

## Our Message



**W**hen our organization began in 2005 as Friends for Preservation of Middlesex County Jewish Cemeteries, Inc., those with roots in and near Perth Amboy responded with great



enthusiasm. We quickly formed a new community of people who had wonderful memories of growing up and/or living in or near Perth Amboy, all of whom were eager to reconnect with each other, to honor those who had built these communities, and to preserve our cemeteries.

Since then, we have reminisced with each other about the memories we shared in these communities, and we have embraced our cemeteries because they are the final resting places for our ancestors, our loved ones, our friends and neighbors, and our community leaders. Like those with roots in and near Perth Amboy, many of you have had similar wonderful experiences in other New Jersey Jewish communities, for which many of the cemeteries that recently joined us as cemetery partners are the final resting places.

We are eager to help all of you reconnect with your friends and families from the Jewish communities of Essex, Bergen, and Union counties. We want to work with you to honor these communities and all those for whom the final resting places are our Samptown, Newark, North Arlington, and Beth David Jewish Cemeteries. Some of you have already shared some wonderful memories of the Jewish communities of Elizabeth, Newark, and South Plainfield.

We are eager to hear more about these communities, and we know you will enjoy sharing these memories with your friends, cousins, and children too. We hope you will join us at one of our cemetery tours, and we hope we can count on your support for these cemeteries, so that we can honor these communities together. We are truly grateful for all of your support, which has enabled us to maintain, restore, and repair damage at several of our cemeteries --- some of which are shown in excellent condition in photos in this newsletter. Our organization plans restorative work at some of our newer cemetery partners as soon as sufficient funds permit us to do so.

—Mona Shangold and Bennett Epstein

## Why Our Cemeteries Are So Important

Some of our younger supporters remind us why our cemeteries are so important to all of us and to future generations.



**Noam Kamara:** My interest in our cemeteries and my appreciation for what they represent has grown since I was a child. During several years as a student in Elizabeth, I became especially interested in the McClellan Street cemeteries that serve as the final resting

places for the great Jewish communities of Elizabeth, Newark, and the surrounding areas. I feel a personal connection to these areas as well, since my great-great-grandfather arrived in New Jersey from Poland in 1905, settled in Paterson, and lived in Newark for a period of time. We are indebted to those who built the communities that our cemeteries now represent, and we must preserve these cemeteries to honor them.



**Kenny Mirkin:** Visiting the cemeteries where my relatives are buried has always been a meaningful and emotional experience for me. I vividly remember the funerals of my grandparents, who profoundly influenced my life. Whenever I visit their graves, I recall not only these

sad occasions, but also many joyous occasions we shared while they were still alive. These cemeteries are a window into my identity. They are a crucial link to my ancestors and the communities in which they lived. My life of privilege was built upon their sacrifices, and visiting these cemeteries reinforces this perspective.



# Thanking our Donors

The following list includes all donations received and processed between October 14, 2022 and March 22, 2023. All donations received prior to October 14, 2022 were listed in previous issues of **The Eternal Vine**. All donations received after March 22, 2023 will be listed in the next issue of **The Eternal Vine**. We gratefully acknowledge generous donations from the following individuals:

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## Cemetery Tours

Our Cemetery Tours resumed in 2022, enabling us to honor and remember our loved ones together. These tours have also provided opportunities to explore family genealogy, locate graves of special interest, and learn about the history of our communities. We hope you will be able to join us for one or more of these.

Our 2023 Cemetery Tours have been scheduled for the following Sundays at the locations indicated:

- May 21 – Shaarey Tefilah Cemeteries (in Perth Amboy and Woodbridge)
- June 11 – McClellan Street section of Newark Jewish Cemeteries
- June 25 – Beth David Memorial Park (in Kenilworth)
- July 23 – Samptown Jewish Cemeteries (in South Plainfield)
- August 13 – North Arlington Jewish Cemeteries (in Kearny)
- September 24 – Newark Jewish Cemeteries (joining the Community Relations Committee of Greater MetroWest NJ at its annual Newark Cemetery Visiting Day in Newark)

All tours (except Newark Jewish Cemeteries on Sept. 24) will begin at noon and will last approximately 2 hours. (The Newark Jewish Cemetery Visiting Day starting time has not been announced yet.) All are welcome to attend these free tours, at which we will visit graves of interest to attendees, discuss the cemeteries' histories, and honor and remember those interred there.

Please register in advance (and as soon as possible) to let us know you plan to attend one or more of these tours and to give us the names of any graves you will want to visit. We will notify all registrants of the meeting location for each tour and any weather-related cancellations. To register for one or more tours, please contact us by email at [FPMCJC@gmail.com](mailto:FPMCJC@gmail.com), by phone at 856-222-1418, or through the "Contact Us" form on our website at <https://friendsofjewishcemeteries.org>.



## Friends of NJ Jewish Cemeteries, Inc.

731 Boulevard  
Kenilworth, NJ 07033 -1703

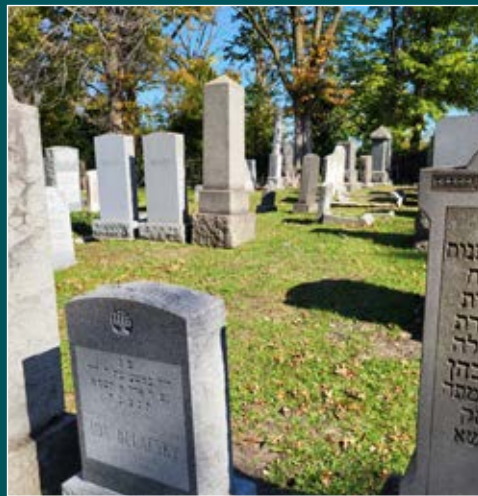
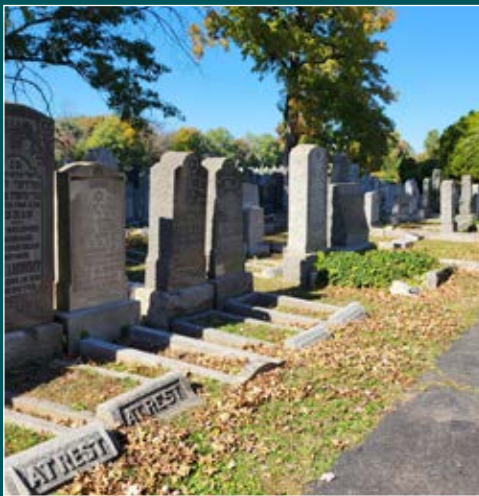
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*Our cemeteries following restoration funded by donations to FNJCC*



### **Contact Information for all Cemeteries**

**Cemetery Office: 908-245-7100**

The cemetery office (for all of our partner cemeteries) will provide information about such services as:

- 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 individual cemetery plots

