

President of the National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing, providing testimony and legal articles to support the adoption of fair housing laws. **R74/S264**

**10. STEPHEN JOSHUA SOLARZ (1940–2010)** represented New York’s 13th District in Congress from 1975 until 1993. An expert on foreign affairs, Solarz was a major part of North Korean-American relations post Korean War and was central to the overthrow of Filipino President Ferdinand Marcos after he was proven to be misappropriating U.S. aid funding. After his Congressional tenure ended, Solarz was a chairman of the Central Asian-American Enterprise Fund and served as a consultant for multiple international policy groups. **R62/S81**

**11. GEORGE SPIEGEL (1919–1997)** was a lawyer, business owner, and conservationist who was well renowned for his legal work and philanthropic nature. He co-founded his own law firm, Spiegel and McDiarmid, in 1967, specializing in utility law and fighting the privatization of electric power and gas for over 20 years. In his retirement, he acted as a spokesman for Metro DC Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays and donated nearly 1200 acres of land in Vermont and New York for nature conservancy as well as black bear preservation. His wife, **RUTH HELEN WEINSTEIN SPIEGEL (1927–2015)** worked as the managing editor of the Smithsonian Institution press for 27 years, only leaving the National Mall in the wake of the September 11th attacks. She valued education above all else, earning a Master’s degree in Classics from Catholic University of America and serving as an active member of the American Association of University Women. **R73/S259-260**

**12. PETER LEFFERT WOLFF (1936–2020)** was a lawyer turned journalist who was the owner, editor, and publisher of the InTowner newspaper in D.C. from 1985 onward. He moved to D.C. in the 1960’s as a part of the Kennedy administration’s US Federal Trade Commission, after which he worked as executive director of the National Association of College and University Attorneys. His real passion, however, turned out to be reporting, taking the tabloid-style InTowner and making it into “a hard news neighborhood newspaper,” as his partner Kerry Touchette called it. Wolff was a mentor to anyone interested in journalism, and was a man committed to writing the truth. **R24/S164N**



**A WORD OF CAUTION:** The centuries have made many grave markers and sites unstable. Please be careful near grave markers and watch where you step: depressions and sink holes lie hidden in grass, and footstones and corner markers can trip the unwary.

*Join us!*  
 The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization established in 1976 and dedicated to the restoration, interpretation, and management of Congressional Cemetery. It is predominantly a volunteer-based organization relying on over 400 neighbors, history buffs, conservators, dogwalkers, and armed forces personnel each year to help restore and maintain this national treasure. In 1979, the Association succeeded in having Congressional Cemetery listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It became a National Historic Landmark in 2011. Please join the Association or make a donation to help the Cemetery in its third century of service to the Nation’s Capital.



**Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery**

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Funding for the preservation and maintenance of Historic Congressional Cemetery is provided in part by the Congressional Cemetery Endowment, which was created with matching funds provided by the Congress of the United States and administered by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The property is owned by Christ Church Washington Parish.



**DC’s Greatest Undertaking**

ESTABLISHED 1807

*Walking Tour*  
**JEWISH AMERICANS**

History comes to life in Congressional Cemetery. The creak and clang of the wrought iron gate signals your arrival at a one-of-a-kind window into the past.

Jewish people have been part of American history since the founding of the country. They contributed as community members while the United States was separate colonies, while it was a new nation, and while it grew. This was no different in the District of Columbia as the cradle of American politics, a gathering place for those who wanted to make a difference.

In the Jewish faith, *Tikkun Olam* תיקון עולם “repairing of the world” is the concept of responsibility to actively pursue the betterment of the world and society as a whole. Whether this be through religious acts, social advocacy, or everyday acts of kindness, life is to be lived in a way that supports others. Although not all Jewish people follow this moral code, many of the Jewish interred residents of Congressional Cemetery have left a lasting legacy of striving towards, and succeeding, in making the world a better place.

To be buried in the Jewish tradition is to be returned to the earth; to be buried unembalmed, whole, and in a simple grave, to become part of the soil. As such, Jewish graveyards have historically stood apart from Christian ones, where the bodies were preserved and protected from the elements as a part of their beliefs

with in-ground vaults of stone and metal or with lead-lined caskets sealed tight from the elements.

Congressional Cemetery is owned – and was originally cared for – by Christ Church Washington Parish, an Episcopal congregation. Congressional therefore was predominantly a Christian burial ground and historically was not popular for Jewish interments.

In recent years, Congressional has become the burial place for many Jewish people, including many members of the Capitol Hill community that Congressional is part of. The JEWISH AMERICANS TOUR honors the lives of Jewish residents who touched the lives of others and repaired the world in their own ways.

*Zikbrono Livrakha*

הכרבל ונורכו

“May their memory be a blessing.”

*The following are numbered to correspond with the map on the back. Please also refer to the Range (R) and Site (S) grid numbers to help locate each grave site.*

**1. KIRBY SARAH WEINSTEIN CAPEN (1983–2012)** was a born-and-raised member of the Capitol Hill community and the Temple Micah. An engineer and artist, Kirby worked toward energy efficiency for New York City before her life was cut short by cancer. As was a tradition in her family, she asked only for paper cranes to be folded in hope for her health and recovery. Over 6,000 cranes were folded and sent to her by friends and strangers alike, all sorted and threaded by her mother. More still were sent as photographs of living cranes, cranes made of concrete, metal, and ceramic. After passing away at home surrounded by loved ones, she is still honored through paper cranes left by loved ones. **R80/S152**

**2. MICHAEL TAYLOR EPSTEIN (1937–2000)** was an Air Force veteran who maintained a law career at the Justice Department as well as a legislative one in the office of Senator Paul Wellstone. Throughout his life, Epstein worked to uncover and prosecute injustices within government agencies, notably participating in an investigation into FBI wiretapping abuses against Martin Luther King, Jr. and the inquiry into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. **R11/S164N**

**3. ROBERT DAVID “HOFF” HOFFMAN (1946–2023)**, a Brooklyn, NY, native, graduated from New York Law School and served as a public defender before moving to Washington, D.C. He worked as an attorney before completing his career as the vice president of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) of D.C. A beloved Congressional Cemetery docent and end of life preparation advocate, he was one of the original creators of the Jewish American tour. His vibrant spirit lives on, and can be seen on full display at: [hoffharmonica.com/end-of-life](http://hoffharmonica.com/end-of-life). **R79/S265 (monument pending)**



Hoff, wearing an HCC “Future Resident” hat

Courtesy of A.J. Orlikoff

**4. FRANK KAMENY (1925–2011)** is known as the father of the modern gay rights movement. A friend and fellow activist, Kay Lahusen, once said, “We all did a lot, but all roads led to Frank. He was behind everything.” In 1957, after his sexuality was discovered, Kameny, a World War II combat veteran, was fired from his job as a U.S. Army Map Service astronomer. He became the first known gay person to legally fight his dismissal by the federal government when he appealed to the Supreme Court, which refused to review his case. Kameny was a cofounder of the Mattachine Society of Washington, the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance, and the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club. He led the first gay rights protests at the White House, Pentagon, State Department, Civil Service Commission, and Independence Hall. He often said he most wanted to be remembered for coining the then-unprecedented slogan “Gay Is Good” in 1968. Although he did not identify with Judaism, he was culturally Jewish, his parents both being members of the Brooklyn Jewish community. **R21/S165 (cenotaph)**



Kameny at Liberation Day Parade in New York City, 1970, photo by Kay Lahusen

NY Public Library, Manuscripts and Archives

**5. THOMAS PETER LANTOS (1928–2010)** grew up in Budapest, Hungary, during Nazi occupation, and was 16 years old when he was sent to a forced labor camp due to his Jewish heritage. After two escape attempts, Lantos made it to a safehouse, where he joined a mutual aid network delivering food to other safehouses. When Hungary was liberated by the Soviet Union under a year later, he returned home to find his family had been killed by Nazi soldiers. Lantos later immigrated to the United States to study Economics at the University of Washington, then at the University of California, Berkeley, paving his way to becoming a political advisor to the Senate. He then represented California’s 11th district in the House of Representatives from 1981 to 1993, and its 12th district from 1993 until his death in 2008.



Tom Lantos, Courtesy of Lantos Foundation

Lantos was a champion for human rights, civil liberties, and social justice initiatives. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi once said that he “shine[d] a bright light on the dark corners of oppression,” and U2’s lead singer, Bono, remarked that he was like “a prize fighter” for his stamina and tenacity in the fight to protect “human rights and common decency.” He is survived not only by many descendants, but a legacy in the form of the House’s Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, the Lantos Foundation for Human Rights & Justice, and the Tom Lantos Institute for tolerance and minority issues in Budapest.

The Hebrew on his headstone says, “May his soul be bound up in the bond of eternal life.” **R83/S161S**

**6. MARY JANE LENZ (1930–2016)** was the National Museum of the American Indian’s first curator emeritus and a preeminent scholar on Native American dolls. Dr. Lenz studied anthropology extensively, conducting undergrad fieldwork with the Tlingit (Klink-it) Nation and foundational volunteer work at the Museum of the American Indian-Heye Foundation in Harlem. She eventually became the full-time curatorial assistant there while she prepared for her Ph.D. in anthropology. When the Heye Foundation collection was acquired by the Smithsonian, Dr. Lenz followed it, working as curator for the new National Museum of the American Indian. She retired at age 81. **Congress 157a (bench scattering)**

**7. RUTH RAPPAPORT (1923–2010)** was a librarian, photo archivist, and Holocaust survivor with a long legacy of community building, particularly in military outposts and D.C.’s Capitol Hill neighborhood. Rappaport served in the U.S. Military as a library manager for 12 years, from 1959-1970, starting in the library of Naha Air Base, Okinawa, and continuing through to multiple libraries in Saigon (Now Ho Chi Minh City), Vietnam. Following her military career, she worked in the Library of Congress for 23 years. There



Ruth Rappaport, Courtesy of Army Heritage Center

she and several other catalogers started the Library of Congress Professional Guild in order to lobby for better work conditions. In retirement, Rappaport founded Capitol Hill Village, a non-profit organization that serves the aging population of the Capitol Hill neighborhood. Capitol Hill Village strives to support seniors as they navigate aging within their community. Rappaport also served as a founding member of the Hill Havurah, a Jewish community group in Capitol Hill that hosts Shabbat and prayer services as well as facilitate communal experiences. Both organizations are active and thriving.

Her memorial bench’s quote, “Come and sit awhile,” is in reference to how she often called people over to chat on her porch, regaling them with stories from her life. **Ingle 42a (cenotaph)**

**8. LAURIE ANN SIEGEL (1947–2013)** was a talented fused glass artist happiest in her studio. She taught art at Watkins elementary, created many beautiful pieces, and inspired the community with her work. She passed away at age 66 after fighting cancer with optimism, passion, and compassion—a throughline of how she lived her life. **Tucker 138B**

**9. MARTIN EVERETT SLOANE (1928–2014)** was a prominent civil rights attorney and champion of fair housing laws. Initially a Ph.D. candidate in English at Ohio State University, Sloane’s career path was swayed toward law after a stint in the U.S. Army’s Counterintelligence corp. He pursued a law degree at Columbia University after leaving the Army, specializing in civil rights. He proceeded to work as a special assistant at the Housing and Home Finance Agency (now HUD), then at the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights to fight for fair housing legislation. Eventually, he became the Executive Vice