

# Honoring Our Parents at the Hebrew Cemetery

By Brian Yesowitch

“Honor thy father and thy mother that thy days may be long upon the land which Adonai thy God giveth thee.” We all recognize the fifth commandment. It is such a central portion of our Jewish faith and identity that it may hold different messages for each of us.

For some of us, this commandment may be one of the most important teachings of our Torah. For others, it may be the Sunday School lesson our parents made sure we adhered to during long car trips or family vacations. Our lives present us with many opportunities to perform this mitzvah of “Honor thy father and thy



The construction continues.

mother.” Our continual acts of love and respect for our parents might explain why two of our cemetery’s most visited days are Mother’s Day and Father’s Day.

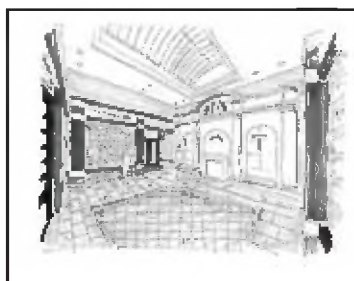
Judaism teaches that the soul is indestructible and eternal. When we visit our parents’ graves in the Hebrew Cemetery, place a stone, and recite or pray The Kaddish,

we are practicing a spiritual activity that connects us to the souls of our parents even if we can no longer have a physical relationship with them. That connection is strong.

That connection also is what reminds us that even if we are adults with children, grandchildren, and possibly great grandchildren, we are all still children ourselves. Attending the cemetery on Mother’s Day and Father’s Day can be sad for some of us, but for many, the visit is comforting and will provide good memories and feelings.

As President of the Hebrew Cemetery Association, I encourage you to take advantage of the spring and summer weather and to see the many improvements to our cemetery’s landscaping as well as the ongoing construction on our Memorial Building. At this time of year, the trees leaf out and provide nice shade from the summer sun.

One of the reasons why our cemetery is so attractive is the hard work from the many volunteer groups, including the Mitzvah Day committee from Temple Beth El, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte’s Bernstein



A sketch of the Chapel’s interior.

Leadership Group, which contribute manpower to help beautify the grounds as well as to care of some of the cemetery’s older headstones.

Another significant reason why our cemetery is so lovely is the long-term commitment and generosity of Charlotte’s Jewish community, which has invested in the cemetery’s current expansion and future care through the capital campaign. Jewish families with varied financial resources have all come together to contribute what they can, and the campaign continues.

Soon families can honor a loved one by engraving his or her name on the Memorial Wall. The Memorial Wall will stand in perpetuity as part of our new Memorial Building on the grounds of



the cemetery itself. Donors may submit up to five names, with a contribution of \$1000 each, payable over five years. The dollar amount is less than a cup of coffee a day, and is such a beautiful way to express our love for those who have passed. New donors are welcome, and current eligible donors simply need to contact the office to share the name(s) of those they wish to honor.

People interested in participating in the Memorial Wall commemoration should contact our personable and knowledgeable Executive Director, Sandra Goldman at [director@hebrewcemetery.org](mailto:director@hebrewcemetery.org) or 704-576-1859. Sandra is also happy to answer your questions about legacy giving, the benefits of cemetery membership, purchasing plots or volunteering for beautification projects. I, too, welcome your questions and comments about our cemetery by email at [byshalomch@gmail.com](mailto:byshalomch@gmail.com). ☆

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## “Beat” Cancer at drumSTRONG, May 17-19

The drums will beat again this year for drumSTRONG, the annual music and drumming festival that raises money for DrumsForCures, to support people with cancer and those who love them.

On May 17, 18, and 19, Misty Meadows Farm will come alive with music and festivities. Join in the fun as a drummer, a volunteer,

or a music lover. Visit [drumSTRONG.org](http://drumSTRONG.org) for more information.

Start the weekend out with a Friday night with an informal Drum Circle led by drumming Facilitators for fun and a warm up for the weekend’s activities.

Saturday afternoon at 2 PM the 24-hour drumming event begins, a non-stop rhythmic event to help BEAT cancer.



guests Toubab Krewe on stage Friday night at 10:30 PM and the Jeff Sipe Trio performing Saturday night at 8:45 PM. The musical performances will culminate on Saturday night at 10:30 PM with two-time cancer survivor Sam Bush and his full band.

All during the weekend, vendors will be available with health information, musical instruments, food and drink, and commemorative items from drumSTRONG.

Visit [drumSTRONG.org](http://drumSTRONG.org) for information on tickets, volunteering, creating drumming teams, making donations, and helping to BEAT cancer.

May 17-19, Misty Meadows Farm, Weddington, NC. ☆



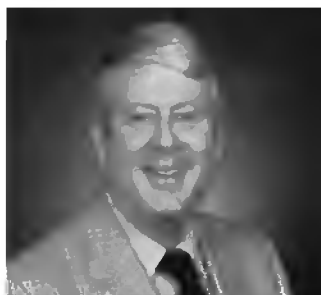
Headliner Sam Bush.

The music stage schedule can be found here <http://www.drumstrong.org/music/> with notable

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**“You find that a man is given three names – one that his father and his mother call him, one that his fellow men call him, and one that he acquires. The one he acquires for himself is better than all the others.”**

--Midrash: Tanhuma, Va-yak'hel