



***Cemetery and Funeral Policies of  
Ohavi Zedek Synagogue***

**Hebrew Holy Society**  
Patchen Road S. Burlington, VT

**North Avenue Cemetery**  
North Avenue, Burlington, VT

Effective November 1, 2017

## **A. Jewish Burials**

1. Preparation of the body for burial must include *taharah* (ritual purification and cleansing of the body), performed by the *Chevra Kadisha* (Hebrew Holy Society).
2. *Shmeerah* (watching of the body) is optional but offered to all families, with the understanding that a paid or unpaid *shomer* or *shomeret* is not always available.
3. The *aron* (casket) must be “kosher” with no metal and modest in accordance with the Synagogue’s standard of equality that everyone is to be buried in a plain wooden casket. Exceptions can be made by the Senior Rabbi when a kosher casket is coming from out-of-state, but every effort must be made to stay in accord with synagogue’s standards.
4. All burials must be within *tachrichim* (burial shrouds) or, for a man, his *kittel* if he has worn one habitually on the High Holy Days or Pesach. Regular clothes may not be worn. A talis (prayer shawl) may be included for a man or woman, if she has worn one regularly.
5. The Congregation shall provide *tachrichim* for burial purposes at a charge to next of kin of members of the Congregation. If *tachrichim* are furnished by next of kin, they must be approved by the Chevra Kadisha (Jewish Sacred Society).
6. Interment should not be unduly delayed. The final decision regarding timing is at the discretion of the Senior Rabbi of Ohavi Zedek Synagogue.
7. There will be no burials, for Jews or non-Jews, on Shabbat, Festivals or other Religious Holy Days on which burial is prohibited.
8. Cremated remains (cremains) may not be buried at either Ohavi Zedek Cemetery.
9. Autopsies are allowed only when the state requires it or if there is a medical reason. In either case, the Senior Rabbi of Ohavi Zedek must be consulted.
10. Individuals who have been embalmed may not be buried at Ohavi Zedek’s cemeteries unless required by law for the transfer of bodies from out of state.
11. Individuals with tattoos and/or piercings may be buried at either of Ohavi Zedek’s cemeteries.
12. Graves are filled until a mound is formed prior to the family leaving the cemetery. Traditionally this may be done by friends and family, but the cemetery staff may also assist.
13. All burials shall be in conformity with the customs and traditions of the Congregation as interpreted by clergy.

## **B. Non-Jewish Burials**

1. A section of Ohavi Zedek’s North Avenue Cemetery has been set aside so that mixed religious families may be buried together.
2. Only non-Jews who are the immediate family of Jewish members of Ohavi Zedek can be buried in Ohavi Zedek’s North Avenue Cemetery with Ohavi Zedek’s Senior Rabbi having discretion to respond with *derech erez* (compassionate good sense) to particular situations concerning other relatives.

3. As a matter of general practice, *taharah* is not performed for non-Jews being buried in Ohavi Zedek's North Avenue Cemetery. Ultimately, any decision about some form of *taharah* being performed for a non-Jew would be at the discretion of the Chevra Kadisha. If the Chevra Kadisha is unable to perform *taharah*, there is an alternative form of *taharah* (without the Hebrew service) that can be performed at Boucher & Pritchard.
4. All caskets must conform to the same standards set for Jewish burials (see above).
5. Non-Jews may be buried in regular clothes (*tachrichim* are not required). The use of *tachrichim* for non-Jews is at the discretion of the Chevra Kadisha.
6. There will be no ornamentation or religious symbols on *matzevot* (grave stones) for non-Jews which reflect other non-Jewish religious traditions.
7. Burial services will be led or overseen by Ohavi Zedek clergy and religious rites of other (non-Jewish) faiths are not allowed.
8. All burials shall be in conformity with the customs and traditions of the Congregation as interpreted by clergy.
9. Unless specifically stated other wise, all rules that apply for the burial of Jews also apply to the burial of non-Jews.

### **C. Funerals**

1. The policies contained within this section apply to funeral services held at Ohavi Zedek Synagogue or in Ohavi Zedek Synagogue's cemeteries.
2. Officiant must be a Rabbi or Cantor of Ohavi Zedek Synagogue or approved by and coordinate with the Senior Rabbi of Ohavi Zedek.
3. No recorded music is allowed at funeral services. One or two songs with or without non-electrical instruments are permitted with the approval of the Senior Rabbi of Ohavi Zedek.
4. Viewing of bodies is not permitted at funeral services or in the cemetery unless required by law. Caskets may not be brought into Ohavi Zedek for funeral services, except for the funeral of a *talmid chacham* (great scholars and leaders of the Jewish people), always at the decision of the Senior Rabbi of Ohavi Zedek.
5. Flowers are not permitted at funeral services held at Ohavi Zedek or at Ohavi Zedek's cemeteries.
6. *K'reeah* (tearing of garments, either actually or symbolically) is strongly encouraged by Ohavi Zedek's clergy prior to the funeral and burial but is not required.
7. Cut flowers may be placed in the grave prior to burial.
8. The clergy of Ohavi Zedek synagogue will officiate at a funeral service for an individual who will be cremated only before the cremation occurs.

#### **D. Cemetery Rules**

1. No plantings can be made on or next to the plot.
2. No ornamentations may be left on the grave.
3. No new plants or flowers may be left on the grave.
4. Flags are allowed close to a grave. U.S. flags are supplied by the Cemetery Committee every year on graves of veterans prior to Memorial Day.
5. All *matzevot* (grave stones) need to be approved by the Cemetery Committee.
6. Pictures are not permitted on grave stones.
7. Perpetual Care includes mowing, care of the gravesite and cleaning of the stone marker, but not repairing the stone marker. Contact the synagogue office to arrange for the repair of the stone marker, if necessary.
8. If a family desires to place a bench in memory of an individual, it must be approved by the Cemetery Committee.
9. Plots are not transferable unless approved by the Cemetery Committee.
10. Above ground burial is not permitted.
11. Vaults and linings are not permitted.
12. The Cemetery Committee reserves the right to remove any inappropriate item from the cemetery or a grave that does not comply with these policies.

#### **E. Bereavement Meals**

1. If the family desires, the Ohavi Zedek Sisterhood will provide a simple bereavement meal at the synagogue after burial for members of Ohavi Zedek Synagogue.
2. A bereavement meal is not required, but is available if the family prefers to return to the synagogue after burial, before going home.
3. Families are asked to estimate, as close as possible, the number of loved ones who will return from the cemetery for the meal.
4. The menu for bereavement meals consists of hard boiled eggs, bagels (with cream cheese and butter), herring, coffee and tea.
5. The family may request additional food items beyond the standard menu from the caterer/Sisterhood at additional cost. Additional items may or may not be possible.
6. The bereavement meal is provided free of charge to member families of Ohavi Zedek, however families are asked to make an optional donation at the time funeral arrangements are made.

## F. Cemetery Fees

All fees must be paid in full before a deed is issued for a plot. Member Fees will be applicable if the deceased was a Member in good standing of Ohavi Zedek Synagogue for three years prior to the date of death, otherwise Non-Member fees will apply. Individuals wishing to discuss pre-payment or payment plans should contact the synagogue's Executive Director to make arrangements.

### OZ Cemetery Fees

November 1, 2017

		Members	Non-Members
B U R I A L	Right to be Buried	No Fee	\$5,000.00
	Each Plot	\$1,500.00	
	Perpetual Care (Each Plot)	\$1,500.00	
	Gravestone Cleaning	Included in Perpetual Care For New Plots Only	
	Grave Opening	\$700-\$1,200 (fixed-cost contract)	
	Rabbi Offiates At Funeral	Donation of \$600.00 Encouraged	\$600.00
	Bereavement Meal	Donation of \$180.00 Encouraged	\$220.00
	Use of Shul Chapel	No Fee	\$500.00
	Refrigeration	No Fee	100 per day
C K H E D I V I S I O N	Tabarah	No Fee	\$500.00
	Shroud	\$200.00	
	Shomer	\$100.00 per night	
	Jewish Sacred Society Chapel	No Fee	\$100.00 per night

## G. Contact Information

**For questions, or for clarification of the above policies, please call:**

- Leon Urbaitel, co-chair of the Cemetery Committee, (802) 734.0349
- Shimmy Cohen, co-chair of the Cemetery Committee, (802) 343-3721