

Slotnick Monuments

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The Combined Expertise, servicing all Faiths

S. Slotnick Monumental Works, Inc. of Everett. ~ Sam Canter and Sons of Chelsea ~ United Memorials of Worcester
Slotnick's Metro West Monuments of Framingham

Ever wonder what an unveiling is?

We are asked that question almost daily.

To start, no one, no matter how religious, or how loved, is required to have an unveiling or do an unveiling for someone. Under Jewish Law all that is "required" is that a grave is properly marked. ***Someone lived and their life deserves to be remembered in some way.***

The amount of money spent on a memorial is not important, the style of the memorial is not important, the wording on the memorial is not important, the grave being marked is important.

Many say that unveilings originated during the depression, when your local temple was a large part and the center of our community. When a member of your family passed away and when you went to temple, some daily, some weekly, to say Kaddish, you would build a closer bond with your rabbi, sometimes closer than families ever had previously. As families started to think about marking the grave they would go to the rabbi and ask what to write. The rabbi would give suggestions and offer to do a small service at the time the memorial is placed and the family could, in return, make a donation back to the temple. This went on for years and unveilings have been seen as almost a second funeral in some instances. In reality, no rabbi is needed, though can be used, a family can say the payers, poems, psalms or whatever they see fit to say goodbye as a group. An unveiling can be as small as one person or as large as one hundred. It is done as a simple comfort to those immediately mourning and what is best for them.

Unveilings decreased in popularity during the 70's and 80's and then slowly found a rebirth as we entered the late 90's and over the last ten years. Families

Production Facility and Display ~ At the Everett, Fuller Street Cemeteries

232 Fuller Street, Everett, MA (617)387-3980

Main Offices and Indoor Display ~ At One Framingham Centre

5 Edgell Road, Suite 1, Framingham, MA (508)872-1400

www.scsmg.net

enjoy the opportunity to go to the cemetery as a group, say a few prayers, have an opportunity to see the memorial, and in a small way, have a type of closure.

An unveiling can be done at any time. It has become tradition to have an unveiling at the one year mark; however, some say it is based on how long one says Kaddish (usually one year) The only true guidance is not to perform the unveiling within the first 30 days after death (shloshim). Anytime following shloshim is appropriate. Keep in mind the memorial itself is nothing religious. The memorial is not kosher, not blessed, it can be seen at any time, visited at any time and touched by anyone. It is only a small representation of the person. It does not have to be veiled until the unveiling ceremony.

As it happens, we tell families to veil **only** on the day of, as it can be impractical to try to keep a veil on a memorial for any period of time. Between the rain, wind, and grass cutting it is near impossible to keep a veil look fresh and nice and there is no reason to. The veil can be placed on five minutes before the service, it is simply a piece of cheesecloth or a white cloth, has no religious significance.

In summary, you, as the family, can make as much or as little of the unveiling as you would like. Some of the most meaningful services are when the immediate family attends and everyone says something, each reads one prayer or makes a statement.

We are happy to supply a complimentary veil and the unveiling prayers that we suggest.
