



Judea Reform Congregation

Cemetery

To Our Mourners

On behalf of the Judea Reform Congregation Cemetery, please accept our deepest condolences. *Zichrona Livracha - may the memory of your loved one be a blessing.*

We strive to maintain the Cemetery as a place of sanctity, peace and beauty that provides a welcoming environment to the bereaved and a tribute to the deceased.

The Cemetery often receives questions after a burial about when new grass will be planted, when a marker stone may be placed, and so forth. We offer the information below in the hope that it will provide a sense of what you may expect in the weeks and months to come.

- When a new grave is opened, we first remove the sod and set it aside. Immediately after burial, the grave is refilled with the soil that was removed, and the sod is replaced on top. This usually results in a rather prominent mound one or two feet higher than the surrounding area.
- Over the next several weeks or months – depending on rainfall, soil moisture, and other seasonal conditions – the soil around the casket will settle more firmly into place and the grave may appear to be sinking. This is referred to as “subsidence” and is a natural process that occurs to some degree in all cemeteries. Subsidence is often more noticeable in Jewish cemeteries, where burial traditions typically include wooden caskets not enclosed by a solid vault.
- We recognize that the settling process may take longer than you might expect, and the grave’s appearance may be temporarily distressing. Please be assured that we monitor these conditions very closely and add or re-distribute soil and re-seed as necessary so that the grave will eventually stabilize and the ground will be ready for installation of the marker stone. Please know that every grave in the Cemetery has gone through this process and that over time, the grave of your loved one will have the same appearance.

Our sacred responsibility in maintaining the Cemetery is to honor and respect the dignity of the deceased and to support your family in bereavement. Please do not hesitate to contact us at cemetery@judeareform.org anytime you may have questions or concerns.

With deepest sympathy,

The Judea Reform Congregation Cemetery Board of Directors