

כל ישראל ערבים זה בזה

*All Israel are responsible for one another.
(Babylonian Talmud, Shevuot 39a)*

Rabbi Hama son of Rabbi Hanina said: What does this text mean: 'You shall walk after Adonai your God' (Deut. 13:5)? Is it possible for a human being to walk after the Divine Presence?...[The meaning is] to walk after the attributes of the Blessed Holy One...The Blessed Holy One comforted mourners, as it is written: 'And it came to pass after the death of Abraham, that God blessed Isaac his son' (Gen. 25:11), so do you also comfort mourners. The Blessed Holy One buried the dead, as it is written: 'And God buried him [Moses] in the valley' (Deut. 34:6), so do you also bury the dead. (Babylonian Talmud, Sotah 14a)

With dignity and respect, we care for our sick, the dead and the mourners. All is confidential.

Questions about Jewish end-of-Life practices? May we be of service?

Maui Chevra Kadisha can be contacted through the JCM office **808-874-5397**.

“All that we have done is for your honor. And if we have not done our task properly, we beg your forgiveness”



-Holy Friends: Performers of acts of kindness

About our Community Chevra Kadisha

Like a Sukkah covering the People of Israel in uncertain times, the Maui Chevra Kadisha spreads over our entire community.

Chevra Kadisha, “Holy Friends”, is the traditional organization in a Jewish community that supports and assists families at the end of life and after, providing a continuum of care to the dying and those in mourning. The Maui Chevra Kadisha is made up of trained volunteers to provide:

- K'vod v'Nichum (honor and comfort),
- Support for preparation of affairs
- Tahara (ritual purification)
- Sh'mira (watching over the deceased)
- Levaya (accompanying to the grave)

“The Highest act of gemilut chasadim is that which is done for the dead, for there can never be any thought of repayment”- Tanhuma Vayehi 107A

Some material in this brochure is adapted from Chevra Kadishas' of Santa Cruz, CA, O'ahu, HI, Pittsburgh, PA, and others. We are all ONE Chevra. Mahalo nui loa from our hearts to yours.

Maui Chevra Kadisha

Care, Comfort, Compassion,
Community





Life in Community

We live our lives as Jews woven into a rich tapestry of rituals, from the weekly cycle of Shabbat to the annual cycles of holiday celebrations and life passages, life partnership, to the end of life. Our tradition provides opportunities to observe these within community, multiplying joy and easing sorrow in the company of family and friends. The depth of feelings we experience over the death of a loved one, and the simple, irrefutable fact of death itself can be overwhelming. Our faith and hopes are reexamined. Death challenges us on personal and communal levels. We turn to each other for support.

Many resources at
<https://www.jewish-funerals.org>,
understanding jewish practices

Pre-Planning

We encourage you to become informed, look ahead, and clarify what you do and don't want when your life comes to an end. There are tools that can help you put into writing what matters most to you and to ensure that your wishes are carried out. Search Ethical & Living Wills online.



Interested in the Jewish Cemetery on Maui?
Inquire at 808-874-5397.

Privacy of the deceased, family, and Chevra
Kadisha are respected at all times.

Jewish End of Life Rituals

Centuries of Jewish Ritual have sought to provide comfort at times of greatest bewilderment and sorrow. A funeral brings community together to share grief and memory. From Shiva (first week of mourning) through Yahrzeit (yearly anniversary passing) and Yizkor (communal remembrance of Our departed), traditions walk us through a model healing process.

Kavod Hameit (respect for the dead) and **Nichum Avelim** (the bereaved) are among our traditions' most sacred tenets.

Judaism asserts that each individual life has an innate dignity, a spark of holiness. We are said to be created in the image of the Divine and death does not remove this holiness. A beautiful ritual, **Tahara** (preparing the body for burial), has developed over the centuries to sanctify the transition of death and midwife the Soul. When requested, trained volunteers from the Maui Chevra Kadisha perform this ritual which includes a gentle washing of the deceased, ritual purification with gentle pouring of water over the body, and dressing the deceased in simple white garments. Throughout this process, blessings, prayers and readings are recited followed by placing the deceased in a plain wood casket.

Sh'mira, (guarding the deceased) after Tahara until burial is available upon request.