

Traditional Jewish Burial Rituals

The Chevra Kadisha (Holy Society) in a community cares for its deceased. In the Portland Metro Area, The *Chevra Kavod Hamet* (Society for Honoring the Dead) provides traditional end-of-life ritual services to the diverse Jewish community, with respect for the human dignity of the deceased.

First Contacts

It would be ideal if congregations had contact person(s) for the families.

Holman's Funeral Service

Most Jewish burials are done through Holman's.

2610 SE Hawthorne, Portland 97214
503-232-5131
www.holmansfuneralservice.com

Riverview Funeral Home

Some Jewish burials are done here. Same process.

0300 SW Taylors Ferry Rd, Portland 97219
Contact: Gary Sands, 503-246-6488
www.riverviewcemetery.org or www.riverviewcemeteryfuneralhome.com

Chevra Kavod Hamet

The community wide *chevra* serves all of the greater Portland area congregations and unaffiliated except the orthodox community, which has its own separate *chevra*.
www.chevrakavodhamet.org

Rochelle Rosenberg, Chair
chevrakavodhamet@gmail.com
Home: 503-282-3536
Cell: 503-481-6716

Havurah Shalom Cemetery

Non-member plots are available at the Havurah Shalom Cemetery located at 5656 SW Humphrey Blvd off the Sylvan Hill in Portland. Call the office at 503-248-4662, ext. 2 or email Dave Weil (dave3082@aol.com) for more information.

Jewish Federation

Houses the *Hesed Shel Emet* which provides indigent burial services. There is a rotation for cemeteries providing plots and for rabbis who officiate.

Jemi Kostiner Mansfield, Administrator
Office: 503-535-4038

Unaffiliated Families

Jewish Federation is a good first contact for information for unaffiliated families needing burial services.

www.jewishportland.org
503-245-6219
6680 SW Capitol Hwy, Portland OR 97219

Oregon Board of Rabbis

Can help find an officiant for a funeral. Contact by email at: lscond@comcast.net

Costs

Tahara

\$60—covers cost of shroud, materials, and helps with indigent burials. *Tahara* can be done preceding a burial or a cremation and after some organ donations.

Shomer

It is a tradition that community and family members stay with the body until time of the funeral. This watching can be of comfort to family members.

Families can arrange to stay around the clock with the *met/a* at Riverview. At Holman's, the family/community can arrange to have people stay with the *met/a* during business hours, from death until funeral. Overnight, families can arrange to hire a *shomer* for a fee (see below).

The *Chevra Kavod Hamet* offers, upon request, *shomrim* services from the time of the *Tahara* until burial. Make your wishes known to the funeral home.

Holman's has an agreement with Rabbi Truzman and his son to allow them to stay overnight to serve as *shomrim*. Cost for this service is \$250 per night to be paid in cash.

Contact Holman's or Riverview, if you're interested in this service for your loved one.

Casket

Because Jewish tradition encourages a speedy return of the body to the earth, metal caskets are not used, nor is metal used as hardware on traditional wooden caskets. Our tradition emphasizes that all human beings are equal in death as in life, and the preference is for the most simple and least expensive casket available.

Other Items

Clothing

A person can be buried with his/her *tallit*, but no other clothing is used to dress the met/a—only the shroud which consists of 5 garments: head cover, pants, shirt, tunic, belt. Other personal items are not buried with the body, but there has been an occasional exception for something small and dear to that person.

Tahara Attendance

No family members/mourners are allowed to participate or observe the *tahara*. This is really to protect the mourners' memory of their loved one.

Definition of Terms

tahara—ritual purification of the body

met or meta—the person who has died (met for men, meta for women)

shomer—a person who guards or watches over the met/a; plural is *shomrim*