

FUNERALS

It is the synagogue's mission to be as helpful as possible to those who have suffered the loss of a loved one. As a community, we seek to provide assistance to the bereaved in organizing the funeral, setting up the shiva home or providing the emotional support essential at that time.

Following is a brief description of support measures the Rabbi and Chazzan of the synagogue provide for mourners and the services and facilities the synagogue contributes.

COORDINATING AND PLANNING

The Rabbi should be contacted as soon as possible after a death, so that he can help make the arrangements and give direction to the family.

If the Rabbi and Chazzan are to participate, they must be consulted prior to the setting of the time and date of the funeral. The Rabbi will clarify the religious requirements that are to be followed.

FACILITY

The synagogue is available for funeral services for members at no cost. Funeral services are not available to non members, including former members who no longer pay dues and associate members. All funerals taking place at the synagogue will be held in the large social hall (ballroom) and will be coordinated by the Rabbi.

Because our Rabbi is a kohane and may not be in the presence of the deceased, the coffin will be placed before the assemblage outside the glass doors. Following the service, the Chazzan will continue the funeral at the gravesite.

It is customary to give an honorarium to those who officiate at a service.

FUNERALS HELD ELSEWHERE

If a funeral is to take place in a funeral home and arrangements can be made so that a kohane can be present, perhaps in the format described above, our Rabbi will participate. Please consult the Rabbi before going forward with arrangements.

SHIVA

The Sisterhood will provide shiva chairs. Prayer books and other assistance will also be provided as needed.

CEMETERIES

Most of us own life insurance in order to protect our loved ones. For the same reason, we should also consider owning cemetery plots. Purchasing cemetery plots in advance is an act of consideration and love for those closest to us. Doing so makes it unnecessary for our family members to perform the stressful task of having to purchase a cemetery lot during a critical time of loss and grieving.

PURCHASING PLOTS

The Hebrew Institute of White Plains owns cemetery plots at Sharon Gardens (Kensico) in Valhalla and at Mount Hope in Hastings-on-Hudson. Members may purchase plots or individual graves. Associate members, former members and those who are eligible non members may purchase one or two graves at a slightly higher rate. Members who are in their "First Year Free" may purchase plots as an eligible non member only.

Please call the office for pricing details.

ALL CEMETERIES

Deeds will only be issued to members and eligible non members when the full purchase price has been paid and a member must be in good standing with the synagogue at the time of purchase.

The synagogue must be notified of all burials in our plots – prior to the event.

Only persons of the Jewish faith, as defined by Orthodox tradition, may be buried in the Hebrew Institute section of any cemetery. There will be no burials permitted for the remains of those persons who choose cremation. A Taharah must be performed for all those to be buried in our grounds. The Rabbi of the Hebrew Institute is the final arbiter in all burial-related matters.

SHARON GARDENS/KENSICO CEMETERY

There are no free graves available to members in Sharon Gardens.

Sharon Gardens requires that a member own a minimum of four graves in a plot in order to have one standing monument. All the individual graves in the plot may be marked by footstones only. Single graves may only be marked by footstones. In the case of 2 graves side by side, a double footstone is permitted. Sharon Gardens will provide maintenance to all graves on their grounds.

Deeds for plots in Sharon Gardens will be issued to members of the congregation only or for single graves to those deemed as eligible non members. Members of the congregation may purchase family plots for their own use and may also assign specific graves to Jewish members of their family who are not affiliated with the congregation.

MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY

Any member in good standing for twenty (20) years who has maintained his or her membership continuously until death has the right to a free single plot in Mount Hope Cemetery.

The burial will be in the next available grave in accordance with the order of death. If the surviving spouse wishes to have a burial take place in the adjoining grave, he/she must purchase that grave outright immediately after the death of the spouse.

Every grave in the Mount Hope Cemetery may have a standing monument in accordance with the rules and regulations of the cemetery. Footstone markers are permitted as well.

Specific arrangements for care and planting should be made with the cemetery and are the responsibility of the family.