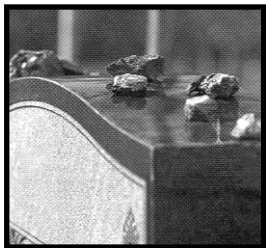


Dedication Of The Temple Shalom Cemetery At Garden of Remembrance



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WHY ARE THERE STONES ON THIS STONE?

Unlike people from other religions, Jews traditionally do not place flowers at gravesites. Instead, we often place stones on the grave or headstone. Origins of the custom are uncertain, but in researching

the subject, it was like asking 3 Rabbis a question – I got 5 answers back! This custom seems to relate back to ancient times when Jews (and other ancient peoples) used a pile of stones to mark their graves. However, the most common explanation is that placing stones is a symbolic act indicating someone has come to visit and the deceased has not been forgotten. Honoring the dead, never forgetting their presence in our lives is considered a mitzvah.

In fact, during the Holocaust, Jewish cemeteries were desecrated and in most places Jews were not allowed to bury their dead in their own cemeteries. It is said that Jews began leaving stones on the graves of their loved ones so that they remembered and honored the deceased but could not be seen or caught by the Nazis at the gravesite. We remember and we honor.

That's interesting, yes? "So what does this have to do with me?" you ask. Over the last several months, the Temple has put great attention and effort towards the purchase and dedication of our own Temple Shalom Cemetery at Garden of Remembrance. This is not only a personal decision, but also an issue of communal responsibility and support. As we have grown and matured as a congregation, this step is a natural one for us.

The Temple Shalom Cemetery at Garden of Remembrance is our congregation's way of honoring our congregants, their families and loved ones who have passed from this life. In fact, Temple members on this year's Congregational tour of Israel collected earth from all over Israel to add to our Cemetery, forever linking us together in life and death. Judaism teaches us that death is not only a natural fact but is the very key to giving life meaning. In the Book of Genesis, Abraham buys a cemetery plot for his beloved Sarah, and thus began the powerful connection between Jewish values about death and the affirmation of life. Occasions such as this Dedication provide us an opportunity for serious discussion of some of the most powerful spiritual questions. We hope to continue this dialogue beyond the Dedication Ceremony.

Please join our clergy, the Shir Shalom Choir, Temple officers, and fellow congregants on Sunday, October 3 at 2:00 PM, for the dedication of The Temple Shalom Cemetery at Garden of Remembrance (see below for directions).

We will all have the opportunity to dedicate this peaceful, lovely land to renewing our sense of community support and acknowledging our love of life and our respect for those who came before us.

Directions to Temple Shalom Cemetery At Garden of Remembrance:

Take I-270 north to Exit 18 (Route 121 north), travel one-half mile on Route 121 to Route 355. Turn LEFT (north) on Route 355, take I-270 north to Exit 18 (Route 121 north), travel one-half mile on Route one mile, turn LEFT on Comus Road. The Memorial Park entrance is on the right just over the Interstate 270 Bridge. The trip takes approximately 25 minutes from the Temple.