

# JEWISH NEWS

A Publication of the Jewish Federation of Madison

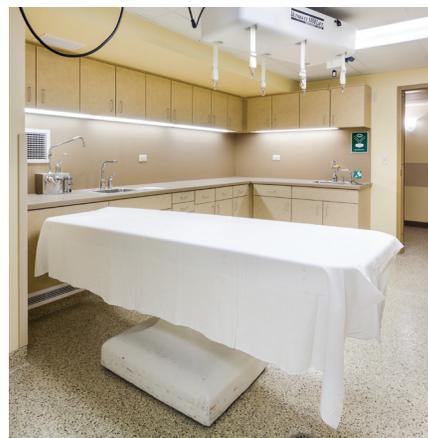
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### JBAM and Cress to Partner For Jewish Burial Customs Educational Programming

By JAMES STEIN, MD, PRESIDENT, JEWISH BURIAL ASSOCIATION OF MADISON (JBAM)  
JBAM IS A BENEFICIARY ORGANIZATION OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF MADISON

The mitzvah of caring for the body and soul of a person who has passed away is considered “chesed shel emet” - the truest act of loving-kindness. Two important mitzvot are Taharah (ritual cleansing) and Shemirah (watching or guarding) of the body of the deceased. In Madison, we owe a debt of gratitude to Cress Funeral Service for having provided private spaces for our Jewish community and the Chevra Kadisha to carry out these rituals for over 40 years. Since opening the Cress Center in 2014, Cress Funeral Service has provided a private room with an elevated table, basins, and cabinets for us to perform ritual washing and a stateroom (see pictures) for watchers to sit comfortably and serenely while performing these acts of loving-kindness.

JBAM is proud to announce a partnership with Cress Funeral Service to present three educational programs to the Madison Jewish community this fall. The programs will focus on Jewish burial customs, Beit Olamim (the Jewish cemetery on Madison’s west side), the support that JBAM offers our community, and how pre-planning for your final wishes can help shield your family from emotional and financial burdens and provide peace of mind for you and your loved ones.



We will present each program in a Jewish community space with discussions led by a JBAM representative, a community Rabbi, and a partner from Cress. We will outline the planning process and discuss burial, payment options, veteran benefits, and more. The program environment will be relaxed and educational; there will be no sales at these events. Admission is free; lunch and/or other refreshments will be provided. For updates and more details see the Jewish community calendar at [jewishmadison.org/calendar](http://jewishmadison.org/calendar) or JBAM’s Facebook page.

#### Lunch and Learn: The Benefits of Pre-Planning Your Final Wishes

Sunday, October 27  
12:00 pm-1:30 pm  
Temple Beth El

#### Pie and Pre-Planning: The Benefits of Pre-Planning Your Final Wishes

Tuesday, October 29  
7:00 pm-8:30 pm  
Beth Israel Center

#### Lunch and Learn: The Benefits of Pre-Planning Your Final Wishes

Friday, November 4  
11:00 am-12:30 pm  
Jewish Federation of Madison

