

Cemetery Committee Report

PSJC Annual Meeting

January 12, 2025

1. Role of Committee – overview

- a. The Cemetery Committee (a/k/a Burial Committee) coordinates the sale to and use by PSJC members of graves in the Beth David and Mt. Carmel Cemeteries; assists with paperwork in connection with PSJC cemeteries
- b. See PSJC website, www.psjc.org/committees.
- c. Contact via PSJC Office, or cemetery@psjc.org.

2. Actions over the last year

- a. Some inquiries, sale transactions, transactions catching up with deeds, burials in Mt. Carmel & Beth David
- b. Completion of a donation of a Mt. Carmel grave, deeded to a former member in 2004, back to PSJC
- c. Even with pandemic restrictions behind us, logistics remained complicated
- d. Enhancing role of Synagogue Administrator, full Committee & staff in logistics & paperwork (incl. dedicated email address, electronic records, etc.)
- e. Succession –
 - (i) Elizabeth Wollman (Co-President) continues as authorized officer-signatory
 - (ii) Stephen Gandel (Co-President) to be added as authorized officer-signatory (succeeding Martha Harrison)
 - (iii) Mona Schnitzler (Treasurer) continues
 - (iv) Sarah Chinn (Recording Secretary) to be added as authorized officer-signatory (succeeding Abby Ingber)

3. Procedure manual for Committee/signatories – manual for Committee and other PSJC reps (e.g., Hevra Kadisha, G'mach, Simple Funeral Plan, Rabbi)

- a. Guide for what to do when a congregant or others inquire about buying or using graves in PSJC areas in Beth David, New Mt. Carmel or Washington Cemetery
- b. Preliminary form 6/2020 available, but needs updates for refinements over last 4½ years

4. Other current policy statements, etc.

- a. Purchase policy – price rise to reflect relative scarcity & risks, at least Mt. Carmel (particularly 5084 area filling up); fine-tune pricing of small graves for ashes, etc. New prices, effective as of July 1, 2024: Beth David standard \$1,800; Mt. Carmel standard \$2,700 per grave.
- b. Burial of ashes
- c. Funerals at PSJC (resumed in 2022) – more the province of Simple Funeral Plan & Hevra Kadisha
- d. “Next steps” list
- e. List of monument companies

5. Old news & tasks

- a. Sales to members only; registration of deeds with cemeteries
- b. Inventory & organize cemetery files
- c. Integrate cemetery data into other PSJC data, e.g., ShulCloud

6. Misc. follow-ups

- a. Deeds for 2003, 2011 and subsequent sales
- b. Other deeds needing follow-up
- c. Possible reissuance of standard deeds to facilitate registration

7. 2025 cemetery resolutions – signature authorizations, as traditionally adopted annually

- a. Congregational vote, to be followed by Board action on same resolutions
- b. Then for Beth David and Mt. Carmel, completion of special authorization forms by Committee & signatories
- c. Slight difference to reflect current slate – see above
- d. If the signatories change, or the signature authorization process/structure changes, likely need for additional resolutions