

## HFBA MISSION STATEMENT

THE HEBREW FREE BURIAL ASSOCIATION devotes its resources to performing *chesed shel emet* (the ultimate act of loving kindness). It is the only agency in the New York metropolitan area dedicated to assuring that every Jew, regardless of financial means or religious affiliation, receives a dignified, traditional Jewish funeral and burial.

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 3 • ELUL 5770 • FALL 2010

THE HEBREW FREE BURIAL ASSOCIATION was formed in 1888 on Manhattan's Lower East Side by a group of philanthropic and community-minded Jews who were committed to burying their indigent dead according to Jewish tradition, rather than having them buried in a mass grave in Potter's Field. Since its inception HFBA has interred nearly 60,000 Jews in its two cemeteries. HFBA is also committed to retrieving the identities of those interred and is attempting to provide a gravestone for each unmarked grave.

For more information about how you can help please see page 6.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bryan Alter, Esq.	Richard Miller
Herbert Block	Yitzhak Pastreich
Andrew Feinman	Minna Monte Seitelman
Jack M. Gross	Ilya Temchenko, Esq.
Andrea Harris	Jack Weiss, Esq.
Gary Katz	Daniel Werlin

### RABBINIC ADVISOR

Rabbi Elchonon Zohn

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Amy Koplow

### CEMETERY CHAPLAIN

Rabbi Shmuel Plafker

CHESED IS PUBLISHED BY  
THE HEBREW FREE BURIAL ASSOCIATION

Renée Septimus, *Editor* Adam Rawson, *Designer*

224 WEST 35TH STREET, ROOM 300  
NEW YORK, NY 10001  
PHONE: (212) 239-1662  
FAX: (212) 239-1981  
EMAIL: INFO@HEBREWFREEBURIAL.ORG  
WEB: WWW.HEBREWFREEBURIAL.ORG

UJA Federation  
of New York

אגודת אהים חסד של אמת  
The Hebrew  
Free Burial  
ASSOCIATION

# Chesed

## "MITZVAH GORERET MITZVAH" (ONE GOOD DEED LEADS TO ANOTHER)

Several months ago, Eugene \*, the son of Holocaust survivors and a Hungarian émigré, died at the age of fifty-three with no remaining relatives. Upon his death, his professional colleague, recognizing Eugene's solitary existence, informed his Staten Island synagogue that Eugene's funeral would be held at the nearby Mount Richmond Cemetery. Synagogue members responded with overwhelming kindness and several dozen attended the funeral to pay respects to a lonely man they had never known.

Inspired by their involvement in this *mitzvah*, the Staten Island Jewish community pledged its increased support to the important work of HFBA. A cadre of nearly fifty volunteers was organized to ensure a *minyan* and the recitation of *kaddish* at HFBA's funerals at Mount Richmond. Despite short notice, this group makes certain that although someone may have lived and died very much alone, they will be accompanied to their final resting place by a group of caring fellow Jews.

HFBA salutes, and thanks, the members of the Staten Island Jewish community who, in the highest form of *chesed*, wish to remain anonymous.

*\*Name changed to protect confidentiality*



# Q&A

**Q:** *May a Jew with a tattoo be buried in a Jewish cemetery?*

**A:** Yes, although tattoos are prohibited according to the biblical verse (Vayikra 19:28), "...you shall not etch a tattoo on yourselves. I am G-d." If someone already has a tattoo, there are questions as to whether and how the tattoo may be removed according to Jewish law. In any event, having a tattoo does not in any way preclude one from being buried in a Jewish cemetery.

# HFBA HELPS



**M**arina\* was a homeless Russian immigrant who died on the streets of Brighton Beach. Her body languished in the county morgue until the Kings County Public Administrator called HFBA. Our dedicated staff set to work to uncover the mystery of Marina's life, and death. Through ingenuity and perseverance, they reached a local shopkeeper who revealed that he was a distant cousin of Marina's. He told HFBA that she had been a professor in the Former Soviet Union and suffered a mental collapse following the death of her mother twenty-five years ago. The cousin was able to give HFBA some information which led to the discovery that Marina's mother had been buried by HFBA, with Marina as the applicant. HFBA buried Marina near her beloved mother.

**B**arbara,\* who had been in a recent car accident and is currently unemployed and lacking health insurance, had little choice in leaving her deaf son in Florida to drive to New York to arrange for the burial of her sister, Marilyn.\* Marilyn, whose young husband was buried by HFBA in 2003, died suddenly, leaving a severely autistic daughter. After HFBA buried Marilyn, Barbara remained in New York until she was able to find an appropriate agency to care for her niece.

**A**ileen\* lost her husband a year before the murder of her daughter. Over the last several years, her son, Carl\* had been in failing health and resided in a nursing home. When he died at the age of fifty-three, HFBA's Rabbi Plafker called from the cemetery so that Aileen, in Florida, could hear the funeral service of her child.

*\*Names have been changed to protect confidentiality.*

HFBA thanks  
**PARKSIDE MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.**  
for their generous and gracious help burying the indigent Jews of New York City

**Remember HFBA in Your Will**  
Please consider speaking to your attorney about including a bequest to HFBA.

**STAY CONNECTED!**  
If you would like to sign up for HFBA's e-Newsletter, or if you'd like to receive a copy of our DVD, please send an e-mail to [info@hebrewfreeburial.org](mailto:info@hebrewfreeburial.org).  
To become a fan of HFBA on Facebook, please visit [www.facebook.com/hebrewfreeburial](http://www.facebook.com/hebrewfreeburial).  
To follow us on twitter, please visit [www.twitter.com/hfba](http://www.twitter.com/hfba).



# FROM THE MAILBAG



Dear Rabbi Plafker,

Thank you for officiating a dignified burial service for my mother. Including me by telephone and describing and explaining the actual details and significance gave me great peace and closure.

As you read about my mom, know that your dedication to serving those who have passed and bringing comfort to those left is most appreciated.

With gratitude,  
Name withheld to protect confidentiality

**DONATE YOUR VEHICLE**



**Perform the GREATEST MITZVAH!**

Provide Burial for a Poor Jew

IRS Tax Deduction as Allowable by Law

**FREE TOWING**

Phone: (212) 239-1662

Email: [info@hebrewfreeburial.org](mailto:info@hebrewfreeburial.org)

Web: [www.hebrewfreeburial.org](http://www.hebrewfreeburial.org)



## Wishing all our supporters, a Happy, Healthy New Year!

*"A man's origin is from dust and his destiny is back to dust; at risk of his life he earns his bread; he is likened to a broken shard, withering grass, a fading flower, a passing shadow, a dissipating cloud, a blowing wind, flying dust and a fleeting dream."*

*"In the Book of Life, Blessing and Peace and Good Livelihood, may we be remembered and inscribed... for a good life and for peace."*

*(Musaf service, High Holy Days)*

## VISITING THE "BEIT OLAM"

It is a Jewish custom to visit the graves of loved ones for the *yahrzeit* (anniversary of a death) as well as around the time of the High Holy Days. It is customary to recite Psalms at the gravesite, praying to G-d with the hope that the merits of the deceased will enhance our standing as our requests ascend to the *kiseh hakavod* (Holy Throne). In the *beit olam* (literally, house of eternity) we are reminded of the fragility of human existence which inspires introspection, solemnity and humility, most appropriate as we gather to pray for a good year for ourselves, our family and our community.

# MOUNT RICHMOND CEMETERY

## JEWISH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE — FALL 2010

*Please note that the cemetery will be closing early at 1:00 PM on the day prior to each festival.  
Throughout the year, the cemetery closes early every Friday before Shabbat.*

Wednesday	September 8	Erev Rosh Hashana	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM SHARP
Thursday	September 9	Rosh Hashana	CLOSED
Friday	September 10	Rosh Hashana	CLOSED
Friday	September 17	Erev Yom Kippur	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM SHARP
Wednesday	September 22	Erev Sukkot	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM SHARP
Thursday	September 23	Sukkot	CLOSED
Friday	September 24	Sukkot	CLOSED
Wednesday	September 29	Hoshana Rabah	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM SHARP
Thursday	September 30	Shmini Atzeret	CLOSED
Friday	October 1	Simchat Torah	CLOSED

**YIZKOR IS RECITED ON  
YOM KIPPUR (9/18)  
AND  
SHMINI ATZERET (9/30)**

### График работы кладбища Mt. Richmond в еврейские праздники Осень 2010 г.

В субботу кладбище всегда закрыто на Шаббат

Среда, 8 сентября	<b>канун Нового Года</b>	с 9:00 утра до 1:00 дня
Четверг, 9 сентября	<b>Новый Год</b>	<b>ЗАКРЫТО</b>
Пятница, 10 сентября	<b>Новый Год</b>	<b>ЗАКРЫТО</b>
Пятница, 17 сентября	<b>канун Йом Киппура</b>	с 9:00 утра до 1:00 дня
Среда, 22 сентября	<b>канун Суккота</b>	с 9:00 утра до 1:00 дня
Четверг, 23 сентября	<b>Суккот</b>	<b>ЗАКРЫТО</b>
Пятница, 24 сентября	<b>Суккот</b>	<b>ЗАКРЫТО</b>
Среда, 29 сентября	<b>Хошана Раба</b>	с 9:00 утра до 1:00 дня
Четверг, 30 сентября	<b>Шмини Ацерет</b>	<b>ЗАКРЫТО</b>
Пятница, 1 октября	<b>Симхат Тора</b>	<b>ЗАКРЫТО</b>

Поминальная молитва *ИЦКОР* читается в **Йом Киппур (18 сентября)** и на **Шмини Ацерет (30 сентября)**

Each Memorial Day, members of the **Staten Island Guardsmen** and **51st Battalion of the New York Guard** place flags on the graves of U.S. military veterans resting in HFBA's Mount Richmond and Silver Lake cemeteries.

We thank these volunteers for their effort and commitment to those who served our country.



# РУССКИЙ ДАЙДЖЕСТ

## «Мицва горерет мицва» (ивр.) – «Каждое доброе дело влечёт за собой другое»

Несколько месяцев назад на Стейтен Айленде скончался Евгений\* (*все имена изменены*), иммигрант из Венгрии, чьи родители в свое время пережили Холокост. У 53-летнего Евгения не осталось никого в живых. Узнав об этом, коллега по работе сообщил в местную синагогу, что погребение состоится на кладбище Маунт Ричмонд на Стейтен Айленде. Несколько десятков евреев из этой синагоги посетили погребальную службу, выказав этим уважение одинокому, незнакомому им человеку.

Вдохновленные этим примером выполнения важной *мицвы*, члены еврейской общины Стейтен Айленда заявили об усилении помощи в работе HFBA. Нашлось более сорока добровольцев, обеспечивающих «миньян» (*не менее десяти молящихся*) и чтение кадиша во время погребальных служб, которые организует HFBA. Эти добровольцы собираются, часто в очень короткий срок, чтобы обеспечить достойное погребение жившим одиноко евреям.

HFBA приветствует и благодарит пожелавших остаться неизвестными членов еврейской общины Стейтен Айленда за эту важную заботу о ближних.

## HFBA помогает

- Марина\*, скончавшаяся на улице в районе Брайтон Бич, была бездомной иммигранткой из России. Ее тело находилось в бруклинском морге до тех пор, пока общественный администратор не связался с HFBA. Наши сотрудники, проявив упорство и изобретательность, отыскали некоего владельца магазина, который являлся отдаленным родственником Марины. Он рассказал, что в Советском Союзе Марина была профессором, но ее постиг душевный недуг из-за смерти матери. Детали, представленные этим родственником, помогли установить, что именно Марина организовала похороны своей матери через HFBA двадцать пять лет назад. HFBA похоронила Марину рядом с матерью.
- Живущая во Флориде Эйлин\* потеряла мужа, а через год погибла ее дочь. Тем временем здоровье ее сына Карла,\* находившегося в лечебнице, слабело. Когда Карл умер в возрасте 53-х лет, наш раввин, г-н Плафкер, позвонил Эйлин во Флориду,

чтобы она могла слышать погребальную службу по ее сыну.

## Вопросы и ответы

–*Может ли еврей с татуировкой быть погребен на еврейском кладбище?*

–Конечно, хотя татуировки и запрещены в Торе. Стих 19:28 в третьей книге Пятикнижия (*Ваикра*, или книга *Левит*) гласит: «и царапин по умершим не делайте на теле вашем, и наколотой надписи не делайте на себе. Я – Б-г»

Если же у кого-то есть татуировка, то встает вопрос, можно ли ее вывести в соответствии с еврейским законом, и если да, то как. Но в любом случае, наличие татуировки не препятствует погребению на еврейском кладбище.

## Желаем всем, кто нас поддерживает, счастливого и здорового Нового Года

Из молитвы Мусаф, читаемой в праздники: «Человек взят из праха, и возвращается в прах; в поте лица своего добывает он хлеб свой; сравнить его можно с разбитым сосудом, с пожухшей травой, с увядшим цветком или с промелькнувшей тенью, с мимолетным облачком или с дуновением ветра, с пылинкой или с легкой грезой.»

*Да вспомнят и впишут нас в Книгу Жизни, Благословения и Мира ... чтобы радовались мы хорошей жизни и миру.*

## Как Вы можете помочь HFBA?

В эти трудные времена особенно много людей зависят от пожертвований и доброй воли других. Еврейское Благотворительное Похоронное Бюро (HFBA) как никогда зависит от вашей поддержки и помощи в продолжении нашего уникального дела – обеспечения каждого еврея в районе Большого Нью-Йорка, независимо от образа жизни или обстоятельств смерти, достойным погребением по еврейскому обряду.

Пожалуйста, присылайте ваши пожертвования по адресу:

HFBA, 224 West 35<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 300,  
New York, NY 10001

Можно это также сделать через наш Интернет-сайт:  
[www.hebrewfreeburial.org](http://www.hebrewfreeburial.org)

## MATCHING GIFTS PROGRAM

You can double, or even triple the value of your gift to HFBA if your company offers a Matching Gift Program.

- Check with your company's HR office to find out if the company matches employee donations.
- Review the company guidelines to see if HFBA is eligible for a matching gift. If so, obtain a copy of the company's matching gift form and mail it along with your donation to HFBA.
- HFBA will process the form and return it to your employer which will send its matching donation directly to HFBA.

*Many thanks to the following companies whose matching gifts programs have contributed to HFBA:*

<b>Alliance Bernstein</b>	<b>J.P. Morgan Chase</b>
<b>AXA Equitable</b>	<b>Merck and Co.</b>
<b>Bank of America</b>	<b>Minerals Technologies</b>
<b>Citigroup</b>	<b>Mutual of America</b>
<b>ExxonMobil</b>	<b>Pfizer</b>
<b>Goldman Sachs</b>	<b>Vivendi Universal (Seagrams)</b>

## HOW YOU CAN HELP...

In these difficult economic times, more people are dependent on the charity and good will of others.

Hebrew Free Burial Association depends on you, our supporters, to help us continue our unique mission of ensuring that every Jew in the New York metropolitan area, regardless of the life led or death experienced, receives a dignified Jewish burial.

Please help out today by sending a donation in the enclosed envelope. Or contribute online by going to our website: [www.hebrewfreeburial.org](http://www.hebrewfreeburial.org)

## Yahrzeit Reminder SERVICE

The Hebrew Free Burial Association can provide you with timely notification of a loved one's yahrzeit every year. Complete the form below and return it to us to receive a timely yahrzeit reminder annually. Feel free to make additional copies of this card to include more than one name in your reminder service.



*Mazal Tov to*

***Phyllis and Richard Rosen***

*of Mount Vernon, NY*

*on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.*

*We appreciate their generous suggestion that donations in their honor be made to HFBA.*

*We thank those who contributed and wish the Rosens many more happy, healthy years together.*



\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Departed (English or Hebrew)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to Yourself

\_\_\_\_\_  
English or Hebrew Date of Death **with Year**

Before Sunset    After Sunset

### CLIP AND MAIL TO:

The Hebrew Free Burial Association  
224 West 35th Street, Room 300, New York, NY 10001