

### Mortuary

Ashton Funeral Home works exclusively with Bnai Abraham Synagogue for all burials in our cemeteries. Out of town funeral homes still must contact Ashton Funeral Home if burial is to occur in Easton. For Bnai Abraham cemeteries, the Rabbi may prefer to contact Ashton Funeral Home himself.

### Lehigh Valley Chevra Kadisha

May be able to provide its services if there is a wish by the family. Please notify the Rabbi and he will make inquiry for the family.

### BAS Cemetary Committee Chairperson

Mr. Herman Ytkin  
(610) 253-8251 · email: ytkinh@aol.com

### BAS Support

Our caring community is able to help bereaved persons with food, transportation, and general emotional support. Please notify the BAS Business Office of your requests.

### ~ Suggested Books About Grief ~

Central Conference American Rabbis, **Gates of Mitzvah**

Anne Brener, **Mourning and Mitzvah: A Guided Journal for Walking the Mourner's Path**

Theodor H. Gaster, **The Holy and the Profane**

Dr. Earl A. Grollman, **Explaining Death to Children**

Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, **On Death and Dying**

Harold S. Kushner, **When Bad Things Happen To Good People**

Rifat Sonsino and Daniel Syme, **What Happens After I Die?: Jewish Views of Life After Death**

Daniel Syme, **The Jewish Home: A Guide For Jewish Living**

# when bereavement comes



THE  
UNITED  
SYNAGOGUE OF  
CONSERVATIVE  
JUDAISM

*In the unfortunate death of a loved one,  
sometimes we don't know what to do  
or where to turn for help...  
Allow us to guide you  
through the bereavement process.*

BNAI ABRAHAM SYNAGOGUE

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## ~ When A Death Occurs ~

When a death occurs, whether at home or in the hospital, it is customary to notify the Rabbi and a mortuary. The mortuary will arrange to pick up and care for the deceased until funeral arrangements have been made. (If you wish to use *Lehigh Valley Chevra Kadisha*, please let Rabbi know).

If plans are to use Bnai Abraham cemetery, the Cemetery Committee Chairperson should be contacted to arrange for a grave. If pre-need arrangements have already been made, the Cemetery Committee Chairperson should be notified.

A call should be made to the Rabbi, who will visit with the family to offer consolation and to arrange for the time and details of the service. The Rabbi works closely with *Ashton Funeral Home* for all BAS burials in Easton.

The obituary notice can be handled by the mortuary. Information for the obituary can include the names of the immediate family, organizations in which the deceased was active, the time and place of the service, and other brief information that the family may wish mentioned. Some families suggest contributions to a particular fund in memory of the deceased.

## ~ The Service ~

Funeral services are usually held in the BAS Sanctuary. The service consists of the reading of several Psalms, some appropriate words spoken by the Rabbi and/or family members about the deceased, and the chanting of the prayer *El Moleh Rachamin*.

*Kaddish* is recited at the grave site.

The Sanctuary may be used for a memorial service when a family requests it. (A memorial service is similar to a funeral service except that a casket is not present.) In keeping with Jewish tradition, the casket is kept closed. However, if members of the family wish to view the deceased, this may be done privately.

Flowers are permitted, but should be limited. This is consistent with the Jewish understanding that all ceremonies, but especially funerals, should be kept simple.

The service may be held on any day except the Sabbath and the first two days and the last days of Holidays. The Rabbi will advise. Fraternal or lodge services are permitted. When conducted, they must be concluded prior to the start of the Jewish service.

## ~ Following the Service ~

After the funeral service, the family returns home to receive condolence calls. Friends and relatives frequently provide food for the family during the mourning period. It is to be noted that this tradition is for the purpose of taking care of the needs of the mourners. It is not intended that the mourning family serve as hosts to visitors. Quite the contrary - it is the visitors whose concern it is to console the mourners by helping them talk about the deceased, keeping the visits reasonably brief, and taking their cues from the feelings of the mourners.

## ~ Sitting Shiva ~

Traditionally, for the initial intense period of mourning, the family stays at home for seven days.

*Kaddish* may be recited during worship services on Thursday mornings, Friday evenings and/or Shabbat mornings. When requested, a minyan (service for mourners, usually with at least ten worshippers) will be held at the home of the mourners.

## ~ Conclusion of Mourning ~

Our tradition teaches us that mourning should come to a conclusion, although the deceased is never forgotten.

Graves are usually marked by the setting of a plaque marker, usually within a year of the burial. The family may request an unveiling ceremony. This is a simple ceremony of remembrance marking the conclusion of the mourning period.

Yahrzeit is the recitation of the *Kaddish* on the anniversary of the death of the departed. The name of the deceased may be added to a leaf on the Tree of Life or the name may be inscribed on the Wall of Remembrance in the Sanctuary. Please contact the BAS Business Office for details.

## ~ Pre-Need Arrangements ~

A good deal of emotional stress can be avoided by taking care of cemetery needs in advance. Members are urged to be in touch with the Cemetery Committee Chairperson regarding such arrangements.

*(continued on the back...)*