

HFBA Helps

Each year, HFBA performs nearly 400 burials. Although many HFBA clients die alone, poor or forgotten, behind each is a unique narrative of someone created in G-d's image. Here are some of their stories:

Ludwig A. was studying Talmud in a Jewish seminary in Berlin in 1939 when he realized it was time to quickly leave Germany, especially once his father, a doctor, was arrested by the Gestapo. Able to secure only two tickets to Shanghai for himself and his brother Helmut, his mother was forced to remain behind and was soon deported to Belarus where she was shot and killed.

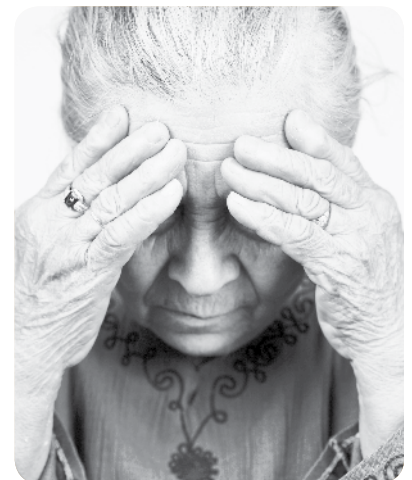
The brothers lived in China for seven years in an international settlement where they learned that their father had escaped Germany, dying in Havana of lung cancer. They also learned that their grandparents had perished in Theresienstadt.

During their stay in Shanghai, Helmut met his future wife, Leah Gordel, who had been studying in Sweden during the war but who managed to join her parents to flee from Germany to China. When the United States opened its doors for refugees from Shanghai, the brothers and the Gordels headed to the home of relatives in Chicago. Helmut and Leah stayed in Illinois while Ludwig decided to go to New York City. Sadly, Ludwig was soon diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia which made it difficult for him to hold a job despite being maintained on medication. He and Helmut stayed in close contact throughout the decades.

Helmut had arranged for a pre-need burial with HFBA for his brother as well as for a monument. When Ludwig died this past summer at the age of 96, he was in a nursing home, having been unresponsive for two years. Helmut, 94 and ill, was unable to attend the burial of his beloved only brother.

Sean D. had been homeless, living in an alley near a laundromat with no income other than from his occasional job tinting car windows. He received no public assistance and had no bank account. Occasionally his brother would help him out by giving him food, clothes and pocket money. When he died at the age of 54 from heart failure, his brother notified us of his death but was disinclined to help with his burial costs in any but the most minimal way. He did not attend Sean's funeral.

Adele M. died in a nursing home and her body was being held by the Public Administrator who had been unable to reach her daughter who had stopped all communication with the nursing home and, apparently, anyone else involved with her mother. She did not return phone calls or respond to letters and refused to open her door when visited at her home. The PA finally released the body to HFBA and we learned from social workers that Adele was a Holocaust survivor born in France and hidden in a convent during the war. She came to the United States where she married, had one child and became a dressmaker. Other than HFBA's rabbi, Rabbi Plafker and the volunteer *minyán*, no one attended her burial.



...continued on page 2

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.

A Long Relationship

Jewish Home Lifecare (formerly the Jewish Home for the Aged) retains a special area in HFBA's Mount Richmond Cemetery for former residents, 652 of whom have been buried there since the early 20th century. At the invitation of HFBA Executive Director Amy Koplow, Jewish Home Lifecare CEO Audrey Weiner and Chair of the Board of Trustees Elizabeth Grayer visited to observe the restoration begun on this section of the cemetery. They subsequently allocated funds to complete the work which includes lifting and resetting old monuments. Ms. Weiner also sent a copy of the organization's minutes from 1917 reporting that the contract with HFBA had been renewed for \$475 a year.



In the Mail

HFBA receives many letters from people who have had experience with our organization. Below is a recent example.

I have recently been reading about the Hebrew Free Burial Association, and feel great pride that my great-grandfather, Barnett Freedman, was one of the founders of this organization. Barnett was the father of my grandfather, Abraham Freedman, and the grandfather of my own father, Jerome Freedman. I shared your website with several of my cousins, so that they will all be aware of the family legacy of Barnett, and how this organization provides an important service and it is truly emblematic of Tikkun Olam (repair of a broken world)...

I...am so pleased with the work of the Association.

Best wishes,

Ruth P. Freedman

Did you know?



Social isolation increases the risk of death among the elderly. It has been estimated that in New York City, 1.3 million adults live and die alone. Public and private organizations exist to serve the social and medical needs of this population, which include many of HFBA's clients. HFBA, however, is the only agency which will take care of the final, burial requirements of any isolated, indigent Jewish New Yorker.

HFBA Helps (continued from page 1)

Jean R. lived in various state institutions, including the infamous Willowbrook State School, from the age of 4. She had severe developmental disabilities and a dysfunctional family including a mother and sister with psychiatric illnesses. Despite her limitations, Jean was aware of her Jewish roots and enjoyed celebrating the Jewish holidays. She participated in activities in the group home in which she lived at the end of her life and was beloved by the staff and other residents. Jean had no surviving relatives but the residence manager and other staff members of the home attended her funeral.

Names changed to protect confidentiality.

Q&A

Q: According to Jewish law, amputated limbs are buried. Are internal organs which are removed during surgery, such as a gall bladder, also buried?

A: There are differences of opinion among rabbinic authorities. Although many believe that organs do not require burial, some insist on it. An individual is advised to consult his or her rabbi for guidance.

Tahara Facility Opens at HFBA's Mt. Richmond Cemetery

According to Jewish law, each decedent must undergo a *tahara*, a ritual washing of the body, performed by a *chevra kadisha*, a group of trained individuals devoted to this ultimate act of *chesed*. Based on structures uncovered during a renovation at Mount Richmond Cemetery, including a drain in the middle of a room, it is believed that there used to be a dedicated space for this service in the early years of the cemetery's operation. However, for over seventy years, HFBA *taharas* were done in various funeral homes.



Rabbi Elchonon Zohn
affixes a mezuzah at
the dedication.

HFBA now has a new state-of-the-art *tahara* facility at Mount Richmond Cemetery located in an addition to the original stone cutter's workshop in which grave markers were made decades ago.



Guests at Mount Richmond Cemetery tahara facility dedication,
June 1, 2014.

All HFBA *taharas* are now being performed there by a newly established Staten Island *chevra kadisha* under the supervision of the *Vaad Harabonim* of Queens, directed by Rabbi Elchonon Zohn.

For dedication opportunities, please contact Amy Koplow, Executive Director at 212-239-1662.

Thank you to....

the students from **Yavneh Academy** (Paramus, NJ) who volunteered at Silver Lake Cemetery in late June.

We appreciate their commitment to *chesed*, cleaning and clearing the winter debris.



Save the Date!

HFBA's *Parshat Chayei Sara* Community *Chesed* Day at Silver Lake Cemetery

Sunday, November 16, 2014 • 10 am-12 pm
926 Victory Boulevard, Staten Island, NY

**Do a
Mitzvah!**



Join a group of dedicated volunteers to clean and clear debris from the grounds of this sacred and historic cemetery containing 13,600 graves dating back to 1892.

(Weather permitting. Up to the minute information will be posted at www.facebook.com/hebrewfreeburial).

For more information or to visit another day, please e-mail Andrew Parver at aparver@hebrewfreeburial.org.

Save the Date!

Staten Island Parshat Vayechi Community Breakfast

Sunday, December 28, 2014

9:30 am

Young Israel of Staten Island

Honoring Rabbi Shmuel Plafker

for 25 years of dedicated service to
Hebrew Free Burial Association



Guest speaker:
Rabbi Mordecai Becher

To make a reservation, or to find out
how to arrange for a fundraising event
in your community, please call
HFBA Executive Director Amy Koplow.



*"On Rosh Hashana will be inscribed, and
on Yom Kippur will be sealed, how many
will pass from the earth and how many
will be created; who will live and who
will die; who will die at his predestined
time and who before his time...who will
rest and who will wander, who will live in
harmony and who will be harried; who
will enjoy tranquility and who will suffer;
who will be impoverished and who will be
enriched; who will be degraded and who
will be exalted..."*

(translation from the Hebrew, ArtScroll Machzor)

We appreciate the HFBA community's
efforts to help those who wandered, were
harried, impoverished or degraded and we
wish all our supporters a happy, healthy
New Year in a peaceful world.

*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 2014

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

ROSH HASHANA

Wednesday September 24
Thursday September 25
Friday September 26

OPEN/CLOSE

9AM-1:00 PM SHARP
CLOSED
CLOSED

SUKKOT

Wednesday October 8
Thursday October 9
Friday October 10

9AM-1:00 PM SHARP
CLOSED
CLOSED

HOSHANA RABBA

Wednesday October 15

9AM-1PM SHARP

SHMINI ATZERET - SIMCHAT TORAH

Thursday October 16
Friday October 17

CLOSED
CLOSED

YIZKOR is recited on Yom Kippur, October 4 and Shmini Atzeret,
October 16. The cemetery closes at 1 PM every Friday all year.

**Silver Lake Cemetery will be open on Sunday, September 21
and Sunday, September 27, from 9AM-3:45PM.**

График работы кладбища Mt. Richmond в еврейские праздники: Осень 2014 г.

Пожалуйста, имейте в виду, что в канун каждого праздника кладбище
закрывается **раньше чем в обычные дни.**

Рош-Ашана – Новый Год

Среда, 24 сентября
Четверг, 25 сентября
Пятница, 26 сентября

Часы работы

с 9:00 утра до 13:00 ровно
закрыто
закрыто

Суккот

Среда, 8 октября
Четверг, 9 октября
Пятница, 10 октября

с 9:00 утра до 13:00 ровно
закрыто
закрыто

Хошана Раба

Среда, 15 октября

с 9:00 утра до 13:00 ровно

Шмини Ацерет и Симхат Тора

Четверг, 16 октября
Пятница, 17 октября

закрыто
закрыто

Поминальная молитва ИЦКОР читается в Йом Киппур, 4 октября и на
Шмини Ацерет, 16 октября.

По пятницам кладбище всегда закрывается в 13:00.

**Кладбище Silver Lake будет открыто в Воскресенье, 21 сентября и в
Воскресенье, 27 сентября.**

РУССКИЙ ДАЙДЖЕСТ

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

HFBA помогает

• Людвиг А* изучал Талмуд в одной из еврейских школ Берлина. В 1939-м году он в спешке покинул Германию после того как его отца, известного врача, забрали в гестапо. Мать Людвига сумела достать лишь два билета до Шанхая, для него и его брата Гельмута, а сама была вынуждена остаться. Впоследствии её вывезли на территорию захваченной немцами Беларуси, где она погибла.

Братья прожили в Китае семь лет в поселении для иностранцев. Там они узнали, что их отец смог выехать из Германии и добраться до Гаваны, но что он умирает от рака лёгких. Они также узнали, что их бабушки и дедушки погибли в Терезине.

В Шанхае Гельмут встретил свою будущую жену, Лею Гордел. Когда началась война Лея училась в нейтральной Швеции, но смогла разыскать родителей и вместе с ними бежать из Германии в Китай. Как только Соединённые Штаты разрешили въезд в страну проживающим в Шанхае беженцам, Людвиг, Гельмут и семейство Горделов направились в Чикаго к родственникам. Гельмут и Лея поселились в штате Иллинойс, а Людвиг решил попытать счастья в Нью-Йорке.

К сожалению у Людвига вскоре диагностировали параноидальную шизофрению, и ему стало трудно удержаться на постоянной работе несмотря на регулярный приём лекарств. Людвиг и Гельмут поддерживали связь друг с другом многие десятки лет. Гельмут заранее оформил через HFBA похороны и установку надгробия для своего брата. Этим летом Людвиг скончался в доме для престарелых в возрасте 96-и лет, уже два года не реагируя на внешние стимулы. Гельмуту было уже 94, он был болен и не смог приехать на похороны любимого брата.

• Шон Д* был бездомным. Он жил в проулке рядом с прачечной, не имея иного дохода кроме как от мытья лобовых стёкол проезжающих машин. У него не было счёта в банке, и он не получал вэлфер. Иногда ему помогал его брат, дававший Шону еды и немного денег. Когда Шон умер от сердечной недостаточности в возрасте 54-х лет, его брат сообщил нам в HFBA. Но брат отказался оплачивать расходы на погребение за исключением символической суммы, и не приехал на похороны Шона.

* имена изменены

Вопросы и ответы

Вопрос: Согласно еврейскому закону, ампутированные конечности подлежат погребению. Нужно ли погребать внутренние органы, удалённые во время хирургической операции, такие как желчный пузырь?

Ответ: Мнения раввинов в этом вопросе различаются. Хотя многие полагают, что внутренние органы не требуют погребения, некоторые настаивают на этом. Советуем обращаться к своему раввину за наставлением в данном вопросе.

Нам пишут

...Недавно я прочитала о работе Еврейского Благотворительного Похоронного Бюро и испытала гордость за своего прадеда, Барнетта Фридмана, который был одним из основателей этой организации. Барнетт приходился отцом моему деду Абрахаму Фридману и дедом моему отцу Джерому Фридману. Я разослала адрес вашего веб-сайта нескольким своим кузенам, чтобы те узнали и помнили о наследии Барнетта, и о том, что ваша организация оказывает важнейшую услугу, которая является символом «тиккун олам» - исправления этого мира.

Я очень рада, что ваше Бюро делает своё важное дело.

С наилучшими пожеланиями,

Рут П. Фридман

Новое помещение HFBA для омовения усопших

Согласно еврейской традиции, каждый усопший подвергается ритуальному омовению (*тахара*), проводимому группой людей, на иврите называемой «священное товарищество» (*хевра кадиша*). Это – прошедшие специальную подготовку люди, с готовностью оказывающие последний акт милосердия каждому усопшему.

Во время работ по обновлению на кладбище Маунт Ричмонд было откопано помещение со стоком для воды посередине, которое по-видимому служило для проведения тахара в первые годы работы кладбища. Затем вот уже более семидесяти лет все омовения для HFBA проводились в различных похоронных домах.

И вот на днях открылось новое современное помещение для проведения тахара непосредственно на кладбище Маунт Ричмонд рядом с домиком, в котором многие десятилетия назад вырезали надгробные указатели и памятники. Все омовения теперь проводит недавно созданная на Стейтен Айленд хевра кадиша под руководством организации Вад Рабоним, директором которой является р. Эльхонон Зонн.

Из молитвы на Йом-Кипур

«В Рош-Хашана будет записано, а в День Суда будет приложена печать: сколь многие покинут этот мир и сколь многие родятся, кто будет жить, а кто умрёт, кто умрёт в предназначенное ему время, а кто – до срока, ... кто будет отдыхать, а кто – скитаться, кто будет жить в мире, а кого будут преследовать, кто вкусит отдых, а кто – будет страдать, кто обеднеет, а кто – разбогатеет, кто унижится, а кто – возвысится...» (*молитвенник на Йом-Кипур, по версии издания ArtScroll*)

Мы благодарим всю нашу HFBA общину за непрестанные усилия помочь тем, кто скитается, тем, кого преследуют, кто обеднел или унижен, и желаем всем поддерживающим нас счастья и здоровья в Новом году, и чтобы он был годом мира.

Donate Your Vehicle



Perform the
GREATEST MITZVAH!
Help every Jew receive a dignified
traditional Jewish funeral and burial.
IRS tax deduction as allowable by law. Free towing!

The Hebrew Free Burial Association

(212) 239-1662
info@hebrewfreeburial.org
www.hebrewfreeburial.org

Please consider...

...making a **recurring donation** which will automatically process each month on the date of your choice.

Call the HFBA office at (212) 239-1662 for more information and to initiate this type of contribution.

Thank you!

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 our cemeteries as part of our Cemetery Clean-Up Project.

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.

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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