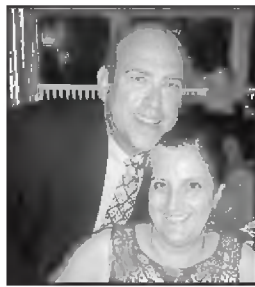


Annual Memorial Service and Historic Dedication

By Brian Yesowitch, President, Hebrew Cemetery Association

As our summer season draws to a close, the thoughts of many Jewish people turn to High Holy Day preparations. A long tradition for many local Jews during the holidays is the Annual Memorial Service held at the Hebrew Cemetery (1801 Statesville Av-



Brian and Martha Yesowitch

enue, Charlotte, NC 28206). This year the service will take place on Sunday, September 8 at 10:30 AM. The entire community is welcome to attend.

In addition to our Annual Memorial Service, September 8 will also mark our Memorial Building Dedication. Visitors will be interested to see the building in its final stages of con-

struction and to view the former Beth El ark in its permanent home. Following the service, those who are able may walk with the rabbis around the remaining acres seven times as part of the consecration of these final acres to a holy purpose. Please note that the Orthodox section of the cemetery was consecrated last fall.

The Annual Memorial Service provides a time of remembrance and is particularly special as it is one of the few times of the year that all the community's clergy

come together in prayer. The community's Rabbis lead the ceremony and are supported by the assistant Rabbis, cantors, and other clergy. This year, our Memorial Service will be led by Rabbi Yossi Groner of Congregation Ohr HaTorah.

The Dedication and the transformation of our community cemetery are indeed historic events. The land for the Hebrew Cemetery was purchased in 1867 by the dozen or so Jewish families living in Charlotte at the time.

These families were thinking not only of their immediate needs as a Jewish community, but of our needs, nearly 150 years in the future.

Likewise, in our day and age, a dedicated group of volunteers and donors have worked over the past decade to create a comprehensive Master Plan for the cemetery.

The focal point of that development is our new, gorgeous Memorial Building. The building will provide a space for small funeral services and other gatherings. New sections of the cemetery grounds were recently surveyed and will be opening soon. At the service, you will have the opportunity to walk new paths and to view the development plans.

Many years ago, cemetery members identified the Memorial Building as a critical need. As a community cemetery, not affiliated with any one temple, we are 100% dependent upon individual pledges to meet this need. The Hebrew Cemetery Association Board of Directors expresses its deep gratitude to the generous individuals and families who have already pledged to the cemetery's Building Fund.

But, each family's help is needed to complete the Memorial Building's construction and the expansion. As Charlotte's oldest institution, the Hebrew Cemetery welcomes your support. You do



not need to be a member to participate in the campaign. Pledges are payable over five years. For every \$1000 you pledge, you may honor a loved one or couple* and yourself be recognized as the contributor on the Memorial Wall.

If you have not been to the cemetery in several years, our Board Members and other volunteers hope that you will come to this historic service and dedication. We expect that you will be amazed at our cemetery's wonderful transformation and will enjoy sharing a sense of community as we pray together.

If you or your families have loved ones buried here, you will have time to visit. If you do not have family at the Cemetery, please consider joining us as well. You will be fulfilling the mitzvah of saying Kaddish for those individuals for whom no family remains to say the prayer for them. This tradition follows the Jewish teaching of "Kol Yisrael Arevim Zeh Bazeh" – all of Israel is responsible for each other.

Every year, I hear comments like "My favorite service of the year is the Memorial Service at the cemetery." "The cemetery is so peaceful and beautiful." "It is always uplifting and spiritual." My wife, Martha, and I feel that way as well.

On behalf of the Hebrew Cemetery Association, I look forward to your joining us at the Memorial Service and Dedication on September 8. And, we wish you and your families Shana Tova Umetukah – a good and sweet new year.

For more information about the service, the Hebrew Cemetery Building Fund, or to arrange a tour or preplanning appointment, please contact Sandra Goldman at 704-576-1859 or director@hebrewcemetery.org. ☆

*For a maximum of five names.



An illustration of the Memorial Building, now under construction.

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Our Jewish Community's Newest Legacy Donors

The following individuals/families have recently informed our community through Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community (FCJC) or one of the ten CJL community partners that they have created 22 legacies to support the future of Charlotte's Jewish community. There are now 150 individuals/families who have created 269 legacies. We thank our newest legacy donors and welcome them into our community's Book of Life Society.

- Anonymous (2)**
Michele and Harvey Barer
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David and Janice Cantor
Ellen Block Englehardt
Elise and Jaime Kosofsky
Kevin Levine and Louis Sinkoe
Neil (of blessed memory) and Caren Sacks
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See the full Book of Life Society listing on page 21.