REV 3-29-17

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SHOMRIM

A shomer is a person who watches (“guards”) the deceased. A shomer may be a family member or friend of the deceased and should be post bar or bat mitzvah. It is considered a mitzvah to perform shmira.

Adas Israel uses the facilities of the Hines-Rinaldi Funeral Home at 11800 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland. If taking the beltway, get off at New Hampshire Avenue and travel approximately ¼ miles past Colesville Road (Route 29). It will be on the left.

The facility has a telephone and restrooms. Shomrim enter through a door on the right side of the building toward the rear. A large parking lot is available, as well as a driveway where shomrim may park close to the door. The door is locked, but can be opened by pressing the combination: 2451.

A shomer does not need to sit in the same room as the deceased. An adjacent sitting room is provided for shomrim. Prior to Taharah (preparation of the body) the deceased will be in the prep room wrapped in sheeting. Once Taharah has been performed, the deceased will be casketed and will remain in the prep room. The sitting room and prep room are connected by a door which can remain open. However, during Taharah the door will be closed and the observation window will be curtained.

It is traditional for a shomer to read psalms during the watch period. Appropriate reading material will be available in the sitting room. Usually a shomer is scheduled for two hours and leaves when the next shomer arrives, however, for those persons working in pairs, or through the night, longer time periods may be more convenient.