



North American Jewish Cemetery
CHEVRA KADISHA CONFERENCE

SPONSORED BY KAVOD V'NICHUM
& CONGREGATION NEVEH SHALOM

WITH SUPPORT FROM
THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER PORTLAND
& THE OREGON JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

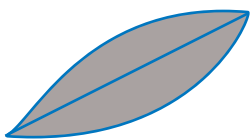
PORTLAND
OREGON
June 11-13, 2006



The North American Jewish Cemetery Conference, combined with the 4th annual North American Chevra Kadisha Conference, represents a unique opportunity for those involved with Jewish cemeteries as staff or lay leaders to interact, network and study with Chevra Kadisha activists. The first three Chevra Kadisha Conferences were intense combinations of the practical, the emotional, and the spiritual. This Conference promises to continue the learning and the energy.



As a participant you will have the opportunity to engage in a period of learning from nationally recognized experts and leaders of North American Jewry. You will share in their knowledge and experience, and gain both valuable information and new perspective on the myriad issues relating to this critical part of Jewish organizational and communal responsibility. The true benefit will be the enhanced skills and understanding gained for those who have assumed this critical and sacred area of responsibility.



HIS BODY SHALL NOT REMAIN ALL NIGHT UPON THE TREE, BUT THOU SHALT SURELY BURY HIM THE SAME DAY; FOR HE THAT IS HANGED IS A REPROACH UNTO GOD; THAT THOU DEFILE NOT THY LAND WHICH THE LORD THY GOD GIVETH THEE FOR AN INHERITANCE.

— *DEUTERONOMY*

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Rabbi Elliot Dorff CURRENT ISSUES FACING JEWISH CEMETERIES & CHEVRA KADISHA

Rabbi Elliot Dorff directs the Rabbinical and Masters programs at the University of Judaism, one of the rabbinic seminaries of the Conservative movement, where he currently is Rector and Distinguished Professor of Philosophy. He is the co-chair of the Department of Bioethics.

Rabbi Dorff is the author of 10 books including *Love Your Neighbor and Yourself: A Jewish Approach to Modern Personal Ethics*, winner of a National Jewish Book Award and *Matters of Life and Death: A Jewish Approach to Modern Medical Ethics*. Rabbi Dorff's publications include over 150 articles on Jewish thought, law, ethics, circumcision, Jewish divorce, Jewish observance, Jewish marriage and mikveh.

Rabbi Dorff is vice-chair of the Conservative Movement's Committee on Jewish Law and Standards. His papers have formulated the validated stance of the Conservative Movement on infertility treatments and on end-of-life issues, and his Rabbinic letters on human sexuality and on poverty have become the voice of the Conservative Movement on those topics.

In Los Angeles, Rabbi Dorff is the halachic expert for Mount Sinai Memorial Park, ruling on all questions pertaining to Jewish law. He is President of Jewish Family Service, and he is a member of the Ethics committees at the Jewish Homes for the Aging and UCLA Medical Center.

PLENARY SPEAKERS

Gary S. Cohn, FTA PRESERVING THE PAST, PLANNING OUR FUTURES

Gary Cohn is the Executive Director of three Jewish cemeteries covering 65 acres in the San Francisco area, including Hills of Eternity and Home of Peace Cemetery, a joint partnership of Congregations Emanu-El and Sherith Israel. He was instrumental in developing the Joint Operating Agreement between two of these cemeteries in the early 1990s, which has enabled both cemetery properties to prosper. The cemetery group also handles sales, maintenance and burials for another 12 synagogues and the general community. The cemetery has about 380 burials a year.

Mr. Cohn is the Immediate Past President of the National Association of Temple Administrators, a 400-member professional association of synagogue executives.

Mindy Moline Botbol COUNSELING THE BEREAVED

Mindy Moline Botbol is the managing funeral director for Shalom Memorial Funeral Home and Shalom Memorial Park in Arlington Heights, Illinois. Shalom, a Jewish owned business, is the first Jewish cemetery in the Chicago area that has a funeral home on its grounds.

Ms. Botbol chose her profession as the result of her father's terminal cancer and the wonderful hospice support he received. Her interest in providing services to families was sparked by her desire to help them deal with issues around death and dying both before a death occurs as well as at the time of death. She believes that it is important for families to have one person work with them through the entire process from death through mourning.

Ms. Botbol is currently Co-President for United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism-Midwest Region and active in her synagogue.

Rabbi Stuart Kelman HOW INTERMARRIAGE IMPACTS CHEVRA KADISHA & CEMETERY WORK

Rabbi Stuart Kelman is the Rabbi at Congregation Netivot Shalom in Berkeley, CA. He is the author of *Chesed Shel Emet - Guidelines for Taharah and K'vod Hamet, A Guide for the Bereaved* and the co-author of *Give Me Your Hand*, about Bikkur Holim.

Throughout his 33-year rabbinic career, he has been involved in Jewish education serving as Professor of Education at Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles and Chair of the Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education. Rabbi Kelman is a frequent lecturer on topics ranging from Jewish traditions on death to viddui.

Rabbi Dr. Joseph S. Ozarowski CHEVRA AND CEMETERIES: WHERE IS THE CHESSED?

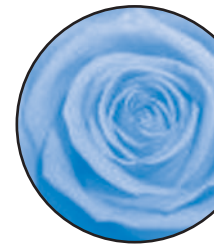
Rabbi Dr. Joseph S. Ozarowski is Rabbinic Chaplain to the Jewish Healing Network of Chicago, a program run by the Jewish Federation's Jewish Family and Community Services and is rabbi of Congregation Chovevei Zion in Skokie, Illinois.

Rabbi Ozarowski is a leader in the field of pastoral care and Judaism. A prolific author, Rabbi Ozarowski co-authored *Common Ground* and has written numerous other articles. His first book, *To Walk in God's Ways, Jewish Pastoral Perspectives on Illness and Bereavement* is considered a standard in the field of Judaism and pastoral care.

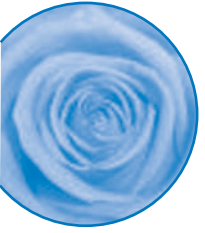
Robert Levonian PLANNING & MARKETING OF CEMETERY SPACE

Robert Levonian is an internationally known cemetery architect providing consulting services, planning concept development, environmental coordination, civil engineering site work design, construction management, and field engineering services to the cemetery industry for over 40 years. He has done design work for Forest Lawn Cemetery and Mount Sinai Memorial Park in Los Angeles, California.

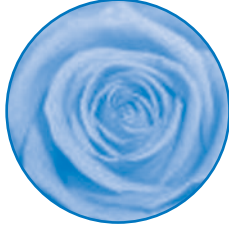
Mr. Levonian has also worked on multilevel burial, a rabbinically approved concept developed in Israel reviving historic Jewish practices that include burial of two family members in a single grave that is dug an extra meter deep, and aboveground niche burial, in which the niches are precast concrete units.



A SAMPLING OF PLENARY SESSIONS, WORKSHOPS & DEMONSTRATIONS



Jewish Cemeteries



Chevra Kadisha



community responsibility for abandoned cemeteries



the perpetual care & maintenance of cemeteries



cemeteries & mortuaries software demonstration



intermarried burials



cemetery management strategies



Halachic issues



natural disasters & their effect on cemeteries



perpetual care funds



cremation & above ground burial



governance



Tahara demonstrations



Tahara liturgy & davening



Shmira



emotional & spiritual needs



educating families about traditional practices



communicable disease & precautions



non-profit funeral homes



natural disasters & their effect on Chevra Kadisha



overseas burial



working with clergy

PROGRAM INFORMATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

HOTEL

Conference participants will enjoy a reduced rate (June 11th & 12th) at one of Portland's finest hotels, The Hilton Portland & Executive Tower. If you are planning on arriving before, or staying after, the Conference, contact Shawn Jones, Assistant Conference Coordinator, at sjones@nevehshalom.org or **503.246.8831, ext 133**, for information on lodging choices for your additional nights in Portland.

Standard rooms at the Hilton feature large dormer windows, two-line telephones with personalized voicemail, high-speed internet access (fee), working desk, coffee/tea maker, iron/board, hairdryer, Lodgenet movies and video games. All guestrooms also feature the Hilton Serenity Collection with luxury Suite Dream beds and linens, upgraded bath products from Crabtree and Evelyn, and easy-read clock radios with mini-plugs for MP3 players. Guests will enjoy views of the city, mountains, or The Willamette River.

RESERVATIONS

Reserve online at:

hilton.com/en/hi/groups/private_groups/pdxphhh_nvs/index.jhtml

OR

Call **1.800.445.8667 (800-HILTONS)** or **503.226.1611** and use the reservation code **NVS** to reserve at the reduced Conference rate.

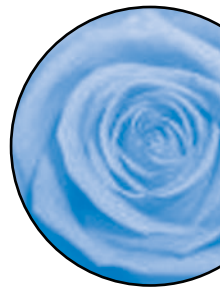
YOU MUST RESERVE BY MAY 12, 2006, TO RECEIVE THE SPECIAL CONFERENCE RATE.

MEALS

Dinner will be provided on Sunday; breakfast, lunch & dinner on Monday; and breakfast & lunch on Tuesday. All meals will be served in the Hilton Hotel dining areas and will be kosher. All food preparation will be supervised by Rabbi Kenneth Brodtkin of Congregation Kesser Israel. We will also accommodate additional dietary needs, if possible (e.g., allergies, vegetarian meals). Please indicate any special needs on the registration form.

If you'll be extending your visit to the Rose City, and would like to try one of Portland's renowned restaurants, check out travelporland.com or citysearchportland.com. Make sure to call in advance as many require reservations. Need further recommendations? Contact the concierge at the Hilton Hotel in advance, **503.226.1611**.

A ROSE IS NOT JUST A ROSE. THE PORTLAND ROSE FESTIVAL IS AN APPROPRIATE BACKDROP FOR A CHEVRA KADISHA AND JEWISH CEMETERY CONFERENCE. WHEN WE LOOK AT THE PHYSICAL APPEARANCE OF A ROSE, WE SEE ITS FRAGILE BEAUTY AND ARE REMINDED OF THE POTENTIAL AND EPHEMERAL NATURE OF OUR LIVES. AS A PRESSED ROSE BRINGS BACK MEMORIES, A LIFE LIVED WITH MEANING CREATES LOVE THAT LASTS BEYOND DEATH.



DETAILS

SHABBAT HOSPITALITY NEEDS

If you would like to make arrangements for a home-stay during Shabbat, please contact Michelle Caplan at mcaplan@nevehshalom.org. Availability limited.

TRANSPORTATION

By Air

Portland International Airport (PDX) is about half an hour from downtown (less if there is no traffic). **MAX light rail** is a most convenient transportation method. It's \$1.85 and stops at Pioneer Square, two blocks from the Hilton. MAX is wheelchair accessible.

Blue Star Shuttle will take you to the hotel for \$15. Contact **800.247.2272** or bluestarbus.com. There are other shuttles as well: Go to the ground transportation kiosk. None of the shuttles are wheelchair accessible. **Taxis** cost about \$35 to downtown and can be found at the cab stand by the transportation kiosk. Several companies have one or two wheelchair accessible taxis, but these are hard to come by. To avoid a long wait for a wheelchair taxi, it's advisable to call ahead for a reservation, and then to call again when your plane lands. Try Radio Cab: **503.227.1212**, Broadway Cab: **503.227.1234** or Portland Taxi: **503.256.5400**.

By Rail

Historic Union Station, 800 NW 6th Ave is served by three scheduled intercity passenger trains. Cascades serves Seattle and Vancouver. Coast Starlight runs from Los Angeles through San Francisco to Portland and Seattle. Empire Builder starts in Portland and traces the path taken by explorers Lewis and Clark through Glacier National Park. It terminates in Chicago.

Driving

From the Airport, take I-205 South and exit onto I-84 West. At the end of I-84 West, you will reach the junction of I-5 North & South. Head South toward Salem (to your left) on I-5. Follow the signs onto I-405. Take the 6th Ave exit off of I-405. Follow 6th Ave for 13 blocks and the main building will be on your left. The Hilton Portland (main building) is located on SW 6th Ave between SW Salmon & SW Taylor. Executive Tower's main entrance is located on 545 SW Taylor between 6th Ave and 5th Ave. From the North (Southbound) on I-5, take Exit 302A. The exit will say Rose Quarter/City Center. Follow the City Center signs, which will take you across the Broadway Bridge and place you directly on Broadway Ave. Take Broadway 19 blocks and turn left onto SW Salmon Street. Take Salmon 1 block and turn left onto SW 6th Ave. The Hilton's front doors (main building) will be on your left-hand side. Front doors for the Executive Tower are located on 545 SW Taylor.

PARKING

For participants of the North American Jewish Cemetery and Chevra Kadisha Conference, overnight self-parking (normally \$18) will be \$16, and day parking (in by 10am, out by midnight) will be \$8.75 at the Hilton Hotel and Executive Towers parking structure, at SW 6th and SW Taylor. There are seven additional parking garages in the vicinity of the Hilton.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Reservations at the Hilton Hotel: to receive the reduced Conference rate, rooms must be reserved **May 12, 2006**.

Early registration: Completed online or postmarked by **April 30, 2006**.

Regular registration: Completed online or postmarked by **May 31, 2006**.

Registration cancellations: postmarked by **May 1**, will receive a 90% refund; by **May 15**, a 50% refund; after **May 15**, emergencies only, case by case. A \$25 administrative fee is non-refundable.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact Michelle Caplan, Conference Coordinator, at mcaplan@nevehshalom.org or **503.246.8831, ext. 114** or Shawn Jones, Assistant Conference Coordinator, at sjones@nevehshalom.org or **503.246.8831, ext 133**.