

Welcome Message



We welcome all of our new cemetery partners and all of our new readers! As we all face unprecedented challenges during this global coronavirus pandemic, we hope all of you will remain healthy and will be able to return to the lives and activities we had before this pandemic.

While our restrictions have presented hardships, challenges, and inconveniences we had never encountered before, it is important for us to keep these in perspective. We should remember that our ancestors faced even greater hardships and challenges. Some of them lived through the 1918 influenza pandemic, some lived through the Holocaust, and some fought in battle. Among these people are those who founded our New Jersey Jewish communities and are interred in our New Jersey Jewish Cemeteries. As great as our own suffering has been recently, their suffering was even greater. We hope you and your families will remain safe and healthy, and we also hope we can continue working towards our goals in preserving our cemeteries. Although the last few months have been extraordinarily challenging for all of us, they have been a busy time for our organization as we expanded our mission, our functions, and our alliances --- and changed our name to reflect our new role.

Our organization has expanded to add other cemeteries in a partnership that will allow us to broaden our contribution base and centralize administrative functions. While we remain dedicated to our original mission to ensure the preservation of our cemeteries in Perth Amboy and Woodbridge, we have joined with neighboring colleagues in Essex, Bergen, Union, and Middlesex Counties to expand our charitable and educational organization to raise funds for Jewish cemeteries in Newark, North Arlington, Kenilworth, Perth Amboy, Woodbridge, and South Plainfield. In expanding our mission, we changed our name to Friends of New Jersey Jewish Cemeteries, Inc. (a.k.a. Friends for Preservation of Middlesex County Jewish Cemeteries, Inc.). Our concerns and attention to the Shaarey Tefilah cemeteries have not diminished and have, in fact, been

strengthened by our new structure. However, expanding our mission and function and changing our name to Friends of New Jersey Jewish Cemeteries, Inc. enables us to achieve the same charitable goals for Newark Jewish Cemeteries, North Arlington Jewish Cemeteries, Beth David Memorial Park, and Samptown Jewish Cemetery --- and possibly others in the future. All donors have the opportunity to indicate where their contributions should be directed --- to specific cemeteries, to our organization in general, or where the need is greatest.

We have also upgraded and updated our website, which now includes all of our cemetery partners: Newark Jewish Cemeteries (in Newark), North Arlington Jewish Cemeteries (in North Arlington), Beth David Memorial Park (in Kenilworth), Samptown Jewish Cemetery (in South Plainfield), and Shaarey Tefilah Cemeteries (in Perth Amboy and Woodbridge). Please visit our website at <https://friendsofjewishcemeteries.org> to learn about all of our cemeteries and to take virtual tours of them. You can also see "before" and "after" photos of our cemeteries, showing the need for ongoing maintenance and repairs and the improvement in response to your donations. Real cemetery tours have been postponed until social distancing guidelines will permit them. Until then, we invite you to take virtual tours on our website.

We are actively seeking individuals who want to help our organization in any way -- as leaders, cemetery representatives, genealogists, community and cemetery historians, and donors. If you know any individuals who can share their memories of any of these Jewish communities whose members are now interred at any of these cemeteries, please let us know. Our expanded organization will present new opportunities and new challenges, and we are counting on your enthusiasm and support to continue our mission. We are very grateful for all of the words of encouragement and gratitude you have sent us, and we hope we can count on your continued support going forward.

—Mona Shangold and Bennett Epstein



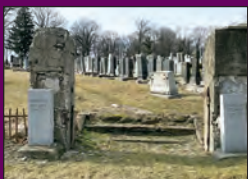
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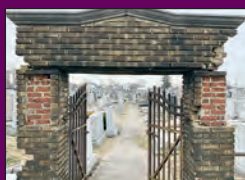
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