



TEMPLE
EMANUEL

Bereavement Committee

Our Purpose

Since 1995, Temple Emanuel's Bereavement Committee has been a strong presence in our Temple Emanuel community, bringing support and comfort to congregants who have experienced a loss. We work with our clergy and professional staff to provide both practical assistance and emotional support to congregational members and their families upon the death of a family member.

Our Services

We offer the following:

- Emotional support to the bereaved
- Guidance on preparing the home for the shiva period
- Volunteers to house-sit during the funeral and burial
- Volunteers to lead morning and/or evening services at the house as well as people to help make up a minyan if needed
- Delivery of prayer books and special mourners' chairs to the house of mourning
- Contact during shiva week and continuing through the shloshim period, if appropriate and requested by the family

In the event of the death of a congregant or close relative of a congregant, the synagogue should be notified immediately by calling the main number. The staff will notify the Bereavement Committee if appropriate. A Committee member will then contact the family to determine in what ways we can be helpful

To Volunteer

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact [Elyse Friedman](#), the Committee Chair. You can fulfill a mitzvah and a needed service at the same time.

Committee Needs

The Temple Emanuel Bereavement Committee is looking for volunteers in the following areas:

- Monthly Coordinators for Shiva Minyanim: post requests for minyan leaders and congregants to round out a minyan. Frequency — once or twice a year.
- Monthly Needs Assessors: contact bereaved families upon referral from the clergy, to assess their needs, both pre- and post-burial. Contact other volunteers to assist the family, if necessary. Informal training and support provided. Frequency — once or twice a year
- Minyan Leaders: lead a minyan (lessons will be provided if necessary), evening and also morning, Torah readers for Monday and Thursday morning minyanim, volunteers to help make the required number for a minyan. Frequency — whatever you can manage
- House-Sitting Volunteers: house sit during the funeral and interment, deliver shiva kits (prayer books and kippot), and special mourners' chairs to shiva house. Varies — probably no more often than once a month.

Opportunities abound to reach out to our community and fulfill our obligation of *ma'asim tovim* (good works). To fulfill yours, please contact [Elyse Friedman](#), the Committee Chair.