



#### OUR PLEDGE

*“To honor the deceased,  
comfort the bereaved, and  
preserve, promote and practice  
the customs and traditions  
of the Jewish Funeral.”*

JEWISH FUNERAL DIRECTORS OF AMERICA

## SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL CHEVRA KADISHA

### HISTORY

In the mid-1800's, there was no Jewish funeral home in the San Francisco Bay Area, and often no rabbi to bury Jews in accordance with Jewish tradition. To fill this need, Sinai Memorial Chapel first opened its doors in 1902 in San Francisco. In 1993, it opened an office in Lafayette, and in 2005, another in Redwood City. Sinai continues to be one of the very few non-profit funeral homes in the country.

### TRADITION OF TZEDAKAH

Sinai Memorial Chapel has a deep commitment to the Jewish value of *Tzedakah*, charitable giving, extending services to the needy, and no-cost burials in cases of loss of an infant or young child.

Each year, proceeds from Sinai Memorial Chapel are returned to the community through grants to congregations and organizations funding educational and social programs.

Your support of Sinai Memorial Chapel helps preserve Judaism's precious values *l'dor v'dor*, from one generation to the next.

## SINAI PRE-NEED CONTACTS

### SAN FRANCISCO (FD 262)

Helen Schwartz, Pre-need Counselor  
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### LAFAYETTE (FD 1523)

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### REDWOOD CITY (FD 1830)

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### MARIN COUNTY

**(415) 472-3636**

*For more information:*

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**SINAI MEMORIAL  
CHAPEL**

**Chevra Kadisha**

**ADVANCE PLANNING**

**JEWISH FUNERAL HOME  
HOLY BURIAL SOCIETY  
Since 1902**

## SINAI'S MISSION

Sinai Memorial Chapel is a full-service, non-profit funeral home guided by the principles and practices of Jewish tradition. Our mission is to serve the Jewish community of the San Francisco Bay Area regardless of affiliation or non-affiliation.

***Earnings are devoted to philanthropy.***

## ADVANCE PLANNING

The emotionally difficult experience of the death of someone you love is compounded by the need to deal with funeral arrangements. As Jewish custom requires burial as soon as possible, many decisions must be made almost immediately, such as choice of casket, place of burial and type of service. Decisions such as these can be made wisely and thoughtfully in advance, for yourself or for others, alone or with family members.

For your family, pre-planning can provide both emotional and financial support at a time when other concerns and emotions are foremost. For you, knowing that your wishes will be carried out can give you peace of mind.



## GUIDELINES OF THE JEWISH FAITH

Although no one can ever be completely prepared to confront death, familiarity with Judaism's step-by-step practices can be a comfort. The human body, as a vessel of the soul, is compared to a Torah scroll. When it is no longer usable, it still retains its holiness, and must be treated with sanctity (*kedusha*).

When a person dies, the body is entrusted to the compassionate and respectful care of the members of the *Chevra Kadisha*, the Holy Burial Society. Their work is to prepare the body for burial. They perform *Tahara*, the ritual cleansing and purification of the body, accompanied by prayers for the peaceful passing of the soul of the deceased. When requested, they dress the body in *Tachrichim*, simple white burial garments, according to the belief that all people leave this earth as equals. Sinai provides both *Tahara* and *Tachrichim* at no fee and will provide a *Shomer* (Watcher) if requested. It is customary for the *Shomer* to read psalms at that time.



***"The Jewish funeral is a unique event in the life of a family. There are no two alike; yet each is an experience of value if it meets the needs of those who mourn."***

RABBI EARL GROLLMAN

## PERSONAL CONSIDERATIONS

### FUNERAL SERVICE

Our staff is knowledgeable in Jewish customs, and can help you plan traditional or alternative services, choose a venue and a clergy person or lay leader.

### CASKET

Sinai offers a selection of caskets, both traditional and non-traditional. Traditional caskets are all wood and built without nails, screws or any non-natural materials, in keeping with the Biblical teaching, "From dust you came and to dust you shall return" (Gen. 3:19).

### BURIAL

Jewish tradition maintains that burial should be in the earth. Some families prefer crypt entombment or other alternatives. Sinai can serve all the diverse needs of the Jewish community.

Choosing a place of burial is an important step in Advance Planning. You may want to be buried with your synagogue community or in a cemetery where members of your family are buried. Your surviving family may want you to be buried near where they live. If the cemetery is outside the Bay Area or in another state, special arrangements can be made.



## FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

### SINAI PRE-NEED FUNERAL TRUST

A Sinai Pre-need Funeral Trust is a pre-paid financial arrangement specifying your funeral wishes. It can be paid in a lump sum or over a period of time. The funds are placed in an account at a local financial institution, and the interest earned is used to offset future increases of the charges.

Once the funeral trust is paid in full, your family will face no future financial obligations for those specific arrangements for which you have paid.

### PRE-NEED APPOINTMENTS

Confronting the inevitability of death is not a task that is undertaken lightly. At Sinai Memorial Chapel our counselors are compassionate and knowledgeable. They provide guidance, support and practical advice to help you with arrangements that meet your needs.

- You will gain an understanding of the traditional Jewish funeral.
- You will get answers to questions and have the opportunity to explore options and concerns in an environment that is caring and relaxed.
- You will develop a plan that best meets the financial, emotional and spiritual needs of you and your family.

***We welcome your inquiries.***