



Treasurer's Message

Our organization was created to raise funds to support and maintain the cemeteries owned by Congregation Shaarey Tefiloh — a project based on the realization that these cemeteries lacked sufficient funds to meet anticipated future expenses. Although this remains our primary mission, we have also embarked on other related projects.

Many of you have come to our cemeteries to find information about your ancestors. Not only do cemetery monuments provide the names of one's ancestors and their dates of birth and death, but often they contain other interesting and valuable information. More often than not, the relevant information is in Hebrew, and we have assisted those who require translations of the Hebrew inscriptions into English. We have thereby helped many of you trace your roots and connect with your relatives. We have also provided assistance to both individuals and groups searching for graves of their relatives. Our interest in cemeteries is not limited to the Shaarey Tefiloh cemeteries. Whenever asked for assistance, we help people locate graves at other cemeteries, too.

Our involvement during the past year in helping Congregation Shaarey Tefiloh distribute memorial plaques to family members who wanted them provided yet another opportunity to help many of you connect with your ancestors — an opportunity that enabled both you and us to honor and remember them in a very special way. My cousin Mark Chazin has placed the memorial plaques of our grandparents, Cantor Hirsch L. Chazin and Dora Chazin, on the memorial board of the Jewish Community Center of Long Beach Island, where many former Perth Amboy residents can see them and where other members of his family are also honored.

I know many of you have also moved your family memorial plaques to new locations that have special significance for you, while others are keeping your family memorial plaques at your homes, where you can see them and remember your loved ones even more frequently and conveniently. Although we were initially surprised by your strong interest in these memorial plaques, we have come to understand that these plaques represent a particularly appropriate way to memorialize our deceased loved ones and keep their memory close to us. We were glad to assist with this project.

We hope that the memorial plaques, our cemetery tours, and this newsletter will remind you that our cemeteries will be here forever and need your support. During the recent High Holy Days, we atoned for being selfish and for not being generous enough — and we resolved to be more generous in the year ahead. We hope we can count on your concern, your commitment, and your generosity.

Daniel Chazin



Hebrew Fraternity Cemetery
in Hopelawn, NJ



Congregation Shaarey
Tefiloh Cemetery in Perth
Amboy, NJ

Rebuilding Deteriorating Cemetery Wall

After years of age-related deterioration, the Bingle Street wall — along the southern border of our Congregation Shaarey Tefiloh Cemetery — is undergoing reconstruction. This is another example of the many unexpected and unplanned expenses encountered by all cemeteries as a result of aging and exposure to adverse weather conditions. The entire wall along Bingle Street is in the process of being rebuilt — in a manner that will be both strong and attractive. The entry gate and entry walkway will also be reconstructed as part of this project.

We hope you will stop by to see the new wall. We are confident you will like it as much as we do.

Before



Reconstruction in Progress



Memorial Plaques Distributed

In a project lasting nearly one year and requiring many hours of work by many people, nearly half of Congregation Shaarey Tefiloh's 1,322 memorial plaques were distributed to family members. Most were picked up at several scheduled events, and many were mailed to family members living at a distance — including several to international destinations. We are very grateful to volunteers Marilyn Millet Goldberg, Sandra Deitel, and Karen Koch for donating their time and effort to help with this project. We were glad we were able to assist the synagogue leaders with this enormous project.

Family members expressed a wide variety of emotions and reactions to these plaques. Most people described and demonstrated a deep emotional attachment to these plaques because they represented a convenient and portable way to honor the memories of our loved ones and a very visible and tangible way to keep them close. Some people have already found a convenient place to display these plaques --- on another organization's memorial board or in a personal display at home — and others



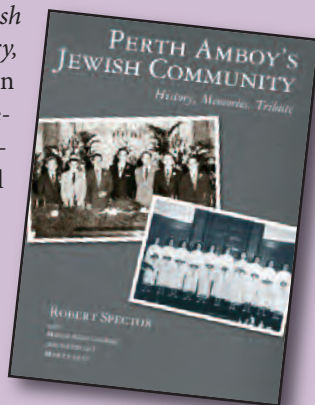
Marilyn Millet Goldberg, Harriet Shangold Prussack, Tassie Surkis Becker, Marcia Weinstein Stern, Vevy Sewitch, Hedy Brown, Jane Perlin Weinstein, Stew Weinstein

are still discussing display ideas. We are glad we were able to help in distributing so many of these memorial plaques to family members and are glad so many of these plaques have found a new home.

Perth Amboy's Jewish Community – History, Memories, Tribute

Book Available for sale

Perth Amboy's Jewish Community: History, Memories, Tribute has been available for sale since December 2012 and it has received rave reviews from all those who have read it. The book is an elegant 9x12 coffee-table book that presents the complete and accurate history of the Perth Amboy Jewish Community along 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." Those who have read the book agree that our ancestors would indeed be proud and honored. 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 appreciate their Perth Amboy legacy. To purchase the book — while supplies last — send your request for an order form to PAJewishBook@aol.com.



CEMETERY TOURS

Our final 2015 Cemetery Tour took place on Sunday, September 20. We plan to continue our tours throughout 2016 and will try to schedule them at times that will be convenient for you. Please notify us — as far in advance as possible — of your reunion and travel plans, so that we can select the best tour dates for you. We always visit the Hebrew Fraternity, Shaarey Tefiloh, and Beth Mordecai Cemeteries on our tours, and we will be happy to visit other cemeteries too, especially in an effort to help you locate your relatives' graves. If you can't visit in person, we will be glad to visit for you and will place stones on the graves too. Please contact us for more information through our Web site at www.friendsofjewishcemeteries.org, by phone at 856-222-1418, or by e-mail to friends@friendsofjewishcemeteries.org.

Our 2016 Cemetery Tour schedule will be on our Web site by December 31, 2015, along with other news updates. We will also send the 2016 schedule to all those for whom we have e-mail addresses. If you aren't receiving our e-mail updates and would like to be on our distribution list, please send your e-mail address to us at friends@friendsofjewishcemeteries.org.



Sheldon Cheuse, Marcia Weinstein Stern, Richard Stern, Carol Roberts, Bardin Levavy, Martin Silverman

THANKING OUR DONORS

The following list includes all donations received and processed between March 2, 2015 and October 1, 2015. All donations received prior to March 2, 2015 were listed in previous issues of THE ETERNAL VINE. All donations received after October 1, 2015 will be listed in the next issue of THE ETERNAL VINE. We gratefully acknowledge generous donations from the following individuals:

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Middlesex County Jewish Cemeteries, Inc.**

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(Pictured, left to right): Paul Fishkin, Julie Harris Scherzer, Sam Scherzer, Jeannie Castells, and Mark Kaplowitz.