

## About the Valley Chevra Kadisha

Working in conjunction with rabbis, 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 burying the dead and caring for the deceased.

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

[www.valleychevrakadisha.org](http://www.valleychevrakadisha.org)



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

Phone: 818-287-6155

Email: [info@valleychevrakadisha.org](mailto:info@valleychevrakadisha.org)

Web: [www.valleychevrakadisha.org](http://www.valleychevrakadisha.org)

There is no charge for our services.

Contributions further our work and educational activities.

Donations may be mailed to:

Valley Chevra Kadisha  
PO Box 625  
6520 Platt Avenue  
West Hills, CA 91307

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



*Serving Our San Fernando and Conejo Valley Community*

***Chesed Shel Emet***

**The Ultimate Kindness**

Performing the mitzvot of guarding and preparing the deceased for burial.

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# What is a Chevra Kadisha?

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

## **Shmira**

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 a body from death until burial, reciting prayers, often from the book of Psalms.

## **Tahara**

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 at the funeral home 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 **shmira** 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 107A

# Who We Serve

We serve the San Fernando and Conejo Valley 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.