

About the Valley Chevra Kadisha

Working in conjunction with clergy, funeral homes, and Jewish institutions in our community, The Valley Chevra Kadisha (VCK) is a "holy society" of volunteers dedicated to the communal responsibility of burial with the utmost honor and loving kindness, maintaining the highest standards of Jewish custom.

The VCK is available to schools, congregations, and other community groups to provide information and educational programs about practices related to the mitzvah of burial and caring for the deceased.

Details of specific burials are kept in strictest confidence to respect the privacy of families.



If you are interested in joining us, utilizing our services, or for further information, contact us:

Phone:
818-287-6155

Email:
info@valleychevrakadisha.org

*There is no charge for our services.
Contributions further our work and
educational activities and defrays our
expenses.*

*Donations may be made
on our website:
www.valleychevrakadisha.org*

*or mailed to:
Valley Chevra Kadisha
6442 Platt Avenue, Unit #625
West Hills, CA 91307*

The VCK is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

www.valleychevrakadisha.org



*Serving the greater Los Angeles
Jewish Community*

Chesed Shel Emet

The Ultimate Kindness

**Performing the
mitzvot of attending
to and preparing
the deceased for
burial.**

www.valleychevrakadisha.org

What is a Chevra Kadisha?

The work of the chevra kadisha, the sacred society, includes *shmirah* and *tahara*, traditional Jewish communal responsibilities.

Shmirah

Jewish tradition believes that the soul does not depart the body immediately after death. For this reason, it has become a custom that a shomer (guardian) stays with the deceased from death until burial, reciting Psalms and other readings.

Taharah

The deceased is washed and then ritually cleansed with water. The body is dressed in a kittel or simple burial shroud. Throughout the process we recite special blessings, prayers, and readings selected from the Torah, Prophets, and Song of Songs.

A chevra kadisha is always on call to carry out these sacred tasks. Its services are performed with *k'vod hamet* (respect for the dead), ensuring that the traditions of Jewish burial are carried out. Of greatest concern at all times is the sensitive care and dignity of the deceased.

What We Do

Assist bereaved families to bury their deceased according to Jewish tradition.

Provide an opportunity for all interested members of our community to perform the mitzvot of *shmirah* and *tahara*. We adhere to traditional Jewish practices and welcome anyone who wishes to join us.

Act as a resource for the Jewish community for education about the rituals and traditions related to dying, death, and funerals.

*The highest act of **gemilut chesed** (deeds of loving-kindness) is that which is done for the dead, for there can never be any thought of repayment.*

Tanhuma Vayehi 107

Who We Serve

We serve the greater Los Angeles Jewish communities, regardless of affiliation or level of observance. Contact us if you are:

- A bereaved family member who desires this service for your loved one.
- A synagogue or other institution interested in educating your community about this mitzvah.
- A funeral home, nursing facility, or hospice serving the Jewish community.
- A volunteer interested in joining us.
- Someone who wants to learn more about Jewish chevra kadisha services.