

NORTH AMERICAN
Chevra Kadisha Conference



Sponsored by Kavod v'Nichum & Edmonton Chevra Kadisha
With Support from: The Jewish Federation of Edmonton,
The Chevra Kadisha of Calgary, The City of Edmonton,
The Province of Alberta and Edmonton Granite

Edmonton, Alberta June 10 -12, 2007

The Fifth Annual North American Chevra Kadisha Conference represents a unique opportunity for Chevra Kadisha members to network, study and socialize with their counterparts from the U.S., Canada, and the United Kingdom. This event promises to maintain the intense combination of the practical, the emotional and the spiritual, which exemplified earlier conferences.

As a participant you will have the opportunity to engage in a period of learning with widely recognized experts and leaders of North American Jewry. You will acquire valuable information and a new perspective on the myriad of issues pertaining to this essential component of Jewish organizational and communal responsibility. The paramount benefit will be the enhanced skill and understanding gained for those who have assumed this critical and sacred area of responsibility.

The Holy One Blessed be He, buries the dead, as it says, "And He buried him (Moses) in the valley, (Deut. 34:6), so too shall you bury the dead. Sotah 14.

Speakers & Workshop Presenters

RABBI MAURICE LAMM

Rabbi Lamm is former rabbi of Beth Jacob Congregation in Beverly Hills California and former chair in Professional Rabbinics at Yeshiva University. He is the founder and President of the National Institute for Jewish Hospices.

Rabbi Lamm is widely known as author of five books, particularly **The Jewish Way in Death & Mourning**, which has sold more than a quarter million copies. Rabbi Lamm's newest book is entitled: **Consolation: The Spiritual Journey Beyond Grief**.

RABBI BENJAMIN BLECH

Rabbi Blech is an internationally recognized educator, religious leader, author and lecturer. He is the author of eleven books, translated into Russian, Hebrew, Portuguese, Turkish and Indonesian. Many of these books are used as basic texts in universities around the world.

A recipient of the American Educator of the Year Award, he is Professor of Talmud at Yeshiva University as well as Rabbi Emeritus of the Young Israel of Oceanside Congregation. In a national poll, he was recently ranked 16 among the 50 most influential Jews in America.

MELVYN HARTOG

Melvyn Hartog is Head of Burials at the United Synagogue in London, England. He joined the United Synagogue in January 2001 with overall responsibility for over 70 staff and upkeep of 11 cemeteries. Prior to that, he served 8 years in the Royal Navy, and more than a quarter century in financial services and foreign exchange.

The United Synagogue Burial Society is responsible for all activities surrounding the burial of its members. It organizes, oversees and advises on the various processes that are required by both Jewish and English law. It is also responsible for maintaining the infrastructure of its burial grounds and mortuaries.

LYNN GREENHOUGH

Lynn Greenhough is member of the Kavod v'Nichum board and was the program Chair of the 2003 North American Chevra Kadisha Conference. Her Master's thesis is "We Do the Best We Can: Jewish Burial Societies in Small Communities in North America", an historical and ethnographic study of Chevrei Kadisha in Canada and the U.S.

Lynn has officiated at funeral services at Congregation Emanu-El in Victoria, British Columbia and is an active member of the Victoria Chevra Kadisha. She has conducted workshops about the history of Chevra Kadisha practices as well as teaching about taharah. She teaches at her synagogue and also at the University of Victoria.

DAVID ZINNER

David Zinner is the Executive Director of Kavod v'Nichum, a resource center for Chevra Kadisha groups in North America. Kavod v'Nichum is the only non-profit organization in the United States and Canada that focuses solely on education and advocacy of Jewish traditions around dying, death, funerals, burials, cemeteries, grief and mourning.

David offers technical assistance to synagogues and community organizations seeking to establish, maintain or expand the work of their Chevra Kadisha groups. He has lectured widely, written and teaches workshops on all topics related to Chevra Kadisha work. Since its inception David has edited and managed the website "Jewish Funerals, Burial and Mourning" (www.jewish-funerals.org) which is a comprehensive resource containing over 350 pages of information.

DR. ELIEZER SEGAL

Dr. Segal holds a Ph.D in Talmud from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and serves as Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Calgary where he teaches and writes on topics related to Jewish studies, Talmud, Midrash, History and Judaism.

He is committed to bringing the fruits of academic research to a wider audience through his popular newspaper columns in Calgary and Jewish newspapers. He also authors an amazing web page: www.ucalgary.ca/~elsegal/SEGAL.html

DR. MEL GLAZER

After spending over thirty years as a Rabbi and Grief specialist, Dr. Glazer is a recognized expert in the areas of grief, loss and hope. He is widely published and his new book, *And God Created Hope*, follows in the footsteps of Kubler-Ross in helping grievers journey from “mourning to morning”. He has lectured nationally to religious organizations, philanthropic groups and public and private schools to convey to them the importance of accepting the reality of death and loss.

Rabbi Glazer refers to himself as the “happy rabbi”. In life, people experience pain and sadness but Glazer maintains “The most important thing is joy. I want to create a place full of joy with a deep seeded faith and trust in God.”

RENA BORODITSKY

Rena Boroditsky has been the Executive Director of Winnipeg, Manitoba’s Chesed Shel Emet Funeral Home for 7 years. CSE provides mortuary and taharah services in the Orthodox tradition. Winnipeg has 8 synagogues and 4 Jewish cemeteries each with a representative on the Board.

Rena has developed and taught adult education classes on the fundamentals of death and burial from a Jewish perspective and taharah training, and has presented at the Annual Palliative Care Conference of Manitoba as well as at the University of Manitoba School of Nursing. Currently she is compiling a directory of Canadian Chevrei Kadisha and is developing a model to introduce shmirah to the Winnipeg community.

ISA MILMAN

Isa Milman is a poet, artist and occupational therapist who lives in Victoria, B.C. She was born in a displaced persons camp in Germany in 1949, then emigrated with her family to Boston and has lived in Canada since 1975.

Isa is a visual artist whose paintings and prints are found in private collections in Canada, U.S., Europe and Israel. Her poetry has appeared in Canadian literary magazines and in anthologies. Her book **Seven Fat Years** was published in 2002 and her first collection of poems, **Between The Doorposts** won the poetry prize of the 2005 Canadian Jewish Books Awards. Her new book, **Prairie Kaddish** will be published in 2008.

A sampling of plenary sessions, workshops & demonstrations

..... AND MORE

- Consolation: The Commandment of Regesh
- Hands On Sewing: Tachrichim
- Fund-raising Strategies for Small Community Trusts
- Who Are We: Networking by Geography
- From Prague to Pastoral Parkland: History of Cemetery Design
- Life After Life: What Happens After Death
- Moshiach: an Ancient Hope in Contemporary Perspective
- Chevrei Kadisha: Who Are We and How Do We Do It
- Chevrei Kadisha in Britain
- After Taharah: Sharing Our Stories
- Extreme Conditions & Disaster Planning
- Handles on Mapping of Cemeteries: Bring your Computer
- Traditional Funeral Practices: Panel Discussion
- A Sprinkling of Bones- Ossilegium & Ossuaries in the Tractate Semahot (Evel Rabbati)

..... AND MORE

“The three cantors in concert”

A concert by world famous cantors, Shimon Farkas (Australia), Yaakov Motzen (United States) and Alex Stein (Canada) – In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Edmonton Chevra Kadisha.

A ticket to this thrilling concert and transportation to and from the hotel is included with your conference registration.

HOTEL

Conference participants will enjoy a reduced rate (June 10, 11, 12, 13) at one of Edmonton's finest and most unique hotels, The Fantasyland Hotel in West Edmonton Mall. The \$129 Canadian dollars (\$110 U.S.) is the rate for the Superior room with a single (king size bed) or double (2 queen size beds). Please book early since there are a limited number of rooms available at this rate.

For those wanting to save a little money, the West Edmonton Mall Inn is a motel about a 15 minute walk from the conference hotel (across the street from the mall). Room rates for the motel will be \$99 CAD. Call them at **1-800-737-3783** (the same phone number as the Fantasyland Hotel). There are other hotels about 10 minutes by car from the conference hotel. They include the Hilton Garden Inn, Royal West Edmonton Inn, or the West Harvest Inn.

EXTENDING YOUR STAY

If you are planning on arriving before the conference, would like a home-stay for Shabbat, or staying after the conference contact Cheryl Gliener at **780-487-3707** or cgliener@yahoo.com for information on lodging choices for your additional needs in Edmonton. Home-stay availability is limited.

The Fantasyland Hotel is situated within West Edmonton Mall, which is the largest shopping and recreational center in the world with over 800 stores, restaurants, attractions and services. For more information on this unbelievable complex see www.westedmontonmall.org

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Reserve online at: www.fantasylandhotel.com or call **1-800-737-3783** and ask for the "the North American Chevra Kadisha Conference."

You must reserve by May 11, 2007 to receive the special conference rate.

MEALS

Dinner will be provided on Sunday; breakfast, lunch & dinner on Monday; and breakfast & lunch on Tuesday. All meals will be kosher. Rabbi Ari Drelich of Chabad Lubavitch of Edmonton will supervise preparation. We will also accommodate additional dietary needs, if possible (e.g. allergies, vegetarian meals). Please indicate any special needs on the registration form.

Registration & Fees

REGISTRATION IS PAYABLE IN U.S. DOLLARS

Payment received:

By March 31 - \$325

By May 31 - \$350

June 1 or after - \$375

TO REGISTER GO TO: www.jewish-funerals.org/regform3.htm

REGISTRATION PAYMENT MAY BE MADE BY: Credit card from the website
www.jewish-funerals.org/conference/creditcardcharge.htm

CREDIT CARD BY PHONE: **410-733-3700**

CREDIT CARD OR CHECK BY MAIL: Kavod v'Nichum 8112 Sea Water Path Columbia, MD 21045

Transportation

BY AIR

Air Canada is the official carrier for the conference. A special promotional fare is available by quoting the following code **HYBXJ8F1**.

Edmonton International Airport is about half an hour from the Fantasyland Hotel. The Edmonton Airport Shuttle leaves every 45 minutes from door 7. Be sure to take the shuttle for the West Edmonton Route. The cost is \$15.00 each way or a return ticket is \$25.00. You can call **465-8515** when you arrive at the airport.

Taxis and limousines are standing by at the airport and can be shared at a fee of approximately \$60.

DRIVING

From the airport take highway 2 (The Queen Elizabeth Highway) and follow the signs to West Edmonton Mall. These are everywhere along the route and provide an easy path to follow for drivers.

PARKING

Parking is available at no charge in the parking lot immediately adjacent to the Fantasyland Hotel and The West Edmonton Mall Inn. Additional parking is available in the vast parking lot system of the Mall complex.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Reservations to the Fantasyland Hotel: to receive the reduced conference rate, rooms must be reserved by May 11, 2007.

Early registration: Completed online or postmarked by April 1, 2007.

Regular Registration: Completed online or postmarked by June 1, 2007.

Registration Cancellation: received by May 1 will receive a 90% refund; by June 1 a 50% refund; After June 1, emergencies only, case by case.

An administrative fee of \$25 is non-refundable.

QUESTIONS

Please contact conference co-chairs:

Jerry Cooper at **780-487-0010**, fax at **780-489-3870**, or email at jerryc@telus.net

Be sure to show Chevra Kadisha Conference in the subject line.

or

Ron Levin at **780-644-0163** or email at ronlevin@shaw.ca after April 24, 2007.