

Between You and Me ...

By Brian Yesowitch, Hebrew Cemetery Association Board President

With the Super Bowl, we heard a lot of different uses of the word "between." "The ball goes between the uprights." "... the relationship between Pete Carroll and his teammates." More recently, with the NCAA basketball championship, we heard, "There are a lot of similarities between the two offenses." In each instance, the word "between" has different meanings. In every case, though, the word implies a proximity or a connection. Whether that connection is literal or figurative, the relationship is no less important. I'd like to share with you some of the things going on between the fences at the Hebrew Cemetery.

2015 looks to be another banner year for our Hebrew Cemetery, now in our 145th year of service to the Charlotte Jewish community. Our 15 member board of trustees, our director, and staff work hard each month to ensure that the cemetery is up to the functional and high aesthetic standards the community has grown to expect.

Our cemetery's natural beauty was enhanced on Sunday, February 8, when more than 70 volunteers planted 35 trees in observation of the Jewish holiday of Tu B'Shvat. This program was coordinated by our director, Sandra Goldman and TreesCharlotte program director, Tammy Siegel.

We intend to continue this program and welcome volunteer groups to contact us for this or other programs.

I cannot say enough good things about our many community partners. There are four temples in Charlotte which have formalized a relationship between their institutions and the Hebrew Cemetery. Temple Israel's partnership dates back to 1893, while Temple Kol Tikvah in Davidson formalized its relationship in 2014. Both of these congregations (along with our other two temple partners, Congregation Ohr Ha-Torah and Temple Beth El) understand the importance of providing this bond between the Cemetery and their congregants.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte is another great partner of the Hebrew Cemetery Association. Thanks to generous donations from the at-large community, the Federation funded our Funeral Assistance program with \$7,500. This money, along with assistance from Jewish Family Services, goes a long way towards providing our community's neediest individuals a dignified and appropriate Jewish funeral.

Social media continues to be a great forum between institutions and the general community. I invite you to visit and "like" our Facebook page: [facebook.com/hebrewcemetery](https://www.facebook.com/hebrewcemetery)



The Blumenthal Garden will add peaceful hues of color to Hebrew Cemetery visitors' experiences this spring.

HebrewCemetery. Here you will find last minute changes in our hours, information in case of inclement weather and recent photos of cemetery activities. One ongoing partnership on Facebook is #ThrowbackThursday. Each month, in conjunction with the Levine Sklut Judaic Library (LSJL), our Cemetery displays curated materials available for check out from the library. In January, we highlighted the relationship between Martin Luther King, Jr. and Harry Golden who is buried at the Charlotte Hebrew Cemetery. In February, our #ThrowbackThursday recognized President's Day and highlighted the relationship between our Jewish community and George Washington – who once described Charlotte as "a very trifling place ...". Be on the lookout for more #ThrowbackThursday updates on the cemetery's Facebook page.

While New Year's resolutions may be over and done, it is not too late to consider funeral pre-planning. When you pre-plan, you can

save over 30% in plot and service fees. Payments are generally on a two year term. Our kind and helpful cemetery director, Sandra Goldman, can walk you through the process – and there's never "hard-selling" involved. Membership is affordable at \$72 annually.

A lot has been said about the Create Your Jewish Legacy program and the long term benefits to our community's institutions through bequests. Perhaps you just celebrated the birth of a grandchild, received an inheritance or are drafting a will. These events offer an opportunity to forge a lasting relationship between your family and the Hebrew Cemetery. For 145 years, the Hebrew Cemetery has been a very real testament to the sustained successes of our Charlotte

Jewish community. Now, with an enthusiastic but mature leadership, your Cemetery Association is poised to embark on the next 145 years with sound policies and practices that will ensure the community will always have dignified and proper final resting places between the fences of our Hebrew Cemetery. I hope you will consider adding the Hebrew Cemetery Association to your CJL bequests.

For more information about membership or funeral preplanning, legacy planning, or any of the programs discussed, please contact our director, Sandra Goldman, at director@hebrewcemetery.org or 704-576-1859.✱



Hebrew Cemetery Association board members greeted Charlotte Jewish Film Festival attendees at Temple Israel during the Charlotte premiere of "Run Boy Run." Pictured L-R - Brian Yesowitch, Jill Blumenthal, Kevin Levine, Sandra Goldman - Director, Mike Littauer, and Eric Levinson.



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