



A Handbook for Cemetery Visitation

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Beth Shalom Synagogue

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Columbia, SC 29206
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Arcadia Lakes Cemetery
1401 Arcadia Lakes Road

Whaley Street Cemetery
1300 Whaley Street

Hebrew Benevolent Society Cemetery
720 Blanding Street

*Beth Shalom Synagogue
Columbia, South Carolina*

A WORD

We are deeply saddened by your loss. As a congregation, we pray that your wounds will be healed by time and with the knowledge that your friends stand beside you ready to ease your pain: In your moment of grief, we are with you.

This booklet comes with the hope that the many directions of mourning will become clearer, more comprehensible. From the first stages of mourning until Yizkor, the ancient Jewish laws and customs are laid out here; everything you need to know about the bereavement process.

The Jewish customs which surround death involve two basic concepts:

1) Honoring the dead and 2) Coming to terms with the loss so that life might continue. You will find that all of the laws and practices which follow come under one of these categories- honoring and healing. Psychologists and religious folk laud the Jewish practices of mourning as they seek to find meaning from the end of life.

You are an integral part of our Beth Shalom Synagogue family. As such, the congregation and I are here ready to support you.

May the Holy one, blessed be He, grant long life to your loved ones. As the days and weeks pass, may God give you strength, courage and comfort from the rich, warm memories you possess.

Mourners and those observing Yahrzeit:

יִתְגַּדֵּל וַיִּתְקַדֵּשׁ שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא, בְּעֶלְמָא דִּי בְּרָא, כְּרַעוּתָהּ,
וַיִּמְלִיךָ מַלְכוּתָהּ בְּחַיִּיכוֹן וּבְיוֹמֵיכוֹן וּבְחַיֵּי דְכָל-בֵּית
יִשְׂרָאֵל, בְּעֶגְלָא וּבְזִמְן קָרִיב, וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן.

Congregation and mourners:

יְהֵא שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ לְעָלְמָא וְלְעָלְמֵי עָלְמֵיָא.

Mourners:

יִתְבָּרַךְ וַיִּשְׁתַּבַּח וַיִּתְפָּאֵר וַיִּתְרוֹמֵם וַיִּתְנַשֵּׂא וַיִּתְהַדָּר
וַיִּתְעַלֶּה וַיִּתְהַלָּל שְׁמֵהּ דְּקֻדְשָׁא, בְּרִיךְ הוּא *לְעָלְמָא
מִן כָּל-בְּרַכְתָּא וְשִׁירָתָא תְּשַׁבַּחְתָּא וְנַחֲמָתָא דְאַמִּירָן
בְּעֶלְמָא, וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן.

**On שבת שובה:* לְעָלְמָא לְעָלְמָא מְכָל-בְּרַכְתָּא וְשִׁירָתָא

יְהֵא שְׁלָמָא רַבָּא מִן שְׁמֵיָא וְחַיִּים עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל,
וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן.

עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמִרוֹמָיו הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ וְעַל
כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן.

Mourner's Kaddish

Glorified and hallowed be the great name of God throughout the world which was created according to Divine will. May the rule of peace be established speedily in our time, unto us and unto the entire household of Israel. Amen.

May God's great name be praised throughout all eternity. Extolled and glorified, honored and adored, ever be the name of the Holy One. God is beyond the praises and hymns of glory which mortals offer throughout the world. Amen.

May there be a great heavenly peace and life unto us, unto all Israel. Amen.

May the One who ordains the harmony of the universe, bestow peace upon us and upon the whole house of Israel. Amen.

Note:

The Kaddish we only say with a minyan
(ten Jewish adults.)

This section of the guide is to help you through the process of visiting the dead and honoring them.

Bring this booklet with you whenever you visit the cemetery. It contains the necessary prayers of remembrance.

In keeping the memory of the dead, alive, we honor their lives, contributions, and legacy.

Here are some reminders of what we do when we visit a cemetery.

1. It is not appropriate to visit the Jewish cemetery on Shabbat or holy days.
2. When leaving the monument, we leave small pebbles on it as an eternal reminder of our unfading love and devotion.
3. Wash our hands when leaving the cemetery.

On the actual yahrzeit we light a memorial candle, give tzedakah, and attend minyan at Synagogue.

For a Father

"Lord, who shall dwell upon Your holy mountain? One who walks uprightly, acts righteously, and speaks truth in his heart." - Psalm 15. The memory of your life, father, rises before me as I stand before your grave and remember the years of devotion, kindness, love, and encouragement which you gave during your life. I recall the sacrifices you made for my welfare, and the comforts with which you provided me. May God grant that your memory inspire me to cherish the ideals and principles you taught, continue the work you have left unfinished, and loyally uphold the heritage of Israel by serving my people and those who need me. May your soul be bound up in the bond of eternal life, together with the souls of all the righteous that are in His keeping. *Amen.*

For a Mother

Though we are separated, I remember your love and how you tended and watched over my childhood, mindful of my safety, anxious for my success. I still feel the closeness of your spirit, and my heart is full of emotion as I recall the sacrifices you made. I am grateful for your blessing, understanding heart, devotion, and warm love. What I am, I have become through you. The wisdom that you imparted me remains. If I have been thoughtless and ungrateful I ask to be forgiven. I pray to find the strength and resources to live nobly in your honor. Preserve the soul of my mother, Lord, to be bound up in the bond of eternal life, together with the souls of all the righteous that are in Your keeping. *Amen.*

For a Man

אל מלא רחמים, שוכן במרומים, המצא מנוחה נכונה
תחת כנפי השכינה, במעלות קדושים וטהורים כזהר
הרקיע מזהירים, את-נשמת _____ בן-
_____ שהלך לעולמו, בגן עדן תהא מנוחתו.
אנא, בעל הרחמים הסתירהו בסתר כנפיה לעולמים,
וצרור בצרור החיים את-נשמתו, יהוה הוא נחלתו, ונתנו
בשלוש על משכבו, ונאמר אמן.

Exalted, compassionate God, Who dwells on High, grant the fullness of Your peace to the soul of _____, who is passed into Eternity. In the Great Garden of Paradise may he find rest. Shelter him, Merciful God, beneath the shelter of Your wings and may his soul be bound up in the bond of life. May he rest in peace. And let us say, *Amen.*

For a Woman

אל מלא רחמים, שוכן במרומים, המצא מנוחה נכונה
תחת כנפי השכינה, במעלות קדושים וטהורים כזהר
הרקיע מזהירים, את-נשמת _____ בת-
_____ שהלכה לעולמה, בגן עדן תהא מנוחתה.
אנא, בעל הרחמים הסתירה בסתר כנפיה לעולמים,
וצרור בצרור החיים את-נשמתה, יהוה היא נחלתה,
ותנו בשלוש על משכבה, ונאמר אמן.

Exalted, compassionate God, Who dwells on High, grant the fullness of Your peace to the soul of _____, who is passed into Eternity. In the Great Garden of Paradise may she find rest. Shelter her, Merciful God, beneath the shelter of Your wings and may his soul be bound up in the bond of life. May she rest in peace. And let us say, *Amen.*

יהוה רעי, לא אֶחָסֵר
 בְּנֵאוֹת דָּשָׁא יִרְבִּיצָנִי,
 עַל מֵי מְנוּחֹת יִנְהַלֵּנִי.
 נִפְשִׁי יִשׁוּבָב, יִנְחֵנִי בְּמַעְגְלֵי-צֶדֶק לְמַעַן שְׁמוֹ.
 גַּם כִּי אֶלֶף בָּגִיא צִלְמֹת לֹא אִירָא רַע כִּי אֶתָּה עֹמְדִי.
 שְׁבִטָּךְ וּמִשְׁעֲנֶתְךָ הִמָּה יִנְחֲמֵנִי.
 תַּעֲרֹךְ לִפְנֵי שְׁלֹחַן נֹגֵד צָרָרִי,
 דִּשְׁנֶת בְּשֶׁמֶן רֹאשִׁי, כּוֹסֵי רוּיָה,
 אֵךְ טוֹב וְחָסֵד יִרְדְּפוּנִי כָּל-יְמֵי חַיִּי,
 וְשִׁבְתִּי בְּבֵית יְהוָה לְאֶרְךָ יָמִים.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd;
 I shall not want.
 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
 He leadeth me beside the still waters.
 He resoreth my soul:
 He guideth me in straight paths for His name's sake.
 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
 I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me; Thy rod and
 Thy staff, they comfort me.
 Thou preparest a table in the presence of mine enemies.
 Thou hast annointed my head with oil;
 my cup runneth over.
 Surley goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days
 of my life;
 And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

For a Child

Almighty God, before the grave of my beloved child, I tenderly recall the joys during his/her lifetime. I delighted in every moment. How I planned for his/her future! Though few and brief were the years, when I rejoiced with my child, many were the blessings brought into our home. Years will never fill the void in my heart: I pray time softens the pain of bereavement. His/her memory shall forever be in my heart. O Merciful God, Giver of life, You have recalled what is Your own. Though my heart grieves, may I, who have known the joys of parenthood, bring love and cheer into the lives of others. I pray that the soul of my dearly beloved child be bound up in the bond of eternal life, together with the souls of all the righteous that are in Your keeping. *Amen.*

For a Brother or Sister

Merciful God, as I stand here at the grave of my brother (sister), I recall the years spent together, sharing the love and traditions of our home and family. Death claimed them too soon. Though You have called him/her back, O God, I shall always hold sacred memories of kindness, sincerity, love, and devotion. Lord, grant that the recollections of his/her life provide an incentive to righteous, better living. A link has been severed from our family chain; help me, God, to be more closely united with those ones who remain. May the soul of my brother/sister be bound up in the bond of eternal life together with the souls of all the righteous that are in Your keeping. *Amen.*

For a Wife

With a sorrowing heart, my beloved wife, I fondly recall your love and companionship, tenderness and devotion and the many joys you brought into my life. My heart cries out for the gentle touch of your hand and your sweet compassion. Never will I forget the hurdles and pleasures, trials and triumphs, joys and sorrows that we shared. You helped dispel my fears, encouraged me and stood by my side. God, grant her the joys and rest of eternity. Heavenly Father, allow the soul of my beloved wife be bound up in the bond of eternal life, together with the souls of all the righteous that are in Your keeping. *Amen.*

For a Husband

God, behold and see the sorrow of my heart. Bereft, I mourn the loss of the companion of my heart. I miss his touch, voice, and presence in my every day. May God support me through this heavy trial. I pray, O Lord, that the precious memories of our years together never fade from memory, and be an incentive to noble and sanctified living. Father of all, grant that the soul of my beloved husband be bound up in the bond of eternal life, together with the souls of all the righteous that are in Thy keeping. *Amen.*

Lord God,
Whose days are without end
and whose mercies beyond counting,
keep us mindful
that life is short and the hour of death unknown.
Let Your Spirit guide our days on earth
in the ways of holiness and justice,
that we may serve you
in union with the whole House of Israel,
sure in faith, strong in hope, perfected in love.
And when our earthly journey is ended,
lead us rejoicing into *Olam HaBa*, our next home,
where You live for ever and ever.