

PARK SLOPE JEWISH CENTER
1320 Eighth Avenue (cor. 14th Street)
Brooklyn, NY 11215
(718) 768-1453

Thank you for your inquiry about the purchase of one or more graves through the cemetery holdings of Park Slope Jewish Center (PSJC). Plots are currently available to PSJC members in good standing for at least two years. Here are the next steps we recommend that you take:

1. Consider whether you're more inclined toward New Mt. Carmel in Glendale, Queens (off the Jackie Robinson Parkway, previously known as the Interboro) or Beth David Cemetery in Elmont, Long Island. New Mt. Carmel is a lot closer (~20 minutes by car vs. ~45 minutes to Beth David in good traffic), and within walking distance of the NYC subway. On the other hand, grave opening costs on the day of the funeral have been higher at New Mt. Carmel than at Beth David. Another consideration is whether you already have (or will have) relatives buried in (or near) one cemetery or the other.
2. Contact our Burial Committee (cemetery@psjc.org, or leave a message with your telephone number at the PSJC office). A Committee representative will contact you for an initial conversation and send you a photocopy of the appropriate map, with an indication of where there are available graves in groups. The Committee will also give you other information to help you figure things out (e.g., considerations of the length of the grave, net measurements of the cement base of a single vs. double headstone, to avoid various serious halachic issues).
3. Go and check out the grave sites in person—just not on or immediately preceding the Sabbath, a Jewish festival day or a union holiday. (You will receive the cemetery's office hours and telephone number with your map.)
4. Talk to the Committee representative again, preferably returning the copy of the map when you're done.
5. Write a check in the appropriate amount to Park Slope Jewish Center. Please note that, since this payment is for a very tangible benefit, it is not deductible for tax purposes. Feel free to speak to our Burial Committee representative about any special financial concerns.
6. Receive an official-looking original of a deed from the Committee.
7. Make copies of the deed and have your trusts-and-estates / elder-law lawyer tell you where to keep the original and copies – a safe deposit box is usually bad for an original.
8. Live long and prosper until you need to use one of the graves.
9. Upon request, assuming we can affirm that the deceased was of the Jewish faith, the Committee will issue a burial permit and, during the subsequent year, a monument permit.

Our PSJC Rabbi and Office Manager can provide information regarding local funeral homes. In particular, PSJC has an agreement with a cooperating local funeral home to provide a simple halachic funeral at a reasonable fee for PSJC members and their immediate family members (parents, spouses/life partners, siblings, and/or children). Members of PSJC's *Hevra Kadisha* (Sacred Burial Society) are on call to fulfill the *mitzvot* / imperatives of *sh'mirah* (traditional vigil before burial) and *taharah* (ritual purification and dressing of the dead), for PSJC members and their immediate family members. Please write to hevra.kadisha@psjc.org for a funeral plan brochure and further information, or call the PSJC office.