

## 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 אחים חסיד של אמנת  
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 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.*

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UJA Federation  
of New York

*The following is the story of young siblings that HFBA buried in 1912. We thank Cheryl Deletetsky Brown, Myer's granddaughter, for bringing this story to our attention.*

*Excerpts from the SUN JOURNAL of Lewiston, Maine*

## AUBURN FAMILY FINALLY FINDS MISSING PIECES TO THEIR LIVES

*By David Hartnill (Sept. 6, 2009)*

AUBURN—Almost a century after an unimaginable loss, an Auburn family feels whole again.

On Monday, the Deletetskys plan to gather...to remember two children they never knew.

In February 1912, 7-month old Harry Deletetsky died of respiratory problems. Seven months later, his 9-month old sister Rosie similarly died...Their deaths – and where the two children were buried – became a mystery within the family. The children's mother, Annie, died in 1924. Their father, Myer, who lived another 55 years, rarely talked about Harry and Rosie...The silence left a hole in the family.

...When the family gathered for the holiday...they talked and began pooling what they knew...And they knew that (the children had died) in New York where Myer and Annie, then newly emigrated Polish Jews, had met and married...

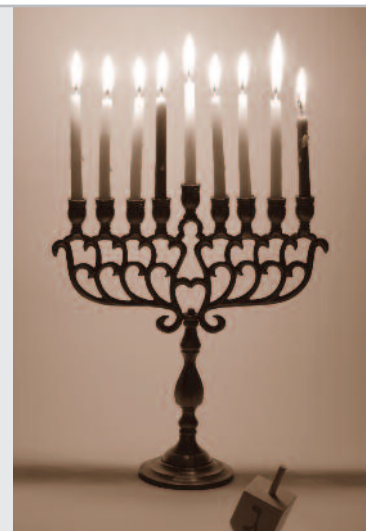
...Michael Deletetsky (Myer and Annie's grandson) took what the family knew to Manhattan to the New York Public Library ...and City Hall...he began searching for sound-alike names...He found two children named "Deletizky". Moments later as he saw the parents' names, chills ran up his back. He called his dad, Mickey.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

# THE LIGHTS OF CHANUKAH

**A**s we kindle the lights of the Chanukah menorah we recite, *"During all the eight days of Chanukah, these lights are holy and we are prohibited from making any ordinary use of them; we are allowed only to look at them (to be inspired) to express thanks and praise to Your great name for Your miracles, wonders and salvations."*

As we contemplate the flames against the window, the light against the background of a dark, cold sky, let us think, too, about our own ability to bring light, joy and comfort to the world through our commitment to *Torah, mitzvot* and *maasim tovim* (good deeds).



## MISSING PIECES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I think I found your brother and sister," he said.

"We never thought we'd find them," Mickey said. The death certificates said Harry died of lumbar pneumonia. Rosie died of gastroenteritis.

It took a second trip in late August to find where they

were buried. They were at Ocean View Cemetery on Staten Island, buried by the **Hebrew Free Burial Association**. Michael found them marked with recent granite stones beneath a growth of tall grass and weeds.

"I sat beside Rosie's grave and I wept," Michael said. "They are part of the family..."

## "FOOTPRINTS" (AUTHOR UNKNOWN)

**O**ne night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with G-d. Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky. In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand. Sometimes there were two sets of footprints, other times there was only one.

This bothered me because I noted that during the low periods of my life, when I was suffering from anguish, sorrow and defeat, I could see only one set of footprints. So I said to G-d, "You promised me, G-d, that if I followed you, you would walk with me always. But I noticed that during the most trying periods of my life there has been only one set of footprints in the sand. Why, when I needed you most, have you not been there for me?"

G-d replied, "The times when you have seen only one set of footprints, my child, is when I carried you."

## Q&A

**Q:** Why do Jews traditionally wish each other a long life "until 120 years"?

**A:** In the sixth chapter of the book of Genesis, after a recounting of the long lives of early biblical figures, G-d becomes "disappointed" in His creations and says, "My spirit shall not always strive on account of man, for he is flesh; his days shall be a hundred and twenty years."

In the *Gemara*, this verse is referenced during a discussion of the life of Moses, the biblical leader and prophet. He died on the same date he was born (the seventh day of the Hebrew month of Adar) after living for exactly 120 years.

Wishing a life of 120 years is a blessing for a long, full life.



# WE THANK OUR VOLUNTEERS

Over 1,000 people from all over the metropolitan New York area volunteered in HFBA's Silver Lake and Mount Richmond Cemeteries this year! The following list of groups reflects the dedication of all Jews across the denominations as well as Jews of all ages.

## WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE STUDENTS FROM:

- North Shore Hebrew Academy High School
- Brooklyn Heights Group of Synagogue Youth
- Stella K. Abraham Yeshiva High School (SKA)
- Davis Renov Stahler Yeshiva High School (DRS)
- Solomon Schechter School of Queens
- Solomon Schechter School of Westchester (9th and 12th Grades)
- The Frisch School
- Rosenbaum Yeshiva of North Jersey (YNJ)



North Shore Hebrew Academy High School



Brooklyn Heights Group of Synagogue Youth



Davis Renov Stahler Yeshiva High School (DRS)



Stella K. Abraham Yeshiva High School (SKA)



Solomon Schechter School of Queens

*Thank you  
and tizku  
l'mitzvot  
(may you  
merit the  
opportunity  
to do more  
good deeds)!*



Solomon Schechter School of Westchester

# Leave *your* Mark

Through the **HFBA Leave Your Mark Campaign**, 266 gravestones were purchased between April 2008 to April 2009, and delivered in October. These simple monuments mark previously unmarked graves with the name of the deceased and the date of death.



Each monument costs \$150, including installation. To date nearly 15,000 unmarked graves have received markers! Participate in this unique effort to provide the dead with the dignity of identification by calling the HFBA office.

By sponsoring four grave markers, your name will be inscribed on our Leave Your Mark Donor Plaque at the Weinberg Chapel at Mount Richmond Cemetery.

We are pleased to announce the following donors who have generously given \$600 for four grave markers:

**HERBERT AND RENAH AUSUBEL**  
**ARTHUR BUFFMAN**  
**ROBERT FELDMAN**  
**MAJOR EDWARD GUREWITZ**  
**RAPHAEL HAAR**  
**ROBERT AND STEVE MALZBERG**  
**THOMAS H. MAUPIN**  
**THE MINDEL FOUNDATION—**  
**NELSON M. TUCHMAN**  
**JUDY AND JAMSHID MOALEMI**  
**SERYL E. RITTER**  
**MOSES AND ROCHELLE ROSENGARTEN**  
**JULIAN A. SEEWALD**  
**DAVID AND TATYANA SEGAL**  
**RUTHE UNGER**



# HFBA HELPS

**H**elene V.\* was mentally disabled and living in a group home when she died. Although she was Jewish, she regularly attended social events at a local church and the pastor, Reverend S., helped her find places to go on Jewish holidays. HFBA was contacted to make funeral arrangements when she died but we were not informed that Helene had a plot next to her mother and grandmother in a New York cemetery. She was scheduled for burial at HFBA's Mount Richmond Cemetery when a call came from the pastor who used church discretionary funds to make sure that she would be buried near her family. HFBA made the funeral and burial arrangements.

**W**hen Irina G.\*, a 96-year old Russian immigrant, died, the HFBA staff used its well-developed detective skills to find a relative to authorize burial. Irina had financed the immigration of her nephew Peter\* to the United States by selling her apartment in St. Petersburg and some other assets. She subsequently joined him in New York but was forced to go into subsidized housing for the elderly after being exploited by Peter who had access to, and used, her savings. He and his wife wanted nothing to do with the aunt's funeral but, thanks to the ingenuity of the HFBA staff, an elderly relative was located in Israel and he gave permission for burial by HFBA.

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



**Visit our website,  
[hebrewfreeburial.org](http://hebrewfreeburial.org)  
 for the latest news  
 and information  
 on HFBA.**



# РУССКИЙ ДАЙДЖЕСТ

## HFBA помогает

Элейн В\* была умственно отсталой и жила в доме со специальным уходом. Хотя она была еврейкой, Элейн регулярно посещала мероприятия, проводимые в местной церкви. Пастор С\* помогал Элейн находить места, где она могла посещать еврейские праздники. Когда Элейн скончалась, HFBA начала заниматься её погребением на кладбище Маунт Ричмонд. Однако, нам никто не сообщил, что у Элейн был зарезервирован участок рядом с её матерью и бабушкой на одном из кладбищ Нью-Йорка. Пастор С\* позвонил в HFBA и сообщил, что его церковь предоставит средства на погребение Элейн рядом с её родными. HFBA взяла на себя организацию похорон и погребения.

Когда скончалась Ирина Г\*, 96-летняя иммигрантка из России, сотрудникам HFBA пришлось применить наработанные за многие годы детективные приёмы, чтобы разыскать родственника, который дал бы разрешение на похороны. Ещё при жизни Ирина оплатила иммиграцию в США своего племянника Петра\*. Для этого она продала свою квартиру в Петербурге и другие ценности. Она поселилась с племянником в Нью-Йорке, но в дальнейшем ей пришлось переехать в субсидированное жильё для престарелых, поскольку Пётр имел доступ к её сбережениям и использовал их. В дальнейшем, ни Пётр, ни его жена и знать ничего не желали об умершей тёте. Тогда HFBA разыскала престарелого родственника Ирины в Израиле, который и дал разрешение HFBA на организацию и проведение похорон.

\* Имена изменены

## Вопросы и ответы

Вопрос: Почему евреи традиционно желают друг другу прожить “до ста двадцати”?

Ответ: В шестой главе книги Бытия, где перечисляются долгие годы жизни библейских персонажей, сказано что Б-г “разочарован” Своими творениями и говорит: “дух Мой не всегда за человека, ибо он плоть; да пребудут дни его до ста двадцати лет”.

Этот стих Пятикнижия трактуется в том месте Гемары, где обсуждается жизнь Моисея, пророка и руководителя еврейского народа. Моисей умер в тот же день календаря, в который и родился (в седьмой день еврейского месяца Адар), прожив таким образом ровно 120 лет. Поэтому пожелание “до ста двадцати” – это благословение на долгую, наполненную жизнь.

## Ханукальные свечи

В благословении, которое мы произносим при зажигании ханукальной меноры (ханукеи), есть такие слова: “и на протяжении всех восьми дней Хануки эти свечи священны, и мы не имеем права пользоваться их светом – можем лишь смотреть на них, чтобы возносить благодарность и хвалу великому Имени Твоему - за все знамения, чудеса, и за спасение, посланное Тобою”.

Когда мы смотрим на свет пламени на фоне окна, где видно только тёмное и холодное небо, давайте подумаем и о нашем даре приносить свет, радость и утешение через нашу верность Торе, заповедям и *маасим товим* (добрым делам).

## Кампания “Помоги оставить память”

В рамках проводимой HFBA кампании “Помоги оставить память” (“Leave Your Mark”), с апреля 2008-го по апрель 2009-го года было приобретено 266 могильных камней для установки на прежде неотмеченных могилах. На этих скромных памятниках высечены лишь имя усопшего и дата смерти. Каждый памятник обходится в \$150, включая установку.

Чтобы принять участие в этой уникальной работе по достойному поминовению усопших, пожалуйста позвоните в офис HFBA. Памятные таблички с именами спонсоров, оплативших установку четырёх или более памятников, будут выгравированы на доске почетных доноров, установленной в мемориальном зале имени Вайнбергов при кладбище Маунт Ричмонд.

## Как Вы можете помочь

ОФОРМИТЬ В ДАР автомобиль, лодку или иную собственность на имя Еврейского Благотворительного Похоронного Бюро (HFBA);

ДАТЬ ПОЖЕРТВОВАНИЕ на получение Вами ежегодного письма с напоминанием о годовщине кончины Ваших близких по еврейскому календарю (Yahrzeit);

ОРГАНИЗОВАТЬ ЧТЕНИЕ КАДИША по Вашим родным или близким в течение всего 11-месячного периода скорби после их кончины, за пожертвование в \$360;

НАЗНАЧИТЬ бессрочное ежегодное чтение Кадиша по Вашим близким, пожертвовав на имя HFBA \$180.

## ANNUAL RIVERDALE COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

The Riverdale community continues to be a strong base of support for HFBA. Its annual community breakfast, chaired by Andrea Harris, honored **Chaim Marks** with the *Community Service Award*, **Herbert and Renah Ausubel** with the *Oskim b'Tsibur Award* and **Nina and Akiva Smith** with the *Chesed Shel Emet Award*. 150 people attended the event at the Riverdale Jewish Center on Sunday, October 25th, representing ten participating synagogues in the area from all denominations.



## CHESED SHEL EMET—HOW YOU CAN HELP

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

**CELEBRATE** a *simcha* or commemorate a loss with HFBA cards. Cards cost \$15 and can include a personalized message.

**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** your property, used vehicle or boat to HFBA and receive a generous tax deduction.

**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.

**REMEMBER** to include HFBA in your will with a bequest.

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

**"LEAVE YOUR MARK"** by sponsoring a grave marker for an unmarked grave for a donation of

\$150 and you will receive a framed certificate. Sponsor four markers and a plaque with your name will be added to our roster at the Weinberg Chapel at Mount Richmond Cemetery.

**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.

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

**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.



Original pushka from 1909 at  
HFBA's Mount Richmond Cemetery

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