



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Suggested hed: <How Jews bury their treasure, Part II>

Congregation Shir Tikvah and other organizations are organizing a ritual burial of Jewish texts. This ancient ritual for disposing of unreadable or unusable ritual texts is open to all

On Sun., May 31, the community will gather at the River View Cemetery to experience and participate in the ritual burial of sacred Jewish texts and objects. At 10:30 a.m., participants will meet at the cemetery's main office, located at 0300 SW Taylors Ferry Rd. From there, people will make their way – via car or bike – as a processional to the Jewish Cemetery at River View for a brief, traditional ceremony.

Rabbi Ariel Stone of Congregation Shir Tikvah said, “When we produced our own *siddur* we realized we’ve run out of room to store any more of the sacred texts that we no longer are using. Since we have no space to wall off for a *genizah* [in which to store sacred texts],” Stone continued, “we chose a different tradition for respectful disposal: The burial of our sacred texts in the consecrated ground of a Jewish cemetery.”

Rabbi Ariel Stone continued that this ritual is being offered to the community as part of the synagogue’s “coming of age” ceremony, since Congregation Shir Tikvah turns 13 this year. “This ritual is one way to celebrate our congregational Bat Mitzvah and serve the many people who have come through Shir Tikvah’s door, often not members, just East Side Jews who have come into possession of Hebrew texts that they know are special. “

If community members have materials for burial, Shir Tikvah will accept them at the following times and places

- 1) On May 6 at a lecture on a Moroccan Genizah, at Congregation Shir Tikvah
7550 NE Irving Street
- 2) From May 1 through May 28, at the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland,
6680 SW Capitol Highway.
- 3) At the May 31 burial ceremony, at the Jewish Cemetery at River View,
0300 SW Taylors Ferry Road

It might be easy to decide which books, scrolls, and other materials emblazoned with the written word have gone to seed, but not everyone knows what kinds of objects require ritual Jewish burial. Here is a primer on selecting – and preparing – items appropriate for burial.

How should materials be prepared?

They must come packaged in natural materials so they can be easily transported—a cardboard box or paper bag is best.

What can be interred? For all answers, please click to shirtikvahpdx.org/sacred-trash/
A recommended donation of \$18 in support of this mitzvah is greatly appreciated.

Congregation Shir Tikvah heartily thanks its community partners in bringing this mitzvah to fruition: The Jewish Cemetery at River View, The Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation, River View Cemetery Association, and P'nai Or of Portland.

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