

## HISTORY

In the 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 Chevra Kadisha first opened its doors in 1901 in San Francisco. In 1993, it expanded to Lafayette to serve the East Bay, and in 2005, opened a facility in the South Peninsula to serve the entire South Bay. Sinai continues to be one of the very few non-profit funeral homes in the country, serving the entirety of the diverse Jewish community of Northern California.

## OUR TRADITION

Sinai has a deep commitment to the Jewish value of K'vod Hamet, honoring the deceased, assuring the respectful burial of all, irrespective of means, and provides no-cost burials in cases of loss of an infant or young child. For families who are mourning, Sinai provides grief and bereavement counseling to support them through this difficult time.

## MISSION

Sinai is a full-service, non-profit, community-owned, funeral home guided by the principles and practices of Jewish tradition. We service the Jews of Northern California, regardless of observance or affiliation.

## SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL

### San Francisco & North Bay

1501 Divisadero Street  
P.O. Box 15579  
San Francisco, CA 94115  
(415) 921-3636  
FD262

### East Bay & Tri-Valley Region

3415 Mt Diablo Blvd  
Lafayette, CA 94549  
(925) 962-3636  
FD1523

### South Bay

3921 Fabian Way A024  
Palo Alto, CA 94303  
(650) 369-3636  
FD1830

### Eternal Home Cemetery

1051 El Camino Real  
Colma, CA 94014  
(650) 755-5236

### Gan Shalom Cemetery

1100 Bear Creek Road  
Briones, CA 94553  
(925) 228-3636

### Home of Eternity Cemetery

5000 Piedmont Avenue  
Oakland, CA 94611  
(925) 962-3636



**Jewish Funeral Home**

**Holy Burial Society**

**Since 1901**

*[www.sinaichapel.org](http://www.sinaichapel.org)*

## GUIDELINES

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. Our work is to prepare the body for burial. We perform Tahara, the ritual cleansing and purification of the body, accompanied by prayers for the peaceful passing of the soul. We then dress the body in Tachrichim, the 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), to read psalms at that time, as requested.

## CONSIDERATIONS

Our staff is knowledgeable in Jewish customs and can help you plan traditional or alternative services (including cremation), choose a venue, and coordinate with clergy.

## CASKET

Sinai offers a selection of caskets, both traditional and non-traditional. Traditional caskets are all wood and built without any hardware, in keeping with the biblical teaching, "For dust you are, And to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:19)

## BURIAL

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

Choosing a final resting place is an important step. You may want to be buried with your community or in a cemetery where members of your family are interred. Your family may want you to be placed near where they live. Sinai is well-versed in supporting interment outside of The San Francisco Bay Area, in another state, another country, or in Israel.

## ADVANCE PLANNING

The emotionally difficult experience of the death of someone you love is compounded by the need to deal with funeral arrangements. Many decisions must be made almost immediately. Decisions about casket and internment can be made wisely and thoughtfully in advance. Confronting the inevitability of death is not a task that is undertaken lightly. Each of our Sinai team members are trained, 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.
- You will develop a plan that best meets the emotional, spiritual, and financial needs of you and your family.
- There is no charge for Advance Planning services.
- Advanced payment is purely discretionary. If you choose to pay in advance, it can be paid in full or over a period of time.