

# **Congregation Kol Ami Jewish Cemetery Garden**

## **Rules and Standards for Burial and Funeral Procedures and for Markers/Monuments**

**1. General Statement.** Congregation Kol Ami (CKA) Jewish Cemetery Garden ("JCG") is a congregational Jewish burial ground which also makes plots and burials available to the Jewish Community at large. Plots are meant for use by CKA members but may also be sold to members of the general public for the interment of Jews with the express permission of the CKA Cemetery Committee (CCC) or the CKA Rabbi (Rabbi). The rules set forth below are applicable to all burials, along with the Rules and Regulations of Roselawn Memorial Park, Inc. (Roselawn).

**2. Eligibility.** All members of CKA in good standing, Jewish or not, are eligible for burial in the JCG. The same applies to member children. Parents of members, who are not themselves members of CKA, may be buried with the express permission of the Rabbi and CCC. Burial of indigent Jews is not permitted unless the interment rights and burial has been paid prior to interment.

**3. Funerals.** Religious interment services of faiths other than Judaism within the JCG must be coordinated with the Rabbi prior to the interment. The Rabbi has the sole discretion regarding interfaith or non-sectarian burial rights within the JCG. Non-Jewish interment services for spouses/children/parents of Jews must be coordinated with the Rabbi prior to the interment. The Rabbi of CKA or rabbi-designated congregant is permitted as a matter of course to conduct interment services within the JCG. Exceptions can be made for a co-officiant for the interment service with the prior agreement of both the Rabbi and the CCC. The Rabbi, in consultation with the CCC, has discretion regarding interfaith or non-sectarian burial rights and ceremonies within the JCG.

**4. Preparations for Burial.** Proper respect and preparation of the deceased for burial are sacred traditions of the Jewish people.

- Embalming is only permitted if expressed as a desire of the Deceased prior to their death or if required by law, state or federal, because the Deceased is being transported by common carrier to the JCG or is required by Texas law to be embalmed.
- Viewings or open caskets are not permitted within the JCG, or upon CKA property. Immediate family members may view the deceased in private at the funeral home. Formal taharah (ritual washing and shrouding) is not required but can be arranged.
- Cremations are permitted only with the express approval of the Rabbi and in compliance with Roselawn Memorial Park policies.

**5. Caskets.** Only caskets that are made primarily from wood or other bio-degradable material may be used. Objects may be placed in the casket with the Deceased at the discretion of the family.

- Only one casket is permitted for interment per plot.
- An additional cremation urn may be interred along with a casket in a single plot.
- Two cremation urns may be interred instead of a casket in a single plot.

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### **6. Flowers and Decorations.**

- Placement of artificial flowers in proper containers is permissible in Roselawn Memorial Park. So long as the flowers are in permissible containers, they will not be removed until they become unsightly.
- Cut flowers are permissible but will be disposed of when the flowers die.
- Flowers, plants, bulbs, shrubs and trees are prohibited from being planted on or near a gravesite, or within the JCG without direct authorization from the CCC.
- Easels and wreaths may be used on special holidays. Seasonal decorations must be removed within a month after the occasion; otherwise they will be removed by the cemetery.
- The following items are not permitted within the JCG: CROSSES, SHEPHERDS HOOKS, SOLAR LIGHTS, PINWHEELS. FLOWER VASES such as Tin Cans, Jars and Bottles are not allowed. CKA is not responsible for any such unauthorized containers, and they will be removed and disposed of in accordance with the Roselawn regular maintenance work schedule. Any other type of decoration placed on the gravesite or memorial that in any way interferes with cemetery mowing or maintenance will be removed.
- Any decorations, benches, or other forms of ornamentation must be approved by both Roselawn and the CCC before placing at a gravesite. Any GLASS or breakable decorations are prohibited and will be removed immediately.

**7. Landscaping.** All landscape design and aesthetic decisions related to the JCG will be made and executed by the CCC in accordance with CKA and Roselawn's rules and regulations. Any changes to the landscaping or aesthetic of the cemetery garden such as the addition of trees, benches, or other permanent structures by anyone other than the CCC will not be permitted.

Contributions for the beautification and enhancement of the JCG can be made to the CCC, and such contribution will be used exclusively for this purpose. However, NO inscription, dedication, acknowledgement, recognition, memorial, plaque, or identification of any kind shall be allowed within the JCG related to such contribution to the CCC.

**8. Concrete Liner.** Only concrete grave liners or vaults approved by the CCC, allowing for water and air to circulate i.e., sectional, perforated, or bottomless, may be used. All concrete grave liners, vaults, and markers must be placed and installed by Roselawn. Only Roselawn staff may open or close a plot.

**9. Monuments and Markers.** Monument shall mean an upright, beveled or slanted granite memorial. Marker shall mean a flat granite or bronze memorial. All monuments and markers, including but not limited to medallions, and any inscriptions, symbols and designs thereon shall comply with the rules

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herein, and those of Roselawn Memorial Park, and be approved by the CCC. All monuments and markers shall be placed and installed by Roselawn.

- **All monuments and markers, except those markers provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for eligible veterans, shall be purchased from and through Roselawn.** Unfortunately, monuments provide by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs exceed allowable height regulations as set by Roselawn, and, therefore, will not be permitted in the JCG.

If a granite "Veterans" marker is chosen, then it shall be placed and installed by Roselawn. If the bronze "Veterans" marker is chosen, then a granite base shall be purchased from and through Roselawn for it to be mounted to, and it shall be placed and installed by Roselawn.

- All monument and marker designs and lettering must be approved by Roselawn, the CCC, and the Rabbi before such monument is ordered.
- All monuments and markers shall be placed at the head of each plot with all inscriptions facing and readable from the foot of the plot.
- Roselawn and the CCC reserve the right to prohibit the installation of any monument or marker that may be deemed inappropriate either in height, design, material, or workmanship.
- Monuments and markers may contain:
  - (1) "Pey Nun" in Hebrew (here lies)
  - (2) Hebrew name (e.g., David ben Moishe)
  - (3) Family name in Hebrew
  - (4) "Niftar" in Hebrew and Hebrew date of death (Yarhzeit)
  - (5) Hey' Vav' Tzadee' Nun' Tav' in Hebrew ("may his/her soul rest in peace")
  - (6) English names
  - (7) Dates of birth and death
  - (8) Quotes, endearments or symbols including military branch affiliation and attained rank
  - (9) Family name in Hebrew or English on back or, if desired by family and approved by the CCC, Holocaust memorial for family.
- Inscriptions for all monuments and markers for non-Jews other than the information set forth above in items (6), (7), (8) and (9) shall be approved by the CCC.
- Monuments and markers may include Jewish symbols. Other symbols (e.g., lodges, fraternal associations or military affiliation) must be approved in advance by the CCC. Religious symbols of

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other faiths are not permitted, unless approved by the rabbi (i.e., a dove, open book, or praying hands).

- Inscriptions on the monuments and markers may follow either Ashkenazic or Sephardic conventions for inscribing the monument or marker with items (2) and (3) above and is the choice of Decedent/family.
- Monuments and markers may include inscribed photographs, drawings or other images of objects or individuals.
- Monuments require a minimum of two adjacent plots to be erected. A single plot is only allowed a marker. All monuments shall be headstones and no monuments or markers shall be erected or installed at the foot of a grave.
- Only large stones provided by CKA may be left on graves by visitors, so long as they comply with the standards required by Roselawn cemetery.
- All monuments shall be made exclusively of granite, and markers shall be made exclusively of bronze, or granite.
- The maximum height and width for monuments or markers are subject to the rules in place by Roselawn.

**10. Courtesy and Conduct.** All persons are reminded that both Roselawn Memorial Park and the Garden of Generations are sacred places. Quiet and reverence should be observed at all times. The Park is designed and maintained for the living as well as the deceased and the cooperation of all those whose interests are here will help make your cemetery more beautiful as the years go by.