

Cemetery Committee Report

Overview The Temple maintains interment rights (burial lots) for congregants and eligible non-members in separate TBE Jewish sections at two Ann Arbor cemeteries:

Arborcrest Memorial Park 2521 Glazier Way, Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Washtenong Memorial Park 3771 Whitmore Lake Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Arborcrest: No Further Lots Available

- The last available lots TBE had in inventory at Arborcrest were purchased this year.
- A separate area within the TBE Arborcrest section is still available for in-ground interment of cremated remains. This area includes granite coping (border) and a granite headstone ready to engrave or to attach a bronze memorial plaque.

Washtenong: Lots Available

- Our expansion cemetery since 2017 is in a separate Jewish section at Washtenong Cemetery. The initial purchase was 50 lots. Currently, 40 of those initial lots have been sold or are now occupied.
- Last year the Cemetery Committee negotiated a long-term contract for a fixed price for an additional 100 lots at a competitive market price. The TBE Board approved this strategic-decision purchase in February, 2020.
- These 100 additional interment rights should provide burial lot availability (at the 2020 price!) for at least 10-12 years based on historical need/purchase data.

Cemetery Statistics for Calendar Year 2020

- **Lots Sold to Congregants or Non-Members from TBE inventory: 11**
 - Arborcrest: **2** (1 member; 1 non-member); Washtenong: **9** (all members)
- **Interments: 10** (Arborcrest: **8**; Washtenong: **2**)
- **Lots in TBE Inventory (as of May 2021): 108** (Arborcrest: **0**; Washtenong: **108**)
- **Average No. Lots/year Purchased from TBE Inventory: 12**

Major Accomplishments This Year

- Monitored upkeep and maintenance issues at both cemeteries per Perpetual Care state requirements.
- Worked with Lodi Nursery to purchase and plant three trees at Washtenong as negotiated in latest contract.
 - Obtained commitment from cemetery management to use the “gator” bags this spring/summer to water the new trees as required by nursery guarantee.
- Prepared a handout on memorial marker regulations at Arborcrest;
 - Established a process to distribute this information to families who buried a loved one during the year at Arborcrest to clarify memorial regulations and assist with planning for the required memorial marker.
- Updated other handouts from both cemeteries on TBE website.
- Contacted several Arborcrest lot owners to either remove or replace unsightly wood coping with granite coping or leave natural.
- Established new price structure for Washtenong lots.
 - Communicated a price freeze to congregation at 2017 prices through Rosh Hashanah; several pre-need lots were purchased at the reduced price.

Current Year Goals

- Work with clergy to decide an appropriate “separation demarcation” of our now closed Jewish section at Arborcrest.
- Provide support to Pulpit and/or Caring Community committees if current “Bereavement Guide” is updated.
- Support annual Kever Avot service at one or both cemeteries this fall.
- Collaborate with Social Worker Rebecca Nieubuurt to include a cemetery committee member in any estate planning workshops she conducts and provide cemetery information with individual estate planning consultations as appropriate.

Respectfully Submitted from Cemetery Committee:

Ken Handwerger, Chair; Harriet Charson, Secretary; Marty Ludington, Trustee; Andrea Ludwig, Trustee; Ronnie Simon, Trustee; Greta Spier, Trustee; Melissa Sigmond, Ex Officio; Jack Zaintz, TBE Board Liaison; Jerry Lax, Legal Counsel