



Bet Aviv

The Meeting House
5885 Robert Oliver Place
Columbia, MD 21045

BET AVIV FUNERAL POLICY-Revised November, 2014

Introduction

In times of loss, Bet Aviv will make every reasonable effort to bring comfort to the family of the deceased. The policy articulated below is intended to give effect to that mission.

For guidance to the bereaved, it is customary, and it is an act of tzedakah to keep alive the sacred memory of the deceased, to make a donation to Bet Aviv following the mourning period.

For further information and guidance, please contact a member of the Bet Aviv Shiva Committee. Contact information is available on the website or through the Bet Aviv office.

Funeral

1. Bet Aviv will provide, at no cost to a congregant, the services of our Rabbi or Cantor to conduct a funeral service in the Baltimore/Washington area for any deceased congregant of Bet Aviv or a deceased child / grandchild of a congregant of Bet Aviv. A congregant is any current Member of Bet Aviv.
- 2.. If the family of the deceased requests both our Rabbi and Cantor to conduct the funeral service and both are available, then Bet Aviv will make available at no cost to the congregant one of the clergy to conduct the funeral service and the family of the deceased will pay to Bet Aviv the other at the rate set for clergy by the Baltimore Board of Rabbis.
3. If the family of the deceased wants either our Rabbi or Cantor to conduct the funeral service in the local geographical area (and the Rabbi or Cantor is available) along with another clergy not connected with Bet Aviv, then Bet Aviv will make available at no cost to the congregant the services of our Rabbi or Cantor and the family of the deceased will be financially responsible for the other clergy conducting the funeral service.
4. Our first priority is to use our Rabbi or Cantor to conduct the funeral service. If neither our Rabbi nor Cantor is available, then Bet Aviv will arrange for and pay a single local clergy person to conduct the service up to the honorarium rate established for such services by the Baltimore Board of Rabbis.
5. Except as provided in 4 above, Bet Aviv will not pay any funeral expenses where either the Rabbi or the Cantor is available to conduct the service.
6. Bet Aviv is willing to provide other non-financial assistance to the family of the deceased.
7. Bet Aviv will not pay clergy costs or transportation costs for funerals outside the Baltimore/Washington area.

8. Bet Aviv will not pay for room costs associated with a funeral service or reception (including a room at the Oakland Mills Interfaith Center).

9. A congregant may contract with Bet Aviv to provide clergy to conduct funeral services for a parent or non-congregant spouse, provided that either the Rabbi or Cantor are available to conduct the service. The congregant shall be obligated to pay the officiating clergy for such services, at the honorarium rate established by the Baltimore Board of Rabbis. If both the Rabbi and Cantor are desired for such a service, the same rate shall apply to each individually.

Shiva

1. Bet Aviv will arrange to lead or conduct up to three (3) Shiva services for *a deceased congregant of Bet Aviv, deceased child/grandchild of a congregant of Bet Aviv, or a deceased parent of a congregant of Bet Aviv*, as requested by the bereaved.

2. Shiva services, if requested by the family, will be arranged by Bet Aviv and lay-led. Books for the service will be provided on loan for the Shiva services.

3. Bet Aviv will not pay for room costs associated with a Shiva service.

Unveiling

Bet Aviv will not pay for clergy costs for an unveiling service. If requested, and if clergy are available, a congregant may contract with Bet Aviv to provide clergy to perform the unveiling service at the family's expense in the amount established by the Baltimore Board of Rabbis for a funeral service. At the request of the bereaved, assistance will be provided in developing content for a self-led unveiling service.

Responsibility

Bet Aviv will only pay for costs as outlined in this policy. All other expenses will be the responsibility of the family of the deceased.

Implementation

Implementation of this policy shall be through contact with the Shiva Committee **or** through contact with or a voice mail left at the Bet Aviv office in the Meeting House. A member of the Shiva Committee will review the Bet Aviv Funeral Policy with the family of the deceased and assist the bereaved with its implementation.