

The *Melaveh* Project



Melaveh (מְלַוֶּה): One who accompanies

A free service offering emotional and spiritual support for Jewish people at the end of life, and for their loved ones.

The Jewish culture has a strong commitment to visit the sick (*Bikkur Cholim*) and attend to the dead and their mourners (*Chevrah Kadisha*).

The *Melaveh* Project was conceived to add to these mitzvot: to provide comfort to Jews at the end of their lives, and to support their caregivers and loved ones at the same time.

We welcome all levels of observance, secular Jews, interfaith families, Jews of color, and LGBTQ Jews. Anyone who identifies as being Jewish is eligible to receive our services.

***Melaveh* volunteers are able to discuss Jewish perspectives around traditions, rituals, and prayers used during the dying time.**

We welcome inquiries from both patients and their loved ones or caregivers.

A helpful way to understand our service is to consider how *birth doulas* support the mother and family during labor. Their role is to ease the birthing process by providing comforting care to the laboring mother and her loved ones in attendance.

***Melaveh* volunteers attend to the dying in a similar way, providing support and comfort by accompanying our fellow Jews and their families during the final weeks, days, and hours of life. We can help ease this final transition for everyone involved.**

We DO NOT provide physical, medical, or nursing care.

We DO offer a compassionate Jewish presence during the dying time.

Our services are offered at no cost to our clients.

At this time, we are primarily serving those living in El Cerrito, Kensington, Albany, Berkeley, and Emeryville, California. We visit people at their homes, in the hospital, and in Skilled Nursing or Residential Care Facilities. It may be possible for people who live outside of these areas to arrange visits on a case-by-case basis, depending on our volunteers' availability.

To find out how we can help you:

Phone - 510/649-5724

Email - melavehproject@gmail.com

Web page – Jewish-funerals.org/Melaveh

Melaveh Steering Committee:
Herb Brosbe, MD Rabbi Stuart Kelman
Dan Fendel Zoe Francesca Lori Goldwyn
Nan Strauss Peter Strauss

Please note:

In order to use the Melaveh Project's services, the dying individual must have in place:

- an advanced directive,***
- a proxy for health care decisions,***
- a Physician's Order for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST)***

The Melaveh Project is under the umbrella of Kavod v'Nichum, a North American non-profit organization that encourages and assists the organization of bereavement committees and Chevrah Kadisha groups in synagogues and communities. Kavod v'Nichum is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax-deductible contributions.

The Melaveh Project web page is located at

Jewish-funerals.org/Melaveh

Donations to support the Melaveh Project may be made from our web page or by sending a check to:

***Melaveh Project
c/o Kavod v'Nichum
8112 Sea Water Path
Columbia, MD 21045***

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