

## **Kol Ami Cemetery Association Salt Lake City Jewish Funeral Basics**

### **Prior to Burial:**

- Call the mortuary for transport – the Salt Lake Jewish community traditionally has used Evans & Early. That mortuary, which is currently known as "Wasatch Lawn" (801-466-8687), is the required mortuary for Montefiore & Shaare Tzedek.
- Contact the synagogue to arrange for clergy and to verify with the Kol Ami Cemetery Association that a "right to burial" in a gravesite has been purchased; if not, purchase a gravesite in the B'nai Israel Cemetery, Montefiore Cemetery, or Shaare Tzedek Cemetery.
- Supply the deceased's Hebrew name to the clergy, if known.
- Select a plain "kosher" all wooden casket (a wooden star of David is often attached on the top).
- Use refrigeration as needed instead of embalming.
- Schedule burial as quickly as feasible, allowing for gravesite preparation, clergy availability, and the arrival of relatives.
- Decide whether the Chevra Kadisha society will perform ritual washing (tahara); it is required for Montefiore and Shaare Tzedek and is optional for B'nai Israel.
  - If tahara is performed, the deceased must be dressed in a shroud.
  - If tahara is not performed, the deceased may be dressed in street clothes, with no jewelry or eyeglasses.
  - If possible, provide the mortuary with a prayer shawl (tallit) that was owned and used by the man or woman; it will be placed by the Chevra Kadisha.
- Encourage friends and family to give gifts of charity in memory of the deceased instead of giving flowers; flowers are not traditionally displayed at funeral services held at the mortuary chapel or graveside (write "in lieu of flowers" in the obituary).
- Select pallbearers – generally they are not in the immediate family.

### **Funeral and Burial Service:**

- Casket will be closed with no public viewing.
- Casket will be lowered during the graveside service.
- Family and friends will participate by shoveling some soil onto the casket.
- No food (or drinks) may be eaten at the cemetery; a post-funeral meal of consolation is typically prepared for mourners to eat after leaving the cemetery.

### **After Burial:**

- Erect a marker at least 30 days after burial, and generally before one year has passed.
- Place small stones on the headstone when visiting the grave to show respect (in lieu of leaving flowers or other items).
- Do not bring items representing a religion other than Judaism (e.g. Christmas wreath) into the cemetery.