

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 אמית
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 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.

For more information about how you can help please see page 6.

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HFBA *Helps*



Anna and Boris B.* came to New York from the Former Soviet Union in 1974, shortly after the tragic death of their only son. A mutually devoted couple, they settled in Queens and worked hard for many years, she as a seamstress, he as a building inspector.

In 2008, Anna died, leaving Boris, at the age of eighty, alone and isolated. At the same time HFBA arranged Anna's funeral and burial, Boris reserved a grave next to his wife and we gave him the phone numbers for local Jewish social service agencies. He was sent an annual grave care bill which was paid promptly. Uncharacteristically, in the spring and summer of 2011 we received no response from him and at the beginning of October we were surprised that the mail we had been sending was returned to the HFBA office.

Our intake coordinator became alarmed and investigated by making calls to various agencies. We were upset to learn that Boris had died almost a year previously, in January, and had been buried in City Cemetery in August. No one had reported the death to the Queens Public Administrator as required, until HFBA intervened, and the Public Administrator issued an immediate order to disinter.

Boris' disinterment and funeral at HFBA's Mount Richmond Cemetery was scheduled for a day in December at 9:30 a.m. The plan was for the funeral director to take the ferry to City Cemetery on Hart's Island, to arrive at 8:00 a.m., have the deceased placed in his van and leave the island by 8:30 a.m. A few minutes before the scheduled funeral, the HFBA rabbi at the cemetery received a call that the burial would have to be delayed until approximately 11 a.m. The

THOUGHTS FOR PASSOVER

Passover, the festival which marks the liberation of the Jews from slavery in Egypt, is traditionally a time to give *tzedakah* (charity), particularly *maot chittim*, money for the purchase of holiday food and supplies. Every *seder* opens with the invitation that anyone is welcome to join those already at the holiday table. These aspects of Passover emphasize that the Jewish community is responsible for the well-being of all its members, especially those in want. We recognize that poverty is a form of slavery without the chains.



The Jewish emphasis on community is expressed in many ways, including *bikur cholim* (visiting the sick), *hachnassat kallah* (ensuring that a bride has the resources to marry), *kimpatorin* aid (for a new mother) as well as providing food and clothing for the poor. The community is entrusted with the responsibility of assuring cradle to grave resources. Toward this end, we hope you will help HFBA in its unique mission of assuring each and every Jew a dignified funeral and burial, no matter who or what he was during his life time, “master” or “slave.”

HFBA HELPS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Department of Corrections manages the City Cemetery and burials are handled by inmates incarcerated on Riker’s Island. When the HFBA funeral director arrived on the island, he was informed that the prisoners had been taken to breakfast and he would have to wait for their return.

HFBA has been fortunate to have a *minyan* (quorum) of volunteers who attend burials to make sure that those who have lived and died alone will be accompanied to their final resting place by members of the Jewish community who say the mourning prayers. At 9:30 a.m., our rabbi notified the already assembled group of the time change and the volunteers dispersed to continue with their plans for the day. At 11 o’clock, seven of the volunteers returned for the burial, another volunteer came on short notice and the rabbi and cemetery superintendent completed the *minyan*.

As a strong rain came down, Boris was finally buried as a Jew, next to his beloved wife, with a *minyan* reciting *tehillim*, *kaddish* and the *Kayl molay* prayers in his memory.

**Names have been changed to protect confidentiality.*

Q&A

Q: *Can a Jew receive and/or donate organs after the death of the donor?*

A: This is a serious, complex issue which centers on the Jewish definition of death. According to *halacha* (the Jewish legal system), if specific conditions are met, a Jew may donate or receive an organ. **It is imperative to consult with a rabbi on individual cases.** The *Halachic Organ Donor Society* (www.hods.org) is a valuable resource for information.

DONATE YOUR USED CAR!

Did you know that you can donate your car, in whatever condition, to HFBA and receive an IRS tax deduction as allowable by law? It’s easy! Just call our office! Your car will be picked up and sold at auction, with the proceeds going to HFBA to continue our important work.

THE SILVER LAKE CEMETERY RESTORATION PROJECT BEGINS!

Thanks to initial funding from a generous donor who wishes to remain anonymous, HFBA has embarked on a long overdue, ambitious project to restore the older of our two cemeteries, Silver Lake, which first opened in 1893.

The history of the great migration of European Jews to the *goldeneh medina* of America had, as its epicenter, New York City. This story has been told in many books and resides in the many historical locations which explore the narrative of what became a thriving community which met all the needs of its members, from cradle to grave. Silver Lake Cemetery is an important part of that history.

A team of archaeologists, engineers, geo-physicists, landscape architects and historians will use state of the art technology to identify the location of the many unmarked graves, particularly in the children's section. They will also determine how to address persistent flooding problems as well as difficulties caused by tree growth.

We hope you will help us reconstruct a vital part of the Jewish history of New York. Your donation will restore the dignity of those buried in this sacred space and allow visitors to explore a forgotten piece of our heritage and history.

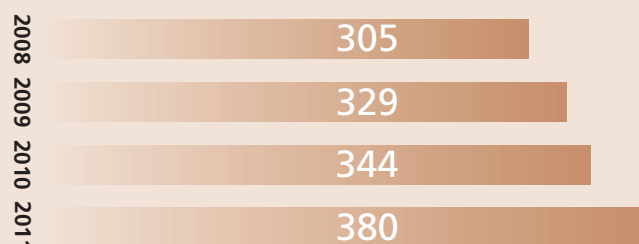


HFBA Archives

HFBA BURIALS UP 10% IN THE LAST YEAR

The number of HFBA burials has risen each year in the last several years, probably due to the recession, the number of people who are living longer and outliving their savings as well as the higher profile that HFBA has achieved, making our services are more widely known and used. Interestingly, the percentage of Russian immigrants in our caseload has remained steady.

The graph below tells the story:



HFBA ANNUAL CHESED DAY

April 22, 2012 • 1-3pm

Please call Andrew Parver, Director of Education and Outreach (212-239-1662) for information or to reserve space for individuals or groups to help clean and clear HFBA's Silver Lake Cemetery on Staten Island (926 Victory Boulevard).

This annual event regularly attracts a large number of people dedicated to the mitzvah of *chesed shel emet*.

We hope you will join us! Please sign up for the event on our Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/hebrewfreeburial) which will also have the most up to date weather information.

Thank You, HFBA

I would like to share a thought I had since the recent burial of Mr. C. in the Mount Richmond Cemetery last week. Mr. C. was a resident at our Nursing Facility in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. The sole friend he had was a non-Jewish friend who after extensive research managed to track down a family member of Mr. C.'s and to inform her of his impending demise. The family member's response was that primarily due to financial constraints she wanted him cremated and to be shipped to California where she lived. After working with Misaskim and spending significant time with the friend we were able to convince all parties involved to have Mr. C. brought to a Jewish burial.

As I'm sure you have heard before but it bears repeating, without your outstanding and magnanimous organization this would not have been possible. To say that you are doing a tremendous Chesed Shel Emes and an untold value to the Jewish concept of Tikun Olam is a gross understatement. I have tremendous recognition to your organization.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the gentlemen who participated in the burial. They take off from their schedules to help this wonderful Chesed and that's just an amazing display of Ahavas Chinom.

Finally, I think you have a hidden treasure in the Rabbi who officiated this Funeral, Rabbi Shmuel Plafker. He had the family members on conference and he gave a patient and detailed description of what an Orthodox Jewish funeral looks like and explained all the nuances that go into it. He officiated with uncanny efficiency and the family really felt they made a right decision after hearing all the details of the funeral.

It is because of organizations like yours and people who are on your staff that we can approach the coming of Moshiach with a resounding affirmative answer to the question of "have you practiced Ahavas Chinom to you fellow brothers and sisters"

Please let me know if there is any way I can be of assistance to your work.

Thank you again.

With great admiration,

Mark Berkowitz, L.N.H.A.

Administrator, Cherry Hill Rehab by AristaCare

MOUNT RICHMOND CEMETERY HOURS

DURING PASSOVER AND SHAVUOT HOLIDAYS - SPRING 2012

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.

PASSOVER

Friday April 6	Erev Pesach	9 AM-1 PM SHARP
Sunday April 8	2nd day of Passover	CLOSED
Thursday April 12	Erev Yom Tov	9 AM-3:45 PM SHARP
Friday April 13	7th day of Passover	CLOSED

SHAVUOT

Sunday May 27	Shavuot	CLOSED
Monday May 28	Shavuot	CLOSED

YIZKOR is recited on the last day of these holidays:
Saturday, April 14 and on **Monday May 28.**

Расписание работы кладбища Mt. Richmond

На время праздников Песах и Шавуот – Весна 2012 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.**

ПЕСАХ

Пятница, 6 апреля	канун Песаха	9 AM-1 PM строго
Воскресенье, 8 апреля		ЗАКРЫТО
Четверг, 12 апреля		9 AM-3:45 PM строго
Пятница, 13 апреля		ЗАКРЫТО

ШАВУОТ

Воскресенье, 27 мая	Шавуот	ЗАКРЫТО
Понедельник, 28 мая	Шавуот	ЗАКРЫТО

Поминальная молитва **ИЗКОР** читается в субботу,
14 апреля и в понедельник, **28 мая.**

РУССКИЙ ДАЙДЖЕСТ

HFBA помогает

Анна и Борис В* приехали в Нью-Йорк из СССР в 1974 году, вскоре после гибели их единственного сына. Весьма преданные друг другу супруги поселились в Квинсе и работали долгие годы: Анна – портнихой, а Борис – инспектором зданий.

В 2008-м Анна скончалась, и восьмидесятилетний Борис остался совсем один. Ещё когда Еврейское Благотворительное Похоронное Бюро (HFBA) проводило похороны Анны, Борис зарезервировал могилу рядом с женой, и наш офис дал ему телефоны местных еврейских организаций, предоставляющих социальную помощь. Счета за две могилы, посылаемые Борису ежегодно, оплачивались без задержек. Так продолжалось до весны 2011 года, когда ответа не последовало. А в октябре письма были возвращены в офис HFBA как не нашедшие адресата. Тогда наш сотрудник встревожился и обзвонил несколько государственных агентств. Мы были потрясены, узнав что Борис умер почти год назад, в январе 2011 года, и был похоронен в августе того же года на городском общественном кладбище. За эти месяцы никто не потрудился, в соответствии с правилами, уведомить общественного администратора Квинса о смерти Бориса. После вмешательства HFBA, администратор немедленно выдал ордер на перезахоронение.

Извлечение останков Бориса и перезахоронение на принадлежащем HFBA кладбище Маунт Ричмонд были намечены на один из декабрьских дней 2011 года. Изначально планировалось, что наш директор по похоронам, воспользовавшись паромом, приедет рано утром на городское общественное кладбище на острове Харт и затем отвезёт останки в своём микроавтобусе на кладбище Маунт Ричмонд, чтобы успеть к девяти утра – времени, на которое были назначены похороны. Но незадолго до назначенного времени нашему раввину позвонили и сообщили о задержке. Дело в том, что общественным кладбищем заведует Департамент Исправительных Заведений, и в похоронах задействованы заключённые тюрьмы Райкерс Айленд. Когда директор по похоронам появился на острове Харт, его уведомили, что у заключённых завтрак и поэтому придётся ждать. В этот день HFBA собрало миньян (десять человек) добровольцев, которые регулярно приходят на похороны для того, чтобы одиноких евреев провожали в последний путь и молились за них члены еврейской общины. В девять наш раввин сообщил собравшимся о задержке, и часть из них разошлась по своим делам. К одиннадцати часам появились восьмеро добровольцев, и раввин вместе с управляющим кладбищем дополнили необходимый миньян. Борис был наконец похоронен по еврейскому обряду, рядом со своей любимой женой, под чтение псалмов, под звуки Кадиша и особой молитвы Кайл Молей, произносимой в память об усопших.

* имена изменены

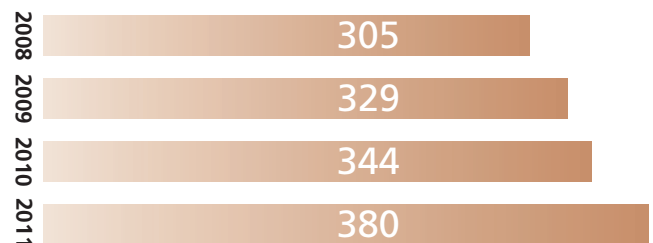
Размышления о празднике Песах

Песах – праздник, отмечающий освобождение евреев из египетского рабства. Согласно еврейской традиции в эти дни принято щедро давать цедаку (пожертвования), и в особенности давать деньги на маот хитим, т.е. покупку праздничных еды и одежды. Каждый пасхальный Седер открывается приглашением любому войти и присоединиться к сидящим за праздничным столом. Эти черты праздника Песах подчёркивают то, что еврейская община отвечает за благосостояние всех её членов, и в особенности нуждающихся. Мы как бы признаём, что бедность – это тоже разновидность рабства, хоть и без видимых цепей.

Важность общины проявляется во многом, например в традициях бикур холим (посещение больных), хахна́ссет калá (обеспечение невесты необходимыми средствами на свадьбу), кимпаторин (помощь женщине, ставшей матерью), а также в предоставлении еды и одежды бедным. Община отвечает за сбор средств, достаточных для коллективной заботы о каждом еврее, от рождения до могилы. В этом ключе мы надеемся, что вы поможете HFBA в его уникальной миссии – обеспечении всем евреям достойных похорон и погребения, вне зависимости от того, кем они были при жизни – «господами» или «рабами».

Количество похорон, проведённых HFBA, в прошлом году выросло на 10%

Количество погребений, проводимых HFBA, растёт каждый год вот уже несколько лет. Причины и в продолжающейся рецессии, и в том, что люди стали жить дольше, «проживая» свои сбережения. Одна из причин – возросшая известность HFBA. О наших услугах больше знают и поэтому чаще ими пользуются. Интересное наблюдение: процент русскоязычных иммигрантов среди наших клиентов стабильно высок. Динамика нашей активности за последние годы показана на графике:



COMMUNITY BREAKFASTS

The HFBA Staten Island Community Breakfast on January 8th featured guest speaker Rabbi Ben Tzion Shafier, Director of theshmuz.com, a Torah lecture series available in digital format. 120 people attended the breakfast.

The Riverdale Community Breakfast on March 4th attracted 170 people to honor Dr. Samson Fine (Chesed Shel Emet Award), Isaac Geld (Community Service Award) and Drs. Frimet and Yisroel Kaplan (Oskim b'Tzibur Award.)

If your community can host an event for HFBA, please call Executive Director Amy Koplow (212-239-1662).

RIVERDALE COMMUNITY BREAKFAST



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

Andrea Harris, breakfast co-chair; Dr. Frimet Kaplan, honoree; Amy Koplow, Executive Director; Minna Monte Seitelman, HFBA Board treasurer; Isaac Geld, honoree; Dr. Yisroel Kaplan, honoree; Daniel Z. Werlin, HFBA Board co-president; Robbie Marcus, breakfast co-chair; Dr. Samson Fine, honoree; Paul Lowenthal, HFBA Board member

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.

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