

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 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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THOUGHTS FOR THE NEW YEAR

One of the most intriguing characters in the Torah is Aaron, the High Priest, brother of Moses. Although his leadership was clearly subordinate to that of his younger sibling, his human qualities shine through in the narrative and he becomes known as an "*ohav shalom vrodef shalom*," one who seeks peace and the promotion of peaceful relationships. Although we know little of his early life, he was Moses' spokesperson with Pharaoh and played an important role during the exodus and subsequent journey of the Jews through the desert. He is the main character in the story of the Golden Calf, he begs for the healing of his sister Miriam and he suffers silently through the death of his two sons. He is the founder and leader of the priestly class, which is entrusted with the sacred duties of the Tabernacle and, subsequently, of the Temple.

Aaron's death occurs at the age of 123 years and the account, in the Book of Numbers, of his passing is moving and enviable. When the Israelites arrived at Mount Hor, G-d instructs Aaron to ascend the mountain accompanied by his son Eliezer, who will succeed him as the High Priest, and by Moses. The biblical commentator Rashi remarks that Aaron died "by the Divine kiss," a death at once peaceful and holy.

This Rosh Hashana, as we look back, and forward, let us think about the responsibility of each of us to be like Aaron, creating and perpetuating peace as members of *klal Yisrael* and as citizens of an ever more dangerous, shrinking world. And may we help those whose *gzar din* (Divine decree) includes the end of life, achieve a peaceful, holy death and burial, as if kissed and buried by G-d Himself.



Honoring a SPECIAL MOTHER in a SPECIAL WAY



Frieda Greenburg was a beloved figure in the Massachusetts communities in which she lived. She was known for her ready smile, her ability to draw people to her and her extraordinary hospitality.

To commemorate Mrs. Greenburg's 25th *yahrzeit* on the 12th day of *Sivan*, her daughter, Esther Simon of Boro Park, decided to honor her mother's memory in a special, and creative, way.

Esther invited her friends to a brunch at which they were introduced to, or made more familiar with, the work of Hebrew Free Burial Association. HFBA's Rabbi Shmuel Plafker made a short presentation about the organization which included a video (available at www.hebrewfreeburial.org) and narrative about the unique mission of assuring every Jew a dignified, Jewish funeral and burial. Mrs. Simon also bought gifts which were then raffled off and the proceeds of the raffle were donated to HFBA.

We are grateful to Esther Simon and to her generous guests who honored Frieda Greenburg's memory with the mitzvah of *zedakah* and *chesed*, values championed and exemplified by Mrs. Greenburg herself.

HFBA PENDING CASES

Some of the saddest and most intriguing HFBA cases are among our "pending files."

Pending cases refer to those who are so impoverished that, in their lifetimes, they have already begun to worry about their eventual inability to afford a Jewish burial, fearful that their remains will end up in City Cemetery. They or someone on their behalf contacts HFBA and our staff takes the necessary information and sends them a card or magnet to place in their residence, indicating pre-need burial arrangements with HFBA. Knowing that their remains will be taken care of, these arrangements relieve considerable anxiety and anguish.

Recent cases include:

- Conrad B.* is a 71 year old college graduate, military veteran and published author. He is currently serv-

ing a prison sentence for murder and manslaughter, eligible for parole in 2021. At his cousin's suggestion, he contacted HFBA and we arranged a pending burial.

- Margo A., 98 years old, lives in a nursing home and suffers from dementia. Her family was killed in Auschwitz and she has exhausted any funds she might have had. Selfhelp was appointed her guardian as part of their Nazi Victims Program and their social worker reached out to us to assure Margo a Jewish burial upon her death.
- Jacob S. is 78 years old, formerly a shoemaker from Latvia. He has no family in the United States, no income or savings and receives SSI benefits. Recently diagnosed with cancer, Jacob called HFBA to discuss plans for his eventual burial.

**Names have been changed to protect confidentiality.*

SAVE THE DATE!

**Staten Island Community Annual *Parshat Vayechi* Breakfast In Support of HFBA
Sunday, January 8, 2012**

To organize an event in your community, please call HFBA Executive Director Amy Koplow

HFBA Helps



Boris K.* contacted HFBA to arrange for a pre-need burial and sent us all his pertinent information. Subsequent to his death, his corpse rested in the county morgue for a month until the Public Administrator, conducting an investigation of the apartment, found the HFBA intake paperwork and called our office. We promptly arranged a Jewish funeral for Boris.

Leo M. had previously arranged for the burial of both his parents and grandmothers with HFBA. When he suddenly died at the age of 47 years, the HFBA staff was particularly saddened and shocked. Although Leo had a common-law relationship with Natasha Y. for many years, he was still technically married and HFBA had to receive permission for burial from his legal wife and adult daughter. Both were reluctant to bury, rather than cremate, but they authorized the burial once they were assured that the financial obligations would be assumed by Natasha and her family who were adamant that Leo receive a proper Jewish burial.

Gregor S. had assumed his wife's maiden name in the Ukraine to escape persecution based on his Jewish-sounding name. After living in New York for

quite some time, he set up a pre-need plan with HFBA for himself and his wife. Upon his death, HFBA buried him with a reserved grave for his wife by his side. At the time, his wife was suffering from advanced Alzheimer's disease and did not know her husband was deceased.

Ilan C. called the HFBA office sounding frantic. He was a 24-year old Israeli man whose wife became ill with breast cancer shortly after their marriage two years ago. At the time of the call, Anat, his wife, was already in hospice and the attorney whom the young couple had hired to arrange U.S. citizenship had absconded with their money. The hospice social worker directed Ilan to our office and remarked to our staff worker that this case was one of the "most horrible" she had ever seen. Anat was laid to rest in Mount Richmond Cemetery, her husband, inconsolable, in attendance.

**Names have been changed to protect confidentiality.*

New HFBA Films

We have two new films about our work, now available on our website
www.hebrewfreeburial.org



Q&A

Q: *It is well known that Jewish law does not permit autopsy except in exceptional circumstances. May an autopsy be performed if a patient died following experimental treatment to ascertain if the treatment contributed to the patient's death or benefitted the patient?*

A: Rabbi Moshe Feinstein ruled that in such a case an autopsy may be performed if the information is critical for other patients who are in life-threatening situations and may be helped or harmed without that information (Fred Rosner, MD, *Bio-medical Ethics and Jewish Law*). **A rabbinical authority should, however, be consulted in an individual case.**

Parshat Chayai Sarah is traditionally associated with organizations dealing with aspects of death in the Jewish community. This portion of the Torah begins by describing the death of the matriarch Sarah who was mourned and eulogized by her husband, Abraham who then purchases a burial plot for her. Subsequently, he and the other patriarchs and matriarchs are interred there as well and the tomb, *Mearat Hamachpelah*, remains a sacred site to this day.

Coinciding with the *parsha*, HFBA is having a **Community Chesed Day on Sunday, November 20th at Silver Lake Cemetery on Staten Island from 10 am-12 pm to clean and clear debris.**

To join us as an individual or as part of group, or to help organize an appeal for HFBA in your synagogue, please call the HFBA office.
We need your help!

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

MOUNT RICHMOND CEMETERY JEWISH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE — Fall 2011

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 at 1:00 PM **every Friday.**

Wednesday, Sept. 28	Erev Rosh Hashana	9AM-1PM SHARP
Thursday, Sept. 29	Rosh Hashana	Closed
Friday, Sept. 30	Rosh Hashana	Closed
Friday, Oct. 7	Erev Yom Kippur	9AM-1PM SHARP
Wednesday, Oct. 12	Erev Succot	9AM-1PM SHARP
Thursday, Oct. 13	Succot	Closed
Friday, Oct. 14	Succot	Closed
Wednesday, Oct. 19	Hoshana Rabba	9AM-1PM SHARP
Thursday, Oct. 20	Shmini Atzeret	Closed
Friday, Oct. 21	Simchat Torah	Closed

YIZKOR is recited on Yom Kippur, October 8, and Shmini Atzeret, October 20.

График работы кладбища Mount Richmond в еврейские праздники — Осень 2011 г.

Пожалуйста, имейте ввиду, что **по пятницам**, а также **в канун праздника** кладбище **закрывается раньше, в 1:00 дня.** В субботу кладбище **всегда закрыто на Шабат.**

Среда, 28 сентября	канун Нового Года	с 9:00 утра до 1:00 дня
Четверг, 29 сентября	Новый Год	ЗАКРЫТО
Пятница, 30 сентября	Новый Год	ЗАКРЫТО
Пятница, 7 октября	канун Йом Киппура	с 9:00 утра до 1:00 дня
Среда, 12 октября	канун Суккота	с 9:00 утра до 1:00 дня
Четверг, 13 октября	Суккот	ЗАКРЫТО
Пятница, 14 октября	Суккот	ЗАКРЫТО
Среда, 19 октября	Хошана Раба	с 9:00 утра до 1:00 дня
Четверг, 20 октября	Шмини Ацерет	ЗАКРЫТО
Пятница, 21 октября	Симхат Тора	ЗАКРЫТО

Поминальная молитва ИЦКОР читается в **Йом Киппур (8 октября)**
и на **Шмини Ацерет (20 октября)**

РУССКИЙ ДАЙДЖЕСТ

Доброе дело в память о необыкновенной матери

Фриду Гринбург из Массачусетса почитали и любили в еврейских общинах, в которых она жила. Она славилась своим гостеприимством, приветливостью и способностью притягивать к себе людей.

В 25-ю годовщину её смерти, 12 числа месяца Сиван, дочь Фриды Эстер Саймон из Боро Парка решила почтить память своей матери необычным путём. Она пригласила своих друзей на завтрак, во время которого те познакомились с работой Еврейского Благотворительного Похоронного Бюро (HFBA). Раввин HFBA Шмуэль Плафкер рассказал о нашей организации и показал видеофильм (его можно посмотреть на сайте www.hebrewfreeburial.org). Он поведал об уникальной миссии HFBA – обеспечить каждому еврею достойные похороны и погребение. Во время завтрака были также разыграны призы, принесённые г-жой Саймон, а выреченные средства были переданы HFBA.

Мы благодарим г-жу Эстер Саймон и её друзей, которые почтили память Фриды Гринбург совершением мицвот благотворительности и милосердия – идеалах, которые воплощала г-жа Гринбург при жизни.

Недельная глава «Хаей Сара»

Недельная глава Торы «Хаей Сара» («Жизнь Сары») традиционно ассоциируется с организациями, которые связаны с различными аспектами смерти в еврейских общинах. Глава начинается описанием кончины Сары, которую оплакивает и воспевают её муж Авраам. Затем рассказывается о покупке Авраамом погребального участка (пещеры) для Сары. Впоследствии сам Авраам и другие патриархи и прапращурки еврейского народа были погребены в этой пещере. Это место, Мерат Махпела, является священным и сегодня.

На неделе, когда в синагогах читают эту главу, HFBA проводит общинный день милосердия к усопшим. В воскресенье, 20-го ноября, мы собираемся на кладбище Сильвер Лейк на Стейтен Айленд с 10-и утра до полудня, для расчистки могил и дорожек.

Если Вы хотите присоединиться к нам в этот день, или хотели бы организовать группы в Вашей синагоге по сбору средств для HFBA, пожалуйста звоните к нам в офис.

Нам нужна Ваша помощь!

Вопросы и ответы

Вопрос: Хорошо известно, что еврейские законы запрещают вскрытие, за исключением особых случаев. Если пациент скончался после экспериментального лечения, можно ли проводить вскрытие с тем, чтобы выяснить: помогало ли это лечение, или же ускорило кончину пациента?

Ответ: Раввин Моше Файнштейн постановил, что вскрытие в

подобных случаях допустимо, так как полученная информация может быть необходима для более эффективной помощи другим пациентам, находящимся между жизнью и смертью (из книги Фреда Рознера «Биомедицинская этика и еврейский закон»). Однако в каждом отдельном случае необходимо посоветоваться с компетентными раввинами.

Рабочие файлы HFBA

Порой о самых неординарных и трагичных случаях в нашей работе можно узнать из так называемых «незакрытых файлов». Эти файлы содержат данные о людях столь бедных, что они задолго до смерти беспокоятся, что не смогут оплатить похороны по еврейскому обряду и что их останки выбросят на безымянное кладбище для бедняков. Эти люди сами или через кого-то обращаются в HFBA. Наши сотрудники собирают необходимую информацию, и затем рассылают карточки или магниты, чтобы прикрепить на видном месте в их жилище. На карточках указано, что организацию похорон возьмёт на себя HFBA. Эти приготовления снимают беспокойство малоимущих о предстоящих похоронах.

Вот несколько недавних случаев:

- Конраду Б* - 71 год. Он в своё время окончил колледж, служил в армии, был издаваемым писателем. В настоящее время он отбывает срок за убийство и может выйти на свободу не раньше 2021 года. По совету своего кузена Конрад обратился в HFBA, и мы заранее сделали шаги по организации погребения.
- Марго А. – 98 лет. Она живёт в доме для престарелых и страдает от старческого слабоумия. Её семья погибла в Аушвице, и к настоящему времени Марго истощила имевшиеся у неё средства. Организация SelfHelp («Помоги себе») взяла на себя опеку над ней через одну из своих программ помощи жертвам нацизма. Социальный работник этой организации связался с HFBA для того, чтобы обеспечить Марго погребение по еврейскому обряду.
- Якову С. – 78 лет. Он родом из Латвии, раньше работал обувных дел мастером. В Америке у него нет семьи, нет сбережений. Единственным его доходом является пособие по старости. Недавно у Якова обнаружили рак, и он обратился в HFBA, чтобы согласовать детали обряда погребения и тип надгробного камня.

* имена изменены

На нашем сайте

За дополнительной информацией о HFBA, или если Вы хотите посмотреть два наших видеофильма, зайдите на сайт: www.hebrewfreeburial.org

Мы желаем всем, кто поддерживает нас, счастья и здоровья в Новом Году и мира на земле

Talleisim Needed

The number of burials that HFBA was called upon to perform made this past year the busiest since 2001.

If you or your synagogue have any *talleisim* that are not being used, please consider donating them to be used as part of the burial garments. The *talleisim* should be sent to:

**Mount Richmond Cemetery
420 Clarke Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10306**

Please include a note with your name and address so we can properly acknowledge the donation.



We wish you and your loved ones a happy and healthy New Year in a peaceful world.



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.