



SHARON MEMORIAL PARK

JEWISH MOURNING TRADITIONS



Gates open for visiting:

Sunday through Friday - 7:30 a.m. until sundown

Welcome Center Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 - 4:15 p.m.

Friday: 8:30 - 4:00 p.m. Sunday: 8:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday winter hours (Nov 1 - March 15): 8:30 - 3:00 p.m.

**Please call for a schedule of holiday closings.*

781-828-7216

Dedham Street, Sharon, MA 02067
info@sharonmemorial.com

No solicitations of any kind are ever allowed on or
about the grounds at Sharon Memorial Park.

Heritage - Tradition - Community

*Serving the
Jewish Community
since 1948*

www.sharonmemorial.com



JEWISH MOURNING TRADITIONS



When a loved one dies, Jewish ritual helps those close to the person by providing a series of rituals that guide the survivors through the mourning process and ease them back into everyday life. Today, Jewish mourners continue centuries of tradition, which help them sort out the powerful emotions they feel at the loss of a loved one.

Shiva

Shiva is the first, intense stage of mourning. Meaning seven in Hebrew, shiva is observed for seven days after the burial. The first day of shiva is the day of the burial. The last day of shiva traditionally ends shortly after morning prayers (shacharit) are recited.

During shiva, members of the immediate family (a parent, sibling, spouse or child) stay inside and are comforted by visitors. Traditionally, these visitors also help form the minyan for morning and afternoon prayers.

Shiva is usually observed in the home of the person who has died or of a close relative. Traditionally, when mourners return to the house after the funeral and burial, they light a candle that burns for the entire seven days. The candle symbolizes the soul of the deceased and the light of God.

Sh'loshim

The first 30 days after the burial, including shiva, comprise the stage of Jewish mourning called sh'loshim. Traditionally, the end of the 30 days ended the mourning period for anyone but one's parents. Today, many people mourn a sibling, spouse or child for the 11-month period traditionally reserved for parents. Sh'loshim is traditionally less restrictive than shiva.

Yahrzeit

Yahrzeit marks the anniversary of the death according to the Jewish calendar. The word means "year's time" in Yiddish. Use our Yahrzeit Date Converter to find a loved one's yahrzeit in the traditional Jewish calendar.

Traditionally, a yahrzeit candle is lit at sunset the night before the yahrzeit date, and kept lit throughout the following day until it burns itself out. Although there are no standard prayers to commemorate a yahrzeit, many people recite some of the psalms that relate to the funeral service or other prayers or readings that seem appropriate. Some people also visit the cemetery around this time.

Yizkor

On the major Jewish holidays (Yom Kippur, Shemini Atzeret and the last day of Pesach and Shavuot) there is a memorial service called Yizkor. In Hebrew, Yizkor means 'may God remember.' Traditionally, a yahrzeit candle is lit at sunset the night before each of these holidays to remember the deceased.

Unveiling

A marker may be put on the grave any time from the end of shiva up to 12 months after death. The unveiling ceremony may occur any time between the end of sh'loshim and the first Yahrzeit. Usually, an unveiling is done about 11 months after the death. It is not a requirement in Judaism, but is a tradition in this country.

Before the ceremony, the installed marker is covered. Psalms may be recited and someone may say a few words about the person who has died. Toward the end of the ceremony, the covering is removed from the marker and Kaddish is recited by the mourners.

Often, the unveiling is the end of the formal mourning period. The ceremony is typically short, involving only close family members and friends. Please contact our office for scheduling and more information.