

MAINTAINING AN AJ MEMBERSHIP IN SENIOR YEARS

Like most synagogues, Adath Jeshurun enforces our cemetery policies in a uniform manner. Consistency is the only way that we can be fair to our members who support our continued existence through their dues and donations, time, and love.

Any Jewish person may purchase a gravesite in the Adath Jeshurun Cemetery. The price of purchasing a gravesite (which includes perpetual care) is the same for members and non-members alike.

Burial (opening and closing) fees are charged according to membership status. Burial fees for non-members are charged at double the cost of a member's burial.

How do we define a member vs. a non-member? If the deceased person's name is on the AJ membership rolls at the time of death, the member burial fee is charged. If the deceased person's name is not on the AJ membership rolls at the time of death, the non-member burial fee is charged.

This means that the estate of a deceased person who was not an AJ member at the time of death is charged the non-member burial fee, even if they are immediate family of an AJ member. This also means that the estate of a person who has been an AJ member for a long time but resigns prior to death is charged a non-member burial fee.

Why do we bring this up? Many of us have elderly parents who have been AJ members for years. As they advance in age, sometimes they either no longer participate at shul, or can no longer afford to pay full membership dues, so they resign. At the time of death, when their estates are charged for non-member burial fees, their survivors are often surprised by this.

So what can you do to avoid paying non-member burial fees for your loved ones? Please encourage them to maintain their memberships at AJ. No one is ever turned away for inability to pay full dues — we will gladly work with our members to help them maintain their AJ memberships. For questions about membership support or cemetery fees, please contact Belinda Lasch in the AJ office at 458-5359.