

Unveiling Information and Tips for Families

An unveiling is the ceremonial dedication of the memorial marker or headstone at the grave of a loved one. Its primary purpose is to mark the deceased's final resting place, honor their life, and serve as a focal point for memories through the years. An unveiling can take place any time from 30 days after the funeral (Shloshim). Traditionally, many opt for an unveiling 11 months to one year after, marking the end of the formal mourning period. Monument dealers may need many months to prepare a memorial, so please keep this in mind when scheduling.

Steps and Tips for the Unveiling:

1. Scheduling and Coordination:

- There is an unveiling fee of \$350, which can be paid on the JCAM website at the time of scheduling.
- The Unveiling must be scheduled through JCAM and may not be scheduled through a monument dealer.
- Once you schedule the unveiling through JCAM, on our website using the below link, we will inform the monument dealer and coordinate the “veiling” of the stone.

[Unveiling - Jewish Cemetery Association of MA](#)

- Some monument dealers will handle the veiling for you; while others will not. If you are unsure, it is a good idea to check with the monument dealer. To be sure that the monument is veiled we recommend that you bring a pillowcase or a knitted blanket in case the veil has blown away.

Note: JCAM does not veil the monument

2. Veiling Best Practices:

- Veiling the stone just before the unveiling is advisable to prevent the cloth from going missing or getting dirty.
- **Note that JCAM/Cemetery does not provide or maintain the cloth used for veiling.**

3. Prayers and Religious Guidance:

- Download unveiling prayers from our website (JCAM.org) under the "Suggested Order of Prayers for an Unveiling" section.
- If desired, JCAM can provide a list of Rabbis who can lead the service upon request.

4. Practical Considerations:

- JCAM/Cemetery can provide tents and chairs at an additional cost. Families may not arrange chairs and tents through a rental company. Please inform JCAM of any such request at least 14 days in advance. (**Note:** that any request after this time window may not be accommodated.)

- It is advisable to have a few chairs for attendees who may be unsteady on their feet.
- During hot and humid summers or cool and rainy days, bringing bottled water and umbrellas are highly recommended to prevent dehydration.
- JCAM pauses unveiling scheduling between December 1- February 28.

5. Cemetery Preparation:

- JCAM will notify the cemetery caretaker to check the site in advance of the unveiling.
- JCAM's caretakers will check if the veil is still in place.

6. Changes to Scheduling:

- If you need to reschedule, postpone, or change the time of your unveiling, please notify Sari Hirsh, sari.hirsh@jcam.org, at your earliest convenience.
- Burials take precedence over unveilings at the cemetery. If a burial is scheduled at the same time and location as your planned unveiling, we will contact you to make a slight time adjustment that ensures privacy during your service.

Additional Note:

- The placement of the stone is a minhag (Jewish custom) and not a law.

Contact Information:

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