

Sol Levinson & Bros. Funeral Home Newsletter

Fall 2016

What is Funeral Personalization?

Traditionally, simplicity has governed the atmosphere of Jewish funerals. However, adding your own personal touches to the service of a loved one can make for an even more meaningful and truly special service.

Always check with your rabbi first about options, as they may vary based on denomination or the cemetery where someone is to be buried. Some options for personalizing the service are as follows: while receiving, families can have meaningful songs played in the chapel, photographs arranged on boards and easels, or anything displayed that may have significance in the life of the departed. Perhaps your loved one had a favorite candy that you could offer to guests, or a beloved poem that could be read. Maybe a grandchild that plays an instrument



wants to honor their beloved grandfather by playing a song that was special to him. Some families may even choose to place a small memento into the casket, such as a golf ball, favorite baseball cap, or letters and drawings from grandchildren. We often suggest to families that (when they are ready) they revisit the service by watching the video recording to see again what a beautiful tribute was paid to their cherished loved one.

Tailoring the funeral to the memory and character of your loved one is becoming more widely accepted and practiced. It is a beautiful testament to those we've lost to show how they lived, how they loved, and the memories that you will hold long after the funeral is over. To learn more, please read our <u>Blog post on the subject</u>. If you are interested in communicating your wishes regarding personalizing your own funeral or that of a loved one, consider sitting down with us to <u>Plan Ahead</u>. We will review all the options and make notes about your preferences so that nothing is overlooked.

Jewish Engagement and Culture in Baltimore

In the Baltimore area, we are fortunate to be surrounded by a community of people and organizations that wholeheartedly embrace and support our traditional culture. There are so many events and programs through our synagogues and community centers that we sometimes forget what the city holds for us just a few miles away.

If you are looking for something to do with the family, try a day trip to the <u>Jewish Museum of Maryland</u> in downtown Baltimore. There are collections and exhibitions that give a peek into Baltimore's own Jewish community from years past, as well as artistic and educational events, designed to address the interests of today's up-and-coming Jewish community. Along with its research library and family history center, the museum lends an interactive approach to learning about Jewish history for people of all ages.



Meet Our "Family": Erik Avant, 2 years at Levinson's

Erik Avant is a Funeral Director who began working at Levinson's while studying to earn his degree in mortuary science.

As a resident of Columbia, Erik and his wife, Lauren, are new members of Temple Isaiah, where they have enjoyed meeting other congregants in the Howard County area. While not at work, he is an avid tennis player and enjoys hosting dinner parties for friends and family. Erik has proven to be a wonderful addition to our staff of Funeral Directors, and a dedicated member of our team.

Plan Ahead

There are several important reasons to pre-plan a funeral. Planning ahead helps provide peace of mind for you and your family, and eases the financial burden of a funeral. It is also an acceptable way to spend down a person's assets.

Click the image to watch our video, and go to our website and use the <u>Plan Ahead form</u> to get started.



Aftercare

Levinson's bereavement library, support groups, and educational events in Pikesville and Howard County ensure that the families we care for have support long after the funeral service ends.

You can find more details going to our Aftercare Resources page.

Daily Funeral Schedule

If you would like to receive Levinson's Daily Funeral Schedule every morning by email, click here to sign up.

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