

Special Community Report:

Friends of Jewish Cemeteries Har Nebo Pilot Project

- Inspiring Volunteer Leadership -



Jewish Federation
of Greater Philadelphia

Friends of Jewish Cemeteries - Table of Contents

1.0: [Mission](#)

2.0: [Executive Summary – A Bit of Background](#)

3.0: [Historical Context - From the Pale to Philadelphia](#)

4.0: [Friends of Jewish Cemeteries - Overview](#)

- Mission
- Who We Are
- Hare Nebo Cemetery Pilot Project
- About Har Nebo
- The Important Role of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia
- Great collaboration with leaders and experts

5.0: [Inspiring Volunteer Leadership](#)

- Getting Started: 12 Key Steps to Consider

6.0: [Media Coverage](#)

7.0: [Looking Ahead – The Value of Volunteer Leadership](#)

8.0: [Telling Their Stories](#)

9.0: [Thank You to the Donors](#)

Show me your cemeteries and I will tell you what kind of people you have.

- Benjamin Franklin

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.

- Lao Tzu

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,
committed citizens can change the world;
indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.*

- Margaret Mead

If Not Now, When?

- Rabbi Hillel

1.0: Mission

Join the [Friends of Jewish Cemeteries](#) innovative pilot project to protect and maintain our historic Jewish cemeteries and create a roadmap to sustain these sites for future generations. With the first onsite pilot completed, we look forward to future advancements at Har Nebo and other locations.

This initiative addresses the combination of...

- 1) Onsite conservation and repair
- 2) Volunteer clean-up days
- 3) Genealogy research to tell stories of individual and family ancestors.

The program welcomes a core team of leaders, volunteers, descendants, and community members to help turn the tide of despair due to age, shifts in the dirt, and poor maintenance.

This report is designed to share with the community what happened, tell individual and family stories, thank and recognize the participants, as well as to inspire and educate those who will consider contributing as leaders.

Key Outcomes

From this initiative a core team of leaders can achieve:

1. **Onsite** - Pilot program(s) which conserves repairs ~10 to 35 stones depending on the budget
2. **Volunteer Day(s)** - Clean-up the cemetery and make new connections
3. **Bar & Bat Mitzvah Projects** - Encourage young people to get participate
4. **Genealogy Research** - Help tell the story of individuals and families

Onsite Work

A. Standing Up Stones - From fallen stones to clean and upright.



Before



During



After

- B. **Standing Stones Upright** - Turning stones of individuals and families that are in disrepair into a quality that honors those at rest.



From fallen, leaning, and at risk.



To standing, upright, and safe.

- C. **Connecting Families** - Taking fallen stones and standing them upright while connecting with family members.



Before



Before - the headstone weighs 1,269 pounds

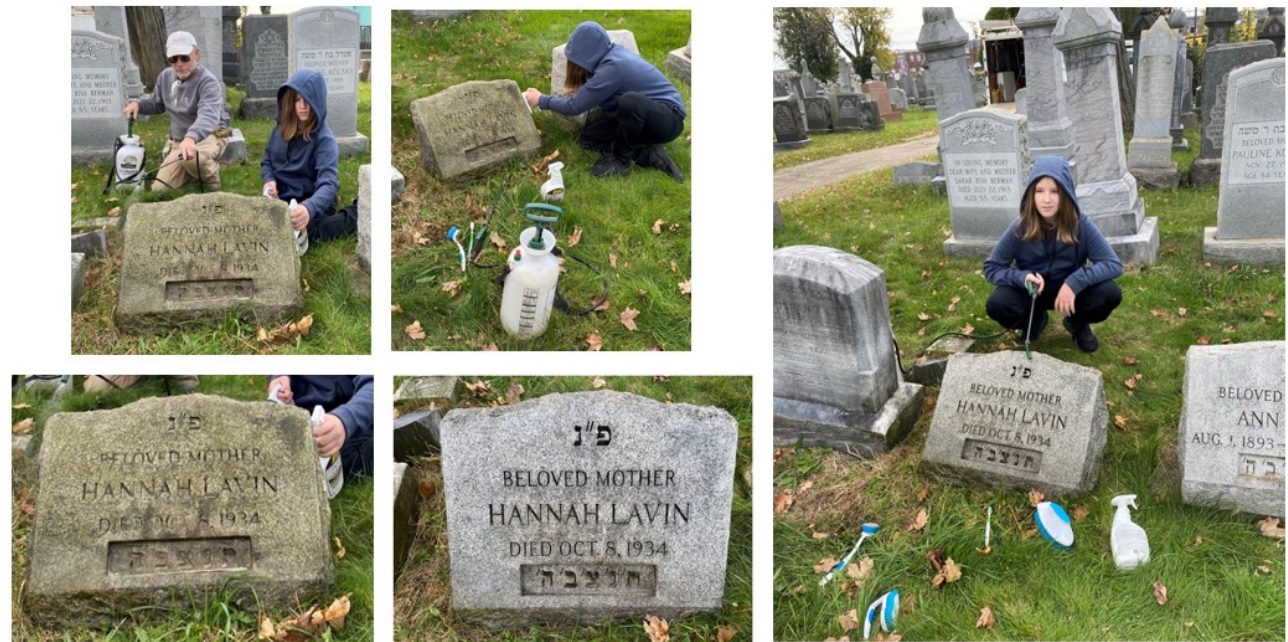


After

D. Volunteer Days - Enabling tangible impact and connecting to descendants and community members.



E. Engaging the Youth - Encouraging Bar & Bat Mitzvah projects such as this one with Ira McLaughlin - Or Hadash, Ft. Washington.



2.0: Executive Summary – A Bit of Background

How many of us cherish a story, artifact, or photo of a great grandparent, one of their siblings, or other ancestors? With the many online resources, such as [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com), [Family Search](https://www.familysearch.org), and others, it is easier than ever to learn about our respective histories.

As demand and curiosity for genealogical research increases, inevitably family and individual researchers will look towards key markers, such as burial sites, to connect to their family and community roots.

What would any of us think if we went to visit their resting spots in area cemeteries, such as Har Nebo, Har Jehuda Cemetery, Har Zion Cemetery, and others, and found many grave stones knocked over due to age, weather, and shifts in the earth below their base?

These headstones which can weigh from 500 to 1000+ pounds leave the resting places of our family members and historical legacy in disarray.

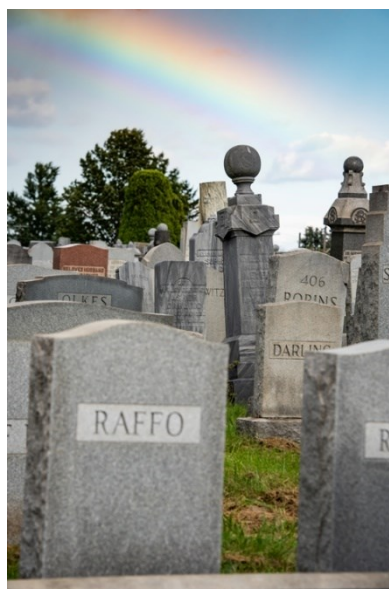
For cemeteries that were founded between 1830 and 1890 this damage continues to accumulate due to age, shifts in the ground, and poor maintenance.



It becomes apparent that when we tour these locations today, and project into the future, it is clear unless the tide is turned, the damage will grow and grow.

The time is now to consider a series of pilot program to restore the cemeteries that embody this Greater Philadelphia legacy impacting descendants and the community.

By thinking BIG but starting small - a cost effective, smaller effort can take place to reverse this continued decay and create a repeatable model (template) starting with Har Nebo, and then for other cemeteries to replicate. And when it all works out, perhaps a rainbow will shine, a sign from above as it did for the Har Nebo Volunteer Day!



3.0: Historical Context - From the Pale to Philadelphia

To appreciate the historical, current, and future importance of these cemeteries and the ancestors who rest in them it is helpful to have context.

In Greater Philadelphia, a wave of Jewish immigrants, came to this region from what is known as the “Pale of Settlement” which was the countryside between Central Europe and Moscow, Russia.

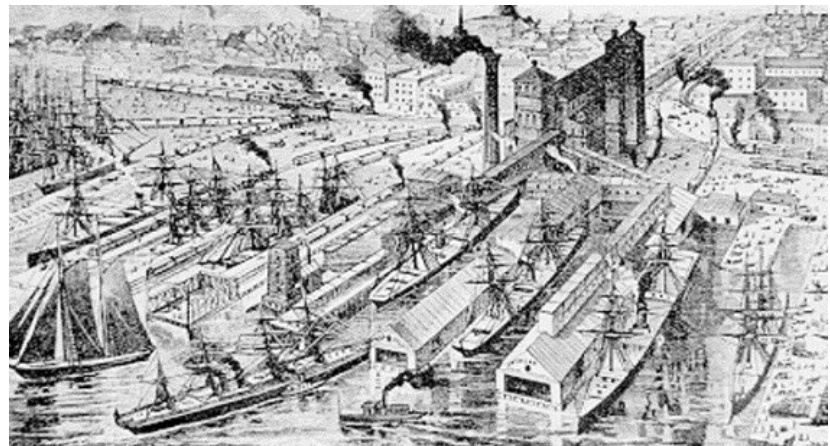
With the assassination of Russian Czar Alexander II in 1881 and the takeover of his son Alexander III, anti-Semitism became a government policy called the “Jewish Problem.”

As a result, they decided to convert, expel, displace, and starve their Jewish population by any means including the “pogrom” which means to destroy, wreak havoc, demolish violently, or harm.

These oppressive actions led many to migrate to America including a surge from 1890 to 1910. when millions of Jews left Russia including many from our direct and extended families representing a legacy of immigrants who were here before us.

The Jews arrived through Ellis Island as well as the Emigrant Depot on Delaware and Washington Avenues in Philadelphia.

Like so many new immigrants arriving in Philadelphia, many settled near South Street, the Jewish Quarter of Philadelphia for several reasons: the rent was cheap; they were near businesses where they could make a living including the garment district; it was rumored that Ellis Island was more stringent about entry rules; and the neighborhood was near the Emigrant Depot to welcome family and friends when they arrived.



European Steamships coming to Philadelphia. Photo from the aerial collection of the Free Library of Philadelphia

These newly arrived community members established a city within a city from Second Street to Seventh Street descending from Spruce Street towards the Navy Yard.

They had their own language (i.e. Yiddish, Russian, and German), theaters (including vaudeville), markets, banks, synagogues, restaurants, music, card games, and schools. The congestion was less than on the East Side of New York City.

South Street and the surrounding area featured block after block of pushcarts and shops where they could buy live fish in tanks and chickens crowded into coops. Housewives salted and koshered meat at home. The families were not concerned about calories or cholesterol levels.



South 4th Street, Philadelphia, Sep 1925

While this world and the people who lived in it are long gone their history is all around us.

Today, Greater Philadelphia historic Jewish cemeteries represent the lives and legacies of those who came before us. Resting places like Har Nebo (Established 1890), Har Jehuda (1896), Hebrew Mutual Cemetery (1857), Chevra Bikur Cholim (1873), Har Zion and others are an integral part of Philadelphia's Jewish history.

As the years pass, many descendants remember their ancestors. Others have moved or passed on including the society members who oversaw large sections of the cemeteries.

With the social media and cell phone culture, many of the current and next generations have very little idea of where they came from, and their own families journeys, which in many cases are almost forgotten.

By delving into one's family tree by way of family stories, artifacts, and/or genealogy we become more aware and stronger about who we are today, and where we are going as individuals, families, and a community.

4.0: Friends of Jewish Cemeteries – Overview

Who We Are

Greater Philadelphia is home to many historic Jewish cemeteries. Sadly, many of them are in disrepair, with broken and fallen headstones, years of neglect and unstable ground that make them unsafe to visit. These problems require support beyond short-term clean-ups.

The Friends of Jewish Cemeteries is a special initiative of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia to find long-term solutions to repair our region's Jewish cemeteries and reconnect our community to its deep local roots. We are a group of volunteers with a shared passion who have come together to explore viable ways to secure these sacred places.

Har Nebo Cemetery Pilot Program

As its first project, the [Friends of Jewish Cemeteries](#) has undertaken a pilot project at Har Nebo in the Northeast, one of the region's oldest and largest cemeteries. The group's initial effort entailed professional restoration of a section of 33 graves, reflecting the most common problems encountered at mature cemeteries. The [FAQ](#) has more details.

The goals of the project are:

- Raise awareness of the preservation needs of historic cemeteries
- Road-test a viable plan to improve conditions
- Encourage leaders to replicate this initiative
- Establish a fund to support restoration and preservation work
- Identify and train local young people for careers in conservation
- Inspire a wider community to pursue similar activities through education about best practices

About Har Nebo

Founded in 1890, Har Nebo is the city's oldest privately owned Jewish cemetery. Covering 28 acres in the Oxford Circle community of Northeast Philadelphia, it is the resting place of nearly 34,000 people and has few burial spaces remaining.

[The Jewish Genealogical and Archival Society of Greater Philadelphia](#) (JGASGP), in coordination with Har Nebo, has completed a valuable resource for genealogists—a comprehensive database of burials, searchable by surname or location.



Other Greater Philadelphia Historic Jewish cemeteries that need help include:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Chevra Bikur Cholim Cemetery | • Mount Carmel Cemetery |
| • Har Jehuda Cemetery | • Mount Jacob Cemetery |
| • Har Zion Cemetery | • Mount Lebanon Cemetery |
| • Hebrew Mutual Burial Association | • Mount Moriah |

The Important Role of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia

The Jewish Federation is providing the infrastructure – placement on its website, donation administration, marketing, accounting and other services – that the Friends of Jewish Cemeteries could not establish independently.



They have an experienced staff liaison to share professional insights and guidance.

Partnership with the Jewish Federation, the champion of engaging the regional Jewish community, is critical to the success of this initiative.

Great collaboration with leaders and experts

Whether with government, community, synagogue, experts, or other leaders it's important to have visible participation and advisory including:

Jared Solomon - A lifelong resident of Northeast Philadelphia Jared Solomon grew up believing in a Philadelphia that serves all its residents. He is the elected State Representative for Pennsylvania's 202nd District with guiding principles to community service as an advocate and voice inside of Philadelphia. Jared works to foster and protect the future generation of Northeast citizens by revitalizing our residential and business corridors. He has helped Har Nebo Cemetery by organizing regular trash pick-ups to take away cars, refrigerators, tires and debris. His inspiration and hands on insights, leadership, and action continue to be an integral part of the FJC Har Nebo pilot success.



Dennis Montagna - Chief of the Monument Research and Preservation Program at the National Park Service (NPS) Northeast Regional Office and President of Association for Gravestone Studies. Dennis' expertise and passion for conservation of historic cemeteries is contagious and highly valued.

His background is impressive. For NPS, he and his team assist parks and cultural institutions with the care and maintenance of public sculpture and monuments. This program provides condition assessments, art historical research, and instruction related to the care and maintenance of public sculpture and monuments which translates well to cemeteries and grave memorials.

He also serves as Board President of The Association for Gravestone Studies (AGS) a group devoted to the study and preservation of gravestones. AGS is an international organization with an interest in grave markers of all periods and styles from historical and artistic perspectives. They work to expand public awareness of the significance of historic grave markers, and encourages individuals and groups to record and preserve them.

The Jewish Genealogical and Archival Society of Greater Philadelphia (JGASGP)

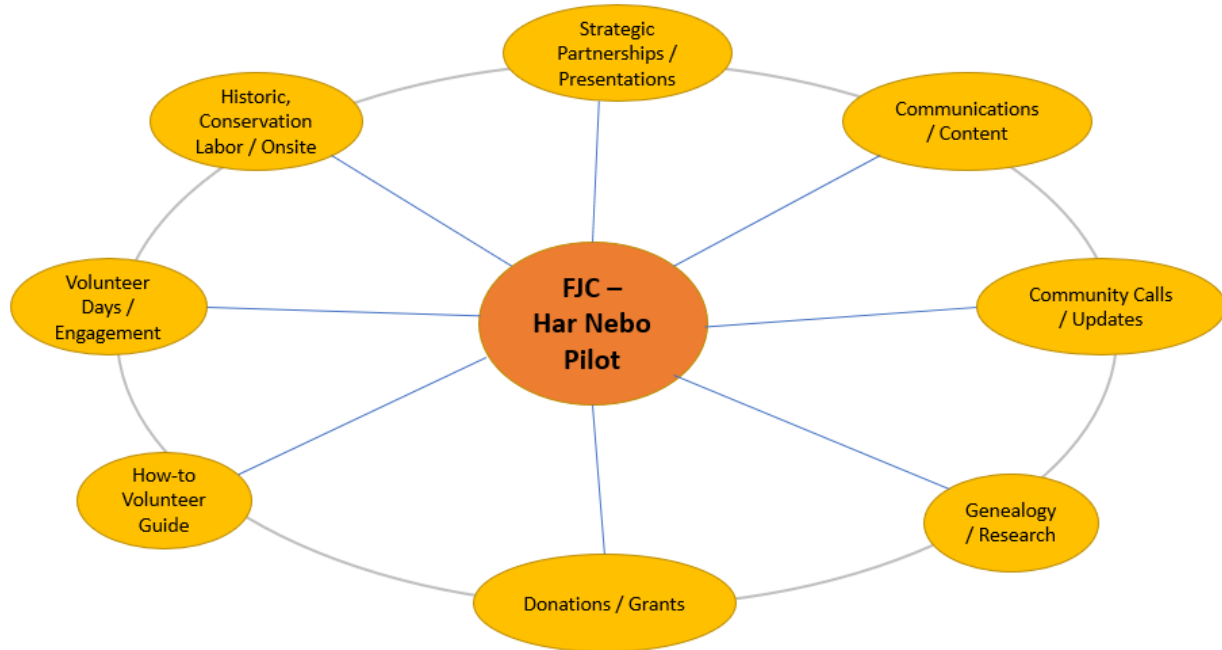
In coordination with Har Nebo, has completed a valuable resource for genealogists—a comprehensive database of burials, searchable by surname or location. In addition their members have performed Family Group Record research (See Section 9.0) to help tell the story of individuals and families who rest at Har Nebo. From the beginning [JGASGP](#) leaders and members recognized the importance of this initiative and participated in many ways to help with the success and build awareness.



5.0: Inspiring Volunteer Leadership

In order for the mission of conserving and repairing the stones of individuals to take place a core leadership team should consider the components of the initiative. This effort can be achieved by volunteering a few hours each week to move the components forward.

At a high level the key activities include the following:

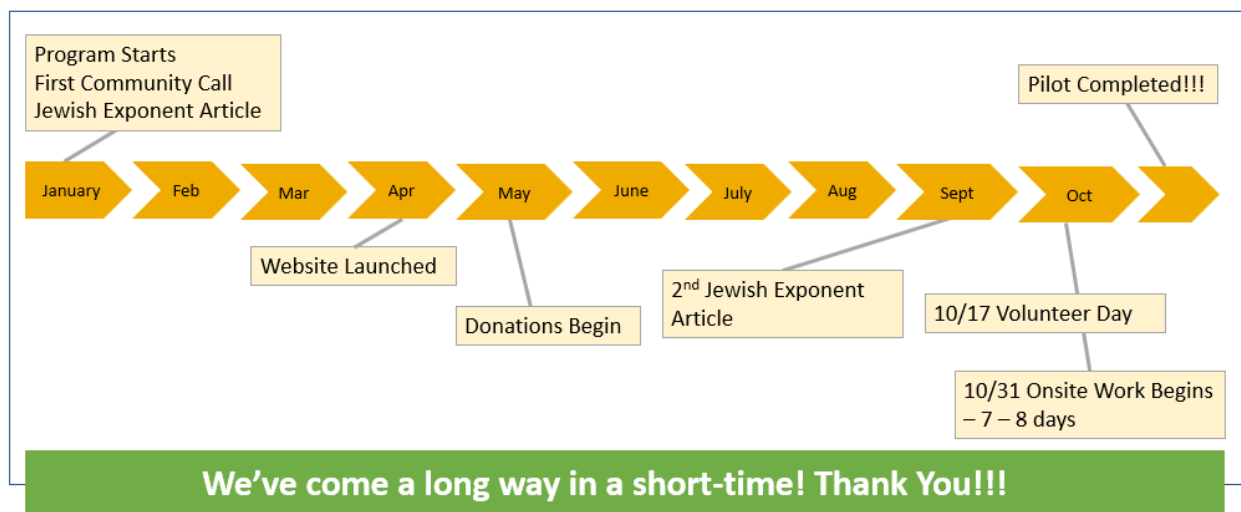


The good news is they do not have to happen all at once and the templates and ideas are ready to be shared. In brief, consider the following...

- **Strategic Partnerships** – Team with groups such as [The Jewish Genealogical and Archival Society of Greater Philadelphia](#), synagogues, schools, and groups. They can help build awareness and volunteer participation.
- **Communications and Content** – Much of this content is ready to go and available upon request to the FJC and Federation leadership team. A key element will be to extend the FJC Federation website to include the respective Jewish historic cemetery participating in this program.
- **Community Calls and Updates** – Plan to develop a list of interested descendants and community members and share Zoom calls periodically (e.g., every 2 – 3 months)
- **Genealogy Research** – Tell the stories of individuals and families of the pilot location and overall cemetery. Engage volunteers, genealogists, and descendants to participate.
- **Donations and Grants** – The strategy has been to state a pilot program goal (e.g., \$20K) and mention it to descendants and community. It's important to lead with the importance and value of the program and to not lead or spam for donations. With awareness contributions will happen. Identify groups that can provide grants and learn about how to submit requests.

- **How-to Volunteer Guide** -This guide will be updated. Plan to contribute it and also make a version related to your pilot program (e.g., stories related to the individuals/families of the respective cemeteries).
- **Historic, Conservation Labor for Onsite Work** – Important to work with a certified, insured cemetery conservation and repair expert to ensure safe, high quality onsite work.
- **Volunteer Days & Engagement** – On-site volunteer activities centering around clean-ups represents a very worthwhile compliment to the onsite work to help participants get involved, honor the memory of those at rest, and build awareness.

From a program management standpoint, it is Important to have a plan on the key priorities and next steps. From start to onsite work it can take 10 – 12 months so be patient and plan to take it step-by-step. Here is a high-level timeline from the Har Nebo pilot program.



Getting Started: 12 Key Steps to Consider

A historic Jewish Cemetery conservation and repair initiative is a challenge endeavor. As volunteers we have to appreciate that from Day 1 to onsite work it can take 10 to 12 months to raise the funds, get critical mass, and put achieve the ultimate outcome of a pilot program.

So in summary... Be patient. Take small steps forward. Focus. Have fun. Recognize that you are helping to honor the memories of individuals and families, many who walked before us over one hundred years ago.

12 Steps:

1. **Align** - Team with a major association, such as the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia who has the expertise, contacts, infrastructure, and common strategic objectives.
2. **Leadership** - Engage a few top leaders and experts who can lend guidance, encouragement, and credibility.
3. **Repair** - Focus on conservation and repair with other volunteer activities (e.g. clean-up days). Remember the tag line, "*Lift the Stone*" first. By standing up fallen, wobbly, broken and at risk

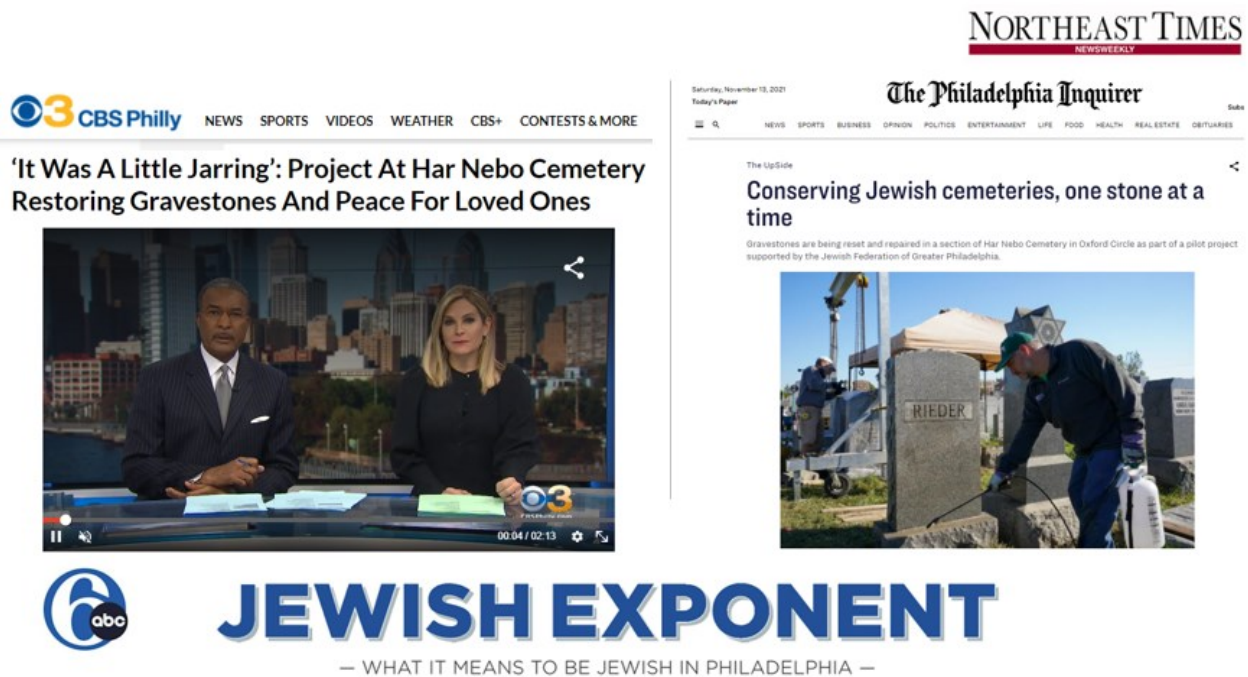
stones the fundamental challenge of standing up a 500 – 750+ pound stone will be addressed. Also, volunteers can make great impact by raking, cleaning, clipping vines, etc.

4. **Core Team** - Work with core team members who can provide any two of the following: *Wisdom*, *Work*, and *Wealth*. Many have ideas. Focus your time on the outcome of conservation and repair.
5. **Web Page** - Ensure the webpage is in place in cooperation with the Federation with a mechanism to collect donations.
6. **Distribution List** - Build a community list consisting of descendants and interested community members. A spreadsheet works perfectly fine in the beginning.
7. **Respond to emails**. Engage interested parties. Get back to them in a day or two. You never know the background of whom you are connecting with who may have ideas or ways to contribute.
8. **Strategic Partners** - Find a strategic group who believes in the initiative and has reach such as [The Jewish Genealogical and Archival Society of Greater Philadelphia](#) who appreciates the historical and community importance.
9. **Donations** – Focus on awareness. Adding value. Mission. And tangible results. If you share the story with 100 people some will generously contribute donations. No need to badger people about donating. Just mention it briefly in the overall context of the communications and updates. Set a goal (e.g., \$20K plus) to get started on an initial pilot.
10. **Schedule Community Calls** – Whatever number join you in the beginning is fine. Create a quality agenda / topics. Provide time for the participants to share their ideas. The frequency can be every 2 or 3 months. Updates provide momentum and build awareness.
11. **Pilot Location & Research** - Early on identify a pilot location. Identify it based on accessibility to a truck. Do not pick the site based on a volunteers family. Pick it on merit. Check that it's in a location that will have a good chance to be dry (e.g. not at the bottom of a hill). Start genealogy research with volunteers on the individuals or families on the pilot site. Confirm in writing with the owner by way of a signature that you have the O.K. to do the work.
12. **Onsite Certified Expertise** – Once the above items are prioritized and in-progress, identify an individual or organization that has onsite historic cemetery expertise and is insured. Get a quote. Ensure they have proper equipment (e.g., gantry, tripod, etc.). *Always make safety the highest priority with proper instructions before undertaking any work that involves touching the stones.*

After you have an interested descendant and community group, and about 25% of the donations, start to assess the timeframe that the work can be scheduled.

6.0: Media Coverage

Thank you to the reporters and media coverage who shared the vision and story related to the FJC Har Nebo initiative.



Check out this coverage...

- Philly Inquirer: [Conserving Jewish cemeteries, one stone at a time.](#)"
- CBS3: ['It Was A Little Jarring': Project At Har Nebo Cemetery Restoring Gravestones And Peace For Loved Ones](#)
- 6ABC: [Har Nebo Feature](#)

Jewish Exponent

- [Har Nebo Cemetery Cleanup](#)
- [Resting in Dignity: Friends of Jewish Cemeteries Begin Work to Restore At-Risk Cemeteries](#)
- [Cemetery Restoration Pilot Project Underway](#)

Northeast Times: [Some much-needed upkeep at Har Nebo Cemetery](#)

7.0: Looking Ahead – The Value of Volunteer Leadership

Would you be interested to participate as a core team leader for other historic Jewish Cemeteries? A given cemetery would need 2 – 3 strong, positive leads to begin.

Audience

- Descendants
- Community Members
- Federation or lead non-profit lead point of contact / staff
- Cemetery Conservation and Repair expert(s)

Criteria

- Responsibility towards a successful pilot program and one volunteer day
- Leverage existing materials / kit
- Correspond with the community / volunteers to build engagement
- Support donations to enable the work by building awareness
- Take small blocks of time each week to keep activities moving forward.
- Lead community calls specific to the respective cemetery
- Resilience and agility to ensure success
- Have fun. Tap into a unique, special initiative.

Benefits

- Honor the memory of individuals and families and help turn the tide of despair
- Conserve and repair a section of the historic cemetery
- Connect with descendants and the community
- Grow a Jewish community network
- Inspire all ages especially the youth
- Build awareness on the importance of changing the tide of despair
- Tap into history
- Appreciate and conserve the art form of the stones

We Dream

- To extend the pilot programs to one or two more historic Jewish cemeteries
- Repeat the process. Leverage the road-tested approach
- To find leaders to enable the dream of conserving and repairing the stones
- To encourage the youth to participate with Bar & Bat Mitzvah as well as class projects
- To find a local resource (e.g., trade school and/or Greater Philadelphia Cemetery maintenance staff) to continue the great onsite work

8.0: Telling Their Stories

Remembrance is about bringing loved ones, ancestors and community members who came before us to mind and honoring their memory. "We Remember Them" represents a famous poem which includes these words:

At the rising sun and at its going down, we remember them.

At the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter, we remember them.

At the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring, we remember them.

-- *"A Litany of Remembrance"* by Rabbi Sylvan Kamens and Rabbi Jack Reimer

In order to remember them and tell a part of their stories we extend a special thank you to [The Jewish Genealogical and Archival Society of Greater Philadelphia](#) (JGASGP) team of researchers, descendants, and community members who enabled us to tell the story of individuals and families including:

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| ▪ Karen Albert | ▪ Jerry Hoffman | ▪ Joan Roller |
| ▪ Jeff Albert | ▪ Alan Kaminsky | ▪ Walter Spector |
| ▪ Felicia Alexander | ▪ Joel Kessler | ▪ Janice Steinbeck |
| ▪ David Brill | ▪ Linda Krock | ▪ Jay Wall |
| ▪ Marsha Eisenberg | ▪ Barbara Levine | ▪ Jordan Yutter |
| ▪ Marilyn Golden | ▪ David Mink | |

The following individuals and families stories inspire us.

May their memories continue to be a blessing.

Let us learn from them.

**And that they and all of those at Har Nebo
and all historic Jewish cemeteries
be remembered.**

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Alice Wolowitz * | 14. Chaim David &
Nechama Leichter | 25. Morris & Gazella
Rudich * |
| 2. Julius and Dora
Ackerman | 15. Rebecca Levene | 26. Allen Rutstein |
| 3. Isadore & Mollie
Bennett | 16. Oscar Loeb | 27. Hayanna Segal |
| 4. Nathan & Anna
Berman | 17. Slove Mandlestam | 28. Herman Spielberg |
| 5. Fishel Brantz * | 18. Aaron & Mathilda
Minkowsky * | 29. Isaac & Mollie
Soiffer * |
| 6. Harry Chertok | 19. Pinchos ("Peter")
Minkowsky * | 30. Charles & Pearl
Spritzer |
| 7. Morris & Katherine
Eisenberg | 20. Mordecai
Minkowsky * | 31. David & Mae
Stillman |
| 8. Abraham Ginsberg | 21. Charles Parness | 32. Aaron Tollin * |
| 9. Eddie Gottlieb | 22. Jacob & Sarah
Patelson | 33. Samuel & Rosie
Wilensky |
| 10. Samuel Gross | 23. Frank & Rose Reider * | 34. David and Lillie
Yorker |
| 11. Julius Hershkovitz * | 24. Rebecca
Rosenzweig | 35. Morris Yutter |
| 12. Stan Hochman | | |
| 13. Marion Laison* | | |

* = Part of the pilot location

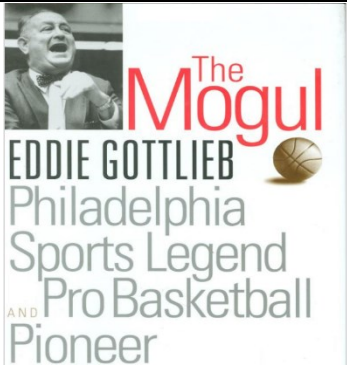
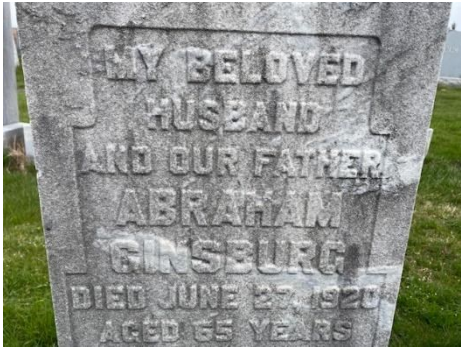
Please note: *These brief stories are based on research and submissions from a variety of sources based on the best information available. Feel free to contact the [Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia](#) with any updates.*

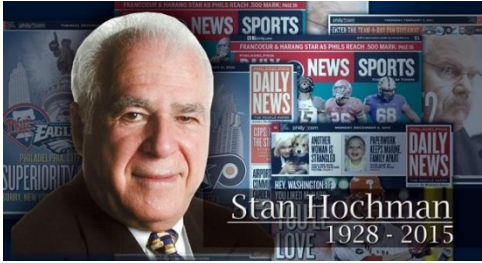
Telling Their Stories

#	Photos	Brief Stories
1		Inspirational hero, Alice Wolowitz, one of eight siblings, was a student nurse in Philly during the infamous 1918 influenza pandemic. From an article by Harry Wall, "Alice Wolowitz, a student nurse at [Philadelphia's] Mount Sinai Hospital, began her shift in the morning, felt sick and was dead 12 hours later. Alice was a vivacious and adventurous young girl. With two brothers serving in World War I and hearing her own patriotic drummer, she left high school and her home to nurse sick soldiers in a Philadelphia hospital. That decision, probably as impetuous as it was courageous, proved costly. She died suddenly at age 16, without a memorial service and was buried quickly, along with thousands of others during the chaos of the pandemic. About 100 miles away from her family, Philadelphia may as well have been the far side of the moon for them. And there she remained, unknown and unvisited for almost a century."

2		Dora Ackerman, and her son, Morris Joseph Ackerman (pictured on left) arrived in Philadelphia from Yedinitiz, Bessarabia (now Germany / Ukraine / Moldova) in 1913. In 1920, Julius came to Philadelphia with his three motherless grandsons to rejoin the rest of the family, already here. Two years after they were finally reunited, his beloved wife Dora died. Julius died just 6 years later.
3		Isadore and Mollie Bennett ("Benimavite") were married for 35 years in 1910. Mollie gave birth to 12 children. Only 5 survived. They immigrated in 1899 from Russia. They spoke Yiddish. Isadore sold Real Estate. Daughter Sarah was a box maker. Daughters Pauline and Annie were finishers in a necktie factory. According to the 1910 census all were naturalized citizens. Sarah remained single and died at the Philadelphia Hospital. Pauline married twice. Her second husband was Alfred Lorenz, was a long-term viola player and assistant concert master for the Philadelphia Orchestra.
4		Nathan (born 1854) and Anna Berman (born 1859-66; nee Balk or Baltz) came to Philadelphia from Russia with their three children (Jacob, Sarah, and Mary) around 1890. Nathan started out as a peddler and later became a second-hand dealer (as of the 1910 census). In 1900, the census shows them living at: 6 Nineveh Place, which was an alley between 3rd and 4th Streets which no longer exists – with four additional children: Nathan was buried at Har Nebo in 1913.

5	 A dark grey granite headstone with a white plaque. The plaque reads: "BELOVED HUSBAND AND FATHER, FISHEL BRANTZ, DIED DEC. 31, 1916, AGED 62 YEARS".	The Brantz family was caught up in difficult times in Braila, Romania; three of the Brantz siblings—Fishel, Taube, and Moses—emigrated with their families to the USA. Fishel and Moses and their families settled in the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, area, while Taube and her family eventually settled in the hills of northwestern Pennsylvania, in the town of Bradford. Fishel married Amalia "Mollie" Solomon Brantz in 1877. Fishel passed away in 1916 and Mollie in 1941.
6	 A dark brown granite headstone with gold lettering. The text reads: "ח' כ"ג / כ"ה", HARRY CHERTOK, MAY 23, 1924, A WONDERFUL FATHER".	Harry Chertock was born in 1875 in Russia. His father was Morris Chertoke and his mother. Morris died April 1912 and is buried in Har Nebo. Harry immigrated to United States in 1892. He worked in the Philadelphia textile industry (e.g., tailor, pantaloone maker). During WWI he worked for the textile company, Stat Clothes Factory, then located at 412 Market Street. He married Sophie Rapoport who had immigrated to the U.S. in 1898 from Russia. Sophie is buried in Har Nebo.
7	 A black and white studio portrait of a family. A man in a suit stands on the left, a woman in a light dress sits on the right, and a young girl in a light dress stands in front of them.	Morris Eisenberg and Katherine Sherman Eisenberg emigrated from Russia in 1886 and 1891 and found employment in the garment business. This legacy would continue with Emil Eisenberg and wife Francis. Emil joined in business with his brother Victor to start a Catholic school uniform business, Eisenberg and O'Hara which became one of the largest school uniform companies in the U.S. for over 40 years. Morris passed away in 1935; Mollie in 1916.

8		Russian-Jewish immigrant Eddie Gottlieb was one of the most powerful non-playing sports figures in Philadelphia from the 1920s until his passing in 1979. A master promoter, and member of the Basketball Hall of Fame Gottlieb - dubbed the Mogul for his business acumen - was influential in both basketball and baseball circles.
9		Samuel Gross (originally Samuel Marguiles) (May 9, 1891 – September 13, 1934) was a Private in the United States Marine Corps, 23d Company who earned the Medal of Honor. He is one of the few Jewish Marines to receive the Medal of Honor during this time.
10		Abraham Ginsberg came to the U.S. in 1907, from the Ukraine) joining his sons, Henry and Solomon, (and likely two other children). Abraham's wife, Fannie (Feige) came in 1908. They all settled and raised families in Philadelphia. Abraham was a Hebrew teacher and was listed as a Rabbi in one census record. He died in 1920. His wife, Fannie, who died many years later (1942), is also buried in Har Nebo fairly close to Abraham's grave, but under "Ginsburg," which is the spelling used by most (but not all) of the descendants.

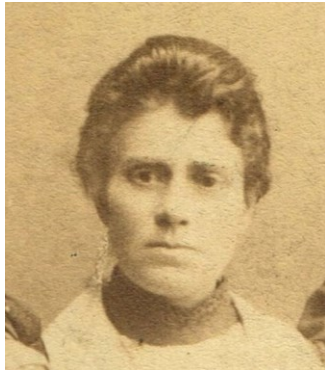
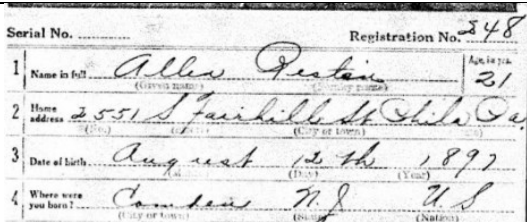
11	 A grey granite gravestone for Julius Herskovitz. The top part of the stone features a circular emblem with a Star of David. Below the emblem, the name 'HERSKOVITZ' is carved in large, bold letters. Underneath, in Hebrew, it says 'יואל ב'ר' זכריה' (Yehel ben Zakharia). Below the Hebrew, it reads 'BELOVED FATHER JULIUS', 'JAN. 29. 1913', and 'AGE 38 YEARS'.	Julius Herscovitz was born around 1876 in the small town of Caracal, Romania, where he married wife, Victoria /Vica / Yetta before immigrating to the U.S. around 1902-3. Wife and son, Charles, born in 1900, followed, and they all lived on Randolph St. in Philadelphia, with Julius working as a photographer to support his growing family. Julius and Vica had two more sons, Paul, born in 1904; and Solomon (born Zacharia and named for Julius's father), in 1909. In January 1913, Julius, then age 37, was hospitalized at the Jewish Hospital in South Philadelphia where he died a few weeks later of pulmonary tuberculosis. His widow, Vica, along with sons, Charles and Paul, eventually changed their surname to "Hirsch."
12	 A color portrait of Stan Hochman, an older man with white hair, wearing a suit and tie. He is smiling slightly. The background is a collage of newspaper clippings, including 'DAILY NEWS' and 'SPORTS' sections, with headlines about Philadelphia sports teams like the Phillies, Eagles, and Sixers. At the bottom of the collage, it says 'Stan Hochman 1928 - 2015'.	Stan Hochman (October 15, 1928 – April 9, 2015), was a sportswriter who covered all Philly sports including the Phillies, Eagles, Sixers, and Flyers. Philadelphia was his adopted hometown. Stan covered Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier, Doctor J, Bobby Clarke, Reggie White and many more with great wit and humor
13	Marion Laison was a 14 year old student when she died of pneumonia. Today the markings on her grave are unreadable and could easily have been forgotten. Her parents, Frank Laison (born in Russia) and Fannie Weinberg (Romania) were married on February 9, 1903 in Philadelphia. Both spoke Yiddish. They had 4 children. Two passed away at early ages and are buried at Har Nebo. Her sister Mollie was 20 years old when she died from pulmonary tuberculosis and heart failure. Sibling Arthur remained single and lived to be 93. Sister Claire lived to be 90. She married and had one child.	

14	 A photograph of a grey granite gravestone for Hyman David Leichter. The inscription is in Hebrew at the top: 'חיים דוד ב"ר יהודה'. Below that, in English: 'HYMAN DAVID LEICHTER', 'DIED APRIL 29, 1906', 'AGE 78 YEARS'. At the bottom, in Hebrew: 'ת"נ צ"ה'.	Chaim David and Nechama Leichter immigrated to Philadelphia from Tuchin, Ukraine in 1890. Already in their late 50's they made the difficult trip in order to be with their only living child, their daughter Bella Risa. The passage was paid by their son-in-law, Berko Sarshik (Bella's husband). They lived at 719 South Street. Chaim David earned a modest living as a Hebrew teacher. Chaim passed in 1906. Nechama in 1919. The family replaced Chaim's stone due to deterioration beyond repair.
15	 A black and white studio portrait of a family of nine. In the front row, a man and a woman are seated in the center. Behind them stand seven other people, including four men, two women, and two children. They are all dressed in formal attire typical of the late 19th or early 20th century.	Rebecca Levene was born in 1853 the Beridichev ("Berdychiv") Ukraine. Her husband Moses Levene was born in 1845 and was also from the Ukraine. They were amongst the early Jewish settlers of Carmel, NJ in the mid 1880's where they were surrounded with farming. They left Carmel and settled in Philadelphia in 1893. They had seven children and in 1910 lived on 5th Street. Moses passed away in 1917. Rebecca in 1923. <i>Note: Rebecca and Moses are seated in the first row at the center.</i>

16		Oscar (Shia/Osias/Oscar) Leibowitz (shortened to Loeb) was born around 1868. He was the son of Chaim Leib and Rifka Brattman. Oscar apprenticed as a metalworker and referred to himself as a tinsmith. He came to the United States from Romania when he was approximately 30. He married Rebecca who was the matriarch of their large successful family. Rebecca had a sister, Malka/Mollie who married Alter Moskowitz. Together Alter and Oscar were among the founders of the Alter Roumanishe ("Romanian") Shul located in Society Hill (now the Society Hill Synagogue). Oscar passed away in 1946. His legacy was honored in a recent CBS3 TV story.
17	Slove Mandlestam was born on August 4, 1822. She lived at 714 Pine Street in Philadelphia, PA. She was 85 years old when she passed away on October 14th 1907. She was described as married on her death certificate, but no spouse was located. The doctor who signed her death certificate, Dr. Louis Chodoff maintained an office at 705 Pine Street just a few doors down and they most likely knew each other.	
18	 	Aaron Shmuel Minkowsky and his wife, Matilda Minkowsky (Ostrosky) came to the United States from Kiev in 1904. The first address for the family is 1408 S. 5th St, which was taken from the Declaration of Intent, made July 1906. By November 1909, according to the Petition for Naturalization, the family was living at 2932 Richmond St, just north of Castor Avenue. Aaron owned a hardware store and died Sept 1926 at age 52. Matilda died in 1960 living to be 82. They had 6 children, 2 of which were born in Ukraine.

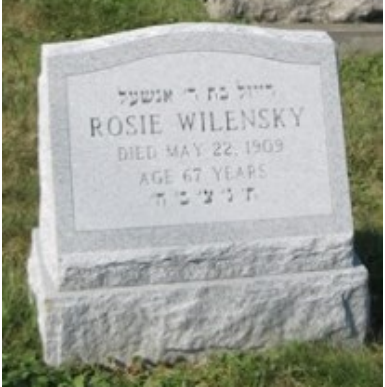
19		Pinchas (Pinney) Minkowsky, the famous cantor who was born in Russia and buried in Philadelphia in 1924. He was the son of Mordechai Minkowsky, also a cantor, who had the prestigious lineage of being a direct descendent of Rabbi Yom Tov Lipman Heller, a 17th Century Talmudist, Kabbalist, and chief Rabbi of Prague. He was a cantor in Odessa, Ukraine when he was recruited to come to New York to be the cantor at the new Shul, Kahal Adath Jeshurun. This was the large, ornate Shul, built by the Russian immigrants in the Lower East Side of Manhattan. He served as Chazzan from 1887 to 1892 and returned to Odessa to be head Chazzan of the Brody Shul for the next 30 years. He stayed until 1922 when he returned to the United States.
20	 החזן מרדכי מינקובסקי	Mordechai Minkowsky followed his oldest son to Philadelphia. He and his wife arrived in 1900 in their late 50's or early 60's. They came to Philadelphia and listed their destination as 304 South Street. Their children followed to live in America. The family included three Cantors, one opera star, and one mother of a Curtis Institute student and later voice teacher. The musical Minkowskys left their imprint on the New World. He passed away in 1922.

21		Charles Parnes was born in Beltz Russia around 1888. He was the Son of Samuel and Sarah Sura Parnes. He arrived in the US in 1906 and was naturalized in 1916. In 1909 he married Elizabeth ("Lizzie") Eisenberg and they had two children Elsie and Violet. According to the 1930 census Charles was the proprietor of a cigar store at 2500 South 61st St in Philadelphia. He owned his home that was valued at \$4000.00. Also, Lizzie is buried in Har Nebo Cemetery.
22		Itzig ("Jacob") and Sarah Patlozan ("Patelson") were born in Russia and emigrated from Liverpool, England and arrived in Philadelphia, PA on March 9, 1909. They traveled with their 5 children. They were met here by their brother-in-law, Lazarus Benfeld. Itzig, Sarah and the children adopted new names at their time of naturalization in 1928. Jacob was a dry goods merchant. Lazarus was a tailor who also had a grocery store. Lazarus who arrived in 1890, paved the way for his brother-in-law and sister-in-law's arrival in Philadelphia.
23		Frank and Rose Rieder were born in Eastern Europe and moved to the United States before the turn of the Twentieth Century. They had nine children. Rose was a beloved matriarch who died in 1914, and six of her sixteen grandchildren were named after her. Frank established a successive family business named Frank Rieder & Sons which manufactured cabinets and furniture for stores and businesses. Some of the furniture is still in existence and can be found for sale on websites for vintage furniture. One of the Federation Housing residential towers is called Reider House, named after

		Frank and Rose's grandson, Robert Reider.
24		Rebecca ("Becky") Rosenzweig Weiss Katz (20 Sep 1873 - 24 Oct 1942) lived Khmelnytskyi, Ukraine. She married Peretz David Weiss and had three daughters, Anna (b. 1890), Sarah (b. 1893), and Esther (b. 1896) Weiss. She ran Peretz (Philip)'s dry goods shop for him and was very skilled in business. Peretz died in "the old country" during the cholera pandemic of 1881-1896. She brought her 3 daughters to the U.S. in the 1890s or perhaps a bit later. Becky remarried ~1920-1921 to Rabbi (Schye Wolf) Samuel Katz, 25 Jul 1879 - 7 Apr 1937 who was born in Vladimir, Russia.
25		Morris and Gazella Rudich came to the U.S. in 1899-1900, with their two children, from Yassey (Iasi), Romania, and settling in the Philadelphia area at first. Morris was an insurance agent, who sadly died of tuberculosis in 1917, leaving Gazella a widow. Gazella lived in Philadelphia with Minnie and Samuel per the 1920 census, but, by 1930, Minnie's family, her brother, John, and his family, all moved to Atlantic City. Gazella passed away in 1947.
25		Allen Rutstein was born on August 14, 1897 in Camden, New Jersey, to Harry and Rachel Rutstein. He was the youngest of seven children, five boys and two girls. He lived most of his life in South Philadelphia and worked at the Philadelphia Naval Yard. On September 21, 1918, less than a month after registering for the draft for World War I, Allen suddenly passed away.

26		Hayanna Segal ("Annie"), who was born around 1833, lived most of her days in a shtetle called Balaya Tserkov, located in the Pale of Russia, about 48 miles from Kiev. Hayanna made a good living preparing baked goods for all types of ceremonies, including the celebration of a baby's birth. She immigrated to Philadelphia in the winter of 1906 with her daughter, son-in-law, and five grandchildren. She was twice widowed, and although her last name was Segal, she was registered under the last name of Rabinovitz. Hayanna (<i>pictured to the right with her grandson</i>) died in the winter of 1911 after living only five years in America.
27	 Source: JGASGP Chronicles, Special Research by Felicia Mode Alexander	Private Herman Spielberg, Serial # 748791, served with the Company G, 3rd Ammunition Train. He had enlisted in the U.S. Army in Chicago, had died overseas in France, and "was the only child of his parents." Though Herman apparently lived in Chicago at the time he enlisted, his remains were disinterred on July 7, 1920 and shipped to Hoboken, NJ on the USS Antigone which arrived on August 7. Two weeks later, on August 19th, Herman was shipped to the Jewish Burial Association at 513 Pine St. and received by his relative, William Spielberg! He was buried in Har Nebo on August 23 1920. The marker depicts a tree of life, with all branches missing, indicating a life that ended at a young age. In fact, Herman died when he was only thirty years old, unmarried, and no children.

28		Isaac ("Isadore") Soiffer, son of Abraham David, was born around 1842 in Kaminetz, Podolia Ukraine, Russia. He married Malka "Mollie" Schwartz in 1882 in Ukraine. They had 8 children, 3 of whom survived to immigrate with parents in 1905. The family arrived in Ellis Island on April 13, 1905, aboard the SS Rhein. and relocated to South Philadelphia where Isaac had a dry goods store at 811 South 4th Street and had two children living with them, David Soiffer born in 1888 and Sarah Soiffer born in 1895. Isaac died June 15, 1913; Mollie in 1929.
29		The family of Charles and Pearl Spritzler came from Austria to the United States. They had seven children. First to arrive was son Morris on 25 Oct 1899. Charles, Pearl and children Isaac, Lena and Joseph arrived in May 1904, the others arrived by 1911. The family appears to have been entrepreneurial. Charles opened a dry goods store at 1137 Columbia Ave. in Philadelphia not long after his arrival in Philadelphia. He later specialized in Ladies furnishings. The store later became the Landow Department.

30		David Stillman was founder and President of Langhorne Hosiery Mills with operations in Philadelphia, Langhorne and Phoenixville. He was a Russian immigrant who came in 1920. He was a founder of first Ostropolier Corporation, also founding supporter of Beth Uziel Synagogue named for his father Uziel. His wife Mae Stillman also at Har Nebo. Three generations of Eisenbergs are buried at Har Nebo including Stuart Eisenberg (May 4, 1939-Oct. 9, 2019) an attorney who was dedicated to helping people who needed it the most by way of his representation of the underdog.
31		Aaron Tollin (originally Tolinsky) was married to Freda. He was born in 1857 in Russia and died in 1908 in Philadelphia of stomach cancer. Aaron and Freda had five sons, Frank, Albert, David, Joseph and Solomon. Frank owned Tollins Furniture Store in Chester, PA. Albert and Solomon also worked in the furniture business. David was a ladies clothing manufacturer and Joseph worked as a purchasing agent.
32		When Samuel Wilensky immigrated to Philadelphia in 1904, his father Elya Wilensky was already buried in Har Nebo having passed away in 1902. His wife, Reizya ("Rosie") followed him here in 1899. Elya emigrated from Pereiaslav, Ukraine in 1891 where he joined extend family in Philadelphia. Elya worked as a clothes-presser until his death from pneumonia. Rosie's family replaced her stone in 2008.

		David and Lillie ("Lena") Yorker are buried at Har Nebo. They were born in Russia; David in 1858; Lillie (<i>left photo</i>) in 1863. Their original last name was Jaroker which became Yorker. They were married in Russia in 1880 and emigrated to Philadelphia. David passed in 1920; Lillie in 1848.
33		Morris Yuter was born in 1857 in Maisiagala, Lithuania. His father Julius owned a flower mill. One of his activities was to smuggle young Jewish men and their families out of Russia on the "underground railway" when they were drafted. Morris came to the United States in 1907 with his family. He settled in Philadelphia with his son Abram and his wife, Clara. His other children were in New York and Alexandria, VA. His daughter didn't like it here in the United States and moved back to Russia, where she ultimately perished in the Holocaust.

9.0: Thank You to Donors (as of 12/31/2021)

Thank you for the generosity of our donors who helped turn the idea of turning the tide of despair at Har Nebo due to age, shifts in the ground, and poor maintenance into a Friends of Jewish Cemeteries pilot program reality. Beyond the economics, your support inspired the progress every step of the way knowing that descendants and community members cared.

As individuals conserving even one stone can be an uphill challenge. Together as a collaborative community we can move mountains. Again thank you to each and everyone of the following:

- Karen & Jeff Albert
- Jane G. Bender
- Mitchell Benson
- Richard D. Blumberg
- Steven Blumberg
- Stuart E. Bogom
- William R. Bredt
- David Brill
- Jonathan Broder
- Sefanie Bucholski
- Leigh Carasso
- Herbert Cooper

- Michael Costello
- Steven Dickstein
- Kathy Drew
- Alan D. Ehrlich
- Paul Fine
- Cary L. Flitter
- Jonathan Foxman
- Samuel Friedman
- George Joan and Jack Shuster Foundation
- Richard Gettlin
- Mitchell S. Goldenberg
- Goldfus Family Fund
- Nanci Goldman
- Goldsteins' Rosenberg's Raphael-Sacks Inc.
- Richard D. Gorelick
- Marci Green
- James Hartmann
- Matthew I. Hirsch
- Lynne Jacobs
- Arnold I. Kalman
- Alan J. Kaminsky
- Gary Kauffman
- Bonnie Keyser
- Addie Klein
- Dodi L. Klimoff
- Paula A. Krupit
- Harriet Lessy
- Bruce Levin
- Michael Levin
- Jonathan L. Levin
- Barbara H. Levine
- Alan Levy
- Emily Lewis
- William D. Luteran
- Beth Mann
- David A. Mink
- Debra N. Nathanson
- Emma Needleman
- Jacqueline Nicholson
- Paul L. Newman Foundation
- Ronald P. Perilstein
- Judith Reider
- Ronald S. Riebman
- Linda I. Robinson
- Joan M. Roller
- Steven Ross
- Susan Roth
- Ruth Sternberg Gross Estate
- Alan Scher
- Leslee Schwartz
- Danielle Selber
- Ariel Shatz
- David Shatz
- Robert J. Shusterman
- Michael Sklar
- Eileen S. Sklaroff
- Andrea Sossin-Bergman
- Ellen Stein
- Lisa Steinberg
- Carole Z. Strickland
- Andrew Szabo
- Judith Trachtman
- Andy Uhr
- Linda Weinstein
- Eric S. Yanoff
- Jordan Yuter
- Adam Zeff

Special Community Report prepared by Rich Blumberg, rich.blumberg@comcast.net. Feel free to contact with any updates, questions or comments.

For questions or comments related to teaming with the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia please contact Addie Lewis Klein, alewis@jewishphilly.org