

## **TBE Cemetery Survey Provides Data for Expansion Needs**

After 30 years, our private TBE section at Arborcrest Cemetery is nearing capacity of lots sold or occupied. The Cemetery Committee is engaged in a strategic planning process for expansion options to serve the Temple for the next few decades.

To preserve land in our section a separate cremation interment area was developed last year. This was in response to changing Jewish values regarding cremation, Rabbi Levy's support, and significant cost savings to congregants.

To obtain planning data for our expansion, certain TBE age cohorts recently received a survey. A very good 40% response rate was achieved. Key findings:

### Overview

- 57% do not have cemetery lots
- 30% already have lots at Arborcrest
- 10% have lots elsewhere (Detroit, other MI location, or out of state)
- 3% have lots at Arborcrest but may need additional space there for family or relatives

### Type of Burial Space Being Considered (those currently without space)

- An extrapolated response estimate was over 70 spaces
- Specifically indicated spaces:
  - 29 Traditional lots
  - 19 Cremation spaces

### Question on Purchase Decision Timeline

- 19% Within 1 year
- 17% 2-3 years
- 44% some future pre-need time
- 20% when needed

For many, purchasing cemetery space is a difficult and emotional decision easy to put off. Our 64% response to “delay” a purchase confirms this. Unfortunately this results in significantly higher cost when actually needed. Most important, this leaves this matter to family members or children at a time of emotional loss and grief. Purchasing “pre-need” should be considered an important part of overall estate planning.

For further information about the cemetery including current costs of traditional lots or cremation spaces go to the Cemetery Page of the TBE website under the “About Us” tab. Contact any of the committee members listed to arrange a cemetery site visit, purchase procedures, or for any questions.