

Emanuel Cemetery Committee Annual Report

July 1, 2022 through June 20, 2023

Opening Remarks:

This year the Emanuel Cemetery Committee has received much praise on the cemetery's overall appearance and how well the cemetery is run. This is due in part to:

- .1 The cemetery's monuments and footstones were power washed (See "Power Washing" below).
- .2 All of the cemetery's issues, problems and complaints have now been documented and addressed (See "Cemetery Problem Resolution Form" below).

Also, please see for yourselves by visiting the cemetery and see how nice the cemetery's overall appearance is (grounds, the chapel building, and monuments).

Overview of the Emanuel Cemetery:

Emanuel Synagogue Cemetery, 1361 Berlin Turnpike, Wethersfield, CT

-Established 1921

-44 acres (33 acres are woods)

-Chapel building on cemetery grounds

-About 3,000 graves

-For the last six years, there were 22 to 31 burials per year (See "Emanuel Cemetery Funerals" below).

Note: The Emanuel Cemetery, like all Connecticut cemeteries, is governed by state and town laws.

Emanuel Synagogue Cemetery Committee Members:

Judy Brown, Joyce Flescher, Meyer Frankel, Alan Goodman, Faith Helene, Peter Mehlman, Don Miller, Joanne Pasternack, Jeff Rudolph, Jay Smith

-Chairperson Meyer Frankel (since 01-01-18)

-Cemetery Administrator Karen Piacenta (since 12-01-21)

Note: The Cemetery Administrator is a part-time Synagogue employee who is paid from cemetery funds.

Genizah: Burial of Religious Articles

Burial of religious articles was completed on Friday, February 10, 2023 at the Emanuel Synagogue Cemetery.

The attendees who performed this Mitzvah:

Joyce Flescher, Meyer Frankel, Alan Goodman, Peter Mehlman, Karen Piacenta, Rabbi Small, Howard Smith and Robert Teitelman.

Duration: One hour.

Weather: Was mild and sunny and the temperature was in the 60s.

Cost of opening/closing Genizah grave \$2,750.

Note: The size of the Genizah grave was 4 times the size of a normal grave.

Note: The Synagogue library was cleared out to make room for the Childrens Museum.

Emanuel Cemetery Funerals:

-July 1, 2022 thru June 30, 2023: 22 funerals

-July 1, 2021 thru June 30, 2022: 23 funerals

-July 1, 2020 thru June 30, 2021: 24 funerals

-July 1, 2019 thru June 30, 2020: 31 funerals

-July 1, 2018 thru June 30, 2019: 29 funerals

-July 1, 2017 thru June 30, 2018: 29 funerals

Note: Emanuel Cemetery Funerals are the number one priority and responsibility of the Emanuel Cemetery Committee.

Note: One or two members from the Cemetery Committee attend each funeral.

Note: When each grave is dug, we verify the grave location before each funeral.

Please note, in managing funerals this year, we interacted with:

-Six different funeral homes

-Seven rabbis

-The deceases' families

-US Cemetery LLC (grave diggers)

Note: The Emanuel Cemetery funerals are the primary responsibility of the Cemetery Administrator with the Cemetery Chairperson as her backup.

Annual Service at the Cemetery:

This year the annual cemetery services were held Sunday Oct. 2, 2022 (the Sunday between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur).

Note: We hire a company to place speakers throughout the cemetery so that attendees can be next to their deceased's graves and be able to hear the Rabbi and Cantor conduct the service.

The cost of placing speakers throughout the cemetery was \$750.

Lead: Karen Piacenta / Peter Mehlman

Cemetery Problem Resolution Forms:

To keep track and document all cemetery calls, complaints, questions, issues.

Status: Ongoing project where each month a summary report of all cemetery issues is published.

Lead: Cemetery Administrator Karen Piacenta

Note: We have been averaging 9 to 15 issues per month concerning the cemetery. All cemetery issues are documented and the proper people are notified.

Cemetery General Maintenance:

July 2022 front gate repair \$750

August 2022 shrub removal/tree cutdown \$1,275

February 2023 chapel ceiling repair \$850

March 2023 road repairs (potholes and patches) \$2,017.

General cemetery grounds maintenance (reseeding several grave sites, monuments reset, removed hornet nests, and fill in holes made by animals.)

Cemetery price increases for plots and interments:

-Price increases for Synagogue members:

Plots from \$1,800 to \$2,500

Interments from \$1,925 to \$2,500

-Price increases for non-Synagogue members:

Plots from \$3,600 to \$5,000

Interments from \$3,850 to \$5,000

Status: Approved by the Cemetery Committee and BOT

Note: Target date January 1, 2024

Update cemetery's "Rules and Regulations" to allow prepaid interments:

Status: Cemetery Committee needs to make this change.

Status: Approved by the Cemetery Committee and BOT

Note: Target date January 1, 2024

Increase the amount of plot revenues to be transferred to the cemetery's perpetual fund from 25% to 35%.

Status: Approved by the Cemetery Committee and BOT.

Note: Target date July 1, 2023.

Cemetery's \$3,000 yearly payment to the Emanuel Synagogue:

This year the cemetery paid the Emanuel Synagogue \$3,000 for work done for the cemetery by the Synagogues' office and maintenance staffs.

Power wash Cemetery Monuments and Footstones:

Cemetery Sections Completed:

June/July 2022 Sections 1, 2, 3, 7 Cost \$21,765

August 2022 Sections 6, 7, A, B Cost = \$13,135

September 2022 Sections 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E and 4F Cost = \$12,745

Cemetery Sections to be completed in 2023 (After July 1, 2023) 8, 9, C.

Find A Grave (Free App):

Status: About 90% of all Emanuel Cemetery Monuments' Photos are now on "Find A Grave".

Lead: Karen Piacenta

Note: Anyone can sign on to "Find A Grave" locate the "Emanuel Synagogue Cemetery and search for their deceased's name and then view the monument and/or footstone.

Cemetery Financial Broker: "Stifel" (Mark Hammond):

A committee headed by Michael Kamins (Synagogue Treasurer) with Mickey Libbin (Chairperson Finance Committee) Ken Simon (Synagogue President), Meyer Frankel (Cemetery Committee Chairperson), Alan Goodman (Beth Hillel) has chosen "Stifel."

This was also approved by the Cemetery Committee and was presented to the Synagogue's BOT.

One-year contract renewal with US Cemetery, LLC.

The Emanuel Synagogue Cemetery yearly hires US Cemetery, LLC to provide:

- The opening and closing of graves (funerals)**
- Care for cemetery grounds (lawn mowing and snow removal)**

Lead: Karen Piacenta/Meyer Frankel/Alan Goodman

Search for Cemetery Computer Software Facility:

The Cemetery Committee, after lengthy research, found that our cemetery is just not a good fit to purchase a computer cemetery software package for the following reasons:

- Our cemetery is too small a cemetery (size about 3,000 graves and we have about 25 funerals per year), to justify the cost of purchasing a computer cemetery software package.
- Past problems that have occurred at the cemetery were found to be caused by human error and that cemetery computer software could not have prevented or fixed.
- Contingency plans for replacing key cemetery personnel are in place and are easy to implement. Therefore, there is no need to have a computer cemetery software package for this purpose.
- Because of the above reasons, the cemetery committee felt it is best to spend its money not on computer software but to spend it on enhancing the overall appearance of the cemetery.

Submitted by,

Meyer Frankel

Emanuel Cemetery Committee Chairperson