

Hebrew Cemetery Association

By Lorrie Klemons, Publicity

By the time you read this article, Jews around the world will be scurrying around preparing for the ritually beautiful holiday of Pesach (Passover). While every Jew celebrates this holiday with different family traditions, the meaning behind it is universally clear and succinct. It signifies our

deliverance from a horrific existence as slaves into a nation of free people. While the journey to peoplehood was filled with trials and tribulations, our ultimate deliverance was cause for great exultation. The most important event in our collective Jewish history was our receipt of the Ten Commandments and Torah at Mt.

Sinai. It is that exclusive experience that made us the people we are today. When Moses came down from Mt Sinai with those gifts from God, he called to each and every Jew for all eternity, *Shema Yisrael, Adonoi Eloheinu Adonoi Echad* (Listen Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is One). We were all there as a collective

group of brethren. The Passover Haggadah depicts the story of the Exodus in first person, to signify that each one of us was present during the Exodus and at Mt. Sinai during the receiving of the Ten Commandments and the Torah as they were gifted to the entire Jewish people. For over 3500 years, we have stood together as brethren, sharing the trials, the tribulations and the exultation.

As is Jewish tradition, Jews continue to stand together. When one Jew bleeds, we all bleed. When one Jew ails, we visit (*bikkur cholim*). When one Jew dies, we provide the ritual bathing and dressing of the dead (*tahara/chevra kadisha*). We sit with the body until burial (*shomerim*). We bring comfort to the mourners and join with them as a community in the traditional mourner's kaddish. Make no mistake, we Jews are an extraordinary people.

The holiday of Passover is the Jewish new year as it celebrates the inception of our existence as a free nation. As such, in the spirit of our freedom and nationhood, I invite those readers who have not yet joined, to become members of the Hebrew Cemetery Association. Your tax-deductible annual dues of \$72 per family unit (including dependents under 18) guarantees you a spot in the only Jewish cemetery in the city. It also guarantees you a holy and dignified resting place that is administered, maintained, and cared for by fellow Jews, who care enough to assume the holy obligations of Jewish burial practices.

Cemetery Association members who have paid their association

dues for two consecutive years are privileged with a lower cost of graves, perpetual care, and other cemetery charges. These discounted charges can be paid out in eight installments, one payment every three months.



Hebrew Cemetery Association

The Hebrew Cemetery does not deny any Jewish body from being interred in the cemetery. In cases of extreme financial hardship, the Cemetery Association donates a free grave to the deceased and waives all cemetery charges. Your annual membership dues help us defray the cost of this sacred and holy obligation of providing every Jew with a Jewish burial. All those buried at the cemetery are traditionally buried in the ground, as the cemetery does not offer vaults or mausoleums for such purpose. The Hebrew Cemetery follows all traditional Jewish burial laws, including assuring that the body is oriented so that the feet face the East towards Jerusalem.

The Charlotte Hebrew Cemetery is a tranquil and beautiful place, overflowing with the history of Charlotte Jewry. It is easily accessible and only ten miles from Shalom Park. We invite you to call Executive Director, Joe Kodsi, to arrange for a tour of the grounds or for any other cemetery-related inquiries. Joe can be reached at (h) 704-321-3537 or (m) 704-576-1859.

Directions to the cemetery: Take Providence Road into uptown; turn right on Graham Street and stay on Graham for about two miles; bear left onto Statesville Avenue; the cemetery will be about ¼ mile down the road on left. ☆

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Present:

Unity or Disunity – Is Faith Bringing Us Together or Driving Us Apart in Charlotte?

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Save the Date

One for All Ball 2008 to benefit The Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center, Temple Beth El, and Temple Israel.



Saturday, September 6,
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