

**BNAI ISRAEL CONGREGATION  
CEMETERY POLICIES  
“OLD CEMETERY”**

**1. Eligibility for Burial in Old Cemetery**

- a. The Bnai Israel “Old” Cemetery, located at 18th St and Princess Place in Wilmington, NC. (“Cemetery”) is the final resting home for many of Wilmington’s Jewish population. The 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 Jewish Rabbi.
- b. Bnai Israel Congregation (“Bnai Israel”) is dedicated to maintaining traditional halachic values at the Cemetery.
- c. Fees for burial spaces are determined by the Board of Directors of Bnai Israel (“Board”) and must be paid prior to a burial. The fee schedule is attached,
  - i. Members of Bnai Israel as of January 1, 2019 with sustained membership of at least five (5) years may be buried in the Cemetery free of charge. If membership at Bnai Israel has been less than five (5) years, the member will pay one-fifth the price for a Member of Bnai Israel Joining after January 1, 2019 for each of the missing years.
  - ii. Members who join 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 **who does not intend to remain a member of Bnai Israel** may purchase an adjacent plot at the same time for the same fee. Such purchase must be made within 6 months of the burial of the first spouse.
  - iii. Jewish Non-Members of Bnai Israel may be buried in the Cemetery after purchasing a plot according to the fee schedule.
- d. The term Member shall only apply to members of Bnai Israel in good standing as determined by the Board from time to time.

**2. General**

- 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 Cemetery Committee.

- c. A person eligible to be buried in the Cemetery who has completed the purchase of a plot will be given a Certificate evidencing his or her interest in the plot.
- d. Although plots may be assigned for future use, no deed or other form of transferable ownership goes with the plots. Plots will be assigned by the Cemetery Committee.
- 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 the Annex that will be buried there, the Certificate will revert back to Bnai Israel without refund.

### **3. Traditional Preparation for Burial**

- a. Bnai Israel has a Chevra Kadisha committee that can perform rituals for all burials. People who are interested in the traditional preparation of the body and guarding of it until burial 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. Cremation is forbidden by Jewish law.
- e. There will be no public viewing of the body and open caskets are prohibited.

### **4. Aron – Casket**

- a. Our preference is that the casket be a plain pine box or other organic material.
- b. No part of the casket may be metal.
- c. A concrete vault is required by State law.
- d. Above ground burial is not permitted.

### **5. Religious Service**

- a. Only the Rabbi or a person designated by the Rabbi may officiate at any religious services in the Cemetery. 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 or participate in any capacity.
- c. All rituals or ceremonies performed at the cemetery 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.

## **6. Markers and Stones**

- a. All markers and/or stones for cemetery spaces shall be granite or marble.
  - b. Efforts shall be made to place markers and/or stones within one year of the date of burial.
  - c. Any marker or flat stone shall be placed at the head of the applicable plot.
  - 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 father and mother in Hebrew if known, and the date of death according to the Jewish calendar.
  - f. Pictures are not permitted on gravestones.
7. **Plantings**: No plantings are permitted without written permission by the Cemetery Committee or the Rabbi. 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.
8. **Benches**: If a family desires to place a bench in memory of an individual, it must be approved by the Cemetery committee.

9. **Maintenance of Grounds:** 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. The repair of a stone marker is not included.
  
10. **Amending these Policies:** These policies may be amended or changed without notice by the Board of Directors of Bnai Israel in its sole discretion.
  
11. **Request for Variance:** Any request to deviate from the rules set forth in this document must be sent in writing to the Cemetery Committee who will decide in its sole discretion.

## Old Cemetery Fee Schedule

### **Member of Bnai Israel (as of Jan 1, 2019) for five (5) or more years**

Plot in Old Cemetery	No charge
Cemetery Maintenance Fee	\$500
Chevra Kidusha	\$200
Rabbinic Honorarium*	

### **Member of Bnai Israel (as of Jan 1, 2019) for less than five (5) years**

Plot in Old Cemetery	Prorated Fees (See Para 1(c))
Cemetery Maintenance Fee	\$500
Chevra Kidusha	\$200
Rabbinic Honorarium*	

### **Member of Bnai Israel Joining after January 1, 2019 \*\***

Plot in Old Cemetery	\$4,000
Cemetery Maintenance Fee	\$500
Chevra Kidusha	\$200
Rabbinic Honorarium *	

### **Jewish Non-Member of Bnai Israel**

Plot in Old Cemetery	\$8,000
Cemetery Maintenance Fee	\$500
Chevra Kidusha	\$200
Rabbinic Honorarium*	

### **\*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. Feel free to contact the President for recommended amounts.

\*\*Pursuant to Section 1(d) the spouse of the deceased Member may purchase an adjacent plot under the same terms.