

# Ma Nishma מה נשמע

The Newsletter of Beit Knesset Shalom

SPECIAL MID-YEAR  
EDITION

2009

## Death and Dying

Many members have made enquiries regarding funeral arrangements and this special edition newsletter has been designed to answer many of those questions.

Beit Knesset Shalom's procedures for funerals are guided by the principles of Progressive Judaism. We conduct services for both Progressive and Orthodox Jews and those not affiliated with any synagogue.

When a loved one dies there are many decisions and arrangements to be made, all of which can be difficult in a time of grief. To assist, we've put together this special newsletter to guide you through the process.

### Timing

Judaism encourages burial as soon after death as possible. Obviously there are extenuating circumstances (such as family members arriving from out of town) that could delay the process. Contact Cannon & Cripps immediately and advise them that the funeral is to be Progressive and most importantly that it is to be conducted by Beit Knesset Shalom. They will handle all arrangements from there on.

### Taking the deceased's wishes into account

Remember to check the deceased's will or other written instructions for special wishes about their funeral or what should happen to their body. The final decision is usually up to the executor/administrator or nearest relative.

### Using a funeral director

Cannon and Cripps is the only approved funeral director for Jewish funerals. (see details page 2)

### Chevra Kadisha

In Brisbane, one Chevra Kadisha (Jewish burial society—full details page 4) provides for any Jew to be buried. There are three Jewish cemeteries - Toowong (no new burials), Mt Gravatt Monumental Section 4C and the Progressive Lawn Section L9. (see details page 3)

### Burial or Cremation

Traditional Jewish Halacha does not recognize cremation as a valid form of treating the dead. However, given current Progressive policy, we will officiate at pre-cremation services under certain conditions. If a family elects to have a cremation then Beit Knesset Shalom's policy based on compassion is that we will provide a funeral service at a chapel not attached to a crematorium but that all arrangements following the service are strictly between the family and the funeral directors. Tahara is not performed prior to cremations. All burial services are to be conducted in either the Chevra Kadisha Chapel Mt Gravatt (conditions apply), Cannon & Cripps Chapel Kelvin Grove or the Mt. Gravatt Cemetery BCC Chapel. Pre-cremation services cannot be conducted in the Chevra Kadisha chapel.

## Associated Costs—Funeral Directors

**Contact: Robin Drury**

**Manager – Cannon & Cripps Funerals a George Hartnett Funeral Home**

270 Kelvin Grove Road – Kelvin Grove

P. 07 3356 4277, F. 07 3356 9087, M. 04 1874 0432

rdrury@invocare.com.au

[www.georgehartnettfunerals.com.au](http://www.georgehartnettfunerals.com.au)

George Hartnett Funeral Homes philosophy is to help you in your time of need, to guide you through the options available and assist you to make the right choice to suit your spiritual, cultural, emotional and financial needs.

To do that they:

- Offer professional and caring funeral director services
- Cater for the needs of different cultures and religious denominations
- A prearranged funeral service so you can be assured your wishes and your family are properly looked after
- Professional and caring staff are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Provide immaculate on the day services including hearses.

### **Costs**

Cannon and Cripps Professional Fees -	1496.00
Mortuary Use	335.50
Jewish Ashkar coffin	1045.00

In addition to the above the following costs may be appropriate: -

### **Burials:**

Burial fee (BCC) (new grave)	2750.00
Burial fee (BCC) (if reserved)	1660.00

### **Cremations:**

Cremation fee (Mt Thompson or A/Creek if service has been in C&C chapel)	445.50
Cremation fee (if Pinnaroo or Mt Gravatt crematorium and chapel are used)	740.00

### **Other expenses:**

Cremation Certificate (if required)	71.50
Legal Death certificate	36.30

## **Associated Costs—Cemetery**

### **Contact Mt Gravatt Cemetery**

582 Mains Road, Macgregor

Ph 34037765

[www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/BCC:BASE::pc=PC](http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/BCC:BASE::pc=PC) 907

The Mount Gravatt Cemetery opened in 1918. It is situated within native bushland alongside the Toohey State Forest.

The Mount Gravatt Cemetery and Crematorium takes pride in serving the needs of Brisbane's ethnic communities with the cemetery divided into religious and cultural sections. Some of these sections include Chinese, Vietnamese, Russian, Jewish, Serbian, Croatian, Catholic and Muslim.

The cemetery offers burials in lawn and monumental sites.

The Mount Gravatt Crematorium opened in 1999 and offers a chapel, which can be used for either cremation or burial services. It includes a reception area where refreshments can be provided after the funeral service but most importantly the chapel is not attached to a crematorium..

The Lawn Cemetery also features a sandstone rock memorial garden for the interment of ashes.

### **Burial Plots**

Mt. Gravatt Cemetery 4C Monumental Section (Chevra Kaddisha—conditions apply)

L9 Lawn Section (Progressive-any congregation and the unaffiliated)

and Memorial Gardens (Progressive-any congregation and the unaffiliated) for burial of ashes.

**COSTS**

Plots 4C and L9 \$2750 for new graves \$1660 for previously purchased before 1995 for re-interment. Ashes interment \$1100 all inclusive (includes plaque etc.) price revision is currently underway.

**Memorial plaques and urns**

Brisbane City Council offers a range of plaques for graves and ashes memorials.

**Plaques for graves \$430-\$2000**

Plaques for lawn graves are mounted on a concrete base at no extra charge. Granite bases are available for an additional charge.

An application for a memorial plaque will be posted to the burial rights holder or applicant about 10 days after the funeral service. Memorial plaques take about four to five weeks for completion and placement on the grave.

**Plaques for ash memorials**

Plaques are cast in bronze and are placed with the ash memorial. The cost of plaques is included within BCC prices for ash memorials.

**Contact information regarding cremations**

For more information phone Brisbane City Cemeteries and Crematoria on 07 3407 8128.

## Brisbane Chevra Kadisha בריזבן חברה קדישא

### **Use of Tahara and Chapel for Jewish Burials as at 1 June 2009**

1. Tahara will be afforded to any member of the Jewish faith. (i)
2. Burial in the Monumental Section 4C will be available to any person who is Halachically Jewish (ii)
3. Tahara can only be performed by persons who are Halachically Jewish and have satisfied the Chairman of Tahara (men or women) that they are competent to do so.
4. Tahara must be performed according to Halachic Law.
5. The Chapel at Mt Gravatt will be available to any Jewish Congregation to conduct burial services for burials only in Section 4C or the non-orthodox Jewish cemetery Section L9 at Mt Gravatt.(iii). Burial Services for burials in Section 4C must conform to the standard Orthodox Service currently used in the Chapel & officiated by an Halachically Jewish male.
6. Plots wishing to be purchased in Section 4C must initially be approved by the BCK(iv).
7. The BCK scale of fees will apply for use of Tahara and the Chapel (v).
8. The erection of memorials in 4C will be in accordance with the by-laws of the BCK (vi).
9. The wording and any inscription on the memorial stone must be approved by the BCK.(vii)
10. The notice in the newspaper must read "Under the auspices of the Brisbane Chevra Kadisha".
11. A person must be made responsible for securing the Chapel after each use. A set of keys will be provided to a nominated person who will be ultimately responsible to ensure the security of the chapel and its accoutrements.

**NOTES:**

1. The BCK may need confirmation as to the deceased Jewish identity
2. As described in the Shulchan Aruch.
3. No BCK facilities will be available if the deceased is to be cremated
4. A member of the BCK management committee will approve the plot purchase upon satisfying the necessary criteria.
5. Current fee schedule is: \$200 if a member of a congregation and the BCK; \$300 if a member of either & \$400 if not a member of either .A copy of the specifications will be available upon request.
6. The stone mason, Jones and Travers or who ever the stone mason might be, will forward the proposed wording and any inscriptions to the BCK for checking and approval before engraving.

## YIZKOR

The Yizkor service, is both solemn and powerful. It is a public service of remembrance for deceased members of the community. A practice which began in ancient times, Yizkor has remained an integral part of the services held over Passover, Shavuot and Sukkot as well as on Yom Kippur. During these services we read out the names of departed loved ones from a Yizkor list. If you have any additions please phone 33988843 and leave the information on the message bank.

Yizkor consists of a number of prayers as follows:

### 1. *Yizkor*

The Yizkor prayer asks God to remember the soul of a departed relative. The name of the deceased is mentioned in the prayer.

### 2. *El Male Rachamim*

This memorial prayer asks God to grant perfect rest to the souls of deceased relatives, again mentioned by name.

### 3. *Av Harachamim*

In this memorial prayer God is asked to remember the many Jewish communities destroyed throughout the ages.

## YAHRTZEIT

Yahrzeit is a commemoration of the death of a family member by a mourner (the child, sibling, spouse or parent of the deceased).

The date of the Yahrzeit, which is calculated according to the Hebrew calendar, is the anniversary of the death, not the burial.

The anniversary of the death of a loved one is naturally a solemn day, and Judaism helps the mourner experience this pain and also honours the memory of the deceased via Yahrzeit rituals.

The main expressions of the Yahrzeit is reciting Kaddish Yatom or Mourner's Kaddish and the lighting of a Yahrzeit candle.

Yahrzeit candles are available at IGA Carindale, at Pennisi Cuisine Balaclava Street Wolloongabba and in the synagogue gift shop.

If you are observing a Yahrzeit please advise us the details on 07 33988843 for inclusion in the relevant Shabbat service.

### Checklist and Important Contacts

#### **1. For all burials in the Progressive Section L9 or for all cremations.**

Upon a death immediately telephone Cannon & Cripps **07 3356 4277** and advise that the funeral is to be Progressive **AND** conducted by Beit Knesset Shalom synagogue. They will organise everything for you from this point of contact.

#### **2. For all burials in the Monumental Section 4C.**

Upon a death you should contact the Brisbane Chevra Kadisha **John Goldman 07 3841 4510 or 0411 256 446** **AND** **Garek Fysch on 07 38560155.**

#### **3. To purchase a plot in Progressive Section L9 or to arrange burial of ashes in the Beit Knesset Shalom Memorial Gardens or to organise plaques.**

You should telephone Mt Gravatt Cemetery **Jodie Goldsmith on 07 34037765** and she will make all the arrangements.

An excellent booklet on bereavement compiled by Rabbi Fred Morgan may be found at :

[www.jewishfunerals.org.au/planning Ahead.php?type](http://www.jewishfunerals.org.au/planning Ahead.php?type)