

Jewish ground consecrated at Aspen Hill

Under bright, near perfect skies and an occasional breeze, Carl Levinson, a lay rabbi and professor of religion and philosophy at Idaho State University, conducted a simple ceremony, blessing a section of ground on July 3.

The ritual complete, Teton County-Jackson Parks and Recreation Department had three plots at the Aspen Hill Cemetery designated specifically for people of Jewish faith.

Victoria Hess, executive director of the Jackson Hole Jewish Community, expressed her appreciation to Parks and Rec for their assistance, and heartfelt gratitude those who attended the ceremony.

“It was just fabulous,” said Hess. “The Parks and Recreation Department came through, on very short notice, so that we could bury one of our members.”

Under Jewish law, the deceased must be buried as quickly as possible. The plots at Aspen Hill will be reserved for orthodox and observant families wishing to bury their own on hallowed ground.

“What brings real meaning to this event,” Levinson said, “is the fact that the Jewish Community in Jackson Hole is well-established in the history of Rocky Mountain Judea. The ceremony was simple. We read a few Psalms and created a sense of Jewish space for families near and far.”

— Gil Brady