

ANNOUNCEMENT

[Kavod v'Nichum](#) (Honor and Comfort) is embarking on a research project funded through a grant from the [Jews of Color Initiative](#) (JoCI) to:

1. learn how Jewish people of color (JoC) engage with Jewish end-of-life rituals and practices including Chevrot Kadisha, funerals, burials, grief, and mourning rituals and what resources are most needed and desired in order to provide comfort and support.
2. engage JoC clergy, lay leaders, ritualists, poets, liturgists, and artists in creating identified resources for people facing the end of life, for themselves or for a loved one, and for community members supporting family, friends, or community members through an experience of loss.

The project first started in October 2022 when a group of JoC advisors came together to reflect on their experiences around Jewish end-of-life practices and rituals and explored the idea of creating resources to support Jewish people of color during life's most challenging moments.

The current phase of research is being led by [Erica Riddick](#), a Jewish educator and ritualist with an interest in holding the full circle of life cycle realities in all living realms with honesty, curiosity, and care. Erica is Special Projects Manager at [Beloved Garden](#), Founding Director of [Jews of Color Sanctuary](#), and Twersky Education Fellow for [Jewish Women's Archive](#).

This project continues the ground-breaking work of [Beyond the Count: Perspectives and Lived Experiences of Jews of Color](#). This study released by JoCI in August 2021 recommends supporting JoC-led initiatives serving Jewish people of color, reflecting the multiracial reality of the Jewish people, prioritizing creating spaces for discourse and dialog among JoC, and promoting further research by and about Jewish people of color. Specifically the Kavod v'Nichum End-of-Life Practices & Rituals Research seeks to improve access to JoC-created resources for Jews seeking end-of-life support, highlight the diversity of experience across the Jewish community, and foster JoC-led research and content.

Research will begin mid-April and is projected to be completed over the summer. There are plans to share preliminary findings at Kavod v'Nichum's 21st Annual [Chevra Kadisha and Jewish Cemetery Conference](#) online June 12 through 14 and a final report reveal in JoC communities before announcing the findings and resources to the entire Jewish community.

The excitement of this project lies in the knowledge that no study of this kind has been assessed to any part of the Jewish community ever which will mean this data will lead modern Jewish scholarship on end-of-life practices and rituals and an opportunity to re-center this important life cycle moment for individuals, families, and communities.