

# 15<sup>th</sup> Annual North American Chevrah Kadisha and Jewish Cemetery Conference



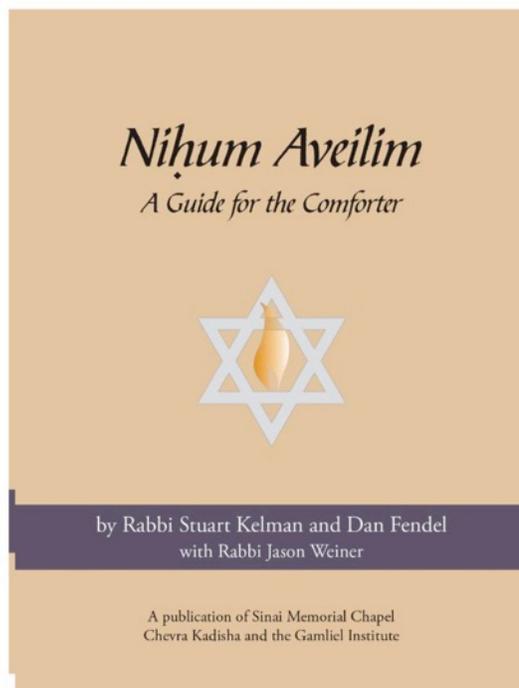
at

Congregation Rodef Sholom and the  
Osher Marin Jewish Community Center  
San Rafael, CA  
June 18-20, 2017



# A Guide For the Comforter

Those who attend Jewish funerals are often not familiar with Jewish traditions, practices and prayers. *Nichum Aveilim* provides guidance and insight, resulting in greater understanding, familiarity and awareness. This booklet answers the questions: What do you do? What should you expect? What do you say? How do you behave in a way that is appropriate and loving, while honoring and respecting Jewish tradition.



*Nihum Aveilim: A Guide for the Comforter* was written by Rabbi Stuart Kelman and Dan Fendel with Rabbi Jason Weiner. It is a collaboration of EKS Publishing, a publisher of Hebrew books in Berkeley, CA.; the Gamliel Institute, which is re-invigorating the knowledge and practice of chevra kadisha throughout the country; and Sinai Memorial Chapel Chevra Kadisha, the only not-for-profit funeral service and chevra kadisha in the United States which serves the entire Jewish community.

Would your funeral home or synagogue like to purchase copies in bulk to give to those attending funerals? Contact EKS Publishing for bulk purchasing with the imprint of your funeral home or synagogue on the front cover. For more information, email [orders@ekspublishing.com](mailto:orders@ekspublishing.com) or call 877-743-2739.

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## Welcome

### Ma Nishtanah?

Why is this conference different from all other conferences?

In all other years, the major focus of our conferences was on *tabarah*, *shmirah*, and cemetery management. Our plenaries, workshops and books focused on *tabarah* and *shmirah* liturgy, *bikekur cholim*, comforting the mourners, and guiding the comforters. This conference puts renewed emphasis on a different aspect of *nichum aveilim* - conversations about the end of life that give comfort to the mourners. On Monday Rabbi Peretz Wolf-Prusan speaks about his personal experience with the new (June 2016) California End of Life Option Act. Our evening plenary with Dr. Jessica Zitter focuses on end-of-life decision making from a medical perspective. On Tuesday we'll learn and share stories of grief and healing with Dr. Dawn Gross.

Participating in these conversations adds back an important aspect of the *Chevrah Kadisha's* traditional mission to engage with our communities along the whole continuum of end of life. But it is not enough to respond; it is also important to proactively engage. *Chevrah Kadisha* groups have a unique opportunity to be part of the first cohort of the Conversation Project. Reverend Rosemary Lloyd's plenary on Monday after lunch will acquaint you with the project and the follow-up workshop will be the start of implementation. *Chevrah Kadisha* groups that want to facilitate end-of-life discussion by congregants in your synagogue are encouraged to apply to participate in a year-long training program co-sponsored by Kavod v'Nichum and the Boston-based Conversation Project. Contact me to get involved or find out more. Ask me about Kavod Conversation!

— David Zinner, Conference Coordinator

### From Kavod v'Nichum

On behalf of the Board of Kavod v'Nichum, I'd like to welcome you to our 15th North American Chevrah Kadisha and Jewish Cemetery Conference. I am truly excited about this year's program; not only do the plenaries and seminars cover topics related to our traditional themes of death, funerals, burials, and cemeteries, but we face contemporary issues head on. This conference has something for everyone: end-of-life planning; voluntary end-of-life decisions; new and emerging *tabarah* and *shmirah* thought and liturgy; facing cremation; and cemetery management, restoration, and responses to desecration.

To that exhaustive end, I extend the Board's thanks to the many volunteers who spent countless hours developing the conference. The conference program committee met ten times starting back in November, giving rise to an amazing program. Thank you program committee members:

Susan Barnes	Dan Fendel	Rabbi Eva Sax-Bolder
Jean Berman	Malke Frank	Sally Shannon
Rabbi Joe Blair	Rabbi T'mimah Ickovits	Michael Slater
Rena Boroditsky	Rabbi Me'iriah Iliinsky	Cathy Steirn
Wendy Botwin	Rabbi Stuart Kelman	Kerry Swartz
Nancy Dotti	Rick Light	Vickie Weitzenhofer
Rabbi Avivah Erlick	Isaac Pollak	Shelley Zak
Harley Felstein	Miriam Sadofsky	David Zinner

And thank you to the local volunteers who coordinated logistics, food, facilities, marketing and transportation – led by Susan Barnes:

Hagar Ben-Eliezar	Toni Golbus	Michelle Siegel
Vivian Cohen	Debbi Handler	Aviva Shane`
Monique Epstein	Michael Kamler	Deanna Sumski
Dan Fendel	Rachel Mercer	Shelley Zak
Lani Gershik	Sally Shannon	

Thanks also to the leadership and members of Congregation Rodef Sholom and the Osher Marin Jewish Community Center for allowing us to be here. Finally, thanks to you, conference attendees, for believing in our Mission and our work by taking the time to come and learn, network and socialize with us in San Rafael.

— Kerry Swartz, President of Kavod v'Nichum

## From the Gamliel Institute

Our mission at Kavod v'Nichum remains constant: to reclaim the two *mitzvot* of *kavod v'nichum* and *nichum aveilim*. Eight years ago, at our conference, participants asked that we create a program of learning that would make it possible for people to actually about these *mitzvot* in an academic setting. Before this, the only way one could learn the work of the *Chevrah Kadisha* was by apprenticing. Through the brilliant conceptualization of David Zinner, and with the help of many people too numerous to name, and with the help of some major philanthropists and foundations (especially, the Covenant and Jewish Heritage Foundations), we set out to create such a program. This conference marks the second occasion when we can say *shebechyanu*, because we celebrate our second class to complete all five academic and practical courses online. These individuals have studied with us, joined in conferences and special sessions, and all have written a paper or completed a project of significance that makes a contribution to our mission.

Joe, Rick, Rena, Dan, Edna, Kerry, and above all David, these are the names of the staff of the Gamliel Institute. Each of them has a “portfolio,” yet each of them has a distinct voice in the formation and operation and vision of our Institute. They embody the vision of the Institute - *to reclaim the mitzvot of k'vod hameit and nichum aveilim*. They give generously and graciously of their time and vision (which includes a weekly hour long meeting, teaching and planning and evaluating our offerings, a summer staff retreat, and much more). Over the course of the conference, please find them and ask them “Why do you do this?” Meet them, and thank them, for without them, the Gamliel Institute would not and could not exist. So, when someone says, when all is said and done, what kind of people do you hope will emerge from this grand effort? We can truly point to Joe, Rick, Rena, Dan, Edna, Kerry, and David, and respond: these are our role models.

Now, it is up to all of us to take our mission further by making sure that every community in North America (at least!) has access to a fully functioning *chevrah kadisha* that truly can say: we learned about *kavod v'hameit* and *nichum aveilim* and are fully making sure that these are being taught and practiced in our communities. And, to all of you who are reading this message, please consider this an invitation to join us in our mission.

— **Rabbi Stuart Kelman, Dean of the Gamliel Institute**

## From Congregation Rodef Sholom

Welcome to Congregation Rodef Sholom and to Marin County. We are honored to be the home of the 15th Annual North American Chevrah Kadisha and Jewish Cemetery Conference. Rodef Sholom is celebrating our 60th anniversary this year. For all of this time, one of the hallmark values of our synagogue has been the centrality of caring. Rodef Sholom is an extended family, a *kehillah kedoshah* whose members care for one another when we are sick, celebrate together our holy moments, and walk together through the path of mourning. Over the years, our *Chevrah Kadisha* team has added incredible depth and holiness to our own community. Their work, your work, often invisible, has strengthened our community in profound and myriad ways. I am grateful for their commitment to the needs of our mourners and am awed by their devotion to this sacred mitzvah. They are truly invaluable partners with our clergy and indispensable to the end-of-life rituals for our members. I am truly grateful for their holy work and honored to engage with them and with all of you.

We at Rodef Sholom are looking forward to deepening our learning through the workshops and sessions over these next few days and are grateful for the opportunity to learn from the collective wisdom of this incredible conference and from each of you. Thank you again for the opportunity to host you, and we pray that your time here is inspiring, nourishing, and fulfilling. If there is anything we can do to make your time with us more comfortable, please let us know.

— **Rabbi Stacy Friedman, Senior Rabbi at Congregation Rodef Sholom**

## About Kavod v'Nichum, Gamliel Institute, Ben Zakkai, and Kavod Conversation

Kavod v'Nichum (KvN, translated as Honor and Comfort), Judaism's most comprehensive end-of-life education and training organization, was named one of North America's top 50 innovative Jewish organizations in the ninth annual *Slingshot Guide, A Resource Guide to Jewish Innovation*, released on October 24, 2013. Selected from among hundreds of finalists reviewed by 83 professionals with expertise in grant-making and Jewish communal life, Kavod v'Nichum's work is seen as "timely, unique and ubiquitous [in an] area of concern that is overlooked by most in our community." Organizations selected were evaluated on their innovative approach, the impact of their work, leadership they have in their sector, and their effectiveness at achieving results.

Kavod v'Nichum began its work in November of 2000 as a North American educational non-profit. The name comes from the two basic purposes of the *Chevrah Kadisha*. Kavod v'Nichum is dedicated to the reclaiming the *mitzvot* of *Kavod Ha-Meit*, honoring the dead, and *Nichum Aveilim*, consoling the bereaved. KvN advocates a return to an authentic and communal Jewish response toward illness, death, burial, and mourning, plus strengthening individual and community efforts to organize caring communities and *Chevrah Kadisha* groups. KvN strives for the protection of bereaved families from commercial exploitation around funeral and burial. KvN encourages traditional values and practices, and works with individuals and communities to adapt those traditions in new and meaningful ways.

KvN's Ben Zakkai Project encourages and assists the organization of bereavement committees and *Chevrah Kadisha* groups in synagogues and communities so that they can perform Jewish funeral, burial, and mourning *mitzvot*; protect and shield bereaved families from exploitation; and provide information, education, and technical assistance. KvN's educational activities support established and new *Chevrei Kadisha* and their members, collaborating with other organizations whose interests they share.

Kavod v'Nichum sponsors an annual international conference whose focus is on *Chevrah Kadisha*, Jewish cemeteries, and all aspects of Jewish death practices. These conferences have touched thousands of people. KvN also sponsors the Gamliel Institute, a well-respected institute of higher learning dedicated to education related to Jewish death, dying, burial, and mourning. The Institute is a world-class academic institution dedicated to educating and training leaders in the creation of a holistic end-of-life care continuum for their local communities. The goal is to deepen future leaders' Jewish knowledge and to help them experience the emotional, transformative, and spiritual aspects of *Chevrah Kadisha* work. The six on-line twelve-week courses present a groundbreaking opportunity for study and learning. More details about Gamliel can be found on-line at the KvN website listed below.

Our newest project, Kavod Conversation, provides resources and assistance for *Chevrah Kadisha* groups to begin end-of-life conversations with synagogue members.

KvN's website ([www.jewish-funerals.org](http://www.jewish-funerals.org)) has hundreds of pages of information on Jewish funerals, burial and mourning. Follow us through our printed publications for purchase at the conference, and online as follows:

- Our blog, Inspired and Expired, is at <http://jewishjournal.com/category/blogs/expiredandinspired>
- Our Facebook page is at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/chevrakadisha/>
- Our twitter feed is [https://twitter.com/chevra\\_kadisha](https://twitter.com/chevra_kadisha)

Contact KvN ([info@jewish-funerals.org](mailto:info@jewish-funerals.org)) if you'd like to know more about any of our programs, or if you have questions regarding any aspect of Jewish death-related practices.



# Gamliel Institute

## Gamliel Institute Core Curriculum Courses

The Gamliel Institute offers a *Chevrah Kadisha* Certificate Program that covers life's spectrum of illness, comfort, death, funerals, burial, and mourning in five courses, with a sixth course available for integrating it all together:

**Course 1: Chevrah Kadisha: Origins and Evolution**

The institution of *Chevrah Kadisha* has its origins in Biblical and other traditional texts. This course traces the evolution of *Chevrah Kadisha* practice and the *chevrah's* role in the community from early times, through the standard of practice in Medieval Europe, and into the changes that took place in the transition to the Western Hemisphere and modern times.

**Course 2: Chevrah Kadisha: Taharah and Shmirah**

The central elements of *Chevrah Kadisha* practice include the rituals of *taharah*—preparation of the body for burial—and *shmirah*—the watching of the body between death and burial. This course addresses a wide range of issues, including liturgy, training, safety, and complications.

**Course 3: Chevrah Kadisha: Education, Organizing, and Training**

Creating and maintaining a *Chevrah Kadisha* involves leadership, communal education, and training, including issues with funeral homes and funerals, cemeteries and burials. Students will need to complete individual projects as part of this course.

**Course 4: Chevrah Kadisha: Nechamah**

The mitzvah of *nechamah*—comfort—both comfort for the ill (*bikur cholim*) and comfort for the grieving (*nichum aveilim*)—is a vital part of *Chevrah Kadisha* work. This course looks at the skills involved in this work, and includes areas such as listening techniques, the concept of an ethical will, and principles involving remembrance.

**Course 5: Chevrah Kadisha: Liturgy and Ritual Practice**

Our tradition has a broad and rich liturgy and practice around end-of-life issues. This course examines the liturgy and related practice in detail, focusing on funeral and burial practice, traditional sources, variations in practice, and the role of the rabbi.

**Course 6: Chevrah Kadisha: International Perspectives**

Jewish end-of-life practice has changed not only over time, but also from place to place. This course examines variation in practices around the world, centered around a two-to-three-week study mission to New York, Prague, and Israel.

For the latest course schedule see

<http://jewish-funerals.org/gamliel-institute-course-schedule>

For registration and tuition information see:

<http://jewish-funerals.org/gamreg>

## Gamliel Day of Learning

The Gamliel Institute offers an opportunity for intense learning through three dedicated sessions after the end of the conference. These are open to all current, past, and prospective Gamliel students at a nominal fee. Prospective students require permission from the Dean to participate.

For this year's agenda, see page 26.

## Taste of Gamliel

Kavod v'Nichum and the Gamliel Institute sponsor an annual *Taste of Gamliel* webinar series. This series gives participants a taste of the Gamliel Institute's online series of six 12-week courses, which deal with the various aspects of Jewish ritual around sickness, death, funerals, burial, and mourning. The "Taste" program usually runs monthly, from January through June. A different scholar presents each session, and the sessions are independent of each other. The program is free, with a suggested minimum donation of \$36 for the full program. The sessions are online, 60-90 minutes, usually on Sunday evenings, beginning at 8pm east, 5pm west. You can learn from the comfort of your home or office, using Zoom, a particularly friendly tool. The teachers and topics are chosen for their pertinence, inspiration, and depth. Previous presenters have included Dr. Richard Address, Rabbi Elliot Dorff, Rabbi Dayle Friedman, Rabbi Steven Moss, Rabbi Sara Paasche-Orlow, and Rabbi Elie Spitz.

The link to register for this year is: <http://jewish-funerals.givezooks.com/events/taste-of-gamliel-2017> (There is one session left for 2017, on June 25, and sessions are recorded, so you can view the ones you missed.) Watch for the 2018 schedule!

For more information see <http://jewish-funerals.org/taste-gamliel>

## Gamliel Institute Graduate and Advanced Student Programs

Gamliel students who have successfully completed the Certificate Program are welcome to participate in **Graduate Classes**, which are offered twice yearly; three weeks in the Fall and three weeks in the Spring. Our intent is to provide students with ongoing opportunities to engage with selected material in more detail and more depth. Our initial series will focus on text study, and begin this Fall. More information will be here as of July 1<sup>st</sup>: <http://gamliel.institute/graduate-classes>

All current, past, and prospective Gamliel students are welcome to attend **Gamliel Cafe**. One evening a month we get together for a short teaching or presentation, followed by shmooze time – discussion of the topic of the evening, sharing our current projects, ideas, and challenges as we take our *chevrah* work into our communities and beyond, along with new topics. Gamliel Cafe is a great opportunity for some relaxed conversation and connecting. It occurs on the third Wednesday evening of each month (but not in June due to the conference, and not in September due to high holidays). For more information see page 25.

## Conference Session Descriptions

### Sunday

**Sunday 1:15pm – 2:30pm, Plenary: The State of the Chevrah Kadisha Movement**, Susan Barnes, Rena Boroditsky, Harley Felstein, Rabbi Me'irah Iliinsky, Colin Joseph, Rabbi Stuart Kelman, Kerry Swartz, Kelly Sweet, Bette Webne, David Zinner

(Sanctuary)

A roundup of what's going on in the *Chevrah Kadisha* world, locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally.

**Sunday 2:45pm – 3:45pm, Beyond Gender Separation in Taharah: Expanding the Limits of Taharah**, Rabbi Avivah Erlick, Lynn Greenhough

(Sanctuary)

Who should wash a given decedent? To attain the essential goal of honor and respect for the *meit*, we have long assumed we knew how to assign our teams, based on a match between the gender of the decedent and those of the ritual participants. But times are changing. There are people in the Jewish population today who do not limit themselves to the gender assigned them at birth; they may have changed their gender, or come to consider themselves both or neither, beyond the limits of a single social gender construct. At the same time, concepts of modesty have shifted. Excluding people from a ritual based on their gender may not be the most respectful way to show them, or the *meit*, kindness. As *Chevrei* members, how do we move beyond a *mehitzvah*, in both constituting our teams and deciding on how to attend our *meitim*? We will be looking at some possible approaches, found in our Jewish tradition, to help us as we make decisions regarding gender non-conformity.

**Sunday 2:45pm – 3:45pm, New Technology Helping Cemeteries Handle Data Records**, Lori Salberg

(Gallery)

The way we do business today is much different than it was even 10 years ago. In 2016, surveys reported that shoppers made 51% of their purchases online. With the type of technology on the market today, cemeteries need to be vigilant about protection from risk of error. Because technology provides more protection of data and process these days, consumers are less forgiving of poor record keeping or administration. You must mitigate any risk of human error by looking at implementing technologies that will protect and streamline your processes.

**Sunday 4:00pm – 5:00pm, The New Conservative Movement Teshuva On Transgender**, Rabbi Stuart Kelman

(Sanctuary)

“Transgender Jews and Halacha - A New Conservative Teshuva” written by Rabbi Leonard Sharzer and accepted by the Committee on Law and Standards, deals with this very “hot” topic. We will discuss the *teshuva* specifically as it relates to our work as a *Chevrah Kadisha*.

**Sunday 4:00pm – 5:00pm, Taharah: The Emotions We Experience and How We Process Them**, David Zinner

(Library)

At the conference last year in Lexington, Bella Rosner put together a paper and led a workshop called, “Hevra Communication: How do we share information about managing difficult *tabarot*? Selected Strategies and Experiences.” This workshop generated some intense emotional responses. Here is one excerpt that captures the feeling:

There are levels of grief/shock/sadness that come up. This experience does stay with us, and impacts our lives from one *tabarah* to the next. Yet each time the call comes with an opportunity to do this mitzvah, I take a deep breath, move past my fear or uncertainty, and say “yes”. Because in spite of the challenges that I have experienced, in doing this work, I feel renewed each time I let the unconditional love flow through me as I follow the ritual steps, and bring honor to the vessel and to the soul of the *meitab*.

What is the emotional impact of participating in *tabarah*? How do our experiences influence our lives and the lives of others? We can share our stories. The bigger question is how do we address the emotions. What we carry within us impacts our life and the lives of others from one *tabarah* to the next.

**Sunday 4:00pm – 5:00pm, Mapping the Journey of the Soul and the Mourner, Rabbi Me'irah Iliinsky**  
(Lounge)

Rabbi Me'irah Iliinsky has worked as a rabbi, a hospice chaplain and a clinical social worker. Using a combination of these experiences, as well as simply being a human, she has made a map of not only what one might experience as a mourner, but also of the corresponding whereabouts of the soul of the deceased. These are depicted within the Jewish divisions of time during the first year of mourning. She will comment on the details of her four-panel painting using a slide presentation. (It's all pictures!) Plenty of time will be given for sharing and Q & A.

**Sunday 4:00pm – 5:00pm, Expansion of A Small Community Cemetery - A Case Study, Steve Matles**  
(Gallery)

A Comstock Era cemetery was faced with a decision to either expand at its current location or serve a growing community with a new location.

**Sunday 5:00pm – 5:30pm, Integration and Networking Time**

This is scheduled time for everyone to take a breath. These conferences can be overwhelming, intense, exciting, inspiring, and tiring, all at once. This scheduled time is an opportunity for reflection, meditation, small group discussions, short walks, or personal time to integrate all of the information, networking, and interactions inherent in this event. Enjoy this time and use it wisely.

**Sunday 6:30pm – 8:30pm, Evening Program: Honoring Rabbi Stuart Kelman, Various Participants**  
(Sanctuary)

This will be a learning evening, with appreciation, in honor of the former Chair of the Kavod v'Nichum Board, and the founder and current Dean of the Gamliel Institute, Rabbi Stuart Kelman. See page 11 for the evening's program.

**Sunday 8:30pm – 10:00pm, Dessert and Social Hour / Networking Time**  
(Social Hall and Courtyard)

Greet, meet, and eat! Enjoy the evening together.

## Sunday Evening Program: Honoring Rabbi Stuart Kelman

Rabbi Stuart Kelman has had a distinguished career in Jewish education. Tonight we recognize and appreciate his impact in reclaiming the Jewish end-of-life *mitzvyot*, including *tabarab* and *shmirah*, and in bringing the centrality of the *Chevrah Kadisha* back into Jewish life.

For the Kavod v'Nichum board, for the Gamliel Institute staff, for our teachers, and their students, and the students of our students, we are inspired by Rabbi Kelman's wisdom and guidance. For those who study Torah, here and everywhere, may they be blessed with all they need, and let us say, Amen.

[Adapted from Debbie Friedman's *Kaddish De Rabbanan*]

### Evening Program

**Welcome and Introduction: Who is Rabbi Stuart Kelman?**

Kerry Swartz, President of Kavod v'Nichum

**Text Study: Talmud Bavli Berakhot 35a**

Rabbi Peretz Wolf-Prusan

**Pirkei Avot 1:1**

Sam Salkin

**Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik, *Halakhic Morality* on Pirkei Avot 1:1**

Claudia Valas

**Tzimtzum: A Mystic Model for Contemporary Leadership**

Dr. Dan Fendel, Gamliel Dean of Students

**The Way of Life According to Lao Tzu**

Diane Bernbaum

**Kaddish D' Rabbanan**

Irene Resnikoff

**Tzaddik KaTamar Yifrach: Voices and Echoes**

**Psalm 118, Pirkei Avot 1.6, Deuteronomy 21:23, Adon Olam, Psalm 92**

Carol Cunradi, Alison Jordan, and Ronna Kabatznik

**Leadership Lessons from Rabban Gamliel in Moed Katan 27a-b**

David Zinner, Executive Director of Kavod v'Nichum

Dessert reception to follow in the Social Hall.

## Monday

**Monday 8:30am – 9:30am, Plenary: Threading the Needle and the End of Life Option Act,** Rabbi Peretz Wolf-Prusan  
(Sanctuary)

When Rabbi [Judah] was dying, the [other] rabbis declared a public fast and offered prayers that God have mercy on him [i.e., spare his life] .... [His] maid went up to the roof and prayed: “The angels want Rabbi [to join them in heaven] and the people want him to remain with them. May it be the will of God that the people overpower the angels.” However, when she saw how often he had to use the bathroom, each time painfully taking off his *tefillin* and putting them on again [for it was the custom at that time to wear *tefillin* throughout the day], she prayed: “May it be the will of God that the angels overpower the people.” As the rabbis continued to pray, she took a jar and threw it off the roof. They stopped praying [because they were startled by the noise], and the soul of Rabbi [Judah] departed. (Ketubot 104a)

My story has nothing to do with that.

**Monday 9:45am – 11:15am, Jack Riemer Drashot,** Rabbi Joe Blair  
(Courtyard)

This will be a wide-ranging facilitated discussion of various topical ideas and issues. Using Rabbi Riemer's drashot as starting points, participants will engage in conversations with each other on topics that span many of the aspects of the Jewish end-of-life continuum, and touch on the work of caregivers, the *Chevrah Kadisha*, funeral professionals, comforters, and those who operate cemeteries, as well as the emotions and thoughts that often arise in the course of these roles.

**Monday 9:45am – 11:15am, Infection Control in Taharah,** Dan Doernberg, Dr. Michael Slater  
(Sanctuary)

The traditional *tabarab* liturgy includes a prayerful hope that “those who do a mitzvah will come to no harm as a result.” That said, we know the actual work of *tabarab* includes some definable risks. Over the last decade, Kavod v’Nichum has shepherded discussions among *Chevrah Kadisha* volunteers and occupational health and infection control specialists. Out of these discussions, we delineated areas of risk to *chevrah* volunteers. Most recently, a committee of the Charlottesville, VA Chevrah Kadisha crafted a first-of-its-kind *tabarab* safety manual. We will review the content and development of this groundbreaking work, and address issues of concern to conference attendees. *Tabarab* safety manuals will be available for purchase at the conference, and will be sold online going forward.

**Monday 9:45am – 11:15am, Basic Taharah Demonstration,** Susan Barnes with Members of the Local *Chevrah Kadisha*  
(Social Hall)

This session will be a traditional *tabarab* training demonstration presented “live” by experienced local *Chevrah Kadisha* members, showing how a team of *chevrah* members usually prepares a Jewish deceased for burial. The team will follow the procedures generally accepted by many of the *tabarab* manuals available today. This will be a simulated performance of the *tabarab* that does not include any actual pouring of water, and uses a simulated deceased human body. This session will be immediately followed by a second session specifically designed to discuss questions and answers related to *tabarab*. (See <https://tinyurl.com/y8yo5gqf> for a PowerPoint presentation useful in teaching *tabarab*.)

**Monday 9:45am – 11:15am, Rehearsing Your Own Death,** Nancy Dotti, Rabbi Eva Sax Bolder  
(Library)

This session is a workshop in "Releasing the soul, an experiential exercise in living your own *tabarab*." Can we imagine what our last breath feels like? How might we experience a *tabarab* as the *meit/meitab*? Who might be waiting for us on the other side? Is it like you imagined it to be? Following a guided meditation, we will have the opportunity to express our experience through drawing and/or writing. We will then share in *chevruta* (partners) before debriefing in a group setting, and conclude with ways we can offer an experiential exercise in our respective *chevrot* at home.

**Monday 9:45am – 11:15am, British Perspective On Identifying And Restoring Cemetery Sites, and Jewish Green Burial in the UK, Colin Joseph**

(Lounge)

Two topics discussed for 45 minutes each including Q & A: (1) The derelict, disused and closed Jewish cemeteries of the UK and their ongoing restoration programs; and (2) The creation of the first Jewish green burial site in the UK, which also incorporates a separate mixed faith area for burials.

**Monday 11:30am – 12:30pm, Being There When it Happens: The Deathbed Confession-*Vidui al ha-mitab* in the Jewish Tradition, Rabbi Stacy Friedman**

(Library)

Woody Allen famously quipped, “I’m not afraid to die, I just don’t want to be there when it happens.” The ancient and mystical Jewish tradition of *vidui al ha-mitab*, the deathbed confession, enables the mourners, in addition to the dying person, the opportunity to truly “be there when it happens.” Through a series of prayers, blessings, and deeds, this sacred ritual guides us toward acceptance in death. From *teshuvah* to *tikkun*, we will explore the history, hidden meanings, and possibilities intrinsic in this profoundly moving ritual.

**Monday 11:30am – 12:30pm, Expanding the Limits of Taharah: Modern Times, Inclusive Answers, Rabbi Avivah Erlick, Holly Blue Hawkins**

(Lounge)

We do everything we can to accompany each *neshamah* with honor, striving to provide *tabarah* ceremonies that are, to the greatest extent possible, by the book. But what do we do when this is just not an option? Sometimes a family wants *tabarah* prior to cremation. The decedent may not have identified with either gender. Families may ask to participate, and to personalize the ritual with the *meit's* own garments and mementos. They may even want to hold the ritual in their own home or backyard. Tackling these sorts of modern situations is the mission of a new kind of *Chevrah Kadisha*: creative *tabarah* providers. While they do provide by-the-book *tabarah* when it fits the circumstances, they are also open to providing greater flexibility, so that no one who wants a *tabarah* is turned away for ritual reasons. The speakers will talk about how they find ways to use the rules and customs of *tabarah* as a framework and springboard for impassioned, customized ritual.

**Monday 11:30am – 12:30pm, Taharah Question and Answer, Susan Barnes, Rena Boroditsky, Rick Light**

(Social Hall)

This is a continuation of and follow-up to the *tabarah* demonstration in the previous session. In this session attendees will be able to ask about and discuss questions and concerns related to all aspects of the performance of *tabarah*.

**Monday 11:30am – 12:30pm, Community Building in Life After Loss, Dr. Patrick Arbore, Samantha Feld, Dara Kosberg**

(Sanctuary)

The Dinner Party is an international community of thousands of people in their 20s and 30s who have experienced loss, who now gather in over 130 cities for potluck-style dinner parties to break bread and support one another in living well after loss. Over the past several years, we’ve learned a thing or two about how to get millennials who’ve experienced loss to the table by creating spaces for young adults to be young adults and building genuine community. In this talk, we will provide resources and tools to help you better support young people in more traditional grief support settings. We’ll also share the cultural trends that are bringing people to the table, and break through the obstacles that often interfere with successfully building more supportive, inclusive communities.

**Monday 11:30am – 12:30pm, Creating Returns On Your Perpetual Care Investments, Charlie Meyers**  
(Courtyard)

Where do cemeteries invest their money safely, but also get a reasonable return?

**Monday 1:30pm – 2:30pm, Plenary: Conversation Project – Discussing End of Life Wishes in Your Congregation, Rev Rosemary Lloyd**  
(Sanctuary)

How we die is part of our legacy to our loved ones and our communities. Most Americans express the hope that as they near the end of their lives, they will not be a burden for their families and friends. Yet, if we avoid having values-centered conversations about our unique hopes and wishes for care through the end of life, we may be leaving family members in the dark. This omission may result in strife at the bedside and cause lasting damage in the relationships between the people we love the most. The Conversation Project's goal is to have everyone's wishes for care through the end of life expressed and respected. By the end of the workshop, you will understand the importance of having the conversation from personal, professional and system perspectives. You will be able to identify the barriers to having end-of-life care conversations and the strategies to promote action. This workshop will introduce participants to The Conversation Starter Kit. Through guided reflection and small group sharing, the Starter Kit will support and motivate you to have a values-based, relationship-building personal and professional conversation about an experience that touches us all.

**Monday 2:45pm – 4:15pm, Renewing Sacred Circuits: Cultivating the Divine Feminine, Rabbi T'mimah Ickovits**  
(Social Hall)

Do you practice *tabarab*? Do you organize or officiate funerals? Come and learn about *hakafot*, or “circuits” in English; a little known, powerful traditional practice, and a skillful means for *kevod ha-met*, honoring the dead. They are part of the ritual in the classical text on end of life, the *Sefer Maavor Yabbok*. Most Jews can recall circuits as an ongoing part of ritual. Many have witnessed circling beneath a *huppah*, the wedding canopy, in a *sukkah*, a parade of Jews holding fragrant *lulavim* and *etrogim*, or on *Simhat Torah*, where a community might be joyfully dancing in circuits with Torah. It is meaningful, then, at life's end to complete with a final set of circuits. We will explore the meaning and structure of seven circuits, engage with sacred text from *Sefer Maavor Yabbok* to accompany the *hakafot*, and complete this session by rehearsing the practice together in Hebrew and English.

**Monday 2:45pm – 4:15pm, Death, Stories, and Transformation, Rick Light**  
(Lounge)

This talk is an introduction to the power of stories and how they can transport us, transform us, teach us, and help us heal. In his award-winning book, *Jewish Rites of Death, Stories of Beauty and Transformation*, the author helps us understand what it is like to enter into the liminal space between this world and the next, as we experience personal stories and survey what it feels like to do *Chervab Kadisha* work. In this talk we will explore the extraordinary experience of entering into the holy space between worlds as we learn about the actions, the prayers, and the *kavanah* involved in Jewish death rituals. These stories help us understand the feelings, what it feels like to do this holy work and how it changes people's lives.

**Monday 2:45pm – 4:15pm, Implementing the Conversation Project, Rev Rosemary Lloyd, David Zinner**  
(Sanctuary)

If you share The Conversation Project's passion that everyone's wishes for end-of-life care should be expressed and respected, you may be wondering how you can start using their free materials in interactions with your synagogue members, rabbis, staff, and loved ones to increase the number of conversations about wishes for EOL care. In this focus group, Rosemary Lloyd, Advisor to Faith Communities, will share examples from faith communities and the health care field on how to use The Conversation Project's free Starter Kit Guides to engage in meaningful conversations about What Matters Most (not just What's the Matter). She will review the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's 5 Conversation Ready Principles that can guide and inform integrating EOL conversation into the life and work of a community. She will illustrate practical ways that you can organize, educate, and support your communities to engage in crucial and relationship-strengthening conversations about EOL care wishes so that those wishes can be respected. There will be ample time for questions, addressing FAQs, and brainstorming about taking the first step when you return from the conference.

**Monday 2:45pm – 4:15pm, Site Utilization and Historic Cemetery Restoration,** Shirley Barnett, Bill Pechet  
(Gallery)

The first part of this two-part presentation (Barnett) will discuss the process of revitalizing Vancouver's original Jewish Cemetery, which was first established in 1892. The session will provide insights into the organizational, funding, and physical components of the project, which was completed in 2015. The talk will provide tips on how other communities may achieve this kind of process and how various stakeholders can be brought into the experience. The second part of the presentation (Pechet) will illustrate a number of other cemetery and memorial projects from the Vancouver-based design firm. The slides will illuminate how each project presents unique opportunities to address site utilization to support ritualistic and community needs.

**Monday 4:30pm – 5:30pm, Taharah Liturgy Text Study,** Dan Fendel, Rabbi Stuart Kelman  
(Sanctuary)

As a *tabarah* team goes through the steps of preparation of the body for burial, they recite a complex liturgy. This session will explore how this liturgy reflects the interactions among the various participants – especially, the *meit(ab)*, the team, and the Holy One – and how it achieves the goals of the ritual.

**Monday 4:30pm – 5:30pm, Navigating the Liminal Place – a play,** Rabbi Me'irah Iliinsky  
(Lounge)

As a Gamliel graduate, I have to say that learning the meaning of the *tabarah* liturgy was my favorite course. Rabbi Stu Kelman speaks of the different “voices in the room.” Inspired by that phrase, I wrote a play, with the audience being the actors of those various voices. The text of the play is the *tabarah* liturgy itself. If you learn best by doing, come participate in this play with its very many colorful actors, and take up your role as one of the archetypes in our ancient tradition. Experience the profundity of what is we do when we perform the *tabarah* ritual (or when it will be performed upon us!).

**Monday 4:30pm – 5:30pm, Jewish Reincarnation: Fact or Fiction,** Rabbi Menachem Landa  
(Library)

Must every soul that does not fulfill all the commandments continue to be reincarnated until 613 *Mitzvot* are completed? How does this relate to the concept of purification? Is there a connection to the purification that we do when we do a *tabarah*?

**Monday 4:30pm – 5:30pm, Cemetery Vandalism, Insurance, and Continuity,** Harley Felstein  
(Gallery)

Jewish REACH works with communities throughout North America to identify cemetery sites that have been abandoned or are in disrepair, and helps with proper maintenance, review of administration, succession, by-laws, and financial preparation and halakhic issues. Jewish Reach raises awareness of the importance and value of cemeteries in Jewish tradition.

**Monday 5:30pm – 6:00pm, Integration Time**

This is scheduled time for everyone to take a breath. These conferences can be overwhelming, intense, exciting, inspiring, and tiring, all at once. This scheduled time is an opportunity for reflection, meditation, small group discussions, short walks, or personal time to integrate all of the information, networking, and interactions inherent in this event. Enjoy this time and use it wisely.

**Monday 7:00pm – 8:30pm, Evening Plenary: A New Kind of Heroism,** Dr. Jessica Zitter  
(Sanctuary)

As a pulmonary and critical care physician at Highland Hospital in Oakland, California, Dr. Zitter has had a front row seat to the public health crisis that touches all of us: people dying badly. Every day, far too many people are dying in unnecessary distress and suffering. Without knowing our options, we become subject to what she calls the “end-of-life conveyor belt,” in which mechanization and protocol override personal preference and collaborative decision-making. Without intervention, this will be our path to the end of life, too. Dr. Zitter exposes the public health crisis from an insider's perspective, taking us on the journey of her lifelong love affair with medicine, sharing the stories of the truly heroic people who helped transform the meaning of saving a life, right up until the very end. She challenges and invites us, as patients, physicians, families, and healthcare professionals, to take a step back, a deep breath, and ask: what do we really want for ourselves, our loved ones, and those entrusted to our care when death comes?

**Monday 8:30pm – 9:45pm, Evening Program: Follow-on Discussion and Book Signing, Dr. Jessica Zitter**  
(Social Hall)

This will be a continuation of the above session. It will continue the question and answer period and give the opportunity to purchase signed books and chat with Dr. Zitter personally.

**Monday 8:45pm – 9:45pm, Evening Program: Musical Program, Cantors from Rodef Sholom: Cantor David Margules, Rabbi-Cantor Elana Rosen-Brown**  
(Sanctuary)

Join Cantor David and Rabbi-Cantor Elana for a musical journey through the power of healing within community. We will touch on liturgical songs of healing and peace, and rejoice in songs and prayers of celebration.

**Monday 9:45pm – 10:30pm, Integration and Networking Time**

Greet, meet, and eat! Enjoy the evening together.

## Tuesday

**Tuesday 8:30am – 9:30am, Plenary Panel: Navigating Cremation’s Impact – Practical and Theoretical – Trends, Environment, Cemetery, Taharah, Halachic,** Harley Felstein, Howard Jampolsky, Rabbi Michael Lezak (Sanctuary)

Jewish cemeteries and *Chevrah Kadisha* groups are both faced with the challenge of dealing with cremation. Should we do *taharah* for someone who is going to be cremated? Should we bury cremains in a Jewish cemetery? Why are these questions important? What are the sources we rely on? How do we educate our community?

**Tuesday 9:45am – 10:45am, Meit or Niftar: The Power of Language,** Rabbi Stuart Kelman (Social Hall)

A Conversation: Two Words, Two Philosophies. We have been using the word *meit* in most of our literature to describe someone who has died. But another term, *niftar*, is equally in use, particularly in Israel. This session is a conversation, not a lecture, about the use of these terms. Perhaps we need to change the way we talk about a deceased individual?

**Tuesday 9:45am – 10:45am, Reactions to Death Education Using Animation,** Jeremy Shuback (Lounge)

What does it take to get over a 100,000 people to watch videos on Jewish mourning rituals? Jeremy Shuback directed a series on the subject two years ago, and has seen an incredible reaction since. After screening these videos, there will be a discussion on what went into making them, what the reaction has been, and what videos could be helpful to make in the future around mourning.

**Tuesday 9:45am – 10:45am, Deepen Your Experience of Shmirah,** Ruth Minka, Cathy Steirn (Library)

The traditional practice of *shmirah* entails sitting with the deceased to ensure that, from the time of death to burial, the person is not alone. In ancient times, it was necessary to protect the body of a loved one from animals or other depredations. The tradition remains, but what does sitting *shmirah* mean in modern times? This interactive workshop takes a deep dive into the many ways to understand the practice of *shmirah* and the diverse approaches modern Jewish communities take to caring for our loved ones after death.

**Tuesday 9:45am – 10:45am, Stories, Grief, and Healing: What Matters Most,** Jean Berman, Dr. Dawn Gross (Sanctuary)

How do we assist people in knowing their heart’s desire at the end of life? If someone had a magic wand and could grant you one wish, what would that be? Be touched and inspired by these stories.

**Tuesday 11:00am – noon, Spiritual Powers of Kaddish,** Rabbi SaraLeya Schley (Library)

Our text study will begin with exploring the Scriptural underpinnings of the *Kaddish* text. Next, we will look at Rabbinic sources which attribute spiritual and mystical qualities to the act of saying these words out loud. We will look at the origins in midrash of saying *Kaddish* for the benefit of the soul of the departed, and examine the differences among the various liturgical forms of *Kaddish*.

**Tuesday 11:00am – noon, Our Tables as Tickets to Olam HaBa,** Beth Huppin (Lounge)

There is a little known tradition of making people’s coffins from the tables where they fed the poor, studied Torah, or worked faithfully at their trade. Come on a textual and spiritual journey from a *mussar* text and the *Kitzur Shulchan Aruch* to Isaiah and finally, to the Zohar. You’ll never see your own table in the same way again.

**Tuesday 11:00am – noon, Community Education: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly,** Edna Stewart (Social Hall)

When "DEATH" is in the title of an educational offering, people usually run in the opposite direction. It doesn’t have to be that way. Let’s look at a program that ran for two years and was centered around Jewish rituals for illness, dying, and burial. What worked? What did not work? How can you do it in your community?

**Tuesday 11:00am – noon, Understanding the 23rd Psalm, Rabbi Dr. Raphael Goldstein**  
(Sanctuary)

Understanding the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm based on Rabbi Goldstein's doctoral project, Psalms and the Key of Healing. Why do we say this Psalm at every funeral even though it is not about grief?



### 30 DAYS, A JOURNEY OF LOVE, LOSS AND HEALING

Nearly a year after the death of his in-laws, Craig Taubman understood the sustaining power of the Jewish mourning rituals to embrace loss and grief. Based on the ritual of *Shloshim*, Craig created *30 Days, a Journey of Love, Loss and Healing*, a unique package of thirty cards, each with a moving introspection from a poet, faith leader, artist, healer or author, to help people on their journey toward hope and healing.

Available FREE in the conference bookstore, donations are accepted and encouraged.

## Conference Extras

If you haven't signed up in advance, check with the conference registration desk to see whether there are still openings for these conference events.

### **Sunday morning June 18: 9:30am – noon** **Gan Yarok Pre-Conference Cemetery Tour**

Gan Yarok (“Green Garden”) is part of Fernwood Cemetery, in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and just a few exits down Highway 101 from the conference site. Consecrated in 2010, Gan Yarok is the first Jewish and Green Cemetery in America. This beautiful cemetery has three sections: Orthodox, Conservative, and Community making it possible for the entire Jewish community to be buried together in one location. Transportation to Gan Yarok will leave from in front of Rodef Sholom and return in time for the conference start. During our visit, led by Rabbi Stuart Kelman, one of the founders of the cemetery, we'll learn about the creation of the cemetery and its dedication, the rules for each of its parts, view the magnificent chapel, and learn how even *kebanim* can be present at the funeral!

### **Sunday afternoon June 18: 2:00pm – 5:00pm** **Starting & Managing a Community Funeral Home- sponsored and led by Sinai Memorial Chapel**

Sinai Memorial Chapel Chevra Kadisha, founded in 1902, is the only religious, community-owned, not-for-profit, Chevra Kadisha, funeral home, and cemetery combination in the nation that serves the entire spectrum of its Jewish community.

Transportation provided to travel to Sinai Memorial Chapel's main office in San Francisco and back to the conference site. On the way, Sinai Board President, Michael Rubenstein, and Executive Director Sam Salkin, will begin briefing participants about Sinai's history. At Sinai's office participants will tour the building, meet lay leadership and staff, and participate in a focused intensive exploration of what a community needs to consider to move from a *Chevrah Kadisha* to a community-owned funeral home. Discussion on the bus ride back will focus on facilitating next steps and planning for continuing conversation and assistance.

### **Tuesday afternoon June 20: 1:00pm – 4:15pm** **Gan Shalom Post Conference Cemetery Tour - sponsored and led by Sinai Memorial Chapel and Gan Shalom Cemetery lay leadership and staff**

A bus will pick up attendees (with their box lunch) from the conference site, load their luggage, and transport them to Gan Shalom Cemetery in Briones, a trip of about 45 minutes. Sam Salkin, Sinai Memorial Executive Director, will brief participants on the bus about Sinai's and the Cemetery's history. At the cemetery, participants will tour the cemetery as they hear from the cemetery lay leaders and staff, including Daniel Villa, General Manager, and Jay A. Lewis, Managing Funeral Director, about the challenge of starting a new cemetery, including zoning, land use, community relations, marketing, finances, *halacha*, *minhagim*, and many other issues around starting and operating a Jewish Cemetery.

Gan Shalom Cemetery is an all-Jewish, not-for-profit, cemetery in the East Bay, consecrated in 2008, welcoming all members of the Jewish community, including members of interfaith families and those who are unaffiliated. It is nestled on 82 acres among the regional parklands and ranches surrounding the Briones area. In addition to burial gardens for the community at large, the cemetery has separate gardens for members of local Jewish congregations, as well as for people who identify with specific branches of Judaism. The cemetery is located at 1100 Bear Creek Rd., Briones, CA 94553. After the tour, the bus will bring participants to the Lafayette BART station at about 4:15. If you are flying home, you can train to either the Oakland airport (30 minutes) or the San Francisco airport (about 60 minutes) and be able to connect with flights that leave after 7:30 pm.

## Next Gamliel Offering – Course 2: Chevrah Kadisha: Taharah and Shmirah



“Washing of the Body”

The Cycle of Paintings of the Prague Burial Society (c. 1772)

### **Gamliel Institute’s Course 2:** *Chevrah Kadisha: Tabarah & Shmirah*

REGISTER NOW!

12 sessions:

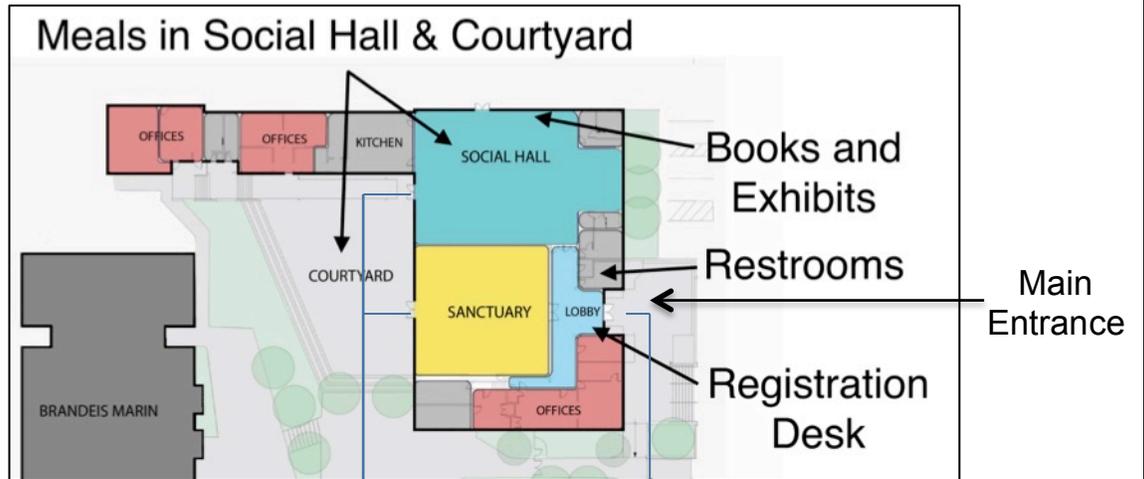
Tuesdays, starting September 5<sup>th</sup>, 8-9:30 pm EST (5-6:30 pm PST)

This course is an in-depth study of the work of the Chevrah Kadisha in the activities and *mitzvot* of guarding the body of the deceased (*shmirah*) and of ritually preparing the body for burial (*tabarah*). This is very much a "how-to" course as well as an examination of the liturgy and of the unusual situations that can arise. The course also looks at the impact of the work on the community and on the members of the Chevrah Kadisha, and provides an ongoing review of best practices. Studies include: spiritual transformative power; personal testimony; meaning and purpose; face of God; *tabar* and *tamei*; *tachrichim*; history; manuals and *tefilot*; training; impediments; safety; and complications.

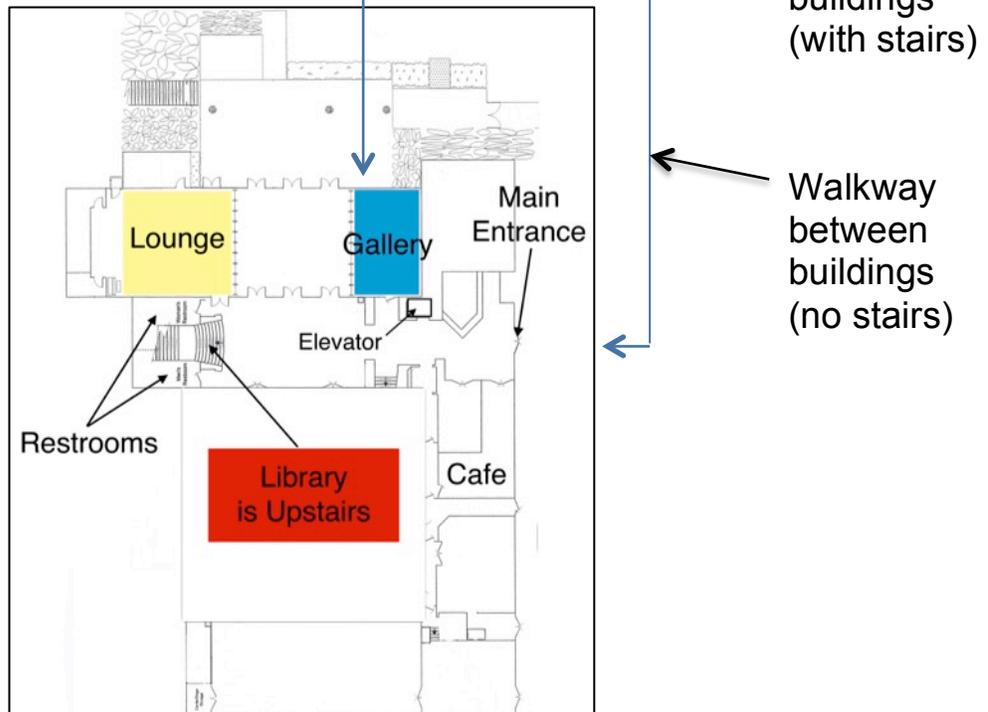
For more information, please go to <http://www.jewish-funerals.org> and click on the link for the Gamliel Institute. You can register at <http://www.jewish-funerals.org/gamreg>.

# Conference Facilities

## Congregation Rodef Sholom Floor Plan



## OMJCC First Floor Plan



## Conference at a Glance

(In this chart, some titles here have been shortened to fit.)

Sunday	Text Study	Taharah	Spiritual Care	Community Funeral Home	Cemetery
8:30	Registration Opens				
8:30 – 12:00	Informal Networking, Sharing, and Gan Yarak Cemetery Tour; Book Sales Continuously Throughout The Conference				
10:00 – 1:30	Informal Brunch (Social Hall and Courtyard)				
12:00 – 1:15	Networking, Welcome, and Introductions David Zinner, Kerry Swartz, Rabbi Stuart Kelman, Rodef Sholom Clergy (Sanctuary)				
1:15 – 2:30	Opening Plenary: The State of the Chevrah Kadisha Movement (Sanctuary)				
2:30 – 2:45	Break				
2:45 – 3:45	Beyond Gender Separation in Taharah: Expanding the Limits of Taharah Rabbi Avivah Erlick, Lynn Greenhough (Sanctuary)			Starting and Managing A Community Funeral Home Tour and Program Sam Salkin (Offsite)	Helping Cemeteries Handle Data Lori Salberg (Gallery)
3:45 – 4:00	Break				Break
4:00 – 5:00	Conservative Teshuva On Transgender Rabbi Stuart Kelman (Sanctuary)	Taharah: The Emotions We Experience David Zinner (Library)	Mapping the Journey of the Soul Rabbi Me'irah Iliinsky (Lounge)	Starting and Managing A Community Funeral Home Tour and Program Sam Salkin (Offsite)	Expansion of a Small Community Cemetery Steve Matles (Gallery)
5:00 – 5:30	Networking and Processing				
5:30 – 6:30	Dinner (Social Hall and Courtyard)			Mincha-Ma'ariv 6:00-6:30 (Sanctuary)	
6:30 – 8:30	Evening Program: The Gamliel Institute Honors Rabbi Stuart Kelman Text Study, Appreciation, and Music (Sanctuary)				
8:30 – 10:00	Dessert and Social Hour / Networking (Social Hall and Courtyard)				

Monday	Text Study	Taharah	Spiritual Care	Cemetery	
7:00 – 8:30	Breakfast (Social Hall and Courtyard)		Shacharit 7:00-7:45 (Sanctuary)		
8:30 – 9:30	Plenary: Threading the Needle and the End of Life Option Act Rabbi Peretz Wolf-Prusan (Sanctuary)				
9:30 – 9:45	Break				
9:45 – 11:15	Jack Riemer Drashot Rabbi Joe Blair (Courtyard)	Infection Control in Taharah Dan Doernberg, Dr. Michael Slater (Sanctuary)	Basic Taharah Demo Susan Barnes with Local CK (Social Hall)	Rehearsing Your Own Death Nancy Dotti, Rabbi Eva Sax-Bolder (Library)	UK Perspective On Restoring Cemetery Sites and Green Burial Colin Joseph (Lounge)
11:15 – 11:30	Break				
11:30 – 12:30	Vidui al HaMitah Rabbi Stacy Friedman (Library)	Expanding Taharah Rabbi Avivah Erlick, Holly Blue Hawkins (Lounge)	Taharah Q & A Susan Barnes, Rena Boroditsky, Rick Light (Social Hall)	Community Building After Loss Dr. Patrick Arbore, Samantha Feld, Dara Kosberg (Sanctuary)	Creating Returns On Perpetual Care Investments Charlie Meyers (Courtyard)
12:30 – 1:30	Lunch (Social Hall and Courtyard)				

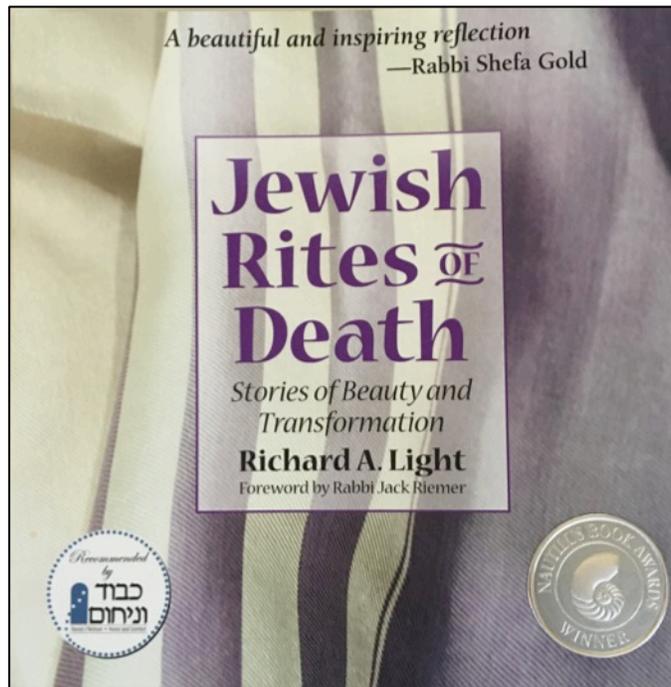
1:30 – 2:30	Plenary: Conversation Project – Discussing End of Life Wishes in Your Congregation Rev Rosemary Lloyd (Sanctuary)			
2:30 – 2:45	Break			
2:45 – 4:15	Renewing Sacred Circuits: Cultivating the Divine Feminine Rabbi T'mimah Ickovits (Social Hall)	Death, Stories, and Transformation Rick Light (Lounge)	Implementing the Conversation Project Rev Rosemary Lloyd, David Zinner (Sanctuary)	Site Utilization and Cemetery Restoration Shirley Barnett, Bill Pechet (Gallery)
4:15 – 4:30	Break			
4:30 – 5:30	Taharah Liturgy Text Study Dan Fendel, Rabbi Stuart Kelman (Sanctuary)	Navigating the Liminal Place – a play Rabbi Me'irah Iliinsky (Lounge)	Jewish Reincarnation: Fact or Fiction Rabbi Menachem Landa (Library)	Cemetery Vandalism, Insurance, and Continuity Harley Felstein (Gallery)
5:30 – 6:00	Networking and Processing			
6:00 – 7:00	Dinner (Social Hall and Courtyard)		Mincha-Ma'ariv 6:00-6:30 (Sanctuary)	
7:00 – 8:30	Evening Program: A New Kind of Heroism Dr. Jessica Zitter (Sanctuary)			
8:30 – 8:45	Break		Follow-on Discussion and Book Signing Dr. Jessica Zitter (Social Hall)	
8:45 – 9:45	Musical Program Cantors from Rodef Sholom: David Margules, Rabbi Elana Rosen-Brown (Sanctuary)			
9:45 – 10:30	Social Hour and Networking			

Tuesday	Text Study	Taharah	Spiritual Care	Cemetery
7:00 – 8:30	Breakfast (Social Hall and Courtyard)		Shacharit 7:00-7:45 (Sanctuary)	
8:30 – 9:30	Plenary Panel: Navigating Cremation's Impact – Practical and Theoretical – Trends, Environment, Cemetery, Taharah, Halachic (Sanctuary)			
9:30 – 9:45	Break			
9:45 – 10:45	Meit or Niftar Rabbi Stuart Kelman (Social Hall)	Reactions to Animation Jeremy Shuback (Lounge)	Experience of Shmirah Ruth Minka, Cathy Steirn (Library)	Stories, Grief, and Healing Jean Berman, Dr. Dawn Gross (Sanctuary)
10:45 – 11:00	Break			
11:00 – 12:00	Power of Kaddish Rabbi SaraLeya Schley (Library)	Our Tables as Tickets to Olam HaBa Beth Huppin (Lounge)	Education: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly Edna Stewart (Social Hall)	Understanding the 23rd Psalm Rabbi Dr. Raphael Goldstein (Sanctuary)
12:00 – 12:30	Box Lunch and Goodbyes (Social Hall and Courtyard)			
1:00 – 4:15	Gan Shalom Cemetery Tour Advance Registration Required, Transportation Provided To Cemetery and at Conclusion to BART Station			

# Jewish Rites of Death: Stories of Beauty and Transformation



## Winner 2016 Nautilus Book Award



Personal stories about what it feels like to do the holy work of taking care of the dead: what it feels like to enter into the liminal space between death and life to midwife a soul between worlds.

Profoundly insightful, inspired and inspiring, impressively well written, organized and presented, Jewish Rites of Death is a unique and very highly recommended addition to personal, synagogue, community, and academic Judaic Studies collections.

—Midwest Book Review March 2016

With unflinching courage and openhearted tenderness, Rick Light faces Death, revealing its power to open us to the preciousness of Life. Jewish Rites of Death achieves the rare integration of practicality and poetry.

– Rabbi Shefa Gold, author of *The Magic of Hebrew Chant: Healing the Spirit, Transforming the Mind, Deepening Love*

I don't usually say this about any book, but I believe that the vitality and the authenticity and the future of Jewish life in America can be measured by how many people read this literally awesome book and learn to see both life and death in a whole new perspective as a result.

– From the Foreword by Rabbi Jack Riemer, Editor of *Jewish Reflections on Death and Jewish Insights on Death and Mourning*

This book is available at the conference bookstore or online. For more information see <http://richardalight.com>

**Let us entice you...**

**Come to the Gamliel Café**



- For all Gamliel students interested in staying connected (Others who are interested please speak with Rabbi Stuart Kelman, Dean)
- Monthly evening gatherings
- Ongoing learning, schmoozing, sharing, networking
- Each session begins with a short unexpected teaching!

**Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, 5pm PDT, 8pm EDT**

Next two sessions:

- July 19 – David Zinner: “Future of Jewish-Muslim Relations”
- August 16– Isaac Pollak: “Sheol in the Tanakh”

Zoom meeting number **451 556 6120**

(No preregistration required.)

**Dare to be enticed!**

**Find out more here after July 1<sup>st</sup>:** <http://gamliel.institute/cafe>

For questions contact the following Gamliel Staff:

Rena Boroditsky, [rboroditsky@gmail.com](mailto:rboroditsky@gmail.com)

Rick Light, [ricklight.rxl@gmail.com](mailto:ricklight.rxl@gmail.com)

## Gamliel Day of Learning 2017

Gamliel Institute offers an opportunity for intense learning through three dedicated sessions after the end of the conference. These are open to all current and past Gamliel students, and prospective students who have received permission from the Dean to participate. (Prospective students please obtain permission from Rabbi Stuart Kelman here at the conference.)

**Embassy Suites, 101 McInnis Pkwy, San Rafael CA 94903**

**Tuesday afternoon, June 20 – 2:00pm – 4:00pm**

**Who was Rabban Gamliel?: An Exploration of the Figure and His Legacy**

Dr. Deena Aranoff

An exploration of the life and times of Rabban Gamliel, who he was and the power of the legacy he left for us.

Deena Aranoff is Faculty Director of the Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. She teaches rabbinic literature, medieval patterns of Jewish thought, and the broader question of continuity and change in Jewish history. Deena is also a community educator and teaches Bible, rabbinics, and Jewish mysticism throughout the Bay Area.

**Tuesday night, June 20 – 4:30pm – 6:00pm, 7:30 – 9:00pm**

***The Kohen Gadol and Olam Haba in the Zohar***

Beth Huppin

We dress a person for burial in the clothing of the *Kohen Gadol*. Why? What is the symbolism? Come on a journey through a Zohar text that describes, in detail, the work of the *Kohen Gadol* on *Yom Kippur* and enter with him into the Holy of Holies. Experience with him every aspect of this unique day, and in the process, understand the depth of the sacred nature of your *Chevrah Kaddisha* work. We will also get a taste of what the mystics understood when they spoke of *Olam Haba*.

Beth Huppin has enjoyed teaching children and adults of all ages in formal and informal settings for over 35 years. She currently is the director of Project Kavod, the Jewish educational program at Jewish Family Service of Seattle. She is a recipient of a 2010 Covenant award for excellence in Jewish education.

**Wednesday morning, June 21, 9:00am – 12:00pm**

**Love, Death, and Community in Russian Jewry**

Dr. Steven J. Zipperstein

An examination of the rhythms of the intimate, religious, and communal lives of Russian Jews in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. With the use of S. Ansky's ethnographic findings and much else, we'll examine together the values underlying everyday life before the 1917 Revolution.

Steven J. Zipperstein is Koshland Professor in Jewish Culture and History at Stanford University. He is the author and editor of eight books including *Elusive Prophet: Abad Ha'am and the Origins of Zionism*. His newest book *Pogrom: Kishinev and Tilt of History*, will be published by W. W. Norton early next year.

## Speaker Biographies

**Arbore, Dr. Patrick**, began his career in the field of aging in 1973. He is the Founder and the Director of the Center for Elderly Suicide Prevention and Grief Related Services (CESP), a program of Institute on Aging in San Francisco. Patrick conducts workshops and presents lectures locally and nationally on aging-related subjects including elderly suicide prevention, ageism, hoarding, substance abuse, burn-out, compassion fatigue, communication, depression, traumatic loss, and many others. He is the author of numerous articles and book chapters on a variety of aging-related topics. He is a Senior Lecturer at Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont, CA.; an occasional Lecturer in the School of Social Welfare at the University of California, Berkeley; and an Adjunct Faculty member at The Wright Institute. Patrick was the recipient of the 2013 Mental Health and Aging Award presented by the American Society on Aging In January 2015, Patrick was selected as a Silver Medalist for Public Service sponsored by the Jefferson Award Regional Committee. Patrick is the recipient of the 2016 Norma Satten Community Service Innovation Award for his commitment to human rights and community living.  
(Monday 11:30am)

**Barnes, Susan**, is a founding member of the *Chevrah Kadisha* at Congregation Rodef Sholom, a member of the Board of Kavod v'Nichum, and a volunteer spiritual care provider for the Bay Area Jewish Healing Center. She has taught about *tabarah* and Jewish practices regarding death, dying, and mourning at Congregation Rodef Sholom, Congregation Kol Shofar, Limmud Bay Area, Vacaville State Prison, and the Bay Area Jewish Healing Center. She recently developed a lesson plan and preparation guide for teaching high school students about *shmirah*. Her favorite saying, from Rabbi Michael Lezak, about this work is, "Get close to death. It will bring you closer to life."  
(Sunday 1:15pm, Monday 9:45am, 11:30am)

**Barnett, Shirley**, has lived in Vancouver since she was a child, and has been a social worker with an interest in community development for the last 30 years. Shirley sees needs in the community that no one else seems interested in, puts groups of people together, and then goes to work! Observing the neglect in the old Jewish Cemetery where her grandfather is buried, Shirley undertook the restoration of Mountain View Jewish Cemetery and completed this three-year project with amazing results. Following this, Shirley undertook the chairmanship to renovate and restore the main Schara Tzedek Funeral Chapel in Vancouver. Previous projects included the founding of several organizations such as Vancouver's Hebrew Free Loan Association. In 2015, in recognition of her community achievements, Shirley was the honoree of the JNF Negev Dinner in Vancouver.  
(Monday 2:45pm)

**Berman, Jean**, is an interfaith minister, ordained by the Chaplaincy Institute of Maine in 2013, and considers her ministry anchored in Judaism. Jean speaks to Jewish and mixed groups about the value of rituals and ceremonies in our lives, highlighting the Jewish way of death and dying. She has experience working with the dying, and has studied customs surrounding death and dying in a variety of cultures. She develops rituals and ceremonies for life transitions including weddings, healing, and adolescent rites of passage, as well as ceremonies of closure for death, divorce, and other forms of loss. Initially trained as part of the Fort Collins, Colorado *Chevrah Kadisha*, Jean is an active member of the Portland, ME *Chevrah Kadisha* and the Funeral Consumer Alliance of Maine. She leads Jewish elders and unaffiliated Jews in ceremony, and has completed the *Chevrah Kadisha* Certification program offered by the Gamliel Institute of Kavod v'Nichum. She plays with the Peaks Island Ukulele Ensemble.  
(Tuesday 9:45am)

**Blair, Rabbi Joe**, is the Dean of Administration and a faculty member for the Gamliel Institute, and on the staff of Kavod v'Nichum. Rabbi Joe attended the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and was ordained and earned a Master of Hebrew Letters degree. Following graduation, he entered into the academic world with Hillel at Duke University, and then moved to the Hillel at the University of Virginia. After a few years, he became a full-time pulpit rabbi, serving two congregations in Staunton and Harrisonburg VA. He has been with those congregations for over 12 years at this time. He also holds a B.A. from UVA, an M.C.S. from UVA, and a J.D. from Marshall-Wythe School of Law at William & Mary College.  
(Monday 9:45am)

**Boroditsky, Rena**, is the Executive Director of the *Chesed Shel Emes*, the non-profit Jewish funeral chapel and *Chevrah Kadisha* in Winnipeg, Canada. For twenty-plus years, she has been a student and teacher of end-of-life Jewish rituals. Rena has led sessions at Kavod v'Nichum conferences and at Limmud events in the U.S. and Canada. In 2015 she launched Death Cafe in Winnipeg. Rena is a graduate of the Gamliel Institute, and currently serves both on the Gamliel faculty and the Kavod v'Nichum Board.  
(Sunday 1:15pm, Monday 11:30am)

**Doernberg, Dan**, is head of the Congregation Beth Israel (Charlottesville, VA) Men's *Chevrah Kadisha* and spearheaded the creation of its *tabarab* safety manual, now expanded by Kavod v'Nichum. He's the president of public interest group Fairness.com LLC, and creator of *NowComment*, a free tool for annotating and discussing multimedia online documents (modeled on the verse notes in a printed Tanach). He and his wife founded and ran Silicon Valley's Computer Literacy Bookshops chain 1983-1997.  
(Monday 9:45am)

**Dotti, Nancy**, graduated from the Gamliel Institute in 2016. She has been a part of The Chevrah Kadisha of Sonoma County for 17 years doing *tabarab*, *shimirab*, and organizing. She has given presentations and taught about *tabarab*, *shimirab*, and pre-planning. She feels honored to be able to do this work.  
(Monday 9:45am)

**Erlick, Rabbi Avivah W., BCC**, is an independent chaplain with a specialization in end of life. She owns a referral agency called LA Community Chaplaincy Services ([www.LACommunityChaplaincy.com](http://www.LACommunityChaplaincy.com)), and provides interfaith spiritual care and Jewish religious programming in hospice, hospital, senior living, and skilled nursing settings. To better serve her hospice families, she developed Sacred Waters – possibly the world's first family-centered, mobile *tabarab* service ([www.Sacred-Waters.com](http://www.Sacred-Waters.com)). Rabbi Avivah is a founding member of the Jewish Burial Society of Southern California, which provides trainings and support to help synagogues develop their own *Chevrot*. She speaks on Jewish end-of-life spirituality and ritual at rabbinical schools, hospitals, hospices, and senior living facilities. She is a Board Certified Chaplain (Assn. of Professional Chaplains) with Masters degrees in Rabbinic Studies and Journalism; her first career was as a newspaper editor. The Academy for Jewish Religion, California, ordained her in 2009; she then completed a yearlong hospital residency in interfaith chaplaincy. She is the co-author, with Rick Light, of *Exploring the Soul of Tabarab*.  
(Sunday 2:45pm, Monday 11:30am)

**Feld, Samantha**, joined The Dinner Party in 2015 and currently serves as a regional host in the Bay Area, supporting other young adults navigating grief and life after loss. She lives in Oakland, CA and works as an evaluator for HIV and STD prevention programs. Samantha was raised in the Bay Area and grew up part of the Reform community, as a member of Congregation Rodef Sholom in San Rafael.  
(Monday 11:30am)

**Felstein, Harley**, is the founder and chairman of Jewish R.E.A.C.H. He has over 50 years of experience as a funeral director and cemetery administrator and advisor. He has studied and catalogued abandoned and neglected cemeteries throughout the world. As an expert, he has advised families and guardians of abandoned cemeteries in ways to create endowments to guarantee maintenance of these consecrated grounds. Harley has organized numerous educational projects, bringing youth and adults to cemeteries and teaching them about the importance of the cemetery in the Life Cycle Process. From 2008-2013, he chaired the National Cemetery Conference, and for the last 7 years, has facilitated the cemetery seminars at the Kavod v'Nichum conference. He also serves as the coordinator of the Civic Action Committee for Cemeteries in Greater Washington DC.  
(Sunday 1:15pm, Monday 4:30pm, Tuesday 8:30am)

**Fendel, Dan, PhD**, is the men's chair and co-founder of the *Chevrah Kadisha* in his own congregation, Temple Sinai (Reform; Oakland), and has been a member of the *Chevrah Kadisha* of Beth Jacob Congregation (Orthodox; Oakland) for more than 15 years. He was in the first cohort of the Gamliel Institute, and is now Dean of Students for Gamliel and a member of the Kavod v'Nichum Board. He is co-author, with Rabbi Stuart Kelman, of *Chesed Shel*

*Emet: The Truest Act of Kindness -- Exploring the Meaning of Taharab* (Expanded Third Edition), and *Nichum Aveilim: A Guide for the Comforter*. He also did volunteer grief support work for the Shanti Project and Namaste in the San Francisco area for 20 years, and is now a Spiritual Care Volunteer at Kaiser Hospital in Oakland. Prior to retirement, he was a mathematics educator (Ph.D., Yale University), and is Professor of Mathematics, Emeritus, at San Francisco State University, having taught there for over 30 years.  
(Monday 4:30pm)

**Friedman, Rabbi Stacey**, is Congregation Rodef Sholom's senior rabbi, and sees Judaism as a rich tradition that can inspire its followers to lift each human being and see within them the divine spark. She attended Hebrew Union College and was ordained at HUC-Los Angeles Institute of Religion in 1993. Dedicated to *tikkun olam* – repairing the world – she is known for her ardent sermons on social justice issues. Her 2014 Rosh Hashanah drash on mental illness and suicide, for which she received national attention, spearheaded a congregational initiative on the subject. Rabbi Stacy is married to Frank Friedman and they have two sons, Adam and Eli.  
(Monday 11:30am)

**Goldstein, Rabbi Dr. H. Rafael, BCJC, DMin**, is the director of pastoral care at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City. He did his chaplaincy residency at Sharp Memorial Hospital in San Diego, where he served as the Jewish community chaplain for seven years. He is the founder of Dynamics of Hope Consulting ([www.dynamicsofhope.com](http://www.dynamicsofhope.com)), which provides workshops for health care workers and people living with illness on issues of hope, forgiveness, joy, and life. He is the Executive Director of Neshama: Association of Jewish Chaplains, a Board Certified Chaplain, with over 20 years experience working with people living with serious illness and with the bereaved, and is the author of four books, including *Being a Blessing: 54 Ways You Can Help People Living with AIDS* and *The Dynamics of Hope Prayerbook*, for people living with illness, their loved ones, and caregivers, as well as numerous articles, which can be found on his website.  
(Tuesday 11:00am)

**Greenhough, Lynn**, is Rosh of her *Chevrah Kadisha* in Victoria, British Columbia. Her MA thesis, “We Do The Best We Can: Jewish Burial Societies In Small Communities. In North America” (2000) was the beginning of her research into Jewish funeral and burial practices. Lynn has presented at previous Kavod conferences on the history of Jewish cemeteries and on Transgender and Judaism.  
(Sunday 2:45pm)

**Gross, Dawn, MD, PhD**, is dedicated to transforming the taboo around talking about death. Earning her BA from USC and a combined MD and PhD from Tufts University School of Medicine, Dawn completed her residency in Internal Medicine at Tufts, followed by fellowship training in Hematology and Bone Marrow Transplant at Stanford and post-doctoral research at UCSF. Dawn began practicing hospice after her father's death and subsequently became an attending on the palliative care service at UCSF. In 2016, she created and became host for the first of its kind live, call-in radio program, Dying To Talk on 91.7 FM KALW. That same year, she and her colleague, Dr. Jessica Nutik Zitter, co-developed and have been co-teaching the novel high school curriculum called “Death-Ed” selected as a “Top Idea” in the 2016 OpenIDEO Reimagine the End of Life Challenge. A story-teller at heart, Dawn's writing has appeared in several anthologies as well as *The New York Times*, *JAMA*, *Annals of Internal Medicine*, and *Science*. Dawn's ultimate aim is to inspire each of us to stay in a constant state of discovery about what is uniquely essential to us, to talk about it with the people we love, and to relentlessly pursue a healthcare system that is equally interested and curious to discover what these things are—to ensure that care that matters is the only thing delivered.  
(Tuesday 9:45am)

**Hawkins, Holly Blue**, is a Natural Death Care advocate and home funeral guide, poet, musician, sacred dance leader, artist, author of *The Heart of the Circle: A Guide to Drumming*, and co-editor of *The Soul's Legacy: Writing A Spiritual Will*, with twenty years of service in the *Chevrah Kaddisha* of Temple Beth El, Aptos. Her experience in the field of life-death transition began as a volunteer for Shanti Nilaya Maui (founded by Elisabeth Kübler-Ross) in the 1980's. As a Soul Memory Discovery facilitator, notary public/retired estate planning paralegal, and member of the Board of Trustees of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of the State of California, Holly Blue brings an eclectic array

of knowledge to support personally authentic, spiritually and environmentally appropriate end-of-life choices. Principal of Last Respects Consulting (a private fiduciary and end-of-life navigation service) and Institute for Integral Thanatology (<http://www.integralthanatology.org/>), Holly Blue's life dedication is to holding the life-death passage sacred.

(Monday 11:30am)

**Huppín, Beth**, has enjoyed teaching children and adults of all ages in formal and informal settings for over 35 years. She currently is the director of Project Kavod, the Jewish educational program at Jewish Family Service of Seattle. She is a recipient of a 2010 Covenant award for excellence in Jewish education.

(Tuesday 11:00am)

**Ickovits, Rabbi T'mimah, B.S.E.**, is known for her work with Kabbalah, Jewish Mysticism. She is the founding rabbi and leader of Holistic Jew, a spiritual community in Santa Monica, CA. Rabbi T'mimah teaches liturgy for Aleph Ordination Programs. She serves on the Steering Committee for the Jewish Burial Society of Southern California (JBSSC) and leads workshops on end-of-life considerations for JBSSC and more recently a webinar for Kavod v'Nichum's Gamliel Institute. She is an authorized Continuum Movement Instructor and teaches in Santa Monica and U.S. locations. She sees clients privately for Spiritual Direction and consults on Health and Lifestyle Issues. Before ordination, Rabbi T'mimah had an 18-year career as an electronics engineer.

(Monday 2:45pm)

**Iliinsky, Rabbi Me'irah**, was ordained from Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in 2007. She is an artist, and uses her artwork as visual portals to sacred texts, as an aid to teaching, and a way of bringing people close to Torah. She hosts the website VersesIlluminated.com and has done artwork for the Reconstructionist and Reform movements. She is the Rhoda Goldman Plaza Community Rabbi, and teaches Parshat haShavua at the San Francisco JCC.

(Sunday 1:15, 4:00pm, Monday 4:30pm)

**Jampolsky, Howard**, joined the Schara Tzedeck Cemetery Board as its Executive Director in 2014. He has also been a member of the Vancouver community mens' Chevrah Kadisha since 2011. As well as serving the Cemetery Board in a professional, full-time capacity, Howard serves on the Board of Directors of the Vancouver Airport Authority, and is a partner in the industrial automation firm of Scadax Automation, LLP. Howard is happily married, the father of three lovely children and is currently studying to become a licensed funeral director in the province of British Columbia.

(Tuesday 8:30am)

**Joseph, Colin**, is the recently retired (December 2016) senior administrator of the Jewish Joint Burial Society in the UK, an organization which administers funerals for Reform, Conservative, Liberal, and Independent orthodox synagogues, and which currently has a membership of 25,000. During a 20-year career with the organization, Colin has given lectures, talks, and seminars on funeral practices in the UK and Europe and also been a contributor at three previous Kavod v'Nichum conferences. He is now relaxing in retirement as chairman of a large Reform synagogue in London.

(Sunday 1:15pm, Monday 9:45am)

**Kelman, Rabbi Stuart**, Dean of the Gamliel Institute, is a graduate of the Jewish Theological Seminary and taught at the Hebrew Union College. He has extensive experience in all parts of the Jewish community, from working at Jewish camps to helping develop CAJE. As founding rabbi of Congregation Netivot Shalom, he was involved in the creation of the synagogue's *Chevrah Kadisha*. His PhD is in the Sociology of Education, and he has published five *Chevrah Kadisha*-related books, including the 2016 publication, *Nichum Aveilim*, on how to be a comforter to a mourner, and *Chesed Shel Emet*, delving into an extensive analysis of the *taharah* liturgy. Rabbi Kelman's work as Dean of the Gamliel Institute includes recruitment and consultation with students, overseeing course development and teaching, and overseeing administration.

(Sunday 12:00pm, 1:15pm, 4:00pm, 6:30pm, Monday 4:30pm, Tuesday 9:45am)

**Kosberg, Dara**, is a founding team member of The Dinner Party (TDP), a nonprofit organization out to transform life after loss from an isolating experience into one marked by community support, candid conversation, and forward movement. She joined TDP before its launch in 2013 as Chief Community Builder to create that same feeling of community and shared understanding for others that she experienced at her first Dinner Party. She's now developing a corporate program for TDP to change workplace culture around loss. Dara is a strategy consultant with 15 years of experience developing educational programs and cross-sector partnerships at nonprofit and for-profit organizations.

(Monday 11:30am)

**Landa, Rabbi Menachem**, was born in Vancouver and grew up in Montreal. He studied in Montreal through high school, and then traveled to Los Angeles to learn under Rabbi Ezra Schochet, one of the greatest Jewish scholars in our times. From there he studied in Brooklyn, and taught high school and college students in Miami and Los Angeles, and finally completed his Rabbinical degree there. From a very young age, he had only one dream (or two if you include becoming a world-famous hockey player), to reach out to Jews in whatever location he might find himself in, help them in any way that he could, and show them the beauty of their heritage. He has been accomplishing this goal since the age of 14. He has been a camp counselor and Head Counselor, as well as Director. He led communal Passover Seders in Latvia, and teaches Torah classes and one-on-one Torah learning in the communities he has lived in.

(Monday 4:30pm)

**Lezak, Rabbi Michael**, joined Congregation Rodef Sholom in 2003 after four years as associate rabbi at Peninsula Temple Beth El in San Mateo, CA. His aim is to deepen individual and communal spirituality through Jewish prayer, study, and social activism. A Los Angeles native, Rabbi Michael was ordained from the New York campus of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 1999. He has a B.A. degree in marketing from University of Colorado at Boulder. Rabbi Lezak initiated and leads the congregation's *Chevrah Kadisha*, a group of congregants who support those dealing with illness and death and perform the sacred rituals of *shmirah* and *tabarah*. The team recently produced *A Jewish Guide to End-of-Life: Sacred Traditions and Rituals*. He is married to Rabbi Noa Kushner and they have three daughters, Zella, Bluma, and Minna.

(Tuesday 8:30am)

**Light, Rick**, has been teaching spiritual development in various ways for more than 30 years and has been studying and practicing meditation for more than 45 years. He also teaches backpacking, rock climbing, and other outdoor skills. He is a leader in the community of those who prepare Jewish deceased for burial, has published four books in this regard, including his most recent publication, *Jewish Rites of Death, Stories of Beauty and Transformation*, which won a 2016 Nautilus Book Award. For 18 years, Rick was the leader of a local *Chevrah Kadisha* he started in 1996. He is a Vice President of the Board of Kavod v'Nichum, and is a graduate of and now on the faculty of the Gamliel Institute. He continues to teach and raise awareness about Jewish death and burial practices at the local, state, and national levels.

(Monday 11:30am, 2:45pm)

**Lloyd, Rev Rosemary**, BSN, MDiv, is Advisor to Faith Communities for The Conversation Project at the Institute for Health Care Improvement in Cambridge, Massachusetts, founded by Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Ellen Goodman. A graduate of Georgetown University and Harvard Divinity School, Rosemary has served as a registered nurse and hospice volunteer, and is an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister. She has preached and taught in congregational and health care settings on end-of-life issues and ethics for more than a decade. A graduate of the Metta Institute for Compassionate End of Life Care, Rosemary is an advocate for deepening the spiritual practice of embracing the reality of our mortality for the sake of having more joy in life.

(Monday 1:30pm, 2:45pm)

**Margules, Cantor David**, is the cantor and musical director at Congregation Rodef Sholom, where he choreographs services and leads the congregation in traditional prayers and new arrangements – enjoining them to sing out with him and the rabbis. A native of New York, he earned a B.A. degree in music in 1976 from Ithaca

College and an M.A. in sacred music from the Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion in 1987. Before joining Rodef Sholom, he served as cantor at Temple Sinai in Lawrence, New York. He is married to Marney Margules and they have two children, Benjamin and Danielle.  
(Monday 8:45pm)

**Matles, Steve**, President of Hebrew Cemetery Inc., Reno, Nevada, Mr. Matles has been a volunteer member of the Hebrew Cemetery in Reno since 1998. He has served as its President since 2012. He has performed every job imaginable from grave digging and sprinkler repair to management and fundraising. He led the effort to revitalize the men's *Chevrah Kadisha* in 2002. Mr. Matles is a member of Temple Sinai in Reno.  
(Sunday 4:00pm)

**Meyers, Charlie**, is the President of the Elesavetgrad Cemetery in Washington, DC, a 2.6 acre historic cemetery founded in 1911 with four Orthodox synagogues and one landsmanshaft. With a choice of upright or flat memorials, liner or no liner, Elesavetgrad Cemetery is both traditional and low cost. Charlie is a Financial Advisor for the Myers Meighan Wealth Management Group. He began a career as a Financial Advisor in 1985 at Prudential Securities. Later, he moved with his team to Legg Mason Wood Walker. In 2003, the team moved to their current broker dealer, H. Beck Inc., where Charlie is consistently one of the top producers at the firm.  
(Monday 11:30am)

**Minka, Ruth**, is a long time member of Kehilla Community Synagogue in Piedmont, California. She has been an active member of the *Chevrah Kadisha* since its inception twenty-seven years ago. She participated in a Stephen Levine "One Year To Live" group, deepening her interest in aging and how awareness of immanence of death can enrich one's individual life and community. She has participated in *tabarah* within the Kehilla community, helped organize a *shmirah* team and served as *shomeret*. She has participated in education related to death and dying practices, and helped to create a handbook guiding and educating members on Jewish traditions regarding death and dying and the importance of decision-making and legal procedures. Recently, she has been a part of the group creating two collections of readings for use during *shmirah*: one, translations/interpretations of the psalms and the other, non-psalms readings. This work has enriched her life for many years.  
(Tuesday 9:45am)

**Pechet, Bill**, received degrees in geography and visual arts from the University of Victoria, British Columbia in 1979 and 1981 respectively, followed by a professional degree in Architecture in 1987 from the University of British Columbia School of Architecture. In addition to his leadership in the studio, Bill is a faculty member at the UBC School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture. He is also the school's representative to the British Columbia Society of Landscape Architecture's board of examiners. In 2006, Bill represented Canada at the Venice Biennale of Architecture, under the *Pechet and Robb Art and Architecture* banner. His experience in the worlds of both Art and Design are integrated into his concepts for cemetery environments, with an evolving interest in expanding the roles these sites can play in the physical and spiritual lives of people.  
(Monday 2:45pm)

**Rosen-Brown, Rabbi-Cantor Elana**, graduated from the New York campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, where she was ordained as a cantor in 2012 and as a rabbi in 2014. She joined Congregation Rodef Sholom in 2014, and is a part of the congregation's education team. She is involved in outreach to the LGBT community, Marin Interfaith Council, and Marin Organizing Committee. She graduated summa cum laude from Middlebury College with a degree in history and secondary education. As a rabbinical/cantorial student, Rabbi Elana served congregations in Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and Los Angeles. She also has training in mindfulness meditation, interfaith dialogue, and outdoor education. In her spare time, she enjoys backpacking, exploring libraries, and checking out the local music scene.  
(Monday 8:45pm)

**Salberg, Lori**, is VP of Sales for PlotBox, a software company, which streamlines the workflow for cemetery operations and provides true digital cemetery mapping. She is also President of Sofos Consulting, LLC, where she oversees the pre-need sales and marketing programs for cemeteries in California, as well as a final expense insurance agency. Lori has 15 years of combined experience in cemetery, funeral, and crematory management, developing marketing and outreach programs, and recruiting, training, and retaining highly-effective cemetery sales teams. Lori is a frequent speaker at many state and regional industry events and an article contributor to ICCFA Magazine, Florida Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association Magazine, and Catholic Cemetery Magazine. She is also a member and current co-chair of the ICCFA Sales and Marketing Committee, which plans and oversees the Annual World Wide Sales Conference each January.

(Sunday 2:45pm)

**Salkin, Sam**, is the Executive Director of Sinai Memorial Chapel Chevra Kadisha, a century-old religious burial society that operates non-profit funeral homes and cemeteries that serve the Jewish communities of Northern California. He previously served as Executive Director of the Richard & Rhoda Goldman Fund and the Goldman Environmental Prize; CEO of Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties; CEO of Peet's Coffee and Tea; Executive Vice President of Smith and Hawken; and CEO of the Alaska Commercial Company. He is a member of the regional board of the American Jewish Committee and serves on the Board of the Jewish Religious Equality Coalition. He has served on Boards of Directors of non-profit, for-profit, cooperative, private, and public entities in the fields of wholesale, retail, and banking.

(Sunday 2:45pm)

**Sax-Bolder, Rabbi Eva**, is delighted to serve as the Rabbi of the Shul of New York in NYC's East Village. She is a fellow of CLAL's trans-denominational Rabbis Without Borders, a select network of rabbis seeking to "share Torah in pluralistic, innovative ways grounded by a sense of service to all." Rabbi Eva is a longtime spiritual director (trained by Lev Shomea), serving individuals and groups to discern their relationship with the Divine. She is also a Hebrew chant leader at the JCC of Manhattan, trained in Kol Zimra (the two-year Jewish Chant Leadership Program founded by Rabbi Shefa Gold). Rabbi Eva has earned certificates as a Jewish Yoga Teacher, Jewish Mindfulness Meditation Teacher, and Wise Eldering facilitator through the Institute for Jewish Spirituality. Her most recent venture as a 2017 Presentense Fellow is "SPARKS, Igniting Your Creative Spirit through the Expressive Arts!" She has also done extensive chaplaincy training in hospital, hospice, and prison settings. Rabbi Eva is currently the chair of the *Chevrab Kadisha* at Romemu and the co-chair at Congregation B'nai Jeshurun, both in New York City. She has completed the sequence of Gamliel classes and is excited to attend her first Kavod conference!

(Monday 9:45am)

**Schley, Rabbi SaraLeya**, was ordained in 2005 by the ALEPH Rabbinical Program and is Emerita Rabbi at Chochmat HaLev in Berkeley where she served as Senior Rabbi from 2008-2014. She has functioned as spiritual leader to several communities in California and Washington. She leads ritual and teaches across the spectrum of Jewish practice and is currently studying in the Hartman Institute Rabbinic Leadership Initiative program. She brings a spiritual perspective to her love of traditional text study and to her deep commitment to the halakhic process. She is a mother of three and worked as an Obstetrician-Gynecologist from 1981-2014.

(Tuesday 11:00am)

**Shuback, Jeremy**, is the Animation Director at BimBam, where he's brought together over a hundred videos on subjects ranging the gamut of Jewish Education. His shorts have been featured in the WSJ, CNN, NPR, WaPo, and many other places. In 2016 he directed, *Shaboom!*, an animated Jewish children's series and currently he's directing a *Judaism 101* series. His team is creating dozens of pieces covering everything from *What is Sukkot* to *What Happens at a Jewish Funeral*. He strives to make Jewish content as fascinating to everyone as he knows it can be.

(Tuesday 9:45am)

**Slater, Dr. Michael**, is an emergency medicine physician. He is a founding member of the Progressive Chevrah Kadisha, a multi-community *chevrah* in Chicago and Evanston, IL, and is Past President of the Board of Directors for Kavod v'Nichum. As a medical educator, he is on the faculty of Rosalind Franklin University/The Chicago Medical School, and is clinical faculty in the Emergency Medicine Residency Programs at Resurrection Medical Center, Chicago, and The University of Chicago Pritzker Medical School. He has additional training in Healthcare Quality and Patient Safety from the Institute for Healthcare Studies at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

(Monday 9:45am)

**Steirn, Cathy**, is a member of Kehilla Community Synagogue of Piedmont (Oakland), CA. Greatly interested in Jewish death and dying rituals, she has been a member of Kehilla's *Chevra Kadisha* for 18 years. In that time she has participated in community-wide *tabarah*, served as a *shomer*, worked with her CK to put on adult education programs for their congregation on Jewish death and dying practices, coordinated presentations for the congregation on local cemetery choices, and recently has been working with a local cemetery to create green burial plots. Born and raised in West Virginia, she is a retired Family Nurse Practitioner and lives in Oakland, CA. with her spouse, Christine.

(Tuesday 9:45am)

**Stewart, Edna**, is a Registered Nurse with 46 years of experience working in settings such as intensive care, pediatric oncology, nursing management and education, and senior housing and wellness. She has been an educator for over 30 years both professionally and as a volunteer. She holds a Master's Degree from Columbia University in Public Health Administration, with a focus on program and policy development. Much of her current volunteer work, in addition to regular *Chevrah Kadisha* activities, centers on education about Jewish practices around death and burial. A member of Congregation Netivot Shalom in Berkeley, CA, she is the former chair of the adult education committee and current co-chair of the *Chevrah Kadisha*. Edna holds popular "Death Cafes" and led the development of a Bay Area-wide program called "Walking in the Valley of the Shadow," a series of classes for community education on Jewish end-of-life practices, with the entire series presented in a variety of locations.

(Tuesday 11:00am)

**Swartz, Kerry**, is the President of Kavod v'Nichum. As a professional photographer for over 25 years, his images have appeared in The New York Times, National Geographic, Huffington Post, Time, Sunset, Better Homes and Gardens, Architectural Digest plus other national and regional publications. Kerry has been an active member of the Vancouver community *Chevrah Kadisha* for over eight years and is also a staff member of The Gamliel Institute. He is happily married with two teenagers who think his growing library of end-of-life publications is gross.

(Sunday 12:00pm, 1:15pm)

**Sweet, Kelly**, works in the financial advisory field as a Client Advisor, leveraging her background in tax accounting, investments and legacy planning with a strong organizational aptitude to deliver strategic, highly personalized wealth management expertise. She has helped settle estates and served as a trust officer. Kelly enjoys spending time with her family and Aging Loved Ones, riding her bike, knitting, reading, and singing. Congregation Beth Shalom (in Seattle) has an active Mitzvah Corps, which inspired Kelly to learn about and train to be a member of the Seattle *Chevrah Kadisha*.

(Sunday 1:15pm)

**Webne, Bette Rose**, is the volunteer Administrator of Richmond Beth-El Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia, established in 1936. The Cemetery Corporation is a separate entity apart from Temple Beth-El, a Conservative Synagogue in the Richmond area whose members initially founded the Cemetery. The Corporation oversees two separate cemeteries, which encompasses a total of approximately 3582 individual burial plots. The Board of Directors offers their services without compensation to manage the property and business affairs of the Cemetery, which is not funded by any organization or synagogue. Bette Rose is a retired mathematics teacher who taught in the Henrico County Public School system for 37 years and took over as Administrator of the Cemetery Corporation in 2004. She is the third generation in her family, following in the footsteps of her father and grandfather, to help families bury their loved ones with dignity and respect according to Jewish law.

(Sunday 1:15pm)

**Wolf-Prusan, Rabbi Peretz**, is the Chief Program Officer and a Senior Educator at Lehrhaus Judaica. From 1975 to 1985, he was actively involved in informal education (UAHC Camp Swig) and in the creation of Jewish scribal art. From 1985 to 1990, he attended the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, receiving his MAHL and Rabbinic Ordination. From 1990 to 2010 he served Congregation Emanu-El of San Francisco as Rabbi and Educator, and in 2002, he was awarded the Covenant Award as “An Exceptional Jewish Educator who has had a significant impact on others, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the transmission of Jewish knowledge, values, and identity.” At Lehrhaus since 2010, he is engaged in community education for the Bay Area, focusing on conferences, retreats, tours, the Bay Area Community Talmud Circle, and Lehrhaus Philosophy Circle, and adjunct faculty for the JFCS Holocaust Center.  
(Monday 8:30am)

**Zinner, David**, is the founder and Executive Director of Kavod v’Nichum, which works to restore to Jewish death and bereavement practice—the traditions and values of *kavod hamet* and *nichum avelim*—and is the founder and Executive Director of the Gamliel Institute, a center for leadership training and advocacy of traditional Jewish practice in the continuum of care at the end of life. As Vice-President of the Jewish Funeral Practices Committee of Greater Washington, David participates in developing citywide contracts with funeral homes and is a member of the Cemetery Committee. David is also the Chevra Kadisha Chair at the Columbia Jewish Congregation, Treasurer of the Funeral Ethics Organization, representative of religious non-profit cemeteries on the Maryland State Advisory Council on Cemetery Operations, and the Executive Director of Tifereth Israel Congregation, a conservative synagogue in Washington, DC. David teaches workshops on Jewish traditions and practices that relate to death and dying both in his own synagogue, as well as all over the United States.  
(Sunday 12:00pm, 1:15pm, 4:00pm, Monday 2:45pm)

**Zitter, Jessica, MD, MPH**, practices ICU and Palliative Care at the county hospital in Oakland, California. She is the author of *Extreme Measures: Finding a Better Path to the End of Life*. Her essays and articles have appeared in the *New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, the Huffington Post, the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, and other publications. Her work is featured in an Oscar-nominated short documentary, *Extremis*, now streaming on Netflix. She regularly lectures and speaks on the radio on the topic of dying in America. Learn more about her work at [jessiczitter.com](http://jessiczitter.com).  
(Monday 7:00pm)

## Local Color

### Airport Arrangements and Shuttles

**Conference Hotel: Embassy Suites, 101 McInnis Pkwy, San Rafael CA 94903, 415-499-9222**

**Conference Venue: Congregation Rodef Sholom** (see Shuls and Services below)

**To drive from the hotel to the conference venue:** Turn left on McInnis Parkway. At the end of McInnis Pkwy, turn left on Civic Center Drive. Proceed 0.6 miles, then turn left on North San Pedro Rd. Drive 0.4 miles to Congregation Rodef Sholom, on your right.

**To walk from the hotel to the conference venue:** Exit the hotel via the back entrance past the hotel's business center. Walk across the bridge and past the Civic Center Auditorium on your right. Continue through the park, with the lagoon on your right. Cross the second bridge, and continue on the path to your right, to the parking lot. Cross the parking lot, go through the space in the fence on the far side, and turn left to Washington St. Turn right onto Washington St., and follow it to the end, where it runs into N. San Pedro Rd. Turn left onto N. San Pedro Rd, and continue until you reach the synagogue, across the street to your right.

**The Marin Airporter** is a great option for traveling **to the conference via the San Francisco airport (SFO)**. The cost is \$22 per person, cash only. Buses pick up at SFO every 30 minutes, on approximately the hour and half-hour, beginning at 5:00 AM. The last bus of the night departs from SFO at midnight. No reservations are required. Pick up locations for all domestic flights are outside of baggage claim (located on the lower level), on the center courtesy island, at the green and white curb. Look for the sign that says "Airporters".

Those using this service should get off the bus at the San Rafael Transit Center. From the transit center, take a taxi to the hotel, or take Marin Transit bus 35 and get off 0.3 miles from the hotel at the corner of Civic Center Drive and McInnis Parkway. The cost for the bus ride is \$2 per person. We may be able to arrange for local volunteers to pick people up at the Marin Transit Center to take them to the hotel.

**Super Shuttle** is a door-to-door option **from either Oakland (OAK) or San Francisco airports**. The cost from Oakland is \$119-\$200 per person one-way depending on the option they choose (van with stops, private car, SUV). The cost from San Francisco is \$69-\$195 depending on the option. To reserve a shuttle go to <https://www.supershuttle.com>

### Shuls and Services

#### **Congregation Rodef Sholom (Reform)**

170 N San Pedro Rd., San Rafael CA 94903

[www.rodefsholom.org](http://www.rodefsholom.org)

Kabbalat Shabbat: Fri June 16 7:30pm

Shabbat & B'nai Mitzvah: Sat June 17 10:30am (Torah on the Trails at 8:30am)

Kabbalat Shabbat: Fri June 23 6:15pm

Shabbat & B'nai Mitzvah: Sat June 24 10:30am, (Torah Study at 9:15am)

#### **Kol Shofar (Conservative)**

215 Blackfield Dr., Tiburon CA 94920

[www.kolshofar.org](http://www.kolshofar.org)

Shabbat: Saturday, June 17 & 24 9:15 am

Morning Minyan followed by Talmud study: Tuesday, June 13 & 20 7:15am

Morning Minyan: Thursday, June 15 & 22 7:15am

## Local Attractions

### **Marin County Civic Center**

3501 Civic Center Drive, San Rafael CA 94903

0.6 miles from the Embassy Suites

From their website: “The Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Marin County Civic Center is a national- and state-designated historic landmark. One-hour docent-led tours of the Civic Center are offered every Wednesday at 10:30 am, leaving from the second floor Café, Room 233. The cost is \$10 adults and \$5 seniors and students and no reservations are required. Groups of ten or more can arrange a private docent tour by calling the Visitor Services Office at (415) 473-3762.” Visitors at other times can take a self-guided tour (the building is open to the public M-F during business hours).

### **Agricultural Institute of Marin Farmer’s Market**

3501 Civic Center Drive, San Rafael CA 94903 (behind the building)

0.6 miles from the Embassy Suites

Every Sunday, 8am to 1pm

The third largest farmer’s market in California, featuring fresh meat, fish, cheese, and produce, as well as prepared foods and beverages you can eat on the spot. No charge for admission.

### **China Camp State Park**

San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, 100 China Camp Village Rd, San Rafael, CA 94901

5.9 miles from the Embassy Suites

75 acre park

Hiking, biking, camping, picnic areas

From their website: “Located along the shores of San Pablo Bay, China Camp Village was the site of a Chinese shrimp fishing camp that dates back to around 1870. It was one of dozens of shrimping camps around the shores of the Bay that thrived from the 1870s until the early part of the 20th century. At its heyday in the 1880s, there were more than 500 people living at China Camp Village, with several small streets lined with wooden buildings.” See signs at parking lots for parking fees.

### **Guide Dogs for the Blind**

350 Los Ranchitos Rd., San Rafael CA 94903

0.9 miles from the Embassy Suites

Open M-F 8am to 5pm

Drop-in tours M-F and non-graduation Saturdays 10:30am and 2pm (graduation days in June: 6/10, 6/24)

Gift Shop is open on weekdays and graduation Saturdays 11am – 3pm

From their website: “Please visit us! We offer a variety of tours for individuals and groups on a regular basis, and our graduation ceremonies are open to the public. All tours depart from the Volunteer Center, which is the first building on the left when entering the campus. Tours last approximately 1.25 hours. Guide Dogs for the Blind is a working campus. Tours are always subject to activities on campus. Tours do not have contact with our puppy population, and contact with our adult dog population is based on the availability and discretion of staff. Everyone on the tour must be comfortable walking or standing for the duration of the tour, as there is no seating along the tour route. The campus is fully accessible.”

**All of the following are relatively near each other in downtown San Rafael:**

### **Mission San Rafael Arcangel**

1104 5th Ave, San Rafael CA 94901

4.0 miles from the Embassy Suites

Mission Museum and Gift Shop open: Wed to Fri 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Sat and Sun 10:00 to 3:00

The Mission Chapel is open daily from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m

From their website: “Mission San Rafael Arcangel was founded on December 14, 1817 by Father Vicente de Sarria. It was the 20th mission in the 21-mission chain in Alta California. It was named for Saint Raphael, the angel of healing, and was an asistencia or helper of Mission San Francisco de Asis (Mission Dolores). The museum contains artifacts, paintings and other objects for public viewing including three of the original bells from Mission San Raphael Arcangel. Tours of the mission and museum are available for groups of 10

or more with advance reservations. Call the Mission Museum & Gift Shop for more information about tours.” Free admission.

### **San Rafael Pacifics Baseball at Albert Park**

1201 2nd St, San Rafael CA 91901

Friday, June 16 7:05 pm

Saturday June 17 5:05pm

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday June 20, 21 22 7:05 pm (June 22 is Jewish Heritage Night!)

4.5 miles from the Embassy Suites

Professional baseball in a small park with free parking across the street. All the seats are behind home plate or along the 1st or 3rd baselines. Most seats are in the shade on hot days, and the hot dogs are all beef!

General admission tickets are \$15 per person.

### **WildCare**

76 Albert Park Ln, San Rafael, CA 94901

4.5 miles from the Embassy Suites

From their website: “Have you ever seen a cormorant dive for a fish? Or met a Swainson’s Hawk in person?

Visit WildCare’s Courtyard for nose-to-beak encounters with our amazing live Wildlife Ambassador

animals! WildCare is free to visit, and open to the public 365 days a year.” Open 9am to 5pm, but during the summer the indoor museum accessibility may be limited between 9am and 3:30pm due to summer camp.

Free admission.

### **Museum of International Propaganda**

1000 5th Ave, San Rafael CA 94901

3.9 miles from the Embassy Suites

Wednesdays – Saturdays, noon to 3pm

From their website: “This collection of propaganda has taken over 30 years to compile and represents the political art of more than 25 countries, including N. Korea, Cuba, Nazi Germany, Vietnam, Iran, and the Soviet Union. The objects on display were mostly designed and financed by various governments, dictators, and special interests with specific political goals in mind. The exhibits guide visitors through 7 themes, techniques and styles of propaganda. We hope you will come away with an awareness of the influence propaganda has on our lives even today.” Free admission; donations appreciated.

### **Falkirk Cultural Center**

1408 Mission Avenue, San Rafael CA 94901

4.2 miles from the Embassy Suites

Tues-Friday 1-5pm, Sat 10am – 1pm, closed on Sunday

From their website: “Falkirk Cultural Center is a 19th century country estate listed on the National Historic Register. The Queen Anne Victorian, designed by Clinton Day, was built in 1888 by Ella Nichols Park... There are six UC Marin Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens at Falkirk:

Under Oaks Garden, Habitat Garden, Beneficials Garden, Lathe House Garden, Succulent Garden, and Five Mediterranean Climate Zone Garden. They demonstrate and display a wide range of sustainable practices.” Free admission.

## Gamliel Graduates

### 2017

Deborah Brown	Michelle Siegel
Auria Bernave Gonzalez	Theresa Bates
Blanca Rut Hernandez	Isaac Pollak
Gloria Esther "Doris" Rivera	Sally Shannon
Ingrid Altagracia Mercedes	Fred Helms
Rafael Ortiz	Rabbi Eva Sax-Bolder
Wilfredo Melo Guerrero	Zoe Van Raan

### 2016

Ellie Barbarash	Me'irah Iliinsky
Jean Berman	Rick Light
Robin Black	Myrna Matsa
Joe Blair	Laura Rocco
Rena Boroditsky	Edna Stewart
Nancy Dotti	Kerry Swartz
Dan Fendel	Vickie Weitzenhofer

## Kavod v'Nichum Board Members

Kerry Swartz, President  
Rena Boroditsky, Vice President  
Rick Light, Vice President  
Charlie Rosenblum, Co-Treasurer  
Vickie Weitzenhofer, Co-Treasurer  
Susan Barnes, Member  
Jean Berman, Member  
Rabbi Joe Blair, Member  
Dan Fendel, Member  
Dr. Michael Slater, Past President  
David Zinner, Executive Director

## Gamliel Institute Staff Members and Instructors

Rabbi Stuart Kelman, Dean  
Rabbi Joe Blair, Dean of Administration  
Dan Fendel, Dean of Students  
Rena Boroditsky, Senior Faculty  
Rick Light, Senior Faculty  
Edna Stewart, Senior Faculty  
Kerry Swartz, Communication Manager  
David Zinner, Executive Director

## Recommended Resources Available in Conference Bookstore

### Books:

- Epstein, Mosha, *Tabarah Manual of Practices, Including Halacha Decisions of Hagaon Harav Moshe Feinstein, zt"l*. Bridgeport, CT: 1995.
- Erlick, Avivah W., and Light, Richard A., *Exploring the Heart of Tabarah*. Santa Fe, NM: Chevra Kadisha of Northern New Mexico, 2015.
- Goodman, Arnold, *A Plain Pine Box*, Augmented Edition. New York, NY: Ktav, 2003.
- Handler, Jane, and Hetherington, Kim, *Give Me Your Hand, Traditional and Practical Guidance on Visiting the Sick*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Berkeley, CA: Congregation Netivot Shalom, 1997.
- Kelman, Stuart, and Fendel, Dan, *Chesed Shel Emet, The Truest Act of Kindness*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Berkeley, CA: EKS Publishing, 2013.
- Kelman, Stuart, and Fendel, Dan, *Nichum Aveilim: A Guide for the Comforter*. Berkeley, CA: EKS Publishing, 2015.
- Light, Richard A., *Final Kindness: Honoring K'rovei Yisrael, Burial Preparation of Non-Jews Who Are Part of the Jewish Community*. Santa Fe, NM: Chevrah Kadisha of Northern New Mexico, 2013.
- Light, Richard A., *Jewish Rites of Death, Stories of Beauty and Transformation*. Santa Fe, NM: Terra Nova Books, 2016. (Winner of a 2016 Nautilus Book Award)
- Light, Richard A., *To Midwife A Soul, Guidelines for Performing Tabara*. 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, Santa Fe, NM: Chevrah Kadisha of Northern New Mexico, 2000, 2016. (Available in Perfect Bound and Spiral Bound editions)
- Zitter, Jessica Nutik, *Extreme Measures: Finding A Better Path to the End of Life*. New York, NY: Avery Publishing, 2017.

### Artwork:

- Verses Illuminated art prints and cards by Rabbi Me'irah Iliinsky — visual portals to sacred texts

**Notes**

## Notes Continued

## Thanks to Our Hosts and Sponsors

### Congregation Rodef Sholom



We owe a great deal of gratitude and appreciation to the Rabbis, staff, and members of Congregation Rodef Sholom for graciously hosting this year's conference. They were a joy to work with and have been lovely hosts. Thank you! We could not have done this without your willingness to help in so very many ways. In particular, we extend a huge hug of gratitude to Susan Barnes for coordinating the local end of this conference.

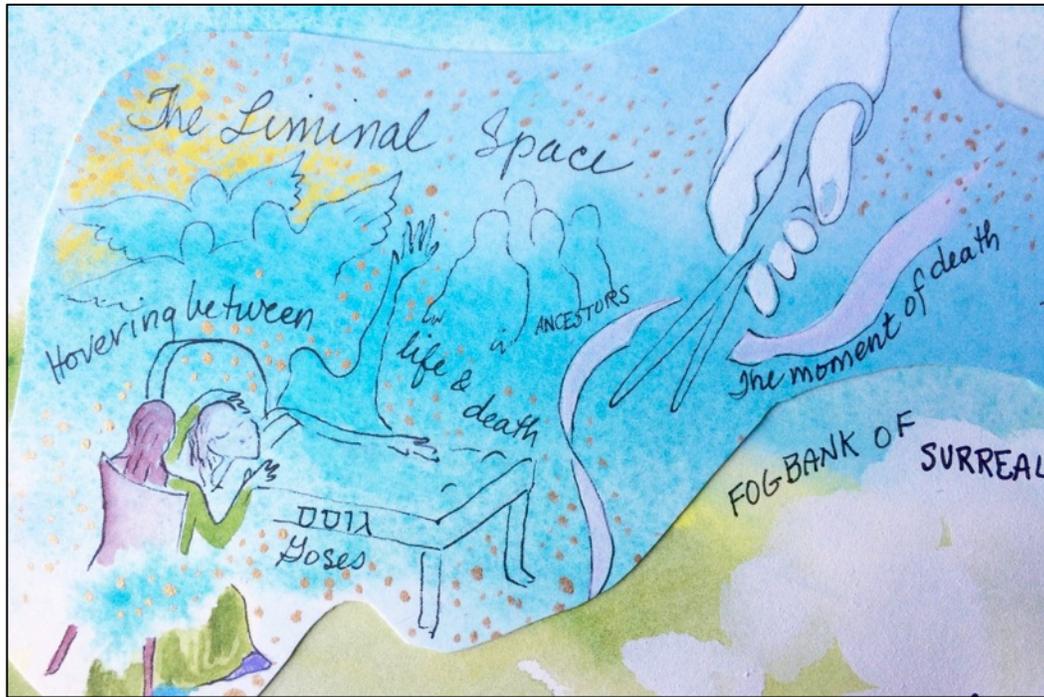
### The Jewish Federation



The San Francisco Jewish Federation has generously helped to fund this conference and we very much appreciate their support.

### Anonymous Donors

We are very blessed to have several anonymous donors whose generous support has helped to enhance the quality of our conference. Their anonymity demonstrates their dedication to Jewish principles and ethical giving. We respect and appreciate their deep commitment to the upliftment of Jewish life. Thank you!



Detail of "The Journey of the Soul" by Rabbi Me'irah Iliinsky  
See <http://www.versesilluminated.com>

We are excited to announce  
and invite you to attend:

**The 16<sup>th</sup> Kavod v'Nichum North American  
Chevrah Kadisha and Jewish Cemetery Conference**

Washington, DC area

**June 2018**

Plan on it!