

PLISKOVER ASSOCIATION  
P.O. BOX 8237  
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[www.pliskover.com](http://www.pliskover.com)



## **PLISKOVER CEMETERY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**

December 2017

Shalom Pliskovers!

Accompanying the attached 2017 Dues Statement, The Pliskover Board of Directors is pleased to send you this year-in-review newsletter, offering a rundown of the state of the Pliskover Cemetery Association. Below is a listing of your current Board members.

### **Board of Directors**

Kimball Rubin	President
Bruce Ibe	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President
Pam Ludin	Vice President – Budgets, Investments, and Audits
Jared Rubin	Vice President – Events and Scholarships
Jared Kaufman	Vice President – Marketing
Frank Rubin	Vice President – Membership
Cheryl Kaufman	Treasurer
Andrew Pearl	Financial Secretary
Honey Forman	Recording Secretary
Marilyn Brody	At-Large Boardmember
Cookie Danovitz	At-Large Boardmember
Joel Dresbold	At-Large Boardmember
Carole Rubenstein	At-Large Boardmember
Fallon Rubin	At-Large Boardmember
Paula Rubin	At-Large Boardmember
Gloria Shapiro	At-Large Boardmember
Steven Speck	At-Large Boardmember

We take this space to offer our sincerest appreciation to longtime boardmember, Bud Roth. After participating on the board for more years than we can recount, Bud has decided to resign, as participation has become more difficult for him. All Pliskovers everywhere offer a debt of gratitude for your dedication and service. Thank you, Bud!

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### 2017 – A Year in Review

2017 has been another busy year for the Pliskovers, and we are pleased to say that our organization continues to uphold its important purposes. Our membership stands at a stable 191 families. This number is down slightly from several years ago, but we are optimistic that a next generation of Pliskovers will establish themselves as loyal and productive members to ensure that we continue to thrive. And we hope that you will help us make sure that happens!

A key focus of the Board this year has been on addressing issues with membership status and dues collections. We have been blessed this year as a number of people who had several years worth of outstanding dues decided to get caught up and maintain their good standing with the organization. This continues to be an important part of our budgeting process.

It is worth repeating here that our cemetery maintenance and organizational activities depend completely on the generosity of our members, who pay their annual dues and make donations throughout the year. All dues and donations are 100% tax deductible. But more than that, they are so greatly appreciated by all. So we ask you to please send in your 2018 dues promptly!

Speaking of the finances, thanks to the increase in dues collections and a collective sense of fiscal responsibility shared by the board members, we were able to stay within our budget for 2017 and have decided to hold the line on dues for 2018, making it three years in a row without a dues increase.

As you know, in order to have burial rights at the Pliskover Cemetery, you need to be a member in good standing (aka up to date on your dues). We do not charge a fee for a plot at the cemetery, and even adding up a lifetime's worth of annual dues, the cost of burial at the Pliskover Cemetery remains more economical than the fee structure of other Pittsburgh-area Jewish cemeteries.

As far as the cemetery goes, the most significant improvement we made this year was the replacement of the railing that runs along the steps at the far (south) end of the cemetery. The old railing was in bad shape, so it was due for replacing.

In other cemetery-related news, one of the unfortunate trends in 2017 was the prevalence of anti-semitic acts of vandalism in Jewish cemeteries, most notably in Philadelphia and St.

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Louis. Fortunately, we have not had anything of the like at the Pliskover Cemetery. But it is still something that was considered by our Board and we want to assure you that steps are in place to protect the sacred resting place of our ancestors. One of our best protections is that we have an active resident living in the house on the cemetery property, who keeps lights on at the property and maintains a presence around the clock.

In case you missed it, we did have a Pliskover Picnic. It was held on Sunday, June 11, at Monroeville Park. We thank all who attended the picnic who enjoyed delicious food, beautiful weather, plenty of catching up with our Pliskover family, and very competitive BINGO games. Many thanks especially to the Rubin family (Frank and Nina, Kimball and Hannah, and Jared) for the organization and preparation, and to the Forman family (Honey and Harold) for the grilling and BINGO calling duties! The picnic was a success! For those of you who may have missed it this year, we hope you will be able to attend next time...

Keeping with annual traditions, we had our annual Kever Avot Memorial Day at the cemetery on Sunday, September 10. We were blessed with cool, but comfortable weather as we paid our respects to our departed loved ones. Our thanks to Rabbi Mendy Schapiro of the Chabad of Monroeville, who helped our visitors with the ritual prayers.

We are pleased to announce that we awarded two scholarships this year, each receiving \$500 towards their continuing education. The recipients were Zachary Scher and Jacob Libenson. Zachary is the son of Lisa and Matthew Scher, grandson of former Pliskover president Ann and Ron Gould. Jacob is the son of Ross Libenson and Susan Marcus, grandson of Harriet and the late Jerry Libenson.

We wish both Zachary and Jacob the best of luck in their educational endeavors!

As a reminder, the Pliskover scholarship is made available to children of active members in good standing who will be attending a post-High School educational program. Applicants must submit an application form and essay on the Pliskover Emigration 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. Previous scholarship winners are ineligible (limit one scholarship per person).

The 2018 Scholarship Application may be found on our website at [www.pliskover.com](http://www.pliskover.com). Applications are due to Jared Rubin, our vice President – Scholarship and Events, by May 15, 2018. Any questions you have should be directed to Jared.



### Genealogy

One of the real treats of managing the [www.pliskover.com](http://www.pliskover.com) website and [pliskover@pliskover.com](mailto:pliskover@pliskover.com) email address is that I receive contact from long, lost Pliskovers who are searching for their distance family members. It seems that genealogy is becoming more popular as the Internet offers new ways to find people. Most commonly, I find that these Pliskovers's families immigrated to the USA and established their new homes in other cities. We know that at one time, in addition to Pittsburgh, there were other Pliskover Associations in Cleveland, Baltimore, New York, Brooklyn, and Chicago. But we don't have any lasting record of those memberships. If you have any such information, please share it with us.

Following are a few of the contacts I have received. If you recognize any of the names, please let us know right away so we can make some personal connections.

- Samuel Mittelman (France) wrote that his grandmother, Batia Margoulis (1909-1992) was born in Pliskov. His father called Fridel Margoulis (1850 - 18/9/1933).
- Ester Tsekhansky (Connecticut) wrote of her mother, Roza Tuzman, daughter of David Zeltsvas came to the USA from Pliskov. Roza's brother lives in Melbourne, Australia. Ester and husband Michael have reached out to a teacher in modern Pliskov, who sent pictures of Pliskov today, including a memorial to a WWII mass killing.
- Molka Kulik (New York) wrote of her father was born in Pliskov in 1911, but lost his family in WWII. The only known relative is a cousin Lubarsky and fathers sister. Other Kuliks changed their names to Roizen (unsure of spelling). Kulik Zenariya and his wife Sure-Duvidkes had three sons in USA: Mair Rosen, Moshe, and Josef, and one son in Pliskov, Shouya Kulik, and three daughters, Golda Lubarskaya, Kuka Tokar and Estel Sirota.
- Goldie Kozlovsky wrote of Feldman/ Kushnirsky, and also Cohen and Spivak as names of relatives. Seeing photos of Rubenstein family, she notices a family resemblance to the Feldman / Cohen family in Pliskov, and wants to know how they are related and if family is still around today?
- R Shorr wrote that his grandparents came from Pliskov in approximately 1917. They first went to Chicago, but then to Cleveland where they lived a long and happy life. They were married before they left Pliskov. His name was Saul Shorr and her maiden name was Pauline ("Pessie") Gold.



- Frances Marku wrote of her family immigrated to the USA in the early 1900s. Her great, great grandmother's maiden name was Zelda Bershadsky, whose father was David. Zelda married Dov Ber and they had several daughters at the time they immigrated, one of whom was her great grandmother, Chaya. They adopted the name Plisco when they got to America. Other family members, Yoseph, Lipa, Kashmiel, and a sister, whose name she does not know. Their parent's names were Shmuel Tzvi and Sluva.

### 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...

Belle Roth (1/22/2017)	Beloved wife of the late Joseph Roth, mother of Debbie (Bob Rich) Roth and Sheldon (Nancy) Roth.
Jerome Libenson (5/16/2017)	Beloved husband of Harriette Rubenstein Libenson, and father of Clark, Sue, and Ross (Susan) Libenson. He passed away in San Diego, CA at the ripe age of 91.
Sherman Bond (5/28/2017)	Beloved brother of Pliskover member Sarita (Edgar) Hausman.
Ruth Spiegel (8/17/2017)	Beloved mother of Beth Spiegel (Harvey Pitterman) and Richard Spiegel; sister of Harriette Libenson and the late Harold and Erwin Rubenstein; sister-in-law of Betty Lou Rubenstein.
David Barr (11/11/2017)	Beloved husband of the late Irma Barr. He is the father of Charles Barr (Robyn Shapiro), Adam (Teresa) Barr, and the late Philip Barr. He is the grandfather of Tania Shapiro-Barr (William Orkin), Jeremy Shapiro-Barr, Michael Shapiro-Barr (Anna Kasper), and Joseph Barr. David is also the great grandfather of Benjamin, Jesse, and Elliana Orkin. He is the brother of the late Max Barr, Dorothy Augenblick and I.J. Barr.

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### Other News and Notes

- Kayla Ibe, daughter of Bruce Ibe, is working for Yelp! in New York City.
- Jared Rubin, son of Kimball (Hannah) Rubin, is now working in Chicago.
- Fallon Rubin, daughter of Kimball (Hannah) Rubin, is now working in Bridgetown, ME.
- Brett Kaufman, son of Jared (Marcy) Kaufman, became a Bar Mitzvah on June 3.
- Ryan Kaufman participated in a Tae Kwon Do board Break-a-thon raising money for Hurricane Harvey victims.
- Joel (Amy) Dresbold became grandparents again, Cara Dresbold became engaged, and Seth Dresbold was named to the list of the top 30 lawyers.
- Paula Rubin became a great grandmother when Jared Rosenthal's son was born.
- Matthew Abramson, son of Pam Ludin and Stewart Abramson, married Anastasia Ipatova. Grandmother is Arlene Rubenstein Ludin.
- Paul Shapiro, son of Gloria Shapiro, is doing some wonderful work with Kids with Cancer \$10 million dollars for 10 years.
- Jesse Rosenthal (Paula Rubin's grandson) got married.

Indeed, it has been a busy year and we look forward to a happy, healthy, and prosperous new year in 2018, the Pliskover Association's 110<sup>th</sup> year! Please remember to send in your dues payments and encourage your family members to do the same.

Always,

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