

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.

אגודת אהים חסד של אמת
The Hebrew Free Burial Association

Chesed

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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 City Cemetery. Since its inception HFBA has interred over 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.

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UJA Federation
of New York

HFBA Helps



Many of HFBA's clients have had substance abuse problems. This may contribute not only to an untimely death, but to estrangement from family as well, making it difficult to arrange a swift burial as mandated by Jewish law.

- Vadim G.* was only 37 years old when he was found dead in his room, empty bottles of rum and methadone at his side. With some investigation by our staff, we located his father, Alex, who also had problems with drugs and who had not talked to Vadim in months. When informed of his son's death, he allowed HFBA to make funeral arrangements. Alex told us that he was under the impression that Vadim had turned his life around, and was attending college, after having been shot in the face and neck two years ago. Alex's mother, as well as his ex-wife, Vadim's mother, had been buried by HFBA in 2003 and 2004, respectively. At Alex's request, we reserved the grave next to Vadim for his own eventual interment.
- Jeff B. had a troubled family history and substance abuse problems since high school. His father had burst into a neighbor's home and threatened to kill the man, holding him hostage until his wife, Jeff's mother, managed talk him out of it. In spite of police efforts, a distraught Mrs. B. killed herself with her husband's gun. A few years later, Jeff died of a heroin overdose at the age of thirty-two. It took HFBA over three weeks to locate Jeff's father who was in prison in upstate New York and who authorized the burial.
- José C. was a Cuban Jew who had abandoned his family over thirty years ago to come to the United States. José suffered from alcoholism and was diagnosed with lung cancer from which he died two years

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Dear HFBA

HFBA receives many letters from grateful friends and acquaintances of those we bury. Below are several examples of the correspondence that comes to our office. Names have been changed to protect confidentiality.

I have just returned from a visit to the Mount Richmond Cemetery and wanted to express my feelings to you concerning the visit. I was trying to locate the grave sites of my maternal grandmother who passed on long before I was born, along with the grave site of an infant child who would have been my aunt. I worked with Rabbi Plafker who was extremely understanding and who assisted by searching old manual records to find the sites. He escorted me to the sites which had already been marked by donated headstones. I was very pleased at how well the entire cemetery is maintained.

As a child I remember my parents searching many times for these graves, to no avail. I cannot thank the association and Rabbi Plafker enough for the assistance they and he have provided. As a token of that appreciation I have given the Rabbi a donation to mark two more graves. This is in part to repay for someone who donated the funds to mark the graves of my two family members.

Keep up the great work. Thank you.

H.P.

With heartfelt gratitude to the amazing staff, clergy & volunteers at the Hebrew Free Burial Association, my dear friend Robert is finally resting in peace. Sunday morning January 27th was cold as the temperature did not rise above 20 degrees. With snow still on the ground, Robert was laid to rest on a picturesque hill at Mt. Richmond Cemetery in Staten Island. Although a far cry from the hustle & bustle of the city he loved so much...(it was) a country setting, peaceful with mountains and trees in the distance... (allowing) him to truly rest in peace. There is no greater mitzvah than what HFBA was able to do for my friend. Following 29 days of limbo, the caring and wonderful staff at HFBA was able to intervene and grant Robert nothing less than what any Jew deserves at the end of his or her life- a dignified and proper burial in accordance with Jewish law. May Robert rest in peace for ever...until we meet again.

W.S.

A good part of HFBA's annual budget depends on bequests made by generous donors. We mourn the loss of the following benefactors and are grateful for their far reaching commitment to *chesed shel emet*.

PEARL BROTHERS

TONI FOX

FANNY GOLDFARB

LEA POLK

MORRIS RAUCHER

PHYLLIS SATCOWITZ

SELMA USLANER

If you would like to discuss including HFBA in your will, please contact Amy Koplow, Executive Director.

Q&A

Q: *According to Jewish law, is an executed Jewish criminal allowed to be buried in a Jewish cemetery?*

A: If a criminal was convicted of a capital offense by a Jewish court, the body would be buried at the edge of the cemetery, apart from the other graves. Today, there are no Jewish courts capable of administering such a case. If an American court handed down such a sentence, the body could be buried any place in a Jewish cemetery.



To make a secure online donation from our website, you can scan this QR Code with your smartphone.

HFBA Community Breakfasts

The **Staten Island Community Breakfast** was held on Sunday, December, 30, 2012 at the Young Israel of Staten Island. An overflow crowd enthusiastically honored Rabbi Eli Kogan and Rabbi Avi Feinstein who both received HFBA's Community Chesed Award. Since 1999, Rabbi Feinstein has been a chap-



BACK ROW L-R: HFBA BOARD MEMBERS PAUL LOWENTHAL, ANDREW FEINMAN, PAUL H. NAGELBERG, HERMAN HERSKOVIC
SEATED: HFBA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AMY KOPLOW, BOARD MEMBER CHARLES GREINSKY, HONOREES RABBI ELI KOGAN AND RABBI AVI FEINSTEIN.

lain at Staten Island University Hospital and interacts with HFBA on a regular basis through the arrangements he makes for former patients of the hospital. Rabbi Kogan focuses his many outreach efforts on the Russian Jewish community as spiritual leader of Congregation Shaarei Teshuva, editor-in-chief of the Russian language version of Chabad.org website and founder of the Jewish Russian Learning Center.

At the time this issue of *Chesed* went to print, reservations for our annual HFBA **Riverdale Community Breakfast** were quickly coming in. The honorees on March 3rd at the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale are Andrea Cohen Harris, a former member of our Board of Directors (2004-12) and the chair of numerous HFBA Riverdale Community Breakfasts, and Ezra and Sherry House, who dedicate so many of their efforts towards doing *chesed* in their community and who are committed supporters of the work and mission of HFBA.

Mazal tov and yasher kochachem!

HFBA ANNUAL SPRING COMMUNITY CHESED DAY

April 14, 2013 • 12-3 p.m.
(Weather permitting)

Silver Lake Cemetery
926 Victory Blvd., Staten Island

The bi-annual Chesed Day event regularly attracts a large number of people dedicated to the mitzvah of *chesed shel emet*. Please e-mail **Andrew Parver** (aparver@hebrewfreeburial.org), *Director of Operations*, for information or to arrange for individuals or groups to help clean and clear HFBA's Silver Lake Cemetery on Staten Island.

Up to date information will be posted on our Facebook page,
www.facebook.com/hebrewfreeburial

We hope you will join us!

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
Web: www.hebrewfreeburial.org

РУССКИЙ ДАЙДЖЕСТ

BELOW ARE TRANSLATED SUMMARIES OF THE ARTICLES
APPEARING IN THIS ISSUE OF CHESED.

HFBA помогает с предварительным планированием похорон

В наши дни всё чаще люди планируют и оплачивают свои похороны заранее и в соответствии со своими предпочтениями. Они договариваются с похоронным домом, дают указания по проведению похорон и приобретают участок на кладбище. Такие заранее составленные планы дают человеку уверенность, что его пожелания будут выполнены после смерти, и снимают значительную часть проблем с родственников усопшего. HFBA помогает с планированием и предоплатой похорон лицам с определённым уровнем дохода. Пожалуйста, звоните в наш офис, чтобы получить нужную информацию.

• Когда Маня и Исаак* договаривались о похоронах своего 51-летнего сына, скончавшегося от рака, супруги начали процесс планирования своих похорон через HFBA. Некоторое время спустя у Мани начала развиваться болезнь Альцгеймера, в то время как Исаак оставался относительно здоровым, несмотря на возраст. Неожиданно Исаак умер, а спустя два года скончалась и Маня. Их предусмотрительность помогла городским социальным службам быстро связаться с HFBA, которое организовало похороны. Ныне все три члена семьи покоятся друг подле друга на кладбище Маунт Ричмонд.

С праздником !

Когда во время Пасхального седера мы сидим за праздничным столом со своими близкими, мы в HFBA вспоминаем тех наших клиентов, кто умер в бедности и одиночестве. Мы благодарны за то, что мы избавлены от нужды, и молимся о приходе таких времен, когда никто не будет жить и умирать в бедности и одиночестве.

С праздником Песах и спасибо за вашу непрекращающуюся поддержку

Вопросы и ответы

Согласно еврейским законам дозволяется ли хоронить казнённого преступника на еврейском кладбище?

Во времена Храма если преступник был казнён по приговору еврейского суда, его хоронили на краю кладбища отдельно от остальных могил. Сегодня еврейских судов, уполномоченных выносить смертный приговор, не существует. Поэтому если преступник был казнён по приговору американского суда, его можно хоронить в любом месте кладбища.

Нам пишут

Хочу выразить сердечную признательность сотрудникам и добровольцам Еврейского Благотворительного Похоронного Бюро. Благодаря их работе мой друг Роберт* наконец-то покоится с миром. Воскресное утро 27-го января было

холодным, температура не поднималась выше минус пяти по Цельсию. Роберт был похоронен на живописном заснеженном холме кладбища Маунт Ричмонд на Стейтен Айленд. Как это место не похоже на вечно бегущий куда-то город, который он так любил. Но этот мирный поросший деревьями уголок на фоне холмов даст ему подлинное успокоение.

Нет более благородной мицвы чем та, которую HFBA исполнило для моего друга. После двадцати девяти дней неопределённости ваши замечательные сотрудники вмешались и обеспечили Роберту то, что каждый еврей заслуживает в конце жизни, то есть достойные похороны, проведённые в соответствии с еврейскими законами. Да почит он в вечном мире.

У.С.

HFBA проводит весенний день заповеди «хесед»

Воскресенье, 14 апреля 2013 г.

12:00–15:00

Кладбище Сильвер Лейк

926 Victory Blvd., Staten Island

Чтобы получить информацию или организовать участие добровольцев для расчистки и уборки кладбища Сильвер Лейк на Стейтен Айленд, пожалуйста позвоните Эндрю Парверу, ответственному по мероприятиям.

Проводимый HFBA каждые два года День заповеди «хесед» привлекает большое количество людей, желающих выполнить мицву «хесед шель эмет», т.е. милосердия к усопшим.

*Вы можете также подписаться на нашей страничке в Facebook
(www.facebook.com/hebrewfreeburial)*

Мы надеемся, что вы присоединитесь к нам !

MOUNT RICHMOND CEMETERY HOURS

DURING PASSOVER AND SHAVUOT HOLIDAYS - SPRING 2013

PASSOVER

Monday March 25	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM sharp
Tuesday March 26	CLOSED
Wednesday March 27	CLOSED
Monday April 1	CLOSED
Tuesday April 2	CLOSED

SHAVUOT

Tuesday May 14	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM sharp
Wednesday May 15	CLOSED
Thursday May 16	CLOSED

YIZKOR is recited on the last day of these holidays:
Tuesday, April 2 and on **Thursday May 16**.

Расписание работы кладбища Mt. Richmond

На время праздников Песах и Шавуот – Весна 2013 г.

ПЕСАХ

Понедельник, 25 марта	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM строго
Вторник, 26 марта	ЗАКРЫТО
Среда, 27 марта	ЗАКРЫТО
Понедельник, 1 апреля	ЗАКРЫТО
Вторник, 2 апреля	ЗАКРЫТО

ШАВУОТ

Вторник, 14 мая	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM строго
Среда, 15 мая	ЗАКРЫТО
Четверг, 16 мая	ЗАКРЫТО

Поминальная молитва **ИЗКОР** читается во
вторник, 2 апреля и в **четверг, 16 мая**.

Take a Look...



Our website, www.hebrewfreeburial.org, has lots of information about our organization. You can view films about our work, sign up for our e-newsletter, receive a copy of our DVD or become a fan on Facebook. **Take a look!**

We are pleased to announce that the following names have been added to our

Leave Your Mark

Donor Plaque in the Weinberg Chapel
at Mount Richmond Cemetery:

LARRY BLOOM

HELEN CYTRYN

ALICE HEFLER

JUDY AND RONALD KARP

THE HERBERT AND DOROTHY KUNSTADT
FOUNDATION

BONNIE AND RESAT KUTBAY

WILLIAM AND NECHAMA LISS-LEVINSON

RENA AND DAVID MASLANSKY

ROMAN PROTAS

DENISE SALAMONE

JEROME SHINDELMAN

AARON STRASSBURGER

You, too, can "Leave Your Mark."
For a donation of \$150, you can sponsor
a grave marker for an unmarked grave
and you will receive a framed certificate
acknowledging your generosity. Sponsor
four plaques and your name will be added
to the roster in the Weinberg Chapel.

HFBA Helps

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

later. It took several weeks to find a relative to authorize funeral arrangements but the one who did come forward was a non-Jewish nephew who wanted to have his uncle cremated. José's friends, with whom he had discussed end of life issues, were able to convince the nephew that José's wish was to be buried according to the Jewish tradition. The nephew agreed and HFBA performed the funeral and buried José in Mount Richmond Cemetery.

**Names have been changed to protect confidentiality.*



As we celebrate the holiday of Passover, and sit down to the seder with our loved ones,

we at HFBA think of our clients, victims of poverty, isolation and loneliness. Grateful for our own freedom from want, we pray for a world in which no one will live, or die, impoverished and alone.

Happy Passover and thank you for your continued support.

CHESED SHEL EMET – HOW YOU CAN HELP

CONTRIBUTE to HFBA to ensure an annual *Yahrzeit* reminder for your lost loved ones.

INSTITUTE a perpetual *Yahrzeit Kaddish* for your loved one for a donation of \$180.

ARRANGE for *kaddish* to be said for the eleven month mourning period following a death of a relative or friend for a donation of \$360.

REMEMBER to include HFBA in your will with a bequest.

ESTABLISH an HFBA Forever Gift Annuity or Charitable Trust Plan. In addition to the guaranteed income and tax benefits, these plans ensure that HFBA's promise of a Jewish burial to future generations of indigent Jews will be fulfilled.

CELEBRATE a *simcha* or commemorate a loss with HFBA cards.

Cards cost \$18 and can include a personalized message.

PLACE HFBA *tzedakah* boxes in a house of *shiva* or in your home, school or local kosher establishment.

ENROLL a Bar/Bat Mitzvah in our "Mitzvah Circle" by suggesting a gift to HFBA to your guests. The generous child who shares his/her *simcha* in this way receives a framed certificate.

DONATE unused graves. If the graves are not part of a burial society or family plot and are located in New York or New

Jersey, please consider donating them to HFBA and receiving a tax deduction for your gift.

SPONSOR perpetual grave care for an indigent's grave for \$600.

VOLUNTEER with your friends, classmates, fellow group members, or family at our cemeteries as part of our Cemetery Clean-Up Project.

GIVE us your old *talleisim* for use as part of the dress for deceased men who HFBA will be called upon to bury.

USE your clerical skills in our midtown office as a volunteer.

GET INVOLVED as a professional with HFBA by donating your expertise and skills in an area that can help us.

DONATE your property, used vehicle or boat and receive a generous tax donation.



PLEASE HELP OUT TODAY BY SENDING A DONATION IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE.