

— Mona Shangold

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.

2018 Cemetery Tours

have been scheduled on the following Sundays:

- May 6 (one week before Mother's Day)
- June 17 (Father's Day)
- September 16 (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 Tefilah 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.

2017 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 2017:

\$1000+

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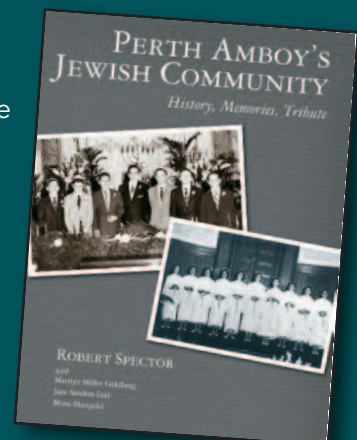
Howard Cohen



Daniel Chazin, Barbara Hodas, Gordon Hodas

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.



Thanking our Donors

The following list includes all donations received and processed between October 5, 2017 and March 15, 2018. All donations received prior to October 5, 2017 were listed in previous issues of **The Eternal Vine**. All donations received after March 15, 2018 will be listed in the next issue of **The Eternal Vine**. We gratefully acknowledge generous donations from the following individuals:

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