Sacred Burial Plots Secured for Madison Jewish Community

By Jim Stein
President of Jewish Burial Association of Madison

JBAM is a beneficiary organization of the Jewish Federation of Madison

The Jewish Burial Association of Madison (JBAM) is honored to announce that it achieved its dream of securing sacred burial space for the Madison Jewish community. JBAM finalized acquisition of 1272 plots in the Beit Olamim Jewish section of Sunset Memory Gardens, assuring that the burial needs of the Madison Jewish community will be met well into the future.

This accomplishment was made possible by the generosity of the Irwin A. and Robert D. Goodman Foundation which provided a two-part gift to JBAM: a generous loan to purchase all plots in the Jewish cemetery and a $183,000 gift to develop, install, and landscape an entry road to Beit Olamim. The road will provide easy and direct access to the Jewish cemetery from Westfield Road, along its north and eastern border.

“We are grateful to the Irwin A. and Robert D. Goodman Foundation for providing funding to secure the cemetery plots and for beautification of Beit Olamim,” said James Stein, President of JBAM. “Jewish laws surrounding death and burial are among the most serious commandments. They are the way we honor the departed for eternity and are the last good deed we do for someone before they leave this world,” said Stein. “Where a person is buried is a sacred place where we can connect to the soul of the departed.”

“The Irwin A. and Robert D. Goodman Foundation is honored to carry on the philanthropic work of Irwin and Robert Goodman in support of the Jewish community of Madison,” said E.G. Schramka, Executive Director of the Foundation. We were excited to help JBAM make this purchase and to implement its landscaping plan that will transform Beit Olamim into a beautiful, serene, and spiritual environment. We know how much this means to the Madison Jewish community.”

About JBAM and Beit Olamim

Beit Olamim was established in 2009 due to a shortage of Jewish burial plots in the Madison area. It is located in Sunset Memory Gardens cemetery at 7302 Mineral Point Road. It has two distinct areas for burial: Sha’ar HaRachamin (a section in which plots are available for burial in accordance with halachah and traditional Jewish burial practices) and Sha’ar Shalom (a section in which plots are available for burial in accordance with less traditional Jewish burial practices, particularly for inclusion of families with non-Jewish members and that allows burial of cremains). JBAM manages Beit Olamim. For information on becoming involved in JBAM, our community-wide fundraising campaign, or to purchase plots please visit www.jbamadison.org.