

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.

חברת אבות 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 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
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FROM OUR FILES...

The HFBA staff is often called upon to undertake unusual tasks associated with Jewish burials. The following stories illustrate both our detective skills and investigative limitations!

Some months ago, while repairing a retaining wall in Silver Lake Cemetery, construction workers came upon a partial headstone from 1911. The HFBA office staff finally deciphered the name of an 11-year old girl, Tillie (*pseudonym*.) Using the extensive HFBA records, as well as online ship manifests from a century ago, HFBA determined that Tillie had come to the United States with her mother and four siblings and had died suddenly. Her father had applied for the HFBA burial.

Although it is now known to whom the gravestone belonged, it is still a mystery as to how this headstone came to Silver Lake Cemetery, as HFBA stopped burying its clients there in 1909. HFBA ultimately recovered Tillie's actual grave in Mount Richmond Cemetery next to the unmarked grave of her 2-year old sister who tragically died several months after Tillie. Through the HFBA Leave Your Mark Campaign, both sisters received new gravestones. Tillie's original, partial gravestone was rested on her grave as well.

Al died in his Queens apartment and was taken to the medical examiner's office. His landlord had called us but we were unable

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2





THOUGHTS FOR CHANUKAH

The holiday of Chanukah commemorates victory over intolerance, persecution and oppression.

As we light the Chanukah menorah, let the candles represent, not only our history, but also our future. Let us see the flames as representing hope—for a better world, for an end to the tyranny of starvation, disaster, conflict, bigotry and fear. Let each of us commit to brightening our own corner of the world and spreading light and kindness.

WITH THANKS...

Our hard-working Superintendant of Mount Richmond Cemetery, **Gregory Schwartzman** has retired after ten years of devoted service. Gregory, an immigrant to the United States from the FSU by way of Israel, served in the Soviet army in Afghanistan and worked in the steamship industry for many years.

Tirelessly working in a difficult job, Gregory supervised burials, maintained the cemetery grounds and went beyond the call of duty, often working six days a weeks to ensure the smooth functioning of Mount Richmond. We will miss his dedication, problem-solving ability and wry sense of humor. We wish him a long, happy, healthy life together with his loved ones!

READERS RESPOND

...We were very interested in the...edition of *Chesed* which decribed problems related to perpetual care contracts...Since...(our) problem revolved around being able to prove who was to provide...perpetual care, we decided to secure copies of the perpetual care contracts for all our family members for whom we did not have original contracts...We merely telephoned the cemetery in which the relatives were buried, and asked for duplicate copies of the agreement...(The cemetery)...agreed to mail them out to us at no cost...

Please consider alerting *Chesed* recipients to what we have learned. That way, long before there is a problem, they will have the solution. It is a lot less costly and taxing than having to go to federal court.

F.R.

FROM OUR FILES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to secure the release of his remains until, despite severe decomposition of the body, he could be positively identified. A friend stepped forward to tell us that perhaps dental records were available from Al's dentist. Although that was a good suggestion, the

friend could not name the dentist, other than to recall that his office was on Jewel Avenue in Flushing. The dedicated HFBA office staff called every dentist in that area and finally located Al's dentist who sent the dental records to the medical examiner. Al was identified, his remains released and he was buried in Mt. Richmond Cemetery.

HFBA CEMETERY VOLUNTEERS

We want to thank the volunteers from:

- North Shore Hebrew Academy High School
- Generation R at The JCC in Manhattan
- Davis Renov Stahler Yeshiva High School (DRS)
- Shelter Rock Jewish Center Men's Club
- Brooklyn Heights Group of Synagogue Youth (BHGSY)
- Torah Academy of Bergen County (TABC)
- Stella K. Abraham Yeshiva High School (SKA)
- Solomon Schechter School of Westchester

for their help clearing and cleaning the debris around the graves in Silver Lake Cemetery.

Dear Friends at the HFBA,

On behalf of my students and my school, Solomon Schechter School of Westchester, I wanted to thank you again for your help in planning our visits to your Silver Lake and Mount Richmond Cemeteries last year.

It has become a school tradition for our freshmen and senior classes to each spend a day at the beginning of the school year helping with maintenance and learning about '*chesed shel emet*' at the Silver Lake Cemetery. Each year, I have been impressed by the sensitive way your staff introduce the students to the meaningful work they will be doing, and by my students' excitement and eagerness to help keep the cemetery grounds clear and well maintained. I particularly love the way visiting the HFBA cemetery brings the kids together to fulfill such an important Mitzvah.

Last year, though, our visit was not only a great experience in and of itself, but created an opening for an even more meaningful return trip. When Andrew Parver, Director of Education and Outreach, explained that the vast majority of burials at Mount Richmond are done without family members in attendance, without a *minyan*, and without even *kaddish* being recited - that struck a chord with my students. Then and there, they decided to do what they could to make a difference, committing to attend and provide a *minyan* for an otherwise anonymous burial the coming spring.

Fall gradually became winter, winter eventually yielded to spring, and eight months after their initial visit to Silver Lake, our seniors were once again on their way to Staten Island - this time to Mount Richmond to fulfill their pledge from the beginning of the year. An elderly woman who had outlived her family and savings had passed away the day before and the HFBA was doing its part to make sure she was provided with a proper Jewish burial. My students did their part as well, providing a *minyan* and making sure that even if this woman had died penniless, she would not be buried anonymously.

HFBA's mission of '*chesed shel emet*' in providing for Jews who have passed away is incredibly important, but in thanking you, I want to also salute all that you do to transmit values and educate the Jewish community. You not only have an impact on *Olam HaBa*, you have a huge impact on *Olam HaZeh*. On behalf of myself and my students, thank you.

Rabbi Harry Pell

Rabbi in Residence, Solomon Schechter School of Westchester

HFBA CEMETERY VOLUNTEERS (CONTINUED)



Generation R at The JCC in Manhattan



Shelter Rock Jewish Center Men's Club



Torah Academy of Bergen County (TABC)



Brooklyn Heights Group of Synagogue Youth (BHGSY)

Thank you and yashar kochachem!

If you would like to volunteer, as an individual or as part of a group, please contact Andrew Parver at aparver@hebrewfreeburial.org or the HFBA office, (212) 239-1662.

Please check our website for pictures of all the volunteer groups.

DESIGNATING "POWERS OF ATTORNEY"

A *power of attorney* is a legal instrument allowing a "principal" to delegate legal authority to an "agent" to make property, financial and other legal decisions. It is most often used in the event of illness or disability when one is unable to sign necessary legal documents.

A *durable power of attorney* enables the agent to act for the principal immediately, regardless of whether the principal is mentally competent or physically able to make decisions. It may be revoked by the principal at any time. A *springing power of attorney* becomes effective

at a future time, frequently when the principal's physician determines that the principal is unable to handle his or her financial affairs. It remains in effect until the principal's death or until it is revoked by the court.

It is a good idea to plan for your future to the extent that it is possible. The forms to effect the terms described above may be obtained from legal stationers and office supply stores. The forms must be notarized.

LONG BEACH COMMUNITY BREAKFAST



Anne and Arthur Gober, generous supporters of HFBA, were honored at HFBA's breakfast in Long Beach on September 14th. Friends of the Gobers and of HFBA came out to enthusiastically applaud this special couple who are outstanding models of the Jewish commitment to *tzedakah* and *maasim tovim* (charity and good deeds).

Many companies offer **matching gifts** to employees. Please consider sending a matching gift form with your donation. Doing so is an easy way for you to enhance your donation to HFBA.

РУССКИЙ ДАЙДЖЕСТ

Ханука 2008

Из нашей картотеки...

Служащие HFBA часто решают нетривиальные проблемы, связанные с еврейским погребением. Нижеизложенные примеры из повседневной жизни компании иллюстрируют смекалку и незаурядные детективные способности наших работников.

- Несколько месяцев назад, во время ремонта несущей стены на кладбище Silver Lake, рабочие обнаружили часть памятника. Служащие HFBA расшифровали имя 11-летней девочки, Тиллии Д. (псевдоним), умершей в 1911 году. С помощью обширной картотеки, а также портово-судовой декларации, заполненной сто лет назад, работники HFBA выяснили, что Тиллия приехала в США с мамой и 4-мя братьями и сестрами, но внезапно умерла.

Несмотря на то, что стало известно кому принадлежит памятник, как он оказался на кладбище Silver Lake остается загадкой. Во-первых, кладбище Silver Lake было закрыто для погребений в 1909 году, до смерти Тиллии. Во вторых, работники HFBA в конце концов обнаружили могилу Тиллии на кладбище Mount Richmond, рядом с могилой (без памятника) ее 2-х летней сестры. Обеим сестрам были установлены новые памятники благодаря компании "Leave your Mark", проводимой HFBA. Найденную на кладбище Silver Lake часть первого памятника Тиллии, также отреставрировали и установили на ее могиле.

- Когда Ал С. скоропостижно скончался в своей квартире в Квинсе, нам позвонил хозяин дома. Для установления личности тело покойного взяли на медицинскую экспертизу. Друг Ала посоветовал нам связаться с зубным врачом покойного, офис которого находился на Jewel Avenue во Flushing. Преданные своему делу работники HFBA обзвонили все зубные кабинеты района и нашли врача, который предоставил необходимую информацию для медицинской экспертизы. В результате мистер С. был похоронен на кладбище Mount Richmond согласно еврейской традиции.

Размышления о Хануке

В праздник Хануки мы отмечаем победу над нетерпимостью, преследованием и угнетением. Свет свечей ханукальной меноры символизируют не только нашу историю, но и наше будущее. Давайте посмотрим на пламя, как на воплощение наших надежд – на лучший мир, окончание господства голода, катастроф, противоречий, фанатизма и страха. Пусть каждый из нас сделает ярче свое место в этом мире и распространит свет и доброту.

А знаете ли Вы? Назначение "Power of Attorney"

Power of Attorney* – это инструмент, которым человек (доверитель) назначает другое лицо (агента) решать за него разные юридические проблемы, в том числе связанные с вопросами финансов и собственности. Такое назначение часто используется в случае болезни или инвалидности, когда человек не в состоянии подписать юридический документ.

Рассчитанный на долгий срок Power of Attorney дает возможность агенту действовать за доверителя и в том случае, если последний не в состоянии принимать решения в связи с умственным или психическим расстройством. Можно сделать назначение, которое станет действительным в будущем, при наступлении каких-либо обстоятельств. Например, если в будущем врачом будет установлено, что лицо не в состоянии вести свои финансовые дела. Power of Attorney имеет юридическую силу до момента смерти доверителя, однако, может быть отменено в любое время доверителем или по решению суда.

Это неплохая идея заранее предусматривать все непредвиденные обстоятельства в будущем. Формы для заполнения вышеописанного документа Вы можете приобрести в отделе форм в магазинах, где продаются канцелярские товары. Документ Power of Attorney обязательно должен подписан доверителем и заверен нотариусом.

* Приблизительный аналог в законодательстве России и Республик бывшего Советского Союза и СНГ- Генеральная доверенность.

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:



JEANETTE DADUSC

DEBORAH E. SIEGEL

SHELDON WERTHEIM

THOMAS H. MAUPIN

SONDRA COHEN

STEVE REICH

OMER, SIGALIT, DANIEL
AND TAMAR BEN-ZVI

Please consider adding your name by sponsoring
four grave markers for unmarked graves for \$600.

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 \$10 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.