

This brochure is designed to explain the procedures of the Okanagan Jewish Community Association for burial within the Gates of Peace cemetery.

The loss of a family member is always difficult, and this brochure is intended to ensure that you clearly understand your role as well as the service that is available. It is our intention to minimize the many stresses at this most difficult time.

Please note that the OJCA, Beth Shalom, Gates of Peace and the *Chevra Kadisha* are operated by volunteers.



Updated: JULY 2023



Which funeral home is used?

Valleyview Funeral Home
165 Valleyview Road
Kelowna, BC V1X 3M5
250-765-3147

The Chevra Kadisha comes to the funeral home and does all necessary preparations there. If requested and available, Shmira (sitting with deceased) will take place there as well.

Which cemetery is used?

Lakeview Memorial Gardens
(Off of Hwy 97N just north of the Kelowna airport)
2850 Dry Valley Road
Kelowna, BC V1V 2K1
250-765-2929

IF SOMEONE IN YOUR FAMILY IS VERY ILL OR APPROACHING DEATH, WE URGE YOU TO CALL THE SYNAGOGUE AT 250-862-2305, SO THAT WE CAN PUT SUPPORT MECHANISMS IN PLACE FOR YOU DURING YOUR TIME OF NEED.

GATES OF PEACE
JEWISH CEMETERY



Caring for you with
loving kindness and
dignity in life and death.

BETH SHALOM SYNAGOGUE
102 Snowsell Street North
Kelowna, BC V1V 2E2

250-862-2305
admin@ojcc.ca

OJCC.CA



What to do when a loved one dies:

If a death is imminent, you can contact the OJC office at 250-862-2305 to advise of the situation. During off hours, the answering machine will provide you with the name of an Executive member who will connect you with the funeral liaison. This person will contact, on your behalf, the cemetery office and funeral home to arrange a meeting with the family of the deceased, and to arrange burial within the Gates Of Peace Cemetery.

The funeral liaison will contact the *Chevra Kadisha* representative and liaise with the funeral home. The *Chevra Kadisha* committee representative will facilitate and carry out the proper religious practices of body preparation before burial.

The funeral liaison, in consultation with the cemetery, funeral home and family of the deceased will:

- set the time of funeral;
- send announcement to community;
- confirm Hebrew name of deceased;
- provide tallit (if required).

Please note, if a cemetery plot arrangement has not been pre-arranged by either the deceased or the family of the deceased, and the family wishes to have a Jewish burial then a plot can be purchased through the OJCA.

WHY PRE-ARRANGE A FUNERAL?

There are many advantages to this. When a loved one dies, we are often thrown into a state of chaos. At a time of mourning, it is always easier for the survivors if as many of the funeral plans as possible have been made in advance. By indicating exactly what you wish to your family at a less stressful time, you can make rational, logical decisions.



WHO CAN BE BURIED IN THE JEWISH CEMETERY?

Any Jewish person (matrilineal or patrilineal descent) can be buried in the cemetery. At the moment non-Jewish spouses and cremation remains are not allowed.

CAN I ARRANGE FOR MY SPOUSE AND I TO BE BURIED TOGETHER?

Yes. You can purchase two sites together and at the time of first death, the other site will be held for your future use.

CAN I CHOOSE THE LOCATION FOR MY PLOT?

No. The cemetery chair will allocate the location of the plot at time of passing.

CAN I SELL BACK MY PLOT?

Yes. If prices have increased since original purchase then the buyback price will be the original price plus interest accrued according to the BC Deposit Interest Calculator.

CAN I HAVE A JEWISH RITUAL PREPARATION?

Yes. It is important that your desires be known before your death. The *Chevra Kadisha* will honour your wishes as much as possible. Routinely, *Tahara* (ritual washing of the body) is conducted by the *Chevra Kadisha* at the funeral home. The deceased are clothed in *tachrichim* (white shrouds) and buried in a pine box. A small amount of Israeli earth (*afar*) is put in the coffin.

WILL A RABBI LEAD THE SERVICE?

The OJCA and Beth Shalom do not have a full time rabbi in Kelowna but you do have many options including:

1. Fly in an affiliated Rabbi from a surrounding city.
2. Have a layperson from the Beth Shalom lead.
3. Honour a family friend with leading the service.
4. Contact the Rabbi at Chabad Okanagan to lead the service.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS?

The current price for a plot within the Gates of Peace are:
OJC Members: \$5000 (Contact OJC for eligibility info).

Non-members: \$7000.

The following are included in the purchase:

A registered plot, *Chevra Kadisha*, shrouds, maintenance of grave site, tallit if required.

Arrangements for other services, such as reception, unveiling, etc. are the responsibility of the family. The OJC will assist with these arrangements whenever possible.

All **other costs** are paid directly to either Lakeview Cemetery or Valley View Funeral home and include:

opening/closing of ground, liner, grave marker, casket, transportation of family and transportation of deceased.

Total cost will be several thousand dollars. Families are encouraged to arrange burials while still healthy so that at the time of passing, the additional stress of financial burden is not put upon the shoulders of the family.