

Dear member of the HFBA community:

There are too many Americans, including Jews, living in poverty.

There are too many Jews living on the edge, isolated from the embrace of the Jewish community.

This has historically been true, and remains true in America today.

Although the *Torah* and subsequent rabbinic writings exhort Jews to take care of the poor and disadvantaged, and the Jewish community has created many organizations to do so, it is also the case that many Jews will never meet a "poor Jew." They will not join us at our *Shabbat* table or *Pesach seder*. They will not sit next to us in *shul*.

For most American Jews, memories of poverty have vanished with the passing of our ancestors. Our contact with the poor is limited to writing a check, stuffing some dollar bills in a *pushka*, giving some change to

a beggar on the subway, or eyeing a homeless person sleeping in a cardboard box.

HFBA invites you to visit our cemeteries where the history of Jewish poverty, as well as of Jewish immigration to New York, can be read on the tombstones. You will see grave markers for those who died in epidemics, in accidents and from diseases that have now, thankfully, been eradicated. Victims of the Spanish flu and the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire rest among our graves. Babies who did not survive infancy, girls and boys who did not survive childhood, are among the many buried in these sacred grounds. More recently, many refugees from the Former Soviet Union have been buried by HFBA. Occasionally, as you walk the grounds, you will spot the grave of a relative of a now well-known person, or one who merited his own New York

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Save the Date! HFBA's *Parshat Chayei Sara* Community *Chesed* Day at Silver Lake Cemetery

926 Victory Boulevard, Staten Island, NY

Sunday, October 27, 2013 • 10AM-12PM

Weather permitting. The most up to date information will be posted at www.facebook.com/hebrewfreeburial



Visit and help us clean and clear debris.

SILVER LAKE CEMETERY contains 13,600 graves dating from 1892 to 1909.

These sacred and historic grounds are both a memorial and an educational site, providing a rare glimpse of late 19th and early 20th century Jewish immigration history.

We are currently raising funds for a much-needed restoration of the cemetery.

(If you would like to visit on another day, please call the HFBA office.)

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 NY metropolitan area dedicated to assuring that every Jew, regardless of financial means or religious affiliation, receives a dignified, traditional Jewish funeral and burial.

The following essay by a thirteen year old student describing her eighth grade community service experiences appeared in the online issue of the May 21st edition of the Solomon Schechter School of Queens Newsletter.

"All year long the eighth grade has been taking community service trips. This week we went to Silver Lake Cemetery in Staten Island. We had this very kind man, Mr. Andrew Parver of the Hebrew Free Burial Association, tell us the history of the cemetery and why it is so important to keep it looking presentable.

To my knowledge the cemetery has been closed for 25 years, but the organization continues its burials at Mount Richmond Cemetery. Arriving at the cemetery we looked at it as if it were a normal cemetery. Mr. Sigal expressed to us how sad it is not to be able to afford a proper burial. After you die you expect that your family will be able to make arrangements for you. But



Volunteers from Solomon Schechter School of Queens

when money is tight, you should be able to depend on these nonprofit organizations to help. In Judaism a proper burial is a very important matter. When cleaning up a cemetery you have to be very careful to not step on the graves. We packed up bags full of trash, leaves, and lots and lots of twigs.

To understand how powerful and meaningful or how emotional it really is you would have to try it for yourselves. We were not feeding people at a soup kitchen or interviewing veterans from past wars, and to some it may not be as exciting, but to me it was life changing. It is one of the highest mitzvot to do, when you do something for someone and they can't give you anything back in return. I saw many people becoming really emotional like me when we saw some of the names and dates on the graves. Overall, it was a touching experience which will stay with me for the rest of my life."

Sasha Pezenik



In the Mail

HFBA receives many letters from people who have had experience with our organization. Below are a few recent examples. Client names have been changed to protect confidentiality.

"I am writing this short note of gratitude and hope that you will share it with Helen and the rest of your kind staff.

The service and burial was a dignified and professional operation that brought E.'s remains back to her blood family, religious family, and city. The Rabbi was wonderful and soothing.

Your services have provided people like us with the ability to make the impossible possible and to stem the tide of broken hearts.

Your organization enabled E. to make an exodus out of the Texas desert to her promised land.

For that I am most thankful to you and your family of staff and volunteers for the sacred work you do.

To say that your impressive efforts are appreciated would be a gross understatement."

G. R. (E.'s husband)

"I am writing to you as a fellow Jew and a physician. My long-term psychiatric outpatient D.D. died recently. He had no resources and no involved family. He was an unaffiliated, yet identified Jewish man who wanted a Jewish burial but had no means to pay for it. With the help of his hospice program at Calvary, he was hooked up with your program. On Sunday, he was buried and I had the honor of attending the burial and speaking a few words about him. I was extremely touched by the entire process. Rabbi Plafker was warm, gracious, and helped guide me through every step of the way. The Staten Island community was amazing. Jews from all walks of Jewish life came out to make a minyan in the pouring rain on a Sunday morning. Because of your organization, Mr. D. received a proper burial complete with a minyan to say kaddish.

I cannot thank you, the organization, or Rabbi Plafker enough. I had no clue how to honor my patient's wishes for a Jewish burial and your organization made it happen. Thank you again for everything! I plan to pass on your information to other healthcare providers and to my local, Jewish community. I have also made a donation in Mr. D.'s honor."

Dr. N.S.

HFBA *Helps*



HFBA helps many clients from troubled families as well as many disabled, marginalized Jews. An account of one of the past year's most heart-rending cases follows:

Nathan Pressman* was born to drug addicted parents who neglected and abused him. Neighbors, alarmed by the continual upheaval in the family, and spurred by the incessant crying of a baby, called the police. Investigators found a home in complete disarray with a dozen cats and two German shepherds. The apartment reeked of feces and urine. The child was removed from his parents and Jewish Family Services located a family, the Dolmans, who were interested in adopting a sibling for their four birth children. Nathan, 3 years old at the time, was welcomed into the

family with love and warmth and shared a room with his new big brother, Peter, 6 years old. At the time of his arrival, Nathan was unable to speak but he quickly began to imitate Peter, confirming suspicions that his lack of speech was due not to a physical problem, but to his previous dysfunctional family situation. Nathan thrived in the Dolmans' home, although it became apparent that he did have some persistent cognitive problems.

After Mr. Dolman died and Mrs. Dolman developed Alzheimer's Disease, Nathan took care of her until her death. He then moved into Peter's apartment until his own tragic death from brain cancer at the age of forty three.

Peter, lacking the financial resources to bury his brother, contacted HFBA. He told us Nathan's story and added that Nathan's birth father had died of a drug overdose a year after Nathan was removed from the home and that soon after, his birth mother was arrested as she walked down a Manhattan street with two large dogs and two guns drawn, never to be heard from again.

Peter, distraught, cried as he stood at his brother's funeral and watched Nathan's burial in HFBA's Mount Richmond Cemetery. He had lost his friend, and his baby brother.

*Names changed to protect confidentiality.

Q&A

Q: If a limb is amputated prior to death and buried, must it be disinterred and reburied with the body after the person dies?

A: Although it is preferable to do so, it is often not possible. Frequently the limb will be buried in the grave reserved for the individual either under the spot where the monument will go, or below the area where the casket will be buried.

From the Bible

In Deuteronomy, the last book of the *Torah*, the Israelites are exhorted to "walk after the Lord, your G-d." Commentators in the *Talmud (Sotah, 14a)* explain that "walking" means to follow, to imitate, the attributes of the Holy One. As G-d clothed Adam and Eve, so should we clothe "the naked;" as G-d visited the sick Abraham following his circumcision, so we, too, should visit the sick; as G-d comforted Isaac after his father's death, so should we comfort mourners. And as G-d buried Moses in the valley of Moav, so should we too bury the dead.

Being part of a holy nation which emulates G-d involves not only ensuring the welfare of the living, but includes the sacred tasks of mourning and burying the dead as well.

Mazal tov and thank you to...

Mrs. Anne Brandstein who celebrated her 90th birthday this past summer. A loyal donor to HFBA, she has also encouraged her friends and family to make HFBA one of their favorite charities, too. We appreciate her efforts on our behalf and wish her many more years of good health.

Save the Date!

Staten Island

Parshat Vayechi

Community Breakfast

Sunday, December 8

Young Israel of Staten Island



Guest speaker:
Rabbi Yitzchak
Etshalom

Details to follow

Dear Community Member

(continued from page 1)

Times obituary but had fallen on hard times. None of these decedents had the financial resources for a private burial. All would have been consigned to anonymity in a city cemetery had it not been for HFBA.

The Torah portion of *Chayei Sara*, which this year is read on *Shabbat*, October 26, describes the first burial recorded in Jewish lore. Abraham, the first Jewish patriarch, buys land in which to bury his beloved wife Sara, a tomb that will eventually hold Isaac and Rebecca and Jacob and Leah. Some believe that Adam and Eve are also buried there. On this *Shabbat* in particular, we ask the members of the tri-state Jewish community to show their support for HFBA, the only local organization which will bury any needy Jew. We ask the Jewish community to focus on the *mitzvah* of *chesed shel emet*, according every Jew a dignified Jewish burial. Regardless of life's circumstances, each individual is created in "G-d's image." According to Jewish law, the king and the pauper deserve equal respect, the same funeral rites marking their passing.

Following the custom of visiting the graves of loved ones during the High Holy Day season, visiting hours at Mount Richmond Cemetery are listed below:

JEWISH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE: Fall 2013

Please note that the cemetery will be closing early on the day prior to each festival.

ROSH HASHANA

Wednesday September 4
Thursday September 5
Friday September 6

OPEN/CLOSE

9AM-1:00 PM SHARP
CLOSED
CLOSED

SUKKOT

Wednesday September 18
Thursday September 19
Friday September 20

9AM-1:00 PM SHARP
CLOSED
CLOSED

HOSHANA RABBAH

Wednesday September 25

9AM-1PM SHARP

SHMINI ATZERET - SIMCHAT TORAH

Thursday September 26
Friday September 27

CLOSED
CLOSED

YIZKOR is recited on Yom Kippur, September 14 and Shmini Atzeret, September 26.

The cemetery closes at 1 PM every Friday all year.

Silver Lake Cemetery will be open on Sunday, September 1 and Sunday, September 8 from 9 AM to 3:30 PM.

График работы кладбища Mt. Richmond в еврейские праздники: Осень 2013 г.

Пожалуйста помните, что кладбище закрывается рано накануне всех праздников.

Среда, 4 сентября	канун Нового Года	с 9:00 утра до 1:00 дня
Четверг, 5 сентября	Новый Год	закрыто
Пятница, 6 сентября	Новый Год	закрыто
Среда, 18 сентября	канун Суккота	с 9:00 утра до 1:00 дня
Четверг, 19 сентября	Суккот	закрыто
Пятница, 20 сентября	Суккот	закрыто
Среда, 25 сентября	Хошана Раба	с 9:00 утра до 1:00 дня
Четверг, 26 сентября	Шмини Ацерет	закрыто
Пятница, 27 сентября	Симхат Тора	закрыто

Поминальная молитва ицкор читается в **Йом Киппур** (14 сентября) и на **Шмини Ацерет** (26 сентября)

В течение всего года **по пятницам** кладбище **закрывается ровно в час дня**. В **субботу** кладбище **всегда закрыто на Шаббат**.

РУССКИЙ ДАЙДЖЕСТ

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

HFBA помогает

HFBA помогает многим из неблагополучных семей, в том числе всеми покинутым и инвалидам. История одного из наших прошлогодних клиентов особенно трогает:

Натан Прессман* родился у родителей-наркоманов, которые не заботились о ребёнке и издевались над ним. Соседи, которые были свидетелями постоянных громких стычек в этой семье и возмущённые непрекращающимся плачем ребёнка, наконец вызвали полицию. Прибывшие полицейские обнаружили в квартире страшный беспорядок, мечущихся двенадцать кошек и двух овчарок, и запах кала и мочи. Ребенок был отобран у родителей, и еврейское агентство по делам семьи нашло для него семью Долманов*, которые собирались усыновить кого-то, кто стал бы младшим братом для их собственных четырёх детей.

Новая семья приняла трёхлетнего Натана с теплом и любовью. Его поселили в одной комнате с Питером, которому было в это время шесть. В первые дни Натан не разговаривал, но, подражая Питеру, быстро научился. Так подтвердилось, что отставание в речи было вызвано ужасной обстановкой в семье его родителей, а не каким-либо физическим дефектом. В семье Долманов Натану жилось отлично, хотя у него и оставалась некоторая задержка в развитии.

Долман-отец умер, а у г-жи Долман развилась болезнь Альцгеймера. Натан ухаживал за своей приёмной матерью до самой её смерти. Затем он переехал к Питеру, где и жил до своей кончины от рака мозга, в возрасте сорока трёх лет. У Питера были стеснённые обстоятельства, и он обратился за помощью в HFBA. Он поведал нам историю Натана, добавив, что биологический отец того скончался от передозировки наркотиков спустя год после переезда Натана к Долманам, а мать вскоре была арестована разгуливавшей по городу с двумя большими собаками и заряженным оружием, и с тех пор никто о ней не слышал.

Во время похорон на принадлежащем HFBA кладбище Маунт Ричмонд Питер плакал, стоя рядом с могилой Натана, ведь он потерял друга и своего любимого младшего брата.

* имена изменены

Занесите этот день в свой календарь !

Когда в синагогах читают недельную главу Торы «Хаей Сара», HFBA проводит общинный день милосердия к усопшим, когда добровольцы расчищают и убирают территорию кладбища.

Где: кладбище Сильвер Лейк (на Стейтен Айленд)

Когда: В воскресенье 27-го октября 2013 г., с 10:00 утра до полудня

КЛАДБИЩЕ СИЛЬВЕР ЛЕЙК – это 13,600 еврейских могил с датами захоронений между 1892 и 1909 годами. Это и священная для нас земля, и место, где можно изучать историю еврейской иммиграции на рубеже 19-го и 20-го веков. В

настоящее время мы собираем средства для необходимых работ по расчистке и восстановлению этого кладбища.

Погребение террориста

Некоторые доноры задают нам вопрос о погребении террориста, устроившего взрыв во время бостонского марафона. Газеты сообщили, что похоронному дому, занимавшемуся похоронами, местные кладбища отказали в месте погребения. В итоге родной дядя преступника забрал тело для погребения, сказав что хоть его родственник виновен, «каждый усопший заслуживает быть похороненным».

А что говорит *Галаха* - свод еврейских законов – по данному поводу?

Раввины полагали, что заповедь «возлюби ближнего как себя самого» и убеждение, что все люди созданы по образу и подобию Вс-вышнего, распространяются даже на осуждённых преступников после их смерти. Их хоронят согласно традиции, с соблюдением основных обрядов, хотя семья и не сидит шиву (семь дней скорби). Однако казнённых преступников не хоронили рядом с родственниками или в основной части кладбища. Мудрецы говорили: «нельзя хоронить злодеев рядом с праведниками». Тех людей, чьи деяния еврейская община прокляла, хоронили либо на отдельных кладбищах, либо на особых участках общих кладбищ.

В наши дни в Израиле есть особые кладбища для погребения террористов-иностранцев. Это отражает еврейскую позицию, что хотя деяния некоторых людей ужасны, отношение к ним как к людям сохраняется. Тело любого человека должно быть погребено с достоинством и уважением к смерти.

Вопросы и ответы

Вопрос: Если у человека при жизни была ампутирована и погребена конечность, нужно ли после его смерти выкапывать эту конечность и погребать вместе с телом?

Ответ: Хотя это предпочтительно, часто это невозможно. По возможности конечность закапывают в могиле, зарезервированной за семьёй данного человека: либо под местом будущего надгробия, либо под площадкой, где будет находиться гроб.

Мы желаем нашей еврейской общине счастья и здоровья в Новом Году и мира на земле !

Существует древняя и почитаемая традиция – посещать могилы родных и близких во время торжественных еврейских праздников. Пожалуйста, на странице 4 ознакомьтесь с расписанием работы нашего кладбища Маунт Ричмонд.

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.

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.

**We wish
the HFBA
community
a happy,
healthy
New Year in
a peaceful
world.**



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.

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UJA Federation
of New York

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