

**BNAI ISRAEL CONGREGATION
CEMETERY AND BNAI ISRAEL MEMORIAL PARK POLICIES
Effective as of July 1, 2023**

1. Eligibility for Burial in Bnai Israel Cemetery

- a. The Bnai Israel Cemetery (formerly known as the Old Cemetery), located between 18th Street and Princess Place at 307 N. 18th Street in Wilmington, NC ("Bnai Israel Cemetery"), is the final resting home for many of Wilmington's Jewish population. The Bnai Israel Cemetery is solely for Jewish people. A *Jewish* person is defined as a person whose mother was Jewish or who has been converted through a duly ordained Rabbi. If there is doubt about a person's status, the Rabbi of Bnai Israel Congregation ("Rabbi") will make the final determination of who is a Jewish person.
- b. Bnai Israel Congregation ("Bnai Israel") is dedicated to maintaining traditional halachic values at the Bnai Israel Cemetery.
- c. Fees for burial spaces are determined by the Board of Directors of Bnai Israel ("Board") and must be paid in full prior to a burial.
 - i. Members of Bnai Israel who have sustained membership since January 1, 2014 may be buried in the Bnai Israel Cemetery free of charge. If membership at Bnai Israel as of January 1, 2019 has been less than five (5) years the fee will be as shown on the attached Fee Schedule.
 - ii. Members who joined Bnai Israel after January 1, 2019, will be subject to fees for the purchase of a plot according to the Fee Schedule. The Jewish spouse of such a Member may purchase an adjacent plot for the same fee. Such purchase must be made within 6 months of the burial of the first spouse. The Jewish spouse must maintain membership at Bnai Israel in order to maintain eligibility. Failure to pay dues after 6 months will result in a reversal of the purchase of the plot without a refund of payment.
- d. The term "Member" shall be defined as a member of Bnai Israel (as defined in its By-Laws) who has paid in full all dues, assessments and other charges (including pledges) when due and payable or has otherwise been determined by the President to be in good standing.
- e. Membership status will be determined as of the Member's date of death.

2. Eligibility for Burial in The Bnai Israel Memorial Park

- a. In 2015 additional land located at 18th Street and Princess Place (to be known as the "Bnai Israel Memorial Park" or "Memorial Park") was donated to Bnai Israel by the

Freedland Family and Walter Pancoe. The Bnai Israel Memorial Park will serve the needs of certain non-traditional populations associated with Bnai Israel.

- b. Jewish (as defined above) Members of Bnai Israel and their Non-Jewish spouses and children are eligible for burial in the Memorial Park. Other Non-Jewish relatives of Members may be eligible for burial in the Memorial Park with prior permission of the Board.
- c. Jewish Relatives and Non-Jewish Relatives (other than a Member's Spouse) of a Member, eligible to be buried in the Bnai Israel Memorial Park, pursuant to Section 2(a), will be charged at the Non-Member fee.
- d. Fees for burial spaces are determined by the Board and must be paid in full prior to a burial. The fees for plots in the Memorial Park are on the attached Fee Schedule.
- e. Fully intact cremation remains may be buried in a full plot in the Memorial Park.
- f. Anyone who is buried in the Memorial Park may purchase a plaque on the Memorial Wall in the Memorial Park. A Member may purchase a plaque on the Memorial Wall in the Memorial Park for a Jewish Relative or Non-Jewish Relative who is or is not buried in the Memorial Park, regardless of where their remains are buried.

3. Other Guidelines

- a. Upon the death of a Member, the family should contact the Rabbi of Bnai Israel (the "Rabbi") for guidance through this process.
- b. Additional arrangements should be made with a local funeral home. Recommendations are available from the Rabbi.
- c. Once the purchase of a plot in the Bnai Israel Cemetery or the Memorial Park has been completed, the purchaser will be given a Certificate evidencing his or her interest in the plot. Plots may be purchased for immediate use or for future use. However, Certificates represent internment rights only and are **not transferable**. A 50% partial refund may be available, if requested, within 5 years of purchase of the unused plot.
- d. Plots will be assigned by the Cemetery Committee. A Member may request a specific plot or area of the cemetery and the Cemetery Committee will use its best efforts to honor the request. However, the Cemetery Committee's decision will be final.
- e. In the event that a Certificate remains unused for 25 years after issuance and it can be reasonably determined that there is no family member who is eligible to be buried in either the Bnai Israel Cemetery or the Memorial Park, the Certificate will revert back to Bnai Israel without refund.

4. **Traditional Preparation for Burial**

- a. Bnai Israel has a *Chevra Kadisha* committee that can perform rituals for all burials. Jewish people who are interested in the traditional preparation of the body should contact the Rabbi directly. *Chevra Kadisha* can be arranged for Non-Members. (See attached Fee Schedule)
- b. Burial takes place in a plain shroud, with dirt from *Eretz Yisrael* (the Land of Israel) and, if requested, the person's tallit. Nothing else may be buried with the body.
- c. Embalming and cosmetology are forbidden except when required by state law.
- d. Cremated remains may be buried in a plot in the Memorial Park with full Jewish ritual. No burial of cremations in the Bnai Israel Cemetery are permitted.
- e. There will be no public viewing of the body and open caskets are prohibited.

5. **Aron – Casket**

- a. The casket must be a plain pine box or made of other organic material.
- b. No part of the casket may be metal or fiberglass.
- c. A concrete vault must be used.
- d. Above ground burial is not permitted.

6. **Religious Services at the Cemetery and Annex**

- a. Only the Rabbi or a person designated by the Rabbi may officiate at any religious services in the Bnai Israel Cemetery or the Memorial Park. If the Rabbi is not available to officiate or to designate a substitute, the President of Bnai Israel (President) may designate an individual to officiate.
- b. No clergy of any other religion may officiate in the Bnai Israel Cemetery or the Memorial Park. A clergy member of another religion may participate in a minor capacity with prior approval and guidance from the Rabbi.
- c. All rituals or ceremonies performed at the Bnai Israel Cemetery or Memorial Park must be approved by the Rabbi. If the Rabbi is not available, approval may be obtained from the Rabbi's designee or the President.
- d. American military honors, such as the presentation of a flag to survivors and the playing of "Taps" are appropriate.

- e. The date and time of funerals and/or unveilings shall be arranged directly with the Rabbi. In the event the Rabbi is unavailable, arrangements may be made with the Rabbi's designee or the President.

7. **Markers and Stones**

- a. All markers and/or stones for cemetery spaces shall be granite or marble. All markers and stones are subject to prior approval by the Rabbi.
- b. Efforts shall be made to place markers and/or stones within one year of the date of burial.
- c. A marker or headstone shall be placed at the head of each plot. A footstone, if desired, shall be placed at the foot of the plot, level with the ground. All markers, headstones and footstones must be approved by the Rabbi.
- d. All lettering, symbols or insignia (whether temporary or permanent) must be consistent with Bnai Israel standards and with the teachings of Judaism. Absolutely no other religion's symbols are permitted. All such markings shall be approved in advance by the Rabbi. If markings in violation of this clause are found, the Cemetery Committee shall have the right to remove the markings or the marker at the Member's expense.
- e. In general, the marker should include the Hebrew name of the deceased, including the names of parents in Hebrew, if known, and the date of death according to the Jewish calendar.
- f. Neither photographs nor portraits are permitted on gravestones.
- g. No coping or placing of any frames around a plot are allowed in the Bnai Israel Cemetery or the Memorial Park.

8. **Plantings**

- a. No plantings are permitted. Any person who plants without permission will be given notice that the planting(s) must be removed. If, one week after the notice, the planting(s) have not been removed, Bnai Israel will have the right to remove the planting without further notice and charge the Member for such removal. This applies to real or artificial flowers or plants.

9. **Benches**

- a. If a family desires to place a bench in memory of an individual, the location and appearance of the bench must be approved by the Cemetery Committee. There will be a fee for the placement of a bench.

10. **Maintenance of Grounds**

- a. The Cemetery Maintenance fee assessed at the time of the funeral includes mowing and care of the cemetery grounds but not individual gravesites. It does include the annual cleaning of the stone markers and coping (Bnai Israel Cemetery only) but does not include the repair of any damaged stone marker. There is no perpetual care in either the Bnai Israel Cemetery or the Memorial Park.

11. Amending these Policies

- a. These policies may be amended or changed without notice by the Board in its sole discretion. If the board makes a significant policy change, the congregation will receive notice 30 days prior to the change effective date.

12. Request for Variance

- a. Any request to deviate from the rules set forth in this document must be sent in writing to the Cemetery Committee. The final decision will be made by the Board.

Cemetery Fee Schedule
Effective as of July 1, 2023

All fees are due and payable to the Synagogue before burial.

The following fees are based upon the dates of Membership at Bnai Israel.

A. Member of Bnai Israel, with sustained membership since 12/31/2014

Plot in Cemetery	No charge
One-Time Cemetery Maintenance Fee	\$500 (does not include perpetual care)
<i>Chevra Kadisha</i>	\$200
Rabbinic Honorarium*	\$600
Memorial Yahrzeit Plaque in Sanctuary	\$500

Non-Jewish Spouse (applies only to the Bnai Israel Memorial Park section of the Cemetery):

For a Non-Jewish spouse who dies after the Jewish spouse, the Non-Jewish spouse may reserve a plot at No Charge, if reserved within 6 months of the Jewish Spouse's death. The Non-Jewish Spouse will not be a synagogue member but will be eligible for a Memorial Yahrzeit Plaque in the sanctuary.

B. Member of Bnai Israel, with sustained membership since joining between January 1, 2015 - December 31, 2018

Plot in Cemetery**	\$4,000
One-Time Cemetery Maintenance Fee	\$500 (does not include perpetual care)
<i>Chevra Kadisha</i>	\$200
Rabbinic Honorarium*	\$600
Memorial Yahrzeit Plaque in Sanctuary	\$500 (Optional)
Memorial Plaque in Memorial Park	\$500 (Optional)

** Fee Schedule for Plot

Member will receive \$800 (1/5th of current Cemetery plot price) credit for each year of membership based on the plot amount of \$4000:

If joined in 2015, member will have \$3,200 credit with \$800 due for plot purchase

If joined in 2016, member will have \$2,400 credit with \$1,600 due for plot purchase

If joined in 2017, member will have \$1,600 credit with \$2,400 due for plot purchase

If joined in 2018, member will have \$800 credit with \$3,200 due for plot purchase

NOTE: Credit of \$800 per year ended 1/1/2019, due to the change in policy.

Non-Jewish Spouse (applies only to the Bnai Israel Memorial Park section of the Cemetery):

For a Non-Jewish spouse who dies after the Jewish spouse, the Non-Jewish spouse may purchase a plot at the same price of the Jewish Spouse, if purchased within 6 months of the Jewish Spouse's death. The Non-Jewish Spouse will not be a synagogue member but will be eligible for a Memorial Yahrzeit Plaque in the sanctuary.

C. Member of Bnai Israel with sustained membership since joining January 1, 2019 - present

Plot in Cemetery***	\$6,000
One-Time Cemetery Maintenance Fee	\$500 (does not include perpetual care)
<i>Chevra Kadisha</i>	\$200
Rabbinic Honorarium*	\$600
Memorial Yahrzeit Plaque in Sanctuary	\$500 (Optional)
Memorial Plaque in Memorial Park	\$500 (Optional)

*****Fee Schedule for Plot**

Member will receive a credit of \$500 for each year of membership, up to a maximum of 3 years (\$1500):

For Example:

If joined in 2019 - 2020, member will have a \$1500 credit with \$4,500 due for plot purchase

Non-Jewish Spouse (applies only to the Bnai Israel Memorial Park section of the Cemetery):

For a Non-Jewish spouse who dies after the Jewish spouse, the Non-Jewish spouse may purchase a plot at the same price of the Jewish Spouse, if purchased within 6 months of the Jewish Spouse's death. The Non-Jewish Spouse will not be a synagogue member but will be eligible for a Memorial Yahrzeit Plaque in the sanctuary.

D. Non-Member of Bnai Israel

Plot in Cemetery***	\$8,000
One-Time Cemetery Maintenance Fee	\$500 (does not include perpetual care)
<i>Chevra Kadisha</i>	\$500
Rabbinic Honorarium*	\$600
Memorial Plaque in Memorial Park	\$500 (Optional)

Jewish Relatives and Non-Jewish Relatives (other than Member Spouse) of a Member:

Non-Jewish relatives of Members, eligible to be buried in the Bnai Israel Memorial Park pursuant to Section 2(a) will be charged at the Non-Member fee.

***Services of the Rabbi**

It is customary to give the Rabbi a discretionary honorarium if you are pleased with the spiritual guidance and services the Rabbi provided. The fee listed above is a recommended amount, but you may choose an amount at your discretion.