

New Partner Spotlight Greater Trenton Jewish Cemetery Project



In October 2021, the Greater Trenton Jewish Cemetery Project (GTJCP) established a custodial fund at the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Mercer. Since 2018, the Cemetery Project has worked to restore and maintain six Jewish cemeteries located about four miles east of Trenton including two People of Truth cemeteries, Workmen's Circle, Ahavath Israel, Young Judea, and Brith Shalom. With graves dating back to 1857 (and some as recent as 2022), these cemeteries were largely neglected for many years, and now efforts are being made to preserve these sacred spaces and bring dignity to our ancestors. Specific progress to date

includes the repair of 200 falling or sinking gravestones, the removal of nearly 100 trees or tree stumps that have threatened the integrity of the graves, the installation of new fencing and other improvements like grading, grass seeding, new signage, repairs to sidewalks and gates, and trash removal. The Cemetery Project, led by longtime stakeholders in the local Jewish community, also focus efforts on education, tracing genealogy and making connections to those buried there. They have constructed a database with approximately 1,575 records that includes names of the deceased, year of death and links to headstone images. The deceased were members of a sizable vibrant Jewish population that grew in the Trenton area beginning around 1850; they were largely German, Hungarian and Russian Empire immigrants. With restoration work underway and education projects in development (like *Jewish Roots* for local middle and high school students), the Cemetery Project is looking ahead. Opening a custodial fund is an important step forward in building reserve funds. Mort Cohen, one of the Cemetery Project leaders, says "Our hope for the future is to become stable enough to grow an endowment fund and sustain the perpetual care of these graves." If you are interested in learning more about the Greater Trenton Jewish Cemetery Project, please visit <https://gtjcp.org>.

SUPPORTING CHARITIES with a DONOR ADVISED FUND

HOW DOES A DONOR ADVISED FUND WORK?

1

DONATIONS

A donor makes an irrevocable, **tax deductible donation** to Jewish Community Foundation



2

INVESTMENTS

The assets are invested in the Foundation's portfolio and the **investment growth is tax-free**



3

GRANTS

Donors may **recommend grants** to qualified public charities of their choice.



To support a charity with a donor advised fund, contact 609-240-9511 or info@foundationjewish.org

Sustaining our Jewish Community with LIFE & LEGACY

Since 2012, our local Jewish organizations have been securing LIFE & LEGACY commitments, also known as Promises. These are after lifetime gifts that are intended to sustain our vital Jewish institutions into the next generation. In 2021, we were fortunate to energize the effort through the **Each One Reach One** campaign. 32 new Promises were secured by 6 partner organizations. While the Harold Grinspoon Foundation will announce official results in March regarding incentive and community grants, we're pleased to share that **Congregation Beth Chaim, The Jewish Center, and Beth El Synagogue** were the top three partners with the highest percentage increases in new Promises. Kudos to these partners for their hard work and for demonstrating that LIFE & LEGACY still resonates with congregants, members, volunteers, and donors. We hope to build on this progress in the coming year. Already one new commitment has been made in January, for a total of **639 Promises community-wide!** Stay tuned for more LIFE & LEGACY programming in the months ahead.

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