

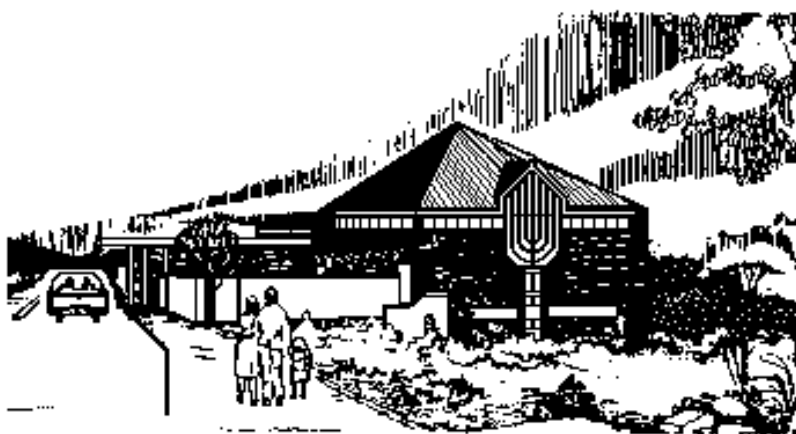
Congregation Shaara Tille

The Jewish Community Center Of Saratoga Springs

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Cemetery Rules and Fees

Cemetery Rules and Fees

CONGREGATION SHAARA TFILLE
SARATOGA JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER
CONGREGATION BEIS MASHE

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Cemetery Rules and Fees

I. Introduction

The Congregation Shaara Tfillle Cemetery, aka, The Saratoga Springs Jewish Community Center Cemetery, was founded over a half century ago to provide for halachic burial under Jewish laws. At the time, Congregation Shaara Tfillle was an Orthodox congregation. In 1991, when Congregation Shaara Tfillle affiliated with the Conservative movement, a portion of the (former) congregation remained as an Orthodox congregation (Beis Mashe). While Congregation Shaara Tfillle has accepted the responsibility for the care and maintenance of the cemetery, the members of Beis Mashe have the same rights for burial and plot acquisition under the same rules and fee schedules as the members of Shaara Tfillle. Throughout this document reference to qualified and unqualified members of Shaara Tfillle or “The Congregation” is intended to also include qualified members of Beis Mashe. Because of this dual eligibility many of the practices used for interment and/or cemetery maintenance follow the stricter of Orthodox or Conservative practice.

The cemetery chairperson will obtain a membership list from Beis Mashe annually for the purpose of identifying their qualification status for cemetery rights.

In 2010 additional land was acquired to provide for the future needs of the Jewish cemetery. It was the intention of the Congregation to set aside a portion of the new property, for the purpose of interment of intermarried couples, i.e., the non-Jewish spouses of Shaara Tfillle members (See Rules, II.2). This section of the property will be clearly separated from the Jewish cemetery and not be consecrated as a Jewish cemetery. Separate rules are adopted reflecting rules, fees and procedures comparable to those for the Jewish cemetery.

Cemetery Rules and Fees

II. Cemetery Rules

1. Only a person who is Jewish may be buried in the consecrated cemetery owned by Congregation Shaara Tfilla, The Jewish Community Center, 84 Weibel Avenue, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866, also known as the Jewish Community Center Cemetery.
2. A person who does not qualify for membership in the Congregation cannot purchase or reserve any burial plots. Under the rules of the Congregation and the Conservative Movement only Jews can be members of the Congregation. Only the Jewish spouse of an intermarried couple, although they may have a "Household" membership in the Congregation, is a Member of the Congregation.

Definition – Members of the Congregation: This applies to a husband, wife, and children who are under the age of 21 and living with their parents or full time students, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Congregation's constitution. This does not include family members other than those indicated.

Addendum for Intermarried Couples:

Household membership: The non-Jewish spouse has a right to a plot in the non-denominational section of the cemetery per fee schedule III.5.

Single Membership: The non-Jewish spouse has no rights to a plot in the non-denominational section of the cemetery.

3. An exception to purchasing a plot is made for an immediate family member who is Jewish, is either a son or daughter of a member of the congregation, is over 21 years of age, and is residing with the member. (See Fee Schedule III.2)
4. a) Purchase of plot for members: No rights to a burial plot shall be issued unless payment in full has been made. Plots reserved or purchased must be paid for within one year or prior to interment in the event of death.

b) Purchase of plot for non-members who are qualified for membership: No reservation or rights to a burial plot shall be valid until paid for in full.
5. All dues, fees and previous pledge donations owed to the Congregation by the deceased at the time of death shall be paid in full prior to the funeral services. In addition, burial costs (according to the appropriate fee schedule) shall be paid in full prior to moving the deceased to the cemetery. Payment shall be made in cash, certified check, or bank check.
6. The Rabbi of Congregation Shaara Tfilla shall be informed of the desired date and time for the funeral. The Rabbi's decisions are final on all matters relating to religious, burial, and cemetery practices.
7. The burial is to be conducted according to traditional Conservative Jewish law, as prescribed by United Synagogue. A recognized Chevrah Kaddisha shall prepare all

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persons for burial. In the event that a Chevrah Kaddisha other than the local society conducts the preparation, a certificate shall be sent to the congregation from that other Chevrah Kaddisha prior to the burial for approval by the Rabbi of Congregation Shaara Tfilla.

The Rabbi will consider the recommendations in "The Guide to Jewish Funerals" as published by the Congregational Standards Committee of USCJ. The final decision is up to the Rabbi.

8. A headstone must be erected within eighteen (18) months of the date of the funeral. If not, then a marker will be selected by the cemetery chairperson and placed on the grave using the headstone deposit for this purpose.
9. A member, who at the time of death was a member in good standing, with all his/her obligations paid to the congregation, shall be entitled to a next-in-line gravesite, i.e., free of charge.

Definition – Next-in-Line: This refers to an available, unreserved gravesite as selected by the cemetery chairperson. The purchase of two (2) adjacent graves is not considered next-in-line and must be reserved (see rule #10 below).

10. Plots other than next-in-line: Members who wish to reserve specific burial plots may do so. The reservation fee is \$500 per plot in addition to the prorated membership assessment fee (see rule #11 below).
11. Membership Assessment Fee: Eligibility for burial is dependent upon Congregational membership in good standing for the prior four years. If membership has been for less than four years the missing years must be purchased at the current Household Membership rate up to the required four year total.
12. Plots purchased or reserved will be assigned to an individual name/person and cannot be sold or reassigned to another person. Unwanted plots shall be returned to the Congregation with no reimbursement of fees, for reissuance to another person. Plots returned to the Congregation will be acknowledged as a charitable donation to the Congregation at the current cost.
13. The Rabbi and his/her immediate family living at his/her residence as described above shall be considered members of the Congregation with respect to burial rights in the congregation's cemetery. The four year membership requirement rule (#11) will be waived for the Rabbi and his eligible, immediate family.

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III. Cemetery Fee Schedule

All fees shown below are per grave.

All fees associated with the cemetery shall be deposited into the cemetery account and funds will be dispersed as appropriate.

1. Members

a. Members of the Congregation with four (4) or more years of membership

Next-in-Line Grave.....	No Charge
Chevrah Kaddisha.....	\$250
Opening of Grave.....	\$450
Winter Months – Additional for Frozen Ground	\$100
Meal of Comfort (optional).....	\$350 Min
Deposit for Headstone (reimbursable, if requested)	\$400
Perpetual Care of Grave.....	\$700
Incidental Expenses (if incurred)	\$25 Min
Synagogue Expenses.....	\$200
Services at Synagogue (optional).....	\$500
Services of Rabbi (at the discretion of the family)	No Charge

b. Members of the Congregation with less than four (4) years of Membership

Membership assessment fee (see II.11)	As Required
Next-in-Line Grave.....	No Charge
Chevrah Kaddisha.....	\$250
Opening of Grave.....	\$450
Winter Months – Additional for Frozen Ground	\$100
Meal of Comfort (optional).....	\$350 Min
Deposit for Headstone (reimbursable, if requested)	\$400
Perpetual Care of Grave.....	\$700
Incidental Expenses (if incurred)	\$25 Min
Synagogue Expenses.....	\$200
Services at Synagogue (optional).....	\$500
Services of Rabbi (at the discretion of the family)	No Charge

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2. Immediate Family Who Are Not Members

These fees only apply to relations of those listed in Cemetery Rules, section II.3.

Membership assessment fee: An amount equal to two (2) years Household membership dues of Congregation Shaara Tfillle, in force at the time of purchase.

Chevrah Kaddisha.....	\$275
Cost of Grave.....	\$500
Opening of Grave.....	\$500
Winter Months – Additional for Frozen Ground.....	\$100
Meal of Comfort.....	\$350 Min
Deposit on Headstone (reimbursable, if requested).....	\$500
Perpetual Care of Grave.....	\$1,000
Incidental Expenses (if incurred).....	\$25 Min
Synagogue Expenses.....	\$300
Services at Synagogue.....	\$500
Services of Rabbi.....	\$500

3. Non-Members

a. Non-Members Being Buried Here

When a non-member purchases a plot, payment shall be made in cash, certified check, or bank check at the time of purchase.

Non-Membership assessment: An amount equal to four (4) years Household Membership dues of Congregation Shaara Tfillle, in force at the time of purchase plus the additional cost of the grave.

Chevrah Kaddisha.....	\$400
Cost of Grave.....	\$500
Opening of Grave.....	\$550
Winter Months – Additional for Frozen Ground.....	\$100
Deposit on Headstone (reimbursable, if requested).....	\$500
Perpetual Care of Grave.....	\$1,000
Incidental Expenses (if incurred).....	\$25 Min
Synagogue Expenses.....	\$300
Services of Rabbi.....	\$500

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b. Non-Members Being Buried Elsewhere

This applies to non-members who are prepared for burial by our Congregation but will be buried elsewhere.

Cevrah Kaddisha	\$400
Incidental Expenses (if incurred)	\$25 Min
Synagogue Expenses	\$300
Services of Rabbi (as required)	\$500

c. Non-Members Owning Burial Plots

This applies to non-members who own burial plots and who have been properly prepared for burial in accordance with the Congregation's practices (Chevrah Kaddisha).

An amount equal to two (2) years Family membership dues of Congregation Shaara Tfilla, in force at the time of death.

Chevrah Kaddisha (if required)	\$400
Opening of Grave	\$550
Winter Months – Additional for Frozen Ground	\$100
Deposit on Headstone (reimbursable if requested)	\$500
Perpetual Care of Grave	\$1,000
Incidental Expenses (if incurred)	\$25 Min
Synagogue Expenses	\$300
Services of Rabbi	\$500

Cemetery Rules and Fees

4. Perpetual Care

Definition - Activities will include keeping the gravesites level wherever possible, mowing the grass, and keeping the entire cemetery generally attractive in appearance. Nothing else is implied.

Not permitted: walls elevated above ground level, bushes or plantings (with the exception of ground cover plantings).

5. Non-Sectarian Section

The Non-Sectarian cemetery is located on a plot of land adjacent to Synagogue property. The Synagogue has purchased sufficient plots for use by non-Jewish spouses of members of the Congregation.

A Jewish spouse may be buried next to his/her non-Jewish spouse if both gravesites have been purchased/reserved and the Jewish spouse (if surviving) has accepted that he/she will not be buried in a Jewish cemetery.

A person who is not affiliated with the Congregation cannot be buried in the non-sectarian portion of the Cemetery. There are no exceptions to this rule.

Membership assessment fee applies here. See section II.11

Next-in-Line Grave.....	No Charge
Opening of Grave.....	\$450
Winter Months – Additional for Frozen Ground	\$100
Meal of Comfort (optional).....	\$350 Min
Deposit for Headstone (reimbursable if requested)	\$400
Perpetual Care of Grave.....	\$700
Incidental Expenses (if incurred)	\$25 Min
Synagogue Expenses.....	\$200
Services at Synagogue (optional).....	\$500
Services of Rabbi (at the discretion of the family)	No Charge

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IV. Sitters for the Deceased

Note: Sitters for a Jewish deceased prior to the funeral are the obligation of the family, but every effort will be made to assist in the mitzvah by members of the Congregation. This applies for members of the Congregation only. If voluntary sitters are not available, a maximum fee of \$15 per hour will be charged until the time of the funeral.

V. Use of the Synagogue Sanctuary for Funerals

1. Only members of the Congregation may hold funeral services in the Sanctuary of the Congregation or in the building. Services for non-Jewish spouses of members of the Congregation with a Household membership may be held in the Social Hall.
2. Funeral services for non-members may not be held in the Congregation building.
3. Use of the building for funeral services shall be at the option of the immediate family members.
4. Use of the Synagogue for funeral services shall be available only when there has not been any scheduled event for those rooms or when Hebrew School classes are not in session.
5. No preparation of the deceased for burial may be performed in the Congregation Shaara Tfilla building.
6. The Casket with the deceased shall not be allowed into the building earlier than two (2) hours prior to the scheduled funeral service.
7. No viewing of the deceased is permitted in the building.

VI. Interment of Cremated Remains

Cremation is against Jewish tradition and is not supported by Orthodox or by Conservative Judaism. Therefore cremated remains are not allowed in this cemetery.

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VII. Meal of Comfort

This gathering after the interment is intended to allow the friends and family of the deceased to share their feelings and offer support and comfort to those in mourning. It is not intended to be a full meal, a sit down dinner, or an endless buffet. A simple buffet is prepared by the Congregation's volunteers.

The family of the deceased must meet with Congregation's office manager during the process of funeral arrangements to discuss the meal.

1. The meal is an optional offering for a fee.
2. The community room must be available, that is, not already scheduled for another event.
3. There must be "workers" available to ready the community room, prepare the meal, present the food and drinks on the buffet tables, and clean up afterwards.
4. The family must estimate the number of people that might attend the Meal-of-Comfort so that there will be sufficient food prepared for the event.
5. The basic charge in the fee schedule is for 50-60 people and is the minimum charge for all the work involved. There is no refund if less people attend the meal. If more people attend, many more than estimated, there is no way to create more food. We are neither a restaurant nor a caterer; all the prepared food set out on the buffet tables.
6. The family will review a basic menu and the estimate of attendees. The menu offerings will be at the discretion of the Congregation but we will be flexible in deference to the family's requests. An estimate that exceeds 60 people will incur an increased charge for the meal. Special requests, if granted, will also incur an additional fee. The family will sign a document that states what was agreed to, i.e., the proposed menu, the number of attendees, and the total fee. This is to prevent any misunderstanding of what was expected from the Congregation.