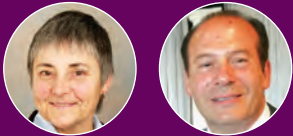


Our Message



As the pandemic continues to present us with unprecedented challenges, we must remember that our ancestors and those who founded our Jewish communities also faced unimaginable challenges – many of which exceeded ours. It is our mission and responsibility to preserve our cemeteries, in order to honor those who built these Jewish communities, for which our cemeteries are the final resting places.

Several of our supporters have shared their wonderful memories of growing up in these Jewish communities, and we invite you to enjoy the memories they have shared. If you grew up in any one of these communities, these memories will touch your heart and make you smile.

We remain very grateful for your support, and we hope we can count on your continued generosity in the future. With your support, we plan to undertake the following projects at our cemeteries as soon as possible: repair of roadways at Beth David Memorial Park; fences at North Arlington Jewish Cemeteries; walkways at Newark Jewish Cemeteries, Samptown Jewish Cemeteries, and Shaarey Tefilah Cemeteries; and storm damage at all. We will provide updates on these projects on our website and in future newsletters.

We hope you and your family will remain safe and well!

—Mona Shangold and
Bennett Epstein

JEWISH COMMUNITY MEMORIES

Several of our supporters have shared memories of growing up in the Jewish communities for which our cemeteries serve as the final resting places. These memories help to remind us why we must preserve our cemeteries to honor those who lived in these communities. We invite all of you to send us (at FPMCJC@gmail.com) some of your own memories of growing up in these communities. Please enjoy the following memories:



JOAN KATES COWLAN: "I grew up in the Elmora section of Elizabeth and remember walking to and from school along "the highway" (North Avenue). Although I had very few Jewish classmates at Elmora School #12, Elizabeth had a very large Jewish population and several synagogues and religious schools. My family belonged to Congregation B'nai Israel, which was led by Rabbi Gershon Chertoff and Cantor Morris Schorr. I can vividly remember reciting Aleinu when our Junior Congregation led a Shabbat service there. Cantor Schorr is buried in the B'nai Israel Cemetery on McClellan Street on the border of Elizabeth and Newark."



BRIAN GOLDSMITH: "Plainfield was the center of economic and social activity for nearly all of the surrounding communities, including North Plainfield, where I grew up. We all shopped in downtown Plainfield --- at Tepper's, Rosenbaum's, Bamberger's, and many small retail stores. Of Plainfield's four synagogues, only Temple Shalom had its own religious school, so most of us received our Jewish education at the Plainfield Hebrew Institute, which was a community Hebrew school not affiliated with any synagogue. My friends and classmates at the Plainfield Hebrew Institute and at the Plainfield Jewish Community Center Day Camp were from Plainfield and all of the surrounding communities (North and South Plainfield, Watchung, Berkeley Heights, Dunellen, Piscataway, Scotch Plains, Green Brook, Warren Township, and Middlesex). I have some really wonderful memories of growing up in this community!"



CAROL LEVINE ROBERTS: "I first attended services at Temple B'nai Jeshurun on High Street in Newark when my grandparents took me. I later attended religious school there and stayed through confirmation. Many of my school classmates were also my classmates at Columbia High School in Maplewood. In high school I became very active in the Temple youth group and formed great friendships. Ely Pilchik and Barry Greene were our rabbis. The majestic voice of Cantor Norman Summers filled the high domed ceiling of the temple. My wedding in 1967 was one of the last to take place in the Newark facility before the congregation relocated to Short Hills."



ALLAN LUBIN: "I loved growing up in Perth Amboy. My friends and I practically lived in the YMHA, playing basketball, ping pong tournaments, and learning to swim, all under the kind supervision of beloved staff member Hecky Plain. It was at the YMHA that I attended my first dance and enjoyed participating in plays as well. When I think of Perth Amboy, I also recall the wonderful camaraderie in my neighborhood among many of our Jewish and Christian neighbors of all ethnicities. We loved sports, but we also knew the value of studying hard so we could attend college and pursue other dreams."



PHYLLIS ORGEL FEINBLUM: "I have so many good memories of growing up in Elizabeth: shopping on Broad Street, Elizabeth Avenue, and Elmora Avenue. -- and knowing the owners of so many of the stores; going to dances, clubs, and swimming at the Y; meeting my friends there and being part of the inter-city youth council of teens from the Jewish Ys in Perth Amboy, Elizabeth, Bayonne and Somerville; working as a counselor at the Y day camp, Camp Y-HO-CA. What a great place to grow up and be a teen!"

Thanking our Donors

The following list includes all donations received and processed between October 21, 2020 and March 6, 2021. All donations received prior to October 21, 2020 were listed in previous issues of **The Eternal Vine**. All donations received after March 6, 2021 will be listed in the next issue of **The Eternal Vine**. We gratefully acknowledge generous donations from the following individuals:

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Stuart Yourish
Frieda Ziering – in memory of Matilda Singer and Max Bertish

Cemetery Tours

From 2006 to 2019, our organization held Cemetery Tours several times each year at the cemeteries in Perth Amboy and Woodbridge for which we were (and still are) raising funds. Although we had planned to continue our tours at these cemeteries and also schedule tours at our new cemetery partners, the current pandemic forced us to cancel our tours during 2020. We remain hopeful that we can resume safely in 2021. We will provide more information as soon as possible. We are glad many of you were able to visit our cemeteries individually and many were able to visit Newark Jewish Cemeteries on September 27, 2020, when the Community Relations Committee of Greater MetroWest NJ sponsored its annual Newark Cemetery Visiting Day.

Please contact us for more information – or if you can help us in any way – through our website at <https://friendsofjewishcemeteries.org>, by phone at 856-222-1418, or by e-mail to FPMCJC@gmail.com. Check our website frequently for more information about the tours.

Contact Information for all Cemeteries

Office: 908-245-7100

The cemetery office (for all of our partner cemeteries) will provide information about these and other services at all of the cemeteries:

- Purchasing cemetery plots
- Planting grave covers
- Arranging for perpetual or annual care of plantings
- Constructing or repairing cemetery monuments and/or foundations
- Cleaning (acid-washing) discolored cemetery monuments
- Inquiring about any individual cemetery plots



Friends of NJ Jewish Cemeteries, Inc.

731 Boulevard
Kenilworth, NJ 07033 -1703

856-222-1418

<https://friendsofjewishcemeteries.org>

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