

CEMETERY TOURS

Our Cemetery Tours have continued to attract visitors from near and far — most of whom have come to remember and respect relatives interred there. The tours have also provided many attendees with opportunities to meet friends and relatives, connect with their pasts, explore family genealogy, and locate graves of special interest.

Our 2010 Cemetery Tours have been scheduled on the following Sundays:

- May 9 (Mother's Day)
- June 20 (Father's Day)
- July 18
- August 29
- October 17



(Left to Right) - Murray Toborowsky, Marlene Eisner Kastleman, Miriam Katz Daitz Vogel, Shep Sewitch, Sheila Stess Schechtman, Joel Weiss

All tours begin at noon at the Hebrew Fraternity Cemetery entry gate on New Brunswick Avenue in Hopelawn. After a 1-hour tour of the Hebrew Fraternity Cemetery, we drive to the Congregation Shaarey Tefilah Cemetery on Florida Grove Road and Bingle Street for a 1-hour tour of that cemetery. 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.

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

When we incorporated five years ago, we knew that our mission was important and our goal daunting. What we didn't know then — but gradually discovered — was how much we would learn along the way — about our history, about our heritage, about each other, about our connections to each other, about ourselves, and about the true cost of

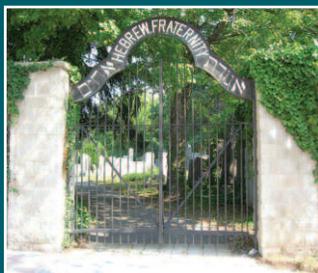
perpetual care. Cemetery maintenance and repairs — both expected and unexpected — are much more expensive than our founding fathers anticipated.

Most of us viewed the cemeteries as places to visit on special occasions — places to honor and remember those interred there. Our cemetery tours have enabled us to explore family connections — learning from each other and from the monument inscriptions. We have helped many of you locate the graves of your ancestors, often meeting previously unacquainted cousins in the process.

Many of you were surprised to learn that you had relatives buried at these cemeteries. When we were unable to locate graves at one cemetery, we explored other cemeteries in the area until we found them. Our journey has led us to undertake many projects beyond our basic fundraising mission — some of you are exploring your own family history as part of the PA Jewish Community History Book, and some of you have expanded your interest in genealogy after visiting these cemeteries.

One thing is clear — we have all learned more about our family connections since we launched this project. Visiting these cemeteries reminds us all how grateful we all should be to our ancestors who came to America and paved the way for us to have better lives. If you haven't visited the cemeteries recently, we hope you will visit soon. You'll be surprised by what you'll see and what you'll learn. Thanks for your past support of our mission — we hope we can count on your future support too!

Gary Shangold



Left - Hebrew Fraternity Cemetery in Hopelawn, NJ

Right - Congregation Shaarey Tefilah Cemetery in Perth Amboy, NJ

DONATIONS\$

Once again, we thank you for your continued support of our mission — raising funds for cemetery maintenance. We recognize that our organization is competing with many other worthwhile causes for your limited funds, and we remain grateful that you share our commitment to our goal — honoring the memory of those who built the Perth Amboy Jewish Community — those who enabled all of us to have better lives. We hope we can count on your continued support — and we hope you will give as much as you can as often as you can!

Because we are a federally tax-exempt organization as determined by the IRS under Section 501 (c)(13), all contributions are tax-deductible as provided by law.

JEWISH COMMUNITY HISTORY BOOK UPDATE

Friends of Perth Amboy Jewish History, Inc. is grateful for the support — and patience — of all who have sent material and contributions for the wonderful book — still in preparation — about the glorious history of the Perth Amboy Jewish Community. Since many of us need more time to collect and prepare tributes, the organizers have extended the deadlines for submission of both Family Tribute Pages and Quarter-Page Commemorations.

If you need more time — or assistance — be sure to let the organizers know by contacting Marilyn Millet Goldberg at marilynmgpa@aol.com or at 609-655-2351.

2009 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 2009:

\$5,000 +

**Gary Shangold
Mona Shangold**

\$1,000 +

**Martin Clawans and
Fran Clawans Anderson
Howard Kroop
Bardin Levavy
Norma Jacobson Messing
Nicole and Barry Rosengarten
Myron Shevell**

CEMETERY TOURS

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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. Please register through our Web site at:

www.friendsofjewishcemetaries.org

by phone to

856-222-1418

or by e-mail to

friends@friendsofjewishcemetaries.org

Check our Web site frequently for more information about the tours, including any schedule changes.

FLORIDA REUNION BREAKFAST

Our second annual Perth Amboy Breakfast in Boca (February 6, 2010) attracted an enthusiastic crowd with an abundance of memories and warm feelings to share. Most — but not all — attendees now live in South Florida either year-round or during winters; others came just for this event. All had a wonderful time and expressed the hope that we will continue this tradition and expand it to other geographical locations too. Please send us your thoughts and suggestions — and we will consider them. Be sure to see photos from our 2010 Boca event in this issue.



Doris Belafsky Rosenberg, Bernie Ruthberg, Sandy Belafsky Ruthberg, Bill Levine

(photos continue on page 4)

THANKING OUR DONORS

The following list includes all donations received and processed between September 13, 2009 and February 13, 2010. All donations received prior to September 13, 2009 were listed in previous issues of THE ETERNAL VINE. All donations received after February 13, 2010 will be listed in the next issue of THE ETERNAL VINE. We gratefully acknowledge generous donations from the following individuals:

Susan Kleimer Ast and Arthur Kleimer – *in memory of grandfather Israel Linetsky*
Samuel and Lynn Bergner
Ron and Roni Goss Berkowitz – *in memory of their parents*
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Robert Toborowsky – *in memory of Carl and Betty Toborowsky*
Stewart and Jane Perlin Weinstein – *in memory of Matt Perlin*
Mitzi Weitzen – *in memory of Clifford Weitzen*
Nathan and Norma Witkin
Les and Judy Wurtzel

JEWISH CEMETERY ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

Our recent discussions with experienced cemetery managers have led us to the startling realization that the true cost of perpetual care is much greater than our founding fathers ever imagined. Most Jewish cemeteries in the US were established in their local communities and were run by community leaders who valued tradition, friendship, and thrift. They set prices for plots and perpetual care based on reasonable estimates of then-current costs and needs, as well as their estimates of what their members would and could pay, but most of these synagogues and fraternal lodges lacked input from

actuaries and other financial professionals in determining appropriate fee schedules to achieve long-lasting financial stability despite inflation and unanticipated repairs. As a result, many Jewish cemeteries — like our own — lack the resources needed to provide care forever. Since the Jewish communities often dispersed from their original thriving locales, leaving their cemeteries behind, many of these cemeteries now face endangerment and abandonment — situations their founders never considered. Among the best examples: Newark and Camden. No one ever imagined that

thriving Jewish communities in Newark and Camden in 1940 would not be there in 2010.

Leaders in Massachusetts recognized this problem more than 25 years ago and founded the Jewish Cemetery Association of Massachusetts to address the problem and to ensure that all Jewish cemeteries in Massachusetts could be cared for forever. Many other states have recently formed or have begun to form similar groups.

Our organization has entered preliminary discussions to explore the possibility of forming a similar group in New Jersey —

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**Friends for Preservation of
Middlesex County Jewish Cemeteries, Inc.**

Box 306, Moorestown, NJ 08057

856-222-1418

www.friendsofjewishcemeteries.org

Board of Directors:

Mona Shangold, MD – *President*

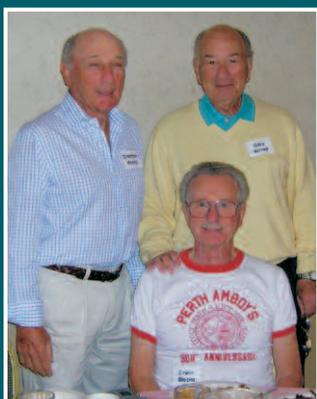
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Shep Sewitch

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(Left) Sherman Kroop, Erwin Bloom (seated), Gary Kroop
(Above) Linda Meistrich Rothenberg, Judy Meistrich
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CEMETERY ASSOCIATION *(continued from page 3)*

to ensure that all Jewish cemeteries in NJ can be maintained appropriately forever. We know that many of our supporters will be very pleased to learn about this new group because many of you have contacted us with questions and concerns about other cemeteries, encouraging us to become involved in the needs of many other cemeteries too. In response to your suggestions, we hope to do so — knowing that we will need your help and support even more as we undertake broader responsibilities. Please let us know of any NJ cemeteries that may have an interest in this new association — regardless whether they are abandoned, endangered, or thriving. Also let us know if you are willing to help in any way — and please be as generous as you can afford to be, in order to support both our primary mission and this expanded role too. We will update you in our next newsletter and on our Web site.

CEMETERY REGISTRY UPDATE

Several months ago we began the important — but daunting — task of creating a registry of all those interred at our cemeteries. We remain very grateful to all who are helping us with all aspects of this important project, led by Carol Roberts. In addition to those who have spent many hours at our cemeteries — recording monument inscriptions and photographing the monuments — we thank Daniel Chazin (grandson of Cantor Hirsch Chazin) and Reuven Herman (son of Charlotte Golub Herman and grandson of Esther Golub) for their generous help and expertise in translating Hebrew monument inscriptions. We plan to post this information on our own Web site and on the JewishGen Web site as part of the Jewish Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR) project.