

# Hebrew Cemetery Association

By *Lorrie Klemons, publicity*

The Zohar states that "... That which constitutes a real person is the soul, the rest being only garments which cover the inner essence. When people depart this earth, they put off their outer coverings and continue to live by virtue of the soul, which is immortal."

On October 2, hundreds of Charlottean Jews will make their annual pilgrimage to the Charlotte Hebrew Cemetery in order to memorialize Charlotte's departed Jewish souls at the Cemetery Association's Annual Memorial Service. Your favorite clergy from each of Charlotte's synagogues will participate in the beautiful and moving service. Many in attendance will have loved ones buried at the cemetery. Others will attend to honor the memory of friends. And still others to honor and to show respect to the souls of the unknown men, women and children who preceded them in eternal life.

What is it that draws hundreds of people to attend a memorial service held at a cemetery on a Sunday morning? Those of us who have been living in Charlotte for a while recognize the uniqueness of our Jewish community. It is a community that acknowledges the goodness in people and celebrates the contributions that each Jew makes to our continued history. The continuity of our people rests on our traditions, on our rituals, on our past, our present and our future. We are a people who remember. We remember our past and we never forget those who influenced our lives in such great ways. Their traditions, their ideals, their love and devotion...we hold to them fast, and they cannot die or

vanish from off the face of the earth as long as we cherish those memories. The Hebrew Cemetery Annual Memorial service is the perfect opportunity for each one of us to recall and cherish our individual and collective memories.

The men, women and children buried at Charlotte's Hebrew Cemetery were the folks who shaped our unique community. They were the visionaries who planned for, created and contributed to the wonderful Jewish community that we all enjoy today. We are a people who remembers and thus, we cannot forget our debt to all those who preceded us in eternal life as each one of them accounts for our

miraculous survival as a people. Their precious souls are to be celebrated by each one of us enjoying the world they left behind.

We can participate in that celebration by attending the annual Memorial Service, by visiting the cemetery periodically during the year, and by membership in the Hebrew Cemetery Association. Your tax deductible annual dues of \$72 gives you the opportunity to honor the souls of those who preceded you in eternal life by guaranteeing a dignified and sanctified final resting place for their immortal souls, as well as for your own when the time comes. In addition, those annual dues also entitle you

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## The Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community proudly recognizes and thanks the 87 members and families in the Book of Life Society.

*Their legacy gifts provide current and future support to the organizations and programs that serve the Greater Charlotte Jewish community. There are many different ways for each of us to leave a lasting legacy in support of Jewish life in the Greater Charlotte region. It is easier than you think.*

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*For more information on how you can leave a lasting legacy to support your favorite Jewish organization please contact Phil Warshauer, Executive Director of the Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community at 704-973-4544 or [pwarshauer@charlottejewishfoundation.org](mailto:pwarshauer@charlottejewishfoundation.org).*

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