“Your tahara service brought us much solace and support at a time of need, and helped us reaffirm our faith tradition.”

“It was very gentle. There was nothing off-putting about it.”

“I was glad you could provide a ceremony that made sense for our family.”

“It was as good as it could be, and I did it with a sincere heart.”

“Before we covered her face, we kissed her on the cheek.”

Our Leadership
Sacred Waters is the culmination of a life’s work for our president, Rabbi Avivah W. Erlick, BCC.

A hospice and healthcare rabbi in many settings, she studied tahara with the Gamliel Institute of Kavod V’Nichum, and co-founded the Jewish Burial Society of So. Calif.

Rabbi Avivah was ordained by the Academy for Jewish Religion, Calif., is a board certified interfaith chaplain, and writes a regular column for the L.A. Jewish Journal.

www.Sacred-Waters.com
(424) 88 - VISIT (424-888-4748)
Sacred Waters (Mayim Kedoshim) guides families to share acts of honor and kindness with a loved one who has just died.

For centuries, Jewish families gathered at home to accompany their loved ones through the last stages of life and beyond. They provided gentle care, and soon after death they performed the customary washing ceremony called tahara, or purification, led by their community’s sacred guild (chevra kaddisha).

Sacred Waters is bringing back this natural, powerful, and healing continuum of care for today’s bereaved families. We make an after-death ritual available when, where and how your family needs it to be.

Meeting the unique needs of each family we serve.

Pouring Out Love

Jewish communities worldwide are reclaiming the funeral practices of the past. Sacred Waters’ Jewish clergy specialists make these customs available as part of their end-of-life pastoral care. We seek to bring peace and grace to the dying, honor to the dead, and empowerment and comfort to the bereaved.

Traditional Tahara

A traditional tahara is performed under strict protocols, using a fixed Hebrew liturgy to imbue each step with blessing. The ritual consists of:

- Washing: The decedent is gently cleansed;
- Purifying: Cold water is poured over their body to simulate a rushing mountain stream or a ritual bath (mikvah);
- Dressing: They are shrouded in simple white garments tied with symbolic knots, their own prayer shawl and yarmulke (optional) and a sheet;
- Enclosing: Placed in a plain wooden casket, they are ready for funeral and burial.

Why Tahara?

Tahara honors the miracle of the human body, and the soul that is believed to linger until the funeral. Through the ritual’s metaphor-rich liturgy, both body and soul are prepared to meet the Holy One of Blessing in the Temple on High.

Contemporary Touches

Sacred Waters offers both traditional and customized forms of the ceremony, to meet any family’s needs.

- Location: We can lead washing rituals in facilities and homes—even under a canopy in your garden.
- Participation: Family and caregivers may join in.
- Customization: The ritual can be enhanced with poetry, music, flowers, favorite clothing, pictures, mementos and more.
- Outside the Box: Planning a green, casketless burial? A cremation? Want to honor a non-Jewish relative? We are happy to accommodate.

Ways to Immerse

We are rabbis, cantors and Jewish chaplains with additional training in funeral customs and end-of-life pastoral care. We can be engaged directly or through hospices and funeral homes. Call for details and referrals.

In addition to washing ceremonies, we offer:

- Mobile pastoral and grief counseling.
- Funeral, home prayer group (shiva minyan) and memorial service officiating.
- Sitting vigil with the dying and guarding the dead (shmira) with music and Psalms.
- Talks and trainings on wise and venerable approaches to illness, death and bereavement.