

# *Taharah* Demonstration Video with Extensive Question and Answer Session

## Featuring Rick Light and Members of the *Atlanta Chevrah Kadisha*

Filmed at the 8th Annual Kavod v'Nichum North American  
Chevrah Kadisha and Jewish Cemetery Conference  
June 6th, 2010, in Atlanta, Georgia

Rick Light developed a step-by-step *taharah* training PowerPoint presentation for the June 2006 *Chevrah Kadisha* and Jewish Cemetery Conference. This PowerPoint has been used again in many conferences since then.

At the 2010 Conference, the *taharah* demo was filmed. During the demo, Rick refers to a PowerPoint slide show. The video, however, does not capture the detail of the PowerPoint, so it is recommended to open the PowerPoint PDF file separately on your computer or in a different browser window. This way, you can refer to the PowerPoint appropriately as you watch the video.

Below you will find this demo divided into five video recordings, each approximately 30 minutes in length. The first recording plus half of the second one comprise the demonstration itself. The remainder of Part 2 and Parts 3-5 are the question-and-answer discussion following the demo.

Together, the PowerPoint and the video, provide the best *taharah* visual teaching tools available. To view these videos, click on the link and enter the password: **gamliel2**

[Taharah Training PowerPoint](#) (download or view of PDF file)

[Taharah Training Video – Part 1](#)

[Taharah Training Video – Part 2](#)

Questions included in Part 2:

- fluid flows
- medical devices
- showing respect

- false teeth
- organ and tissue donations
- autopsy
- leader's responsibility
- discussing issues in advance
- *taharah* for murder victims
- suicides
- right to *taharah*
- young people participating
- observers
- buckets or pitchers
- *halacha* vs *minhag*

#### Taharah Training Video – Part 3

Questions included in Part 3:

- *tefila* translations

#### Taharah Training Video – Part 4

Questions included in Part 4:

- *shomer* as a lead-in to *taharah*
- distinction between *rechitza* and *taharah*
- egg and vinegar
- Muslim traditions – rose water
- family members watching or participating
- identification viewing
- *chevrah* as policeman
- debriefing
- at the head of the *meit/a*
- seeing the face after the *taharah*
- identification before *taharah*
- open caskets
- *taharah* for someone being cremated
- assimilation
- reform *taharah* teams
- ethical wills

#### Taharah Training Video – Part 5

Questions included in Part 5:

- non-Jews helping
- instructing non-Jews
- standing at the head
- facing the body

- pants vs. robe
- ripping *tachrichim*
- does *minhag* override *halacha*
- *taharah* for someone well known
- *taharah* for someone you know
- reading the obituary
- spiritual impact
- reaction to seeing a dead body
- making a *taharah* “not rote”