

## HFBA Awarded \$500,000 Grant for Silver Lake Cemetery Restoration

Hebrew Free Burial Association has been awarded a grant from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund Grant Program for Parks, Preservation and Heritage. The funds are to support the preservation of Silver Lake Cemetery, HFBA's original cemetery site.

Opened in 1892 and filled just 17 years later, Silver Lake Cemetery is on the State and National Register of Historic Places. More than 13,000 indigent Jews are buried there, over half of them children.

Over the past century, Silver Lake Cemetery has been ravaged by nature and the effects of time. This historic EPF grant – the first ever made to a sectarian cemetery – will help HFBA secure the site and preserve its historic features. In a second phase, HFBA will repair and replace Silver Lake's grave markers as most of the original stones are either missing or broken.

We thank the following legislators on the city, state and national levels for supporting our request and advocating on behalf of this important historic site:

**US Congressman Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.**  
**NYS Senator Jeffrey D. Klein**  
**NYS Senator Andrew J. Lanza**  
**NYS Senator Diane J. Savino**  
**NYS Assemblyman Michael J. Cusick**  
**Staten Island Borough President James S. Oddo**  
**NYC Councilmember Debi Rose**

**To learn more about the project and how you can help, please call Amy Koplow, Executive Director at 212-239-1662.**



### 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.

## In the Mail



Letters below have been edited for clarity and to protect confidentiality.

**M**y recent donation in memory of Barbara S. was made as a result of the extreme kindness shown by the Rabbi to my friend Marnie E., the sister Barbara never knew, when Marnie visited the grave last week. It was very comforting to Marnie to see her sister's final resting place so well cared for.

With my thanks for your work,

**B.T.**

**R**ecently it came to pass that a gentleman showed up in my shul, rather distraught, as his mother had just passed away. She was an emigre from the former Soviet Union and had done some remarkable things with fellow emigres in the neighborhood in her very long life. Several of us from the shul sat with him after Shabbos as calls were made and we put him in touch with you, and things started to go smoothly after that. I was very impressed with how your staff handled the

whole thing and the matter was brought to a proper conclusion.

I have seen your quality work at first hand and I have a significant birthday coming up, so in gratitude for approaching my 75th birthday in pretty good health, all things considered, I am enclosing a check as a donation. I don't know how representative this is of my ability to contribute in the future, but you are definitely going into my estate planning.

Thank you so much for all the good work that you do.

**C.T.**

**W**e are writing to express our appreciation of, and admiration for, the kindness, support and professionalism of Rabbi Shmuel Plafker and the staff at Mount Richmond Cemetery. At our aunt's funeral, a *minyan* was provided and we were guided with sensitivity through this difficult day.

Now two years later, we continue to find a well-run cemetery thanks to your caring staff. At our last visit two months ago, a staff member volunteered to walk along with us to assure a direct path to the gravesite despite some construction. We always look forward to spending some time with Rabbi Plafker during our visits and enjoy our chats.

We are forever indebted to your organization for the important and high quality service it provides.

**T.J. and W.J.**

## Staten Island Community Breakfast

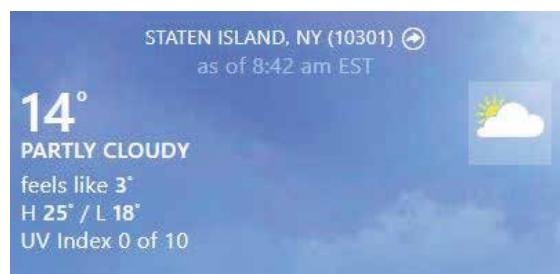


Rabbi J. J. Schachter

HFBA's annual Staten Island Community Breakfast was held December 10th at the Young Israel of Staten Island.

Rabbi J. J. Schachter addressed an audience of 130 people, who honored the sacred work of the Staten Island *chevra kadisha* and the volunteer *minyan*. Performing the ritual purification of the dead

(the *tahara*) and attending a burial are considered the ultimate acts of *chesed* and *mitzvah*.



*Despite the bitter cold, on Friday, December 29, 2017, HFBA performed five funerals and burials at Mount Richmond Cemetery.*



# HFBA *Helps*



**Mike A.**, a divorced 49-year-old man with no family, had a fatal heart attack while walking his dog near his Staten Island home. The Staten Island Public Administrator informed us of his death. Mike's landlady, his rabbi and the rabbi's wife attended Mike's funeral along with HFBA's volunteer *minyans*.

**Vladimir B.** was a 68-year-old divorced man, diagnosed with bi-polar disorder, estranged from his two adult daughters but in touch with a half-brother, Gregor T., when he died suddenly. Vladimir had no assets and Gregor had been spending his own money caring for their mother who suffered from advanced Alzheimer's disease. As we discussed Vladimir's funeral arrangements with Gregor, he mentioned that he had pre-arranged for cremation for his mother. We were able to persuade Gregor to change the end-of-life plan for his mother to a traditional Jewish burial and reserved a plot for her next to her son. During Vladimir's funeral, Gregor expressed his appreciation to HFBA, not only for burying his brother, but also for the comfort of knowing that his mother will also receive

a Jewish burial. No other relative or friend attended Vladimir's burial.

**Dimitry** was an 84 year old with no family or financial resources. After he suffered a stroke, his doctor discovered he had two brain tumors. Dimitry never regained consciousness following surgery to remove them. Gemma, his social worker, called us to learn more about our services as Dimitry's condition deteriorated quickly. She described Dimitry as a lonely, kind man who had a particular interest in preserving the safety of animals. Two weeks after Gemma's first call to us, Dimitry passed away. On a frigid day in December, Rabbi Plafker buried Dimitry with no one else in attendance.

**Donald G.** had been injured in a car accident as a young child, resulting in profound developmental disabilities. He had been cared for by his mother until her death in 1972 and subsequently entered a group home for disabled adults. At the age of 84, in declining health, Donald entered hospice from which a social worker called HFBA to make final arrangements in the event of his death. The HFBA staff set up a "pending case," so that, when Donald died, his remains would be quickly released by the Public Administrator and a prompt burial could be arranged. Rabbi Plafker eulogized Donald as the volunteer *minyans* stood by and recited *kaddish* at his grave site.

## Mount Richmond Cemetery Mapping Project

Young Rabbi Schaffer and his family had lived in their tiny tenement less than 48 hours when father and four children were overcome and killed by carbon monoxide. To heat their rooms, the rabbi had left the stove burners on. Only Mrs. Schaffer and one daughter survived. Their furniture was still in boxes. Father and children were buried in HFBA's Mount Richmond Cemetery.

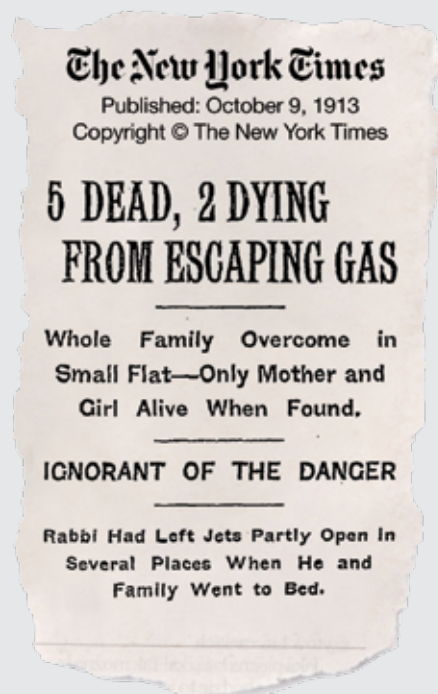
In 1913, the deaths were big news – a full column in the *New York Times*.

But time and the news move on and the Schaffer story was soon forgotten.

This fall the Schaffer family graves were found and remembered as a result of HFBA's ongoing mapping project in Mount Richmond Cemetery.

This initiative, identifying and mapping every grave in the cemetery, will ensure that each precious soul at Mount Richmond Cemetery is remembered — the grave marked and recorded — for posterity.

**Your help is urgently needed to complete the remaining 25% of the mapping project. The cost to survey and catalogue each section of Mount Richmond Cemetery is \$5,000.**



# РУССКИЙ ДАЙДЖЕСТ

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

## **HFBA выиграло грант в \$500,000 на восстановление кладбища Сильвер Лейк**

При Фонде Защиты Окружающей Среды штата Нью-Йорк существует программа грантов для парков, природоохранных зон и мест исторического наследия. В рамках этой программы Еврейское Благотворительное Похоронное Бюро (HFBA) получило грант в \$500,000 (полмиллиона долларов) на сохранение кладбища Сильвер Лейк, которое было первым кладбищем, принадлежащим Бюро. Это кладбище открылось в 1892-м году и затем заполнилось всего за 17 лет. Кладбище внесено в общенациональный и нью-йоркский реестры исторически значимых мест. Здесь были похоронены 13 тыс. малоимущих евреев, более половины из них – дети.

## **Еврейское Благотворительное Похоронное Бюро:**

### **Важные вехи в 2017-м году**

В ушедшем 2017-м HFBA похоронило 358 евреев на кладбище Маунт Ричмонд.

В одном только декабре было 33 похорон, причём в пятницу 29-го декабря было организовано **пять погребений,**

несмотря на мороз в минус десять по Цельсию.

*Мы не смогли бы провести все эти похоронные обряды без вашей щедрой поддержки.*

*Огромное всем вам спасибо !*

## **Нам пишут**

Моё недавнее пожертвование в память о Барбаре С. было в ответ на необыкновенную доброту и заботу, оказанную вашим раввином г-ном Плафкером моей подруге Марни Е., когда она посетила могилу Барбары на прошлой неделе. Увы, при жизни Барбара так и не узнала, что у неё есть сестра. Для Марни было большим утешением увидеть, что место последнего упокоения её сестры хорошо ухожено.

С благодарностью за всё, что вы делаете,

P. C.

Мы хотим выразить наши благодарность и восхищение добротой, поддержкой и профессионализмом раввина Шмуэля Плафкера и других сотрудников кладбища Маунт Ричмонд. На похоронах нашей тётки они обеспечили миньян и с очень большим тактом сопровождали нас в этот трудный день.

По прошествии двух лет мы видим, что могила тётки ухожена, благодаря усилиям работников кладбища. Во время нашего последнего визита один из сотрудников вызвался проводить нас, чтобы легче обойти места, где проводились строительные работы. Мы всегда с удовольствием ждём встреч и бесед с раввином, г-ном Плафкером, во время наших посещений.

Мы будем всегда благодарны вашей организации за ту важную и высококачественную работу, которую вы делаете.

Т. Дж. и У. Дж.

## **HFBA помогает**

- У 68-летнего Владимира Б. было биполярное расстройство, он был разведён и не общался со своими двумя взрослыми дочерьми, встречаясь только со своим сводным братом Грегором Т. Когда Владимир внезапно скончался, денег после него не осталось, а Грегор вынужден был тратить свои средства на уход за их матерью, страдавшей от болезни Альцгеймера в поздней стадии. Когда мы обсуждали с Грегором приготовления для похорон Владимира, Грегор упомянул, что планирует кремацию для своей матери после её смерти. Мы уговорили его организовать для неё похороны по еврейскому обряду, и зарезервировали для неё место рядом с сыном. На похоронах Владимира Грегор выразил нашим сотрудникам свою огромную благодарность не только за похороны брата, но и за уверенность в том, что мать Грегора тоже будет похоронена согласно обычаям. На похоронах Владимира не было других родственников или друзей.

- Социальный работник по имени Гемма позвонила в HFBA и сообщила, что здоровье одного из её клиентов, 84-летнего Дмитрия Е., стремительно ухудшается. Дмитрий, по её словам, был одиноким, добрым и проявлял неподдельный интерес к благополучию различных животных. Через две недели последовал ещё один звонок с сообщением о кончине Дмитрия, у которого не было ни средств, ни близких родственников. После инсульта у него обнаружили опухоль в мозгу, которую врачи решили удалить. Дмитрий скончался после операции, так и не приходя в сознание. В морозный декабрьский день наш раввин, г-н Плафкер, провёл похороны Дмитрия. Больше никто не присутствовал.

**Мы с признательностью отмечаем недавно завещанные HFBA суммы,** в том числе от доктора Элейн Бриммер, психолога из графства Саффолк (Лонг Айленд), которая помогла сотням пациентов за свою 36-летнюю карьеру.

## **Счастливого праздника Песах**

Когда мы садимся с близкими за пасхальный стол, мы должны помнить, что в сегодняшнем мире всё ещё существует рабство. В тот самый день, когда мы празднуем наше освобождение из египетского рабства, давайте по-настоящему прочувствуем и научимся ценить свободу. Давайте посвятим себя освобождению всех тех людей, которые страдают в бесчеловечных условиях.

## We gratefully acknowledge the generous bequests left to HFBA by:

Sidney N. Abramson  
Norma Axelrad  
Leon Bleckman

Elaine Brimer  
Samuel I. Cohen  
Marilyn Cooper  
Martin Grossbach

Julian Kaufman  
Ida Rosenman Sands  
Michelle Yomtov

A bequest to HFBA is a living legacy of compassion and support for the impoverished Jews who need our services.

For more information please call Amy Koplow, HFBA's Executive Director at (212) 239-1662.

### *With much appreciation,*



HFBA thanks **Paul H. Nagelberg**, HFBA's outgoing president of the Board of Directors, who led the organization for two years as co-president and an additional five years as president. We are grateful for his dedication to HFBA's mission, his support of good governance and his vision for the future of the organization.



As we move forward, we welcome **Richard Fishman** as HFBA's new president of the Board of Directors. As the retired New York State Director of the Division of Cemeteries, Richard brings his leadership skills and valuable experience to HFBA's Board.

## Mount Richmond Cemetery Hours of Operation During Passover and Shavuot Holidays:

### Passover

Friday, March 30..... 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
Sunday, April 1 ..... CLOSED  
Thursday, April 5 ..... 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
Friday, April 6 ..... CLOSED

### Shavuot

Sunday, May 20..... CLOSED  
Monday, May 21..... CLOSED

*Yizkor* is recited on April 7th and May 21.

## Расписание работы кладбища Mt. Richmond на время еврейских праздников – весна 2018 г.

### ПЕСАХ

Пятница, 30 марта ..... 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
Воскресенье, 1 апреля ..... ЗАКРЫТО  
Четверг, 5 апреля ..... 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
Пятница, 6 апреля ..... ЗАКРЫТО

Поминальная молитва ИЗКОР читается в последний день праздника, в субботу 7 апреля

### ШАВУОТ

Воскресенье, 20 мая ..... ЗАКРЫТО  
Понедельник, 21 мая ..... ЗАКРЫТО

Поминальная молитва ИЗКОР читается в последний день праздника, понедельник 21 мая



## IMPORTANT 2017 Year End Facts

**358** Jews were buried in Mount Richmond Cemetery. In December alone, there were **33** funerals and burials. We could not have arranged these funerals and burials without your generous support.

*Thank you so much!*



# HAPPY PASSOVER

As Jews gather around the seder table, we must remember that oppression and slavery still exist in the world today. As we celebrate our own liberation from Egyptian bondage, let us truly understand and appreciate freedom and dedicate ourselves to liberating all human beings who suffer man's inhumanity.

## Chesed Shel Emet – How You Can Help

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**VOLUNTEER** with your friends, classmates, fellow group members, or family at Silver Lake Cemetery Chesed Days.

**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.**

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 65,000 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.



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