

CONGREGATION AHAVAS ACHIM

Rules, Regulations, and Recommendations Governing Cemetery and Funerals

**BUSINESS**

- 1) Graves are to be sold as full sized units in either the Hebrew Section or the Hebrew Section Extensions East and West.
- 2) Cost of graves shall be as listed in the currently effective schedule of fees, for members and non-members.
  - a) The cost shall include perpetual care of graves.
  - b) The cost must be paid to Congregation Ahavas Achim (CAA).
  - c) The cost must be paid in advance of reservation of the gravesite.
  - d) It is at the discretion of the President of the Congregation to reduce prices for special financial circumstances.
- 3) Compliance requirements:
  - a) A representative of the Corporation must be present at every burial service.
  - b) All burials must comply with regulations of the City of Keene, New Hampshire.
  - c) Caskets must be placed in a cement liner or vault. (A non-sealing unit with solid concrete sides and cover but no base will fulfill cemetery requirements, while also accommodating the Jewish tradition to return the body to the earth.)
  - d) Graves shall be kept clear of shrubbery, plants, etc. as prescribed by Keene City Ordinances.
  - e) Monuments, including base, shall not exceed 53 inches in height.
- 4) No member of this Congregation shall be eligible to purchase a grave or graves until the person has been a member in good standing for a period of no less than two (2) years, with the exception that if an unexpected family death shall occur before the two year qualifying period has ended, then the member will be eligible to purchase lots at membership prices if the member is in good standing.
- 5) Graves purchased by members at membership prices must be for use of the member family and/or their children.
- 6) If a member or non-member owns a lot or lots and no longer desires to be buried in this cemetery, since the lot or lots are non-transferrable, they can be offered only to the corporation for repurchase at the original purchase price, and the corporation is herewith obligated to purchase the lot(s) at the original price.

## RITUAL PRACTICES

### 7) Compliance requirements:

a) The Rabbi, or if none, the religious leader of the Congregation, shall be notified in advance of any planned burial, either by the family of the deceased or by the funeral home in charge of arrangements.

b) All funerals must comply with Jewish Law, as interpreted by CAA's Religious Practices Committee (RPC) and Board of Directors. This includes but is not limited to: a timely burial of the body in a wooden casket, with or without *tahara* (ritual cleansing and preparation of the body.)

c) CAA does not endorse cremation as an acceptable form of treatment of the body at death. However, if a cremation occurs, cremated remains may be interred only in the Hebrew Section Extension East of the cemetery. Cremated remains are not allowed in the CAA synagogue building. Officiating at the burial of the cremated remains is at the discretion of the Rabbi.

d) No monument may, in design or inscription, include symbolic or written references to religions other than Judaism. Monument inscriptions must conform to acceptable community standards.

e) It is recommended that the Rabbi be consulted regarding design and inscription of the monument.

### 8) Non-Jewish family members:

a) Non-Jewish spouses and non-Jewish children of members, and non-Jewish members and/or these non-Jewish relatives of members may be buried in the Hebrew Section Extensions of the cemetery.

b) Jewish members with a non-Jewish spouse shall have a right of first refusal for purchase of graves either in or adjacent to the Hebrew Section Extensions.

c) All other rules pertaining to the cemetery shall apply with equal force and effect to the Hebrew Section Extensions.

## CEMETERY COMMITTEE

9) The Cemetery Committee shall consist of no less than three members, one of whom shall be named chairman by the President. Any vacancy on the committee will be filled by the President within thirty (30) days of the notice of vacancy.

10) If a problem arises not covered by the rules and regulations, the Cemetery Committee shall act, as a group, on the matter to their best ability. If only one member of the Committee is available, he shall inform the President, who will contact the officers and trustees to seek their counsel and render a decision.

11) A copy of these Rules shall be provided to all members of the Congregation, and additional copies shall be available upon request by any member.