UMJCA Pre-Burial Guidance for Mourners

not be closed until after Shabbat/Yom Tov ends. During Shabbat/Yom Tov, the *onen* may eat meat and drink wine and does not practice public mourning. On Shabbat/Yom Tov, the *onen* does recite blessings and Birkat Hamazon [they may not, however receive an Aliyah, or be the Chazzan or read the Torah]. In this scenario, *Havdala* is delayed until after the burial. Whenever *Havdala* is said on Sunday (or later), it is recited without the *Besamim* and *Me'ore Ha'esh* portions.

Preparing for the Burial: According to Jewish law, a mourner must tear his or her shirt as an act of mourning. This procedure is called *keria* and is normally done during the burial service. A mourner should wear a shirt to the burial knowing that they will have to tear the shirt and later discard it after the *shivaa*. Both men and women must perform *keria.*

After the Burial: After getting back home from the burial, the mourner must change their shoes to non-leather shoes until after the *shivaa*. The first meal after the burial is known as *Seudat Havra'a*. *Seudat Havra'a* must be provided to the mourners by friends or family; the meal may not come from their own money. Hamotzi is recited by another person (not a mourner) and the bread is handed directly to the mourners in their hands. It is customary that this meal includes hard-boiled eggs, which are peeled by someone else (not a mourner) and handed directly to the mourners in their hands. It is customary for this meal to be a simple meal and not a lavish meal.

If the burial takes place on the same Hebrew day the deceased passed away, the mourner may not wear *tefilin* that day, even after the burial. If the burial takes place on a later day from the Hebrew day of passing, the mourners should wear *tefilin* after the burial while it is still daytime, discretely and without saying the *beracha* on the *tefilin*.

Shivaa, Sheloshim, 12 months: For rest of the laws of the *shivaa* (7 days), *sheloshim* (30 days), and 12 months, we recommend that you to acquire Rabbi Mosheh Aziz and Rabbi Dr. Avraham Ben-Haim's book on mourning, Shenot Haim, which is available at no cost to all community members at each of our synagogues.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of our community rabbis.