
A COMMUNITY REFERENCE · PREVIEW · OCTOBER 2026

Jewish Burial Guide

Greater Baltimore

Every documented Jewish cemetery within about 35 miles of Baltimore, town by town, with what each has confirmed — the Jewish funeral homes that serve the area — and what to do in the first hours.

48 cemeteries **18** towns **2** funeral homes

PREVIEW EDITION — this guide has not yet been printed or distributed. The print date and final edition will be confirmed when the community partnership is signed; the listings themselves are live at everjewish.com.

A starting point for a hard week, and a better one for a calm year. It does not rank or recommend. It says what is documented about each cemetery, what its office has confirmed directly, and what a family should still ask.



The live guide, kept current.

Scan to open it on your phone — every cemetery in this guide has its own code beside its listing.

Ever*Jewish*

An independent reference of Jewish cemeteries and funeral homes · everjewish.com

If you are holding this today

In the first hours there are two decisions that must be made today and many that can wait. The order below is the order that spares a family the most.

1 Call the Jewish funeral home first — not the cemetery.

The funeral home brings the deceased into their care, contacts the cemetery and the rabbi, arranges the chevra kadisha and a shomer, and knows what every office in this guide needs. If a hospital or hospice asks which funeral home, name a Jewish one; if the death was at home, the funeral home tells you whom to call.

2 Call your rabbi, or ask the funeral home to.

The rabbi guides the family through the day, leads the service, and answers the questions about custom and law that come up in the hours ahead. If the family has no rabbi, the funeral home and the Federation's chaplaincy can find one.

3 Decide where.

If there is a family plot or a synagogue cemetery, say so; the funeral home confirms the space is available. If not, the cemeteries in this guide marked as selling to the public or confirmed by their office are the place to start, and the funeral home will call the offices for you. Take the time the family needs to choose well; the funeral home and the rabbi will tell you what timing is possible.

4 Decide when.

Jewish tradition favors burial soon after death, and funerals are not held on Shabbat or festivals. Within that, the funeral home proposes a time once the cemetery and rabbi are confirmed, and the family's needs — people travelling, a rabbi's availability — shape it. Your rabbi will guide you on what is right for your family.

5 Let the rest wait.

The monument, the wording, the meal of consolation menu, the thank-you notes, the estate — none of it belongs to today. Ask one relative or friend to hold the list of what can wait, and to keep it away from the mourners.

Decide today

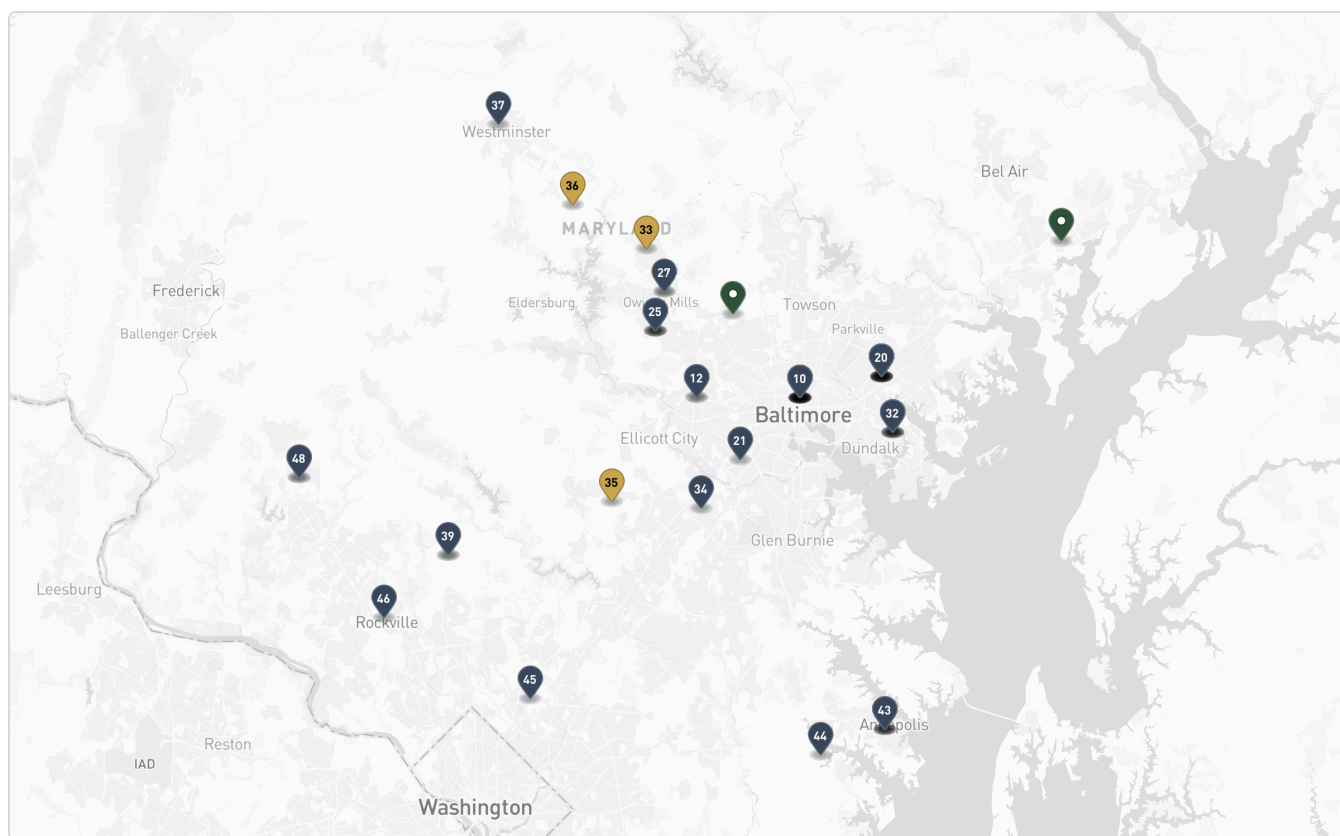
- Which Jewish funeral home
- Which cemetery, and that a space is confirmed
- Who the rabbi is
- The day and hour, once the cemetery confirms

Bring, or have at hand

- The full Hebrew name of the deceased and of their parents, if known
- Any deed, contract or letter about an existing plot
- The name of the synagogue, if any
- A photo ID for the person making arrangements
- The names and phone numbers of the immediate family

Jewish tradition generally avoids autopsy and embalming. If a hospital raises either, ask your rabbi before deciding — hospitals accommodate the question when it is asked promptly, and a Jewish funeral home will know what to do.

The area 48 cemeteries · 18 towns · numbers match the listings



● Verified by the cemetery
 ● Confirmed by the cemetery
 ● Detailed listing
 ● Basic listing
 ● Jewish funeral home

How to read the listings

Each cemetery carries one of four labels, the same words used on everjewish.com. They describe how much has been confirmed — never quality, and never a ranking. Verification cannot change what a page says about a cemetery; it only adds the cemetery's own confirmed details.

● **✓ Verified by the cemetery** — identity verified; the cemetery keeps its own page current.
● **Detailed listing** — compiled by EverJewish from the cemetery's own website.

● **Confirmed by the cemetery** — its office confirmed availability, contact and hours with EverJewish, free.
● **Basic listing** — location and phone on record; details not yet confirmed.

As of this edition, **46 of the 48 cemeteries** in the area have not yet confirmed whether plots are available. Their offices can confirm details with EverJewish at no cost, and the next edition will show it. Families: always call the office before deciding.

Baltimore, MD · 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 · 4 mi
 Woodlawn, MD · 11, 12 · 6 mi
 Rosedale, MD · 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 · 8 mi
 Arbutus, MD · 21 · 8 mi

Randallstown, MD · 22, 23, 24, 25 · 8 mi
 Owings Mills, MD · 26, 27 · 9 mi
 Dundalk, MD · 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 · 10 mi
 Reisterstown, MD · 33 · 11 mi

Elkridge, MD · 34 · 12 mi

Columbia, MD · 35 · 15 mi

Finksburg, MD · 36 · 17 mi

Westminster, MD · 37 · 25 mi

Olney, MD · 38, 39 · 27 mi

Annapolis, MD · 40, 41, 42, 43 · 27 mi

Riva, MD · 44 · 28 mi

Adelphi, MD · 45 · 29 mi

Rockville, MD · 46 · 33 mi

Clarksburg, MD · 47, 48 · 34 mi

Cemeteries by town

nearest to Baltimore first

Baltimore, MD 4 mi from Baltimore · 10 cemeteries

1 Arlington Cemetery

CONFIRMED BY THE CEMETERY

Rogers Avenue west of Reisterstown Road, Baltimore, MD · (410) 486-6400 ext. 309 · myoffe@chizukamuno.org · Chizuk Amuno Congregation

Selling plots to the public · confirmed by the cemetery

Visiting hours: Sunday–Friday 8 am–5 pm; closed Saturdays and major Jewish holidays

Contact for families: Marsha Yoffe, Cemetery Director — 410-486-6400 ext. 309 · myoffe@chizukamuno.org

Confirmed by the cemetery, Marsha Yoffe · Sep 2026



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

2 B'nai Israel Cemetery

DETAILED LISTING

3701 Southern Avenue · (410) 732-5454 · cemetery@jewishdowntown.org · Congregational · B'nai Israel

Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

3 Baltimore Hebrew Cemetery

DETAILED LISTING

Berrymans Lane, Reisterstown MD and 2100 Belair Rd, Baltimore MD · (410) 764-1587 ext. 223 · (410) 925-5784 · jwindman@baltimorehebrew.org · Baltimore Hebrew Congregation

Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

4 Oheb Shalom Cemetery

DETAILED LISTING

O'Donnell Street, Baltimore and Berrymans Lane, Reisterstown, MD · (410) 358-0105 · info@hsosc-baltimore.org · Congregational · Har Sinai - Oheb Shalom Congregation

Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

5 Beth Tfiloh Cemetery

BASIC LISTING — DETAILS NOT YET CONFIRMED

5800 Windsor Mill Rd, Gwynn Oak, Maryland 21207 · (410) 653-8900 · Standalone Jewish cemetery · Congregational · Administered via Sol Levinson & Bros directory

Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

6 Druid Ridge Cemetery

BASIC LISTING — DETAILS NOT YET CONFIRMED

7900 Park Heights Avenue · (410) 486-5300

Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

7 Hebrew Friendship Cemetery

BASIC LISTING — DETAILS NOT YET CONFIRMED

3600 East Baltimore Street · (443) 819-8152 · Standalone Jewish cemetery

Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

8 Hebrew Orthodox Cemetery BASIC LISTING — DETAILS NOT YET CONFIRMED
6800 German Hill Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21222 · (443) 819-8152 · Standalone Jewish cemetery · Jewish Cemetery Association of Greater Baltimore
Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

9 Ohel Yaakov Cemetery BASIC LISTING — DETAILS NOT YET CONFIRMED
6700 Bowleys Lane, Baltimore, Maryland 21237 · (443) 819-8152 · Standalone Jewish cemetery · Congregational · Jewish Cemetery Association of Greater Baltimore
Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

10 Ohr Knesseth Israel Cemetery BASIC LISTING — DETAILS NOT YET CONFIRMED
6843 German Hill Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21222 · (443) 819-8152 · Standalone Jewish cemetery · Jewish Cemetery Association of Greater Baltimore
Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.



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& to ask the office

Woodlawn, MD 6 mi from Baltimore · 2 cemeteries

11 Hebrew Young Men's Cemetery BASIC LISTING — DETAILS NOT YET CONFIRMED
5824 Windsor Mill Road
Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

12 Shaarei Tfiloh Cemetery BASIC LISTING — DETAILS NOT YET CONFIRMED
5800 Windsor Mill Road, Woodlawn, MD 21207 · (410) 413-2206 · blavon@btfiloh.org · Congregational · Shaarei Tfiloh
Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.



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& to ask the office

Rosedale, MD 8 mi from Baltimore · 8 cemeteries

13 Adath Yeshurun Cemetery BASIC LISTING — DETAILS NOT YET CONFIRMED
6700 Bowleys Lane · (443) 819-8152 · Congregational · Adath Yeshurun
Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

14 Agudas Achim Anshe Sfard Cemetery BASIC LISTING — DETAILS NOT YET CONFIRMED
Hamilton Avenue · Congregational · Agudas Achim Anshe Sfard
Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

15 Agudath Israel of Baltimore Cemetery

BASIC LISTING — DETAILS NOT YET CONFIRMED



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

6347 Hamilton Ave, Rosedale, Maryland 21237 · (410) 653-8900 · Standalone Jewish cemetery · Congregational · Administered via Sol Levinson & Bros directory

Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.

16 Anshe Neisen Cemetery

BASIC LISTING — DETAILS NOT YET CONFIRMED



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

6700 Hamilton Avenue, Rosedale, Maryland 21237 · (443) 819-8152 · Jewish section within a larger cemetery · Congregational · Jewish Cemetery Association of Greater Baltimore

Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.

17 Beth Yehuda Congregation Cemetery

BASIC LISTING — DETAILS NOT YET CONFIRMED



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

6700 Bowleys Lane, Rosedale, Maryland 21237 · (443) 819-8152 · Jewish section within a larger cemetery · Congregational · Jewish Cemetery Association of Greater Baltimore

Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.

18 Har Sinai Cemetery

BASIC LISTING — DETAILS NOT YET CONFIRMED



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

11405 Garrison Forest Rd · (410) 653-8900

Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.

19 Harford Jewish Center Cemetery

BASIC LISTING — DETAILS NOT YET CONFIRMED



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

Pikesville, Maryland (JCA office) · (443) 819-8152 · steve@jcabaltimore.org · Standalone Jewish cemetery

Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.

20 United Hebrew Cemetery

BASIC LISTING — DETAILS NOT YET CONFIRMED



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

3901 Washington Blvd · (410) 653-8900

Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.

Arbutus, MD 8 mi from Baltimore · 1 cemetery

21 Anshe Emunah Aitz Chaim Cemetery

BASIC LISTING — DETAILS NOT YET CONFIRMED



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

3979 Washington Blvd, Halethorpe, Maryland 21227 · (410) 653-8900 · Jewish section within a larger cemetery · Congregational · Administered via Sol Levinson & Bros directory

Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.

Randallstown, MD 8 mi from Baltimore · 4 cemeteries

22 Beth El Memorial Park

CONFIRMED BY THE CEMETERY

9801 Liberty Rd, Randallstown, MD 21133 · (410) 484-0411 ext. 1404 · Congregational · Beth El Congregation, Baltimore

Selling plots to the public · confirmed by the cemetery — Accepts new burials for both members and non-members of Beth El Congregation.

Contact for families: Ben Kreshtool, Ritual Director, Beth El Congregation — 410-484-0411 · ben@bethelbalto.com

From the cemetery: The property is closer to 30 acres (not 15), on Liberty Road. Cemetery information:

<https://www.cemify.com/cem/beth-el-memorial-park>

Confirmed by the cemetery, Ben Kreshtool · Sep 2026



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& to ask the office

23 Chevra Ahavas Chesed Cemetery

DETAILED LISTING

9800 Liberty Road · (410) 707-5063 · Standalone Jewish cemetery · Congregational · Chevra Ahavas Chesed

Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

24 Liberty Park Shaarei Zion Cemetery BASIC LISTING — DETAILS NOT YET CONFIRMED

9770 Liberty Rd, Randallstown, Maryland 21133 · (410) 653-8900 · Standalone Jewish cemetery · Administered via Sol Levinson & Bros directory

Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.



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& to ask the office

25 Shaarei Zion Liberty Park Cemetery BASIC LISTING — DETAILS NOT YET CONFIRMED

Randallstown, MD · Congregational · Shaarei Zion Liberty Park

Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

Owings Mills, MD 9 mi from Baltimore · 2 cemeteries

26 Garrison Forest Cemetery

DETAILED LISTING

Garrison Forest Road at Crondall Lane, Owings Mills, MD · (410) 486-6400 ext. 309 · myoffe@chizukamuno.org · Chizuk Amuno Congregation

Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

27 Chizuk Amuno Cemetery BASIC LISTING — DETAILS NOT YET CONFIRMED

11373 Garrison Forest Rd, Owings Mills, Maryland 21117 · (410) 653-8900 · Standalone Jewish cemetery · Congregational · Administered via Sol Levinson & Bros directory

Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.



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& to ask the office

Dundalk, MD 10 mi from Baltimore · 5 cemeteries

- 28 Adath Israel Anshe Sfard Cemetery** BASIC LISTING — DETAILS NOT YET CONFIRMED
6845 German Hill Rd, Dundalk, Maryland 21222 · (410) 653-8900 · Standalone Jewish cemetery ·
Congregational · Administered via Sol Levinson & Bros directory
Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

- 29 Arugat Habosem Cemetery** BASIC LISTING — DETAILS NOT YET CONFIRMED
7401 German Hill Road · (410) 284-0648
Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

- 30 Beth Isaac Adath Israel Cemetery** BASIC LISTING — DETAILS NOT YET CONFIRMED
2125 North Point Road · (443) 819-8152 · Congregational · Beth Isaac Adath Israel
Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

- 31 Shaari Zion Cemetery/Workmen's Circle Cemetery** BASIC LISTING — DETAILS NOT YET CONFIRMED
Dundalk, MD 21222 · (410) 764-6971 · Standalone Jewish cemetery
Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

- 32 Shomrei Shabbos Cemetery** BASIC LISTING — DETAILS NOT YET CONFIRMED
6843 German Hill Road, Dundalk, Maryland 21222 · (443) 819-8152 · Jewish section within a
larger cemetery · Congregational · Jewish Cemetery Association of Greater Baltimore
Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

Reisterstown, MD 11 mi from Baltimore · 1 cemetery

- 33 Baltimore Hebrew Cemetery** DETAILED LISTING
Berrymans Lane, Reisterstown MD and 2100 Belair Rd, Baltimore MD · (410) 764-1587 ext. 223 ·
(410) 925-5784 · jwindman@baltimorehebrew.org · Baltimore Hebrew Congregation
Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

Elkridge, MD 12 mi from Baltimore · 1 cemetery

- 34 Meadowridge Memorial Park** BASIC LISTING — DETAILS NOT YET CONFIRMED
7250 Washington Boulevard · Jewish section within a larger cemetery
Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

Columbia, MD 15 mi from Baltimore · 1 cemetery

35 Columbia Memorial Park

12005 Clarksville Pike, Clarksville, MD 21029 · (410) 205-2671

Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.

[DETAILED LISTING](#)



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

Finksburg, MD 17 mi from Baltimore · 1 cemetery

36 Beth Jacob Cemetery

2900 Baltimore Blvd, Finksburg, MD 21048 · (410) 413-2206 · blavon@btfiloh.org · Standalone Jewish cemetery · Congregational · Administered via Sol Levinson & Bros directory

Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.

[DETAILED LISTING](#)



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

Westminster, MD 25 mi from Baltimore · 1 cemetery

37 Beth Shalom Congregation Cemetery

BASIC LISTING — DETAILS NOT YET CONFIRMED

2022 W. Liberty Road, Westminster, Maryland 21157 · (443) 819-8152 · Jewish section within a larger cemetery · Congregational · Jewish Cemetery Association of Greater Baltimore

Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

Olney, MD 27 mi from Baltimore · 2 cemeteries

38 Judean Memorial Gardens / Cemetery

16225 Batchellors Forest Rd, Olney, MD 20832 · (301) 384-1000 · Standalone Jewish cemetery · Orthodox

Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.

[DETAILED LISTING](#)



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

39 Shaare Tefila Congregation Cemetery

BASIC LISTING — DETAILS NOT YET CONFIRMED

16620 Georgia Avenue, Olney, MD 20832 · (301) 593-3410 · info@shaaretefila.org · Standalone Jewish cemetery

Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

Annapolis, MD 27 mi from Baltimore · 4 cemeteries

40 Bestgate Memorial Park

BASIC LISTING — DETAILS NOT YET CONFIRMED

814 Bestgate Rd, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 · (410) 653-8900 · Standalone Jewish cemetery · Administered via Sol Levinson & Bros directory

Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

41 Congregation Kneseth Israel Cemetery

BASIC LISTING — DETAILS NOT YET CONFIRMED

Cemetery: 101 Defense Highway, Annapolis, MD 21401. Congregation: 1125 Spa Road, Annapolis, MD 21403 · (410) 263-3924 · Standalone Jewish cemetery · Congregational · Congregation Kneseth Israel

Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

42 Hillcrest Memorial Gardens

BASIC LISTING — DETAILS NOT YET CONFIRMED

1911 Forest Dr, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 · (410) 653-8900 · Standalone Jewish cemetery · Administered via Sol Levinson & Bros directory

Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

43 Jewish Garden within Hillcrest Memorial Gardens

BASIC LISTING — DETAILS NOT YET CONFIRMED

1911 Forest Drive · (410) 267-7540 · Jewish section within a larger cemetery

Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

Riva, MD 28 mi from Baltimore · 1 cemetery

44 Lakemont Memorial Gardens

BASIC LISTING — DETAILS NOT YET CONFIRMED

900 W Central Ave, Davidsonville, Maryland 21035 · (410) 653-8900 · Standalone Jewish cemetery · Administered via Sol Levinson & Bros directory

Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

Adelphi, MD 29 mi from Baltimore · 1 cemetery

45 Mount Lebanon Cemetery

BASIC LISTING — DETAILS NOT YET CONFIRMED

9500 Riggs Road · (301) 434-4640 · Standalone Jewish cemetery

Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

Rockville, MD 33 mi from Baltimore · 1 cemetery

46 Menorah Gardens

BASIC LISTING — DETAILS NOT YET CONFIRMED

12800 Veirs Mill Rd, Rockville, Maryland 20848 · (301) 881-2151 · Standalone Jewish cemetery · Listed by Chevra Kadisha of Greater Washington

Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

Clarksburg, MD 34 mi from Baltimore · 2 cemeteries

47 Garden of Remembrance

DETAILED LISTING

14321 Comus Road · (301) 428-3000 · info@gardenofremembrance.org · Standalone Jewish cemetery

Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

48 Gan Zikaron Memorial Park

BASIC LISTING — DETAILS NOT YET CONFIRMED

14321 Comus Park, Clarksburg, Maryland 20871 · Standalone Jewish cemetery · Listed by Chevra Kadisha of Greater Washington

Availability not yet confirmed — call the office before deciding.



scan for the live page
& to ask the office

Jewish funeral homes 2 in the area, nearest first

The first call. Each home's page on EverJewish records what is documented about its Jewish practice — tahara and chevra kadisha, shomer, tachrichim and kosher caskets, Shabbat and Yom Tov — and what remains an open question to ask.

Sol Levinson & Bros., Inc.

Pikesville, MD · 4 mi · Confirmed by the funeral home · Sep 2026

(410) 653-8900



McComas Funeral Home

Abingdon, MD · 21 mi

(410) 676-4600



After the burial

the year that follows, and where the community is

The weeks after a funeral are when a family most needs the community and least knows where it is. The moments below come in order; the synagogue, the funeral home and the rabbi can name the community's chevra kadisha, bereavement groups and shiva help for each of them.

The funeral	The chevra kadisha, the shomer, the levaya. The funeral home carries the arrangements; the family's task is only to be present.
Shiva	The community comes to the house: meals, prayers so Kaddish can be said, company in the evenings. Mourners do not host; someone else arranges the food and the door. How long and how shiva is kept is the family's and the rabbi's to decide.
The first Shabbat	Mourners return to synagogue for the first time; many congregations welcome them in at the start of the Friday evening service. A synagogue told in advance will be ready.
Sheloshim — thirty days	The formal mourning eases; the visits stop; this is when the quiet begins and when a bereavement group or a chaplain is worth a call.
The year	Kaddish in the months that follow; the monument set and unveiled; the first holidays without them. Bereavement groups meet monthly for exactly this stretch.
The yahrzeit, every year	A candle at home the evening before, Kaddish at services, a visit to the grave. Scan the cemetery's code in this guide for the office's visiting hours.

Six questions for the week itself

Short enough to ask on the phone; the funeral home will ask most of them for you.

Is a plot available now, and where in the grounds?

Ask to hear the section named; ask whether a spouse can be buried alongside later.

Who may be buried here?

Members only, any Jew, a non-Jewish spouse — and whether the rabbi's ruling on Jewish status is required.

What is the total, in writing?

Plot, opening and closing, perpetual care, and any Sunday or winter charges, on one page.

What does the funeral home charge, in writing?

The itemised statement they are required to give — tahara, shomer, tachrichim, the casket, transport.

Who is the chevra kadisha, and is a shomer arranged?

The funeral home should answer at once; if it cannot, the rabbi can.

What are the cemetery's rules for the monument?

Size, material, Hebrew text, and when it may be set — a question for later, but the answer decides a purchase now.

Planning ahead for the calm year, not the hard week

Most people first look at a cemetery in the worst week of their lives. A few questions asked calmly, years early, spare a family the hardest decisions at the hardest time.

Where. Is there a family plot, a synagogue cemetery that comes with membership, or a community cemetery selling to the public? Availability changes; a cemetery that was open a decade ago may be pre-sold only today.

Who may be buried there. Membership rules, interfaith policy, and section restrictions are the questions families most often discover too late. They are also the ones cemetery offices answer readily when asked in advance.

What the purchase actually conveys. A deed or a right of interment; whether it can be transferred, sold back, or passed to children; and what the cemetery does if the family moves away.

Costs, in writing. A plot, the opening and closing, perpetual care, the monument and its setting fee are usually separate lines. Ask for them together, on paper, from the cemetery and from the funeral home; ask whether the price is fixed once paid.

Perpetual care. Who maintains the grounds when the society that founded the cemetery is gone, and whether a fund exists for it. Small cemeteries deserve this question most.

The funeral home's Jewish practice. Tahara and a chevra kadisha, a shomer overnight, tachrichim and a kosher casket, what happens on Shabbat or Yom Tov, transport to Israel if that is the wish.

Write it down and tell someone. The cemetery, the deed or contract, the funeral home, the rabbi, and who to call first. Give a copy to the person who will actually make the calls.

Words you will hear

Chevra kadisha

The burial society — volunteers who prepare the body for burial with tahara and stay with it until the funeral. Every community has one; the funeral home knows how to reach it.

Tahara

The washing and preparation of the body by the chevra kadisha, done with prayers and in privacy. It is a kindness the deceased cannot repay, which is why it is considered among the highest.

Shomer / shemira

The person who stays with the deceased, reading psalms, from death until burial — so that the body is never left alone.

Tachrichim

Plain white linen shrouds, the same for everyone. A Jewish funeral home supplies them.

Aron

The casket — plain wood, without metal, so that it returns to the earth. Sometimes called a kosher casket.

Levaya

The funeral, literally 'accompanying' — the service and the walk to the grave. Mourners and friends help fill the grave; it is the last kindness.

Kriah

The tearing of a garment or a ribbon by the mourners before the funeral, a visible sign of loss.

Hesped

The eulogy — words about the person, spoken at the funeral by the rabbi and often by family.

Kaddish

The mourners' prayer, said at services in the months after a death and each year on the yahrzeit. How long it is said, and in what setting, varies between communities and traditions; it is usually said with others present, which is one reason the community matters.

Shiva

The days of mourning after the burial — traditionally seven — when mourners stay home and the community comes to them: with meals, with prayers, with company. How shiva is observed, and how Shabbat and festivals affect it, varies by community and family; the rabbi will guide you.

Sheloshim

The thirty days after burial — a lighter period of mourning after shiva, when mourners return to daily life but, in many traditions, not yet to celebrations.

Yahrzeit

The anniversary of the death on the Hebrew calendar, marked each year — commonly with Kaddish, a memorial candle, and a visit to the grave.

Matzevah / unveiling

The gravestone, and the short ceremony when it is set — commonly within the first year; customs on timing vary. Cemetery rules govern size, material and setting; ask before ordering.

Kever

The grave. Visiting is customary before Rosh Hashanah, on the yahrzeit, and at the unveiling; the small stone left on the monument says someone came.

About this guide

EverJewish is an independent reference of Jewish cemeteries and funeral homes across the United States. Listings are compiled from public sources and from what cemetery offices confirm directly; each entry says which. Nothing here is ranked, recommended, or paid for. Corrections are always free.

Questions of Jewish law and custom belong with your rabbi. Availability, eligibility and costs belong in writing from the cemetery and the funeral home.

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