



## **PLISKOVER CEMETERY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**

January 2015

Shalom Pliskovers!

The Pliskover Board of Directors is pleased to send you this newsletter. In this edition, we will update you on the state of the Pliskover Cemetery Association and the latest happenings over the past year. It has been awhile since we have published a newsletter, so we have a lot to report. I hope you enjoy this one.

### 2014 – A Year in Review

The year 2014 came in with an atmosphere focusing on change. The year began with a new emphasis on fiscal budgeting. While the Association's finances are sound, this was a first year of utilizing our new Business Management Software to develop a budget plan for revenues and expenditures. With the newly available cost data, the Board anticipated a balanced budget, based on historical dues and donation revenues and an increase in interest income (thanks to a bond reinvestment plan in a mixture of Israeli Bonds, US Treasury Bonds, and CDs), as well as some cost savings measures.

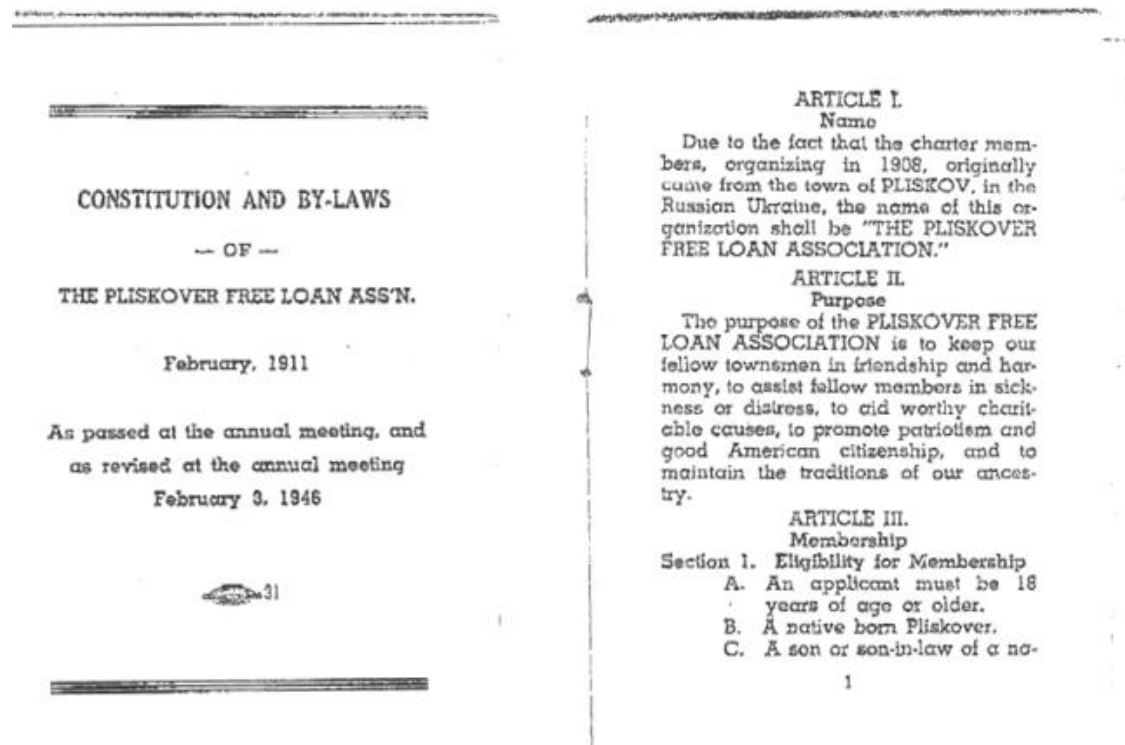
We are happy to report that we collected dues from 155 membership families. Thank you to all who have paid their dues and made generous contributions to the Pliskover Association. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and is the sustaining force behind our viability. We are so proud of our heritage and that we have such loyal families that are committed to ensuring that our Cemetery and Ancestry will continue to thrive. It is a humbling responsibility to maintain the hallowed grounds where our departed loved ones are buried. Making a visit to the Cemetery, it is hard to ignore the spirit and sense of love that fills the place.

But even with these supportive families, there are still a significant number of families whose dues have lapsed. We encourage everyone to be diligent in sending in your dues checks and catching up on any past years' dues that have gone uncollected. Your dues statement will show your current dues status.

In the Spring of 2014, the Board undertook another new challenge. Recognizing the work imbalance applied to a select few individuals, it became apparent that the Board structure as currently consisted would not be sustainable. The bottom line is that we wanted the workload to be better distributed among the Board members.



We began by reviewing the Pliskover Free Loan Association Constitution and By-Laws, which were last revised on February 3, 1946 (see copy of first pages below). Reading through the document, we were struck first by the foresight that our ancestors had for assembling an organization that was meant to help each other through Free Loan offerings. However, it also became apparent that, as the Free Loan aspect of our Association is no longer in place, the existing Constitution was largely outdated. Therefore, it was decided that the Pliskover Cemetery Association needed a new Constitution. On January 10, 2014, Frank Rubin was selected to draft the new Constitution and he did a tremendous job!



Photocopy of Previously Revised By-Laws

Throughout the course of the subsequent board meetings, a new document was discussed, drafted, edited, and revised multiple times. Finally, on June 2, 2014, the Board voted to approve the final Constitution and present it to the general membership for a vote at the Pliskover Picnic/Open Meeting.

The Pliskover Picnic was held on June 22, 2014. Honey Forman did a fantastic job of putting together another wonderful Pliskover event. She even arranged for us to have clear and sunny weather, making for a special time, made all the better by getting to reunite with about 40



fellow Pliskovers. There was a delicious assortment of foods (compliments to Harold and David Forman who did the grilling), in addition to the traditional Pliskover BINGO game.

During the Open Meeting part of the Picnic, Irv Weiner, our president for the past 21 years, announced his retirement and pending move to Florida with his wife Shirley. We appreciate all of Irv's efforts and leadership through all of these years, and we wish him well with his move.

Next, we held a vote and approved the new Constitution and By-Laws of the Pliskover Association. The voice vote approved the new by-laws unanimously! Just like that, we had our first new Constitution since 1946!

And finally, those in attendance accepted and voted on nominations to the Board of Directors. Elected was a slate of eighteen (18, aka "chai") Board Members, including new Board members Joel Dresbold, Pam Ludin, Carole Barr Rubenstein, Ed Silverman, and Steven Speck.

At the following Board Meeting, on July 7, 2014, the Board voted a new slate of Officers, in accordance with the new Constitution. The Officers, serving 2-year terms, are as follows:

**2014-2016 Board of Directors**

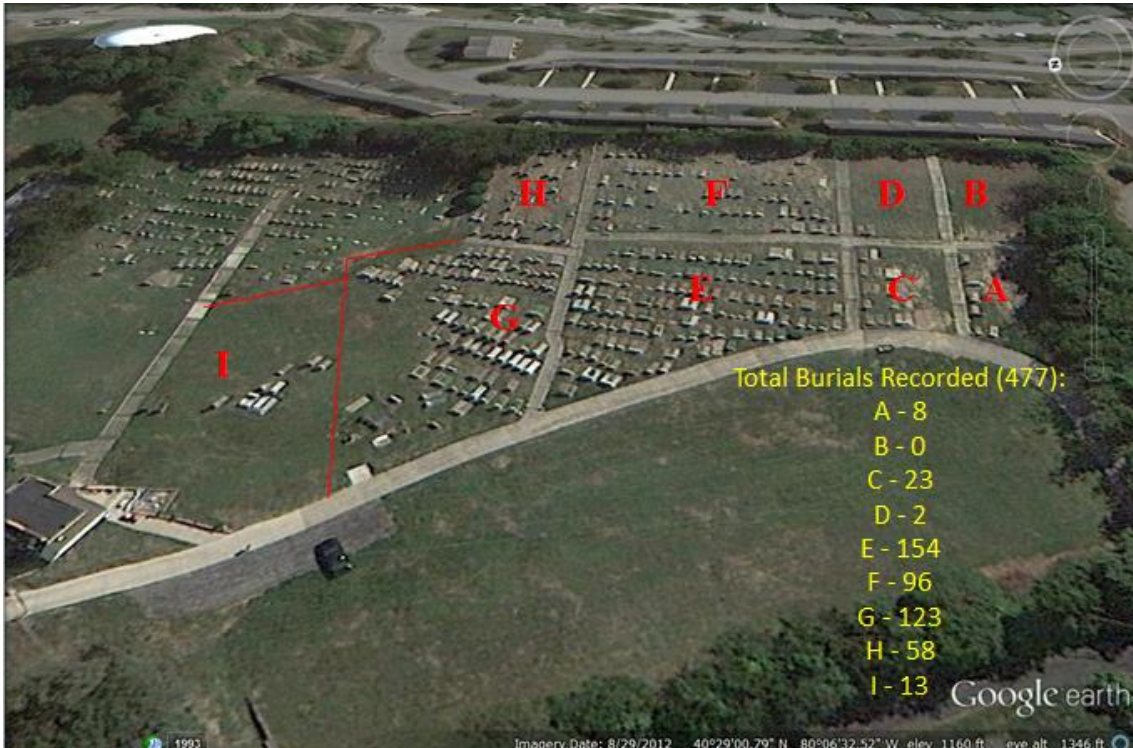
Ann Gould	President
Bruce Ibe	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President
Kimball Rubin	Vice President – Budgets, Investments, and Audits
Pam Ludin	Vice President – Events and Scholarships
Jared Kaufman	Vice President – Marketing
Frank Rubin	Vice President – Membership
Cheryl Kaufman	Treasurer
Ron Gould	Financial Secretary
Honey Forman	Recording Secretary
Marilyn Brody	At-Large Boardmember
Cookie Danovitz	At-Large Boardmember
Joel Dresbold	At-Large Boardmember
Barbara Rosenzweig	At-Large Boardmember
Bud Roth	At-Large Boardmember
Carole Rubenstein	At-Large Boardmember
Gloria Shapiro	At-Large Boardmember
Ed Silverman	At-Large Boardmember
Steven Speck	At-Large Boardmember

On September 14, 2014, we held our annual Kaiver Ovus (Memorial Day). It is a Pliskover tradition to pay our respects to our dearly departed before the High Holidays. We contracted



Rabbi Mendy Schapiro, of Monroeville, to accompany our visitors to the gravesites and to assist with the traditional prayers. Kaiver Ovus is also our largest regular source of additional donations, which fill a key part of our budget to cover our ever increasing maintenance, utility, and other costs.

This year marked the completion of another initiative. We developed a computerized record of all of the burial sites at the Pliskover Cemetery, complete with names, section, row, and plot numbers, and even photos of the headstones. Modern tools such as Google earth were used to help with the mapping, as shown in the image below. The process of identifying every burial site produced a total of 477 Pliskover burial sites.



This initiative has been helpful to quickly locate deceased Pliskovers, to identify family descendants, and to help guide the identification of new burial sites, as well as grave site maintenance.

As the year came to a close, the Board reported that our finances are in good shape. We incurred a small net loss for the 2014 calendar year. Using this data, we approved a new budget for 2015 that is expected to restore our account balance and ensure our ongoing economic viability.



Passings

In the past year, we lost a number of our loved ones, those special to the Pliskover family. We mourn those whom we lost. May their memories be a blessing...

Priscilla Pickholtz (3/7/2014)	The beloved wife of the late Edward Pickholtz, and mother of Marty Pickholtz, Diane (Robert) Lowers, Jeffrey (Debbie) Pickholtz, Barbara (Bill) Pawlowski and Michael (Donna) Pickholtz. She is also survived by many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Priscilla was the daughter of the late Samuel & Dora (Rubenstein) Barron and granddaughter of the late Sarah & Max Rubenstein.
Rhea Roth (6/12/2014)	The beloved wife of the late Louis Roth, and mother of Jeanne Williams and Jerome Roth.
Jeanne Katz (6/24/2014)	The daughter of Gerry Katz Tanack (Elliott) and Paul Katz. She is the sister of Shelley Katz and of the late Stuart Katz.
Sam Calig (8/7/2014)	The son of Harry Calig, grandson of Rose and Sam Calig, and great grandson of Lazar Rubenstein. Sam is survived by his sister Hallie Calig, and children Jonathan Calig, Talia Calig, and Jordan Calig.
Andy Gupp (8/7/2014)	There was a fire in the small house on the Ahavath Achim cemetery grounds, the cemetery directly adjoining to our Pliskover cemetery in Kennedy Twp, PA. Sadly, the fire claimed 98 year old Andy Gupp. Andy was the caretaker of that cemetery, but also was the caretaker of the Pliskover cemetery for many years, as well. In fact, he raised his family in the house on our cemetery grounds. Here is the link to the news story: <a href="http://www.post-gazette.com/local/west/2014/08/07/Fatal-fire-in-Kennedy-under-investigation/stories/201408070286">http://www.post-gazette.com/local/west/2014/08/07/Fatal-fire-in-Kennedy-under-investigation/stories/201408070286</a>
Sophie Masloff (8/17/2014)	The wife of the late Jack Masloff. She is well-known as having been the first female and first Jewish mayor of Pittsburgh. Sophie is survived by her daughter, granddaughter, grandson, and great-granddaughter. For those who did not see it, here is the link to the news story: <a href="http://thejewishchronicle.net/view/full_story/25641815/article-Sophie-Masloff---She-was-the-conscience-of-our-city-?instance=secondary_stories_right_column">http://thejewishchronicle.net/view/full_story/25641815/article-Sophie-Masloff---She-was-the-conscience-of-our-city-?instance=secondary_stories_right_column</a>



Passings (continued)

Isadore Valen (10/24/2014)	The beloved husband of the late Burnice Valen; loving father of Stuart (Simone) Valen, Gary Valen, Lorri (Ken) Kubrick and Adrian (Phil) Schuster; brother of the late Harry, Ben and Freida; grandfather of Brian (Natalie) Valen, Lindsey (Steven) Wedner, Ari and Rachel Zahavi, Adam Valen, Eric and Craig Hoehstetter; great-grandfather of Audrey, Jaden and Adam.
Irv Weiner (1/6/2015)	The beloved husband of Shirley Weiner; brother of Ettie (Harris) Perilstein; loving father of Paul (Bonnie) Weiner, Jeff (Mindy) Weiner, and Louis (Lane) Weiner; and grandfather of Brooke (David) McClure, Molly Weiner, Ben Weiner, Tori Weiner, Brittany Weiner, and Noah Weiner. Irv was a longtime active Board member and officer of the Pliskover Cemetery Association, serving for over 50 years, including more than 20 years as our President. Throughout, he was a tireless and dedicated advocate and leader, who was instrumental to the organization's continuity and success. Mostly, he will be greatly missed a kind and loving family member and friend.

Scholarship Announcement

Are you aware of the Pliskover Scholarship? Another highlight of this year's Picnic was the awarding of the Annual Pliskover Scholarships. This year, two (2) applicants were awarded with \$500 scholarships that are applied to post-High School education or training. This year's winners were Brittany Weiner and Benjamin Berg. Mazel Tov to our scholarship winners, and best of luck in your educational endeavors!

The Scholarship was one of Irv Weiner's many great ideas for the Pliskovers. The scholarships are made available to any member in good standing who will be attending a post-High School educational program. Applicants must submit an application form and essay on the Pliskover Immigration Experience. In addition to receiving some financial assistance, the applicants have the opportunity to research their Pliskover heritage and gain a better understanding on the tight bond we share with our past.

The 2015 Scholarship Application is on the following page. Applications are due to Pam Ludin, our vice President – Scholarship and Events, by May 15, 2015.

## 2015 PLISKOVER CEMETERY ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP

The Pliskover Cemetery Association is proud to announce the availability of funds to assist students pursuing post-high school education or training. Past recipients have received \$500 awards.

To be considered for the 2015 scholarship; please provide the demographic information below and a 250-500 word essay on the *Pliskover Immigration Experience*.

- Name
- Address
- Telephone
- Birth date
- School that you plan to attend in Fall 2015
- Pliskover Relationship

Essays are due by May 15, 2015. Please submit to Pam Ludin via email: [pludin@verizon.net](mailto:pludin@verizon.net)

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at 412.496.2521 or email [pludin@verizon.net](mailto:pludin@verizon.net)

The next section of the newsletter is truly a special treat. As you read on, you will understand what I mean by that...

Special Feature from the daughter of the "Queen of the Newsletter"

Hello All,

I am writing this letter on behalf of my mother Barbara Rosenzweig. She would be upset I waited until the deadline to send it in. She always liked prompt replies. As I write to you, my mom is now living in Charles Morris. She has fought a good fight to stay independent, but now she needs more care than we can provide at home. Her new address is 200 JHF Drive. Her permanent room has not been assigned yet, but everyone knows her in the building so she is not hard to find! She would love company. (Just ask Bonnie and Ozzie). She may or may not know you, but I am sure you will eventually get a smile from her. The strongest part of her is her long term memory, and with that said, every Pliskover member is loved and remembered by her. Stop in when you are in the area. I am sure you both will enjoy the visit.

She would also want me to update you on her grandchildren, my kids! Hilary and Andrew Sigal are still teaching in Arlington School District in Virginia and new homeowners in Alexandria. Mitchell Silverman has graduated from Drexel University with an RN BSN in Nursing and is living in DC (close to Hilary and Andrew) and working in the Cardiology Unit of University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore. I am sure she would want me to give a shout out to her Machatenum (sp?) Louise and Martin Silverman as well. And of course, she would want to thank my wonderful husband, her favorite son in law, for all of the love, support and care he gives all of us everyday.

I know that if she were still writing a newsletter, this would have been her toughest one ever. Words do not come to me like they did to her, but I know that she would want me to take a moment and just remember Irv Weiner. He defined this organization. May his memory be a blessing,

Diane Silverman

Notes from the Board Members

**Ann Gould, President**

Greetings, fellow Pliskovers! I am very excited and honored to be not only your President, but the first woman. I grew up in a household where the Pliskover Organizations were part of most evening meal table talk. Monday evenings were reserved for the Pliskover Organization, and specifically the old Free Loan. My father, Harry Weiner, was Recording Secretary for 40 plus years. As a child he paid me \$0.25 to place the stamps on the monthly newsletter that he banged out on a manual typewriter.



I too, served as Recording Secretary for 15 years. As a "native" Pliskover I have always recognized the importance of the organization. I was part of the Organization's reorganization, when women were able to become part of the running of the Pliskover Association, Inc. I hope to do a job that reflects well on continuing the dedication of those men. I was trained well by our late beloved retired President, Irv Weiner. It was an honor to be his Vice-President and learn from him.

**Bruce Ibe, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

Dear fellow Pliskovers-

As a current Pliskover board member, I would like to extend a Happy & Healthy 2015 to the entire Pliskover family.

My position as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President correlates to the care and well-being of our cemetery. This includes any cemetery improvements, operational maintenance issues, needed repairs for existing loved ones stones & foundations, etc. and also the personal logistical involvement as needed when a member passes and has chosen to be buried at the cemetery.

As a young child, I still recall my many visits to the cemetery with my mom, Bernice Ibe, and my brothers, to pay our respects to love ones. I hold fond memories of Andy, our caretaker for countless years who just passed last year and who lived in the little house which still stands on the grounds. Lots of time has gone by but it seems like yesterday.

My grandfather, Harry Adler was the Pliskover secretary for 47 years. Harry was one of the first to leave Pliskov, and along with Lazar Rubenstein and others, saw to it that our families came here and survived. In returning to Europe countless times over the years, Harry couriered money to others who desired to journey to America for a new life. Harry was instrumental in 1917 when our cemetery was purchased.

After the passing of my mom, my brothers, and other Pliskover members who I also knew and now greatly miss, I wanted to give back by helping out and doing what I can do on a personal level by joining the Pliskovers board. As board members, we are all striving to keep our organization strong, fiscally responsible, and hope that it will remain for another 100 years.

At this time, I have a special thought in my heart for Irv Weiner. He meant a lot to my mom, my family, and myself. With his recent passing, Irv will be greatly missed. Irv's father Harry, along with my grandfather Harry, used to take my mom and Irv to meetings when they were little kids. I'm proud to follow in their footsteps and be a Pliskover. My grandfather would be proud that almost 100 years later, I'm helping to take care of our special little cemetery.

**Kimball Rubin, Vice President – Budgets, Investments, and Audits**

My hope and goal is to transform the Pliskover Cemetery Association into an organization that focusses on our collective family histories, in addition to taking care of the cemetery.

**Pam Ludin, Vice President – Events and Scholarships**

I am happy to announce that my son Matthew Abramson graduated December 2014 from the University of Pittsburgh with a Bachelors in Chemical Engineering. He starts his career with Cardno Chemrisk in Pittsburgh PA. Matthew is the great-great grandson of Lazar Rubenstein.

**Frank Rubin, Vice President – Membership**

Sadly, my wife, Florence K. Rubin passed away on Monday, February 16, 2015. She will be missed by all.

**Cheryl Kaufman, Treasurer**

Mazel tov to Jesse Kaufman on his Bar Mitzvah on August 16, 2014. Jesse is the son of Liana and Adam Kaufman, Grandson of Cheryl Kaufman and the late Ronald Kaufman and Great Grandson of the late Ruth and Ben Kaufman.

For his Mitzvah project Jesse donated his Bar Mitzvah gifts of \$5,000 to a classmate who has a rare form of cancer. Following his donation, articles in the Times Express, the Tribune Review, and the Post-Gazette were published. Yahoo! News posted it on their site and more than \$17,000 was subsequently donated to the fund set up by Jesse. In January, Jesse was featured on NBC's The Ellen DeGeneres Show, at which time another \$10,000 was donated by Shutterfly. It was a true Mitzvah done by a true mensch!

**Ronald Gould, Financial Secretary**

I grew up in Greensburg, PA, and had never even heard the word Pliskover. That quickly changed when I met my wife Ann Esther Weiner. She is the daughter of the late Harry and Lena Weiner. For many years I traveled for my job, but when I retired I decided to become more active in this special organization. It is a Mitzvah to belong and be involved in an organization dedicated to honoring our loved ones. I had served on the general Board of Directors since 2004, but this year became Financial Secretary.

**Honey Forman, Recording Secretary**

News: Honey and Harold Forman celebrated their fortieth wedding anniversary in December. The entire Forman family wishes everyone an extremely healthy and happy 2015.

Memory: When asked to recall a Pliskover memory, we fondly remember the 75th Anniversary dinner dance celebration at B'nai Israel. So many of Lazar Rubenstein's ten children were there to share the warmth of family that was their father's vision. It was beautiful.

### **Carole Rubenstein, At-Large Boardmember**

I have a new grandson- Ian Jon Casaburro, named for my dad, the late Isidore J. Barr. Ian was born on October 9, 2014, in Charlotte, NC to my daughter, Synthia Gerson and her husband Eric Casaburro.

### **Steve Speck, At-Large Boardmember**

Family, As some of you may know, I have recently become a member of the Board of Directors of the Pliskover Cemetery Association. The association is important to me, my father and brother have both served the association and now I feel that it is my turn. I am writing this message in the hopes that you will either renew or become members for the first time in the Association, whether it is your intention to be laid to rest in the cemetery or not. The membership dues are slight, the importance huge, as it will assist in maintaining our grandparents/ mothers/ fathers/ aunts and uncles final resting spots.

I have fond memories of my father serving the Pliskovers, and always remarking how important the organization was. I'd also like to add that membership of the younger generations is vital, and necessary.

### Visiting the Cemetery?

For those who have been to the cemetery over the past year, you already know that Route 51 is closed heading from Pittsburgh out to the cemetery. The project is reportedly taking longer than anticipated, so we should expect the closures to continue for the foreseeable future. Here are some alternate directions that you may find useful for your next cemetery visit.

#### Driving Directions to the Pliskover Cemetery from Pittsburgh and East:

Take I-376 West (to Pittsburgh/Airport).

Take exit 70C, to I-279 North/Ft. Duquesne Bridge (to North Shore).

On the bridge, stay LEFT onto PA-65 North/Ohio River Blvd. Continue for about 2.9 miles.

At light, turn LEFT onto McKees Rocks Bridge (signs to PA-51).

At the end of the bridge, stay RIGHT onto PA-51 North. Continue for about 4.7 miles.

Turn LEFT onto Coraopolis Road. Continue for 0.6 miles.

Turn RIGHT onto Green Oak Drive.

Pliskover Cemetery will be on your LEFT.

GPS: 29 Green Oak Drive, Kennedy Township, PA 15108

#### Driving Directions to the Pliskover Cemetery from Pittsburgh Airport:

Exit Airport onto I-376 East (to Pittsburgh). Continue for about 5.4 miles.  
Take the Montour Run Road Exit.  
At light, stay Straight (left lane) on Montour Run Road. This will cross beneath the highway.  
Stay in the Right Lane to continue on Montour Run Road for 1.9 miles.  
This road will become Beaver Grade Road. Continue another 0.5 miles.  
You will get to a split. Bear LEFT on Clever Road. Continue for about 0.9 miles.  
At traffic light, turn LEFT on Silver Lane. Continue for about 1.2 miles.  
At stop sign (small gas station at corner), turn RIGHT on Forest Grove Road. Follow Forest Grove for about 1.2 miles, including crossing a bridge over I-79.  
Go up the hill and turn LEFT on Herbst Road.  
Then make an immediate RIGHT on Green Oak Drive.  
Pliskover Cemetery will be on your RIGHT.

GPS: 29 Green Oak Drive, Kennedy Township, PA 15108

### Closing

I hope that you found this Pliskover newsletter to be informative. As you see, the Association has had a very busy year. We have a Board full of very committed and caring individuals who have a personal stake in ensuring the continued viability as we embark on our 108<sup>th</sup> year. I ask for your continued support for the Pliskover Cemetery Association by paying your tax-deductible 2015 dues, by encouraging your family members to join (if they are not already members), and by asking how you can get involved in our operations. I can tell you now that geography is no longer a barrier to participation, as we have 2 Ohio residents on our Board.

On a personal note, by participating on the Pliskover Board, I have had the opportunity to strengthen my personal bond with my Pliskover heritage. I have had the chance to get to know and learn from and work with some very special people. It has been an experience I could not have ever imagined.

On behalf of my fellow Board members, I thank you for your generous support of the Pliskovers. I close this newsletter now by wishing you and your families a happy, healthy, and prosperous year.

Always,

Jared Kaufman.  
VP, Marketing  
[www.pliskover.com](http://www.pliskover.com)