

CHESED

CHEVRA AGUDATH
ACHIM CHESED
SHEL EMETH

A Publication of The Hebrew Free Association, 1170 Broadway, Room 912, New York, N.Y. 10001

VOLUME 2

NUMBER 3

June 1991 Sivan 5751

Children's Headstones Dedication Set For June 18

The first seventy five headstones acquired as part of the Hebrew Free Burial Association's Second Century campaign will be unveiled on June 18, 1991, Gerald Feldhamer announced.

The headstones will mark the graves of children buried in Mt. Richmond Cemetery whose families could not afford the cost of a monument. The children died between 1925 and 1942.

The unveiling will take place at 12:30 in the afternoon on Tuesday, June 18, at a moving graveside ceremony. Contributors and friends of the Hebrew Free Burial Association are invited to attend. Free transportation will be provided from Manhattan. Please call 212 686-2433 to reserve a seat.



The Children's Section at Mt. Richmond Cemetery. On Tuesday, June 18, 1991, 75 footstones will be erected on this site.

"The dedication of these headstones represents the beginning of our concerted effort to mark every grave in Mt. Richmond and Silver Lake Cemeteries with a simple monument," stated Mr. Feldhamer. "Every person buried in our cemeteries deserves to be remembered."

The simple monuments are inscribed with the name, birthdate and date of death of the deceased. As part of the Second Century campaign, every synagogue in the metropolitan New York area is being asked to donate one headstone annually to be placed over an unmarked grave. The Westchester Jewish Center has taken the lead in this program, pledging to sponsor two headstones every year.

A Mission of Kindness

Occasionally our work encompasses more than the burial of indigent Jews and the comforting of relatives. The following case illustrates the lengths to which we are prepared to go to assure the well-being of the families of our clients.

We were notified of the particularly gruesome death by starvation of an old woman in Brooklyn. We began to make the arrangements when we met her son, a bedraggled, rake-thin man of about 60. He was evidently distraught, did not appear to accept his mother's death and could not bring himself to bury her. He was too upset to answer our administrative assistant's questions or to cooperate in filling out the necessary forms.

In the course of the initial interview, we ascertained that the problem was deeper than simple grief. The son had not eaten for days, nor (it seemed) had he been able to feed his mother once she was too ill to look after the two of them.

When Joel Morris, president of JJ Morris Funeral Homes, heard of the predicament, he immediately filled the man's apartment with prepared food. But the son still refused to eat. "I don't want food," he cried. "I want my mother." He was then visited by Rabbi Shmuel Plafker, who brought him cooked food for several weeks before *Shabbat*.

Rabbi Plafker perceived the need for psychiatric assistance and began to contact agencies until he found the right one for this man. Once the referral was made, the agency took over, providing support services and the immediate psychological intervention necessary to prevent the son from becoming a fatal casualty of his emotional disability.

New Grave Care System at Mt. Richmond

A fundamental change in grave care management is due to begin this year at Mt. Richmond cemetery.

Unlike most cemeteries, the Hebrew Free Burial Association has always taken basic care of every grave, regardless of the ability of the family or deceased to provide grave care. Our philosophy, that we are a cemetery for New York's poorest Jews, mandates that we attend to every plot under our auspices.

This year, special stickers will be affixed to the headstones of graves where annual or perpetual care arrangements have been made. Our landscapers will give additional attention to those graves. Families that contribute to our annual and perpetual care funds will thus be assured that the plots of their loved ones will be tended and neat.

Annual grave care is an important source of revenue dedicated to maintenance of the cemeteries. We appreciate the yearly contributions of those families who have made provisions for this work. We urge all those with family or friends buried at our two cemeteries to contact the office to arrange for grave care. Additionally, supporters who wish to provide annual care for the grave of a person who died without family are invited to donate to the annual care fund. These monies will be used to maintain the graves of those without family or friends. The annual fee is \$25.



Families and friends who pay for annual care at Mt. Richmond will find their loved one's graves well maintained whenever they visit, thanks to a new grave maintenance system at the cemetery.

→ Have you received more than one copy of CHESED? Please mark the correct label and return all copies to us at Hebrew Free Burial Association, Suite 912, 1170 Broadway, N.Y. 10001. By eliminating wasted copies, we keep our costs down. Please take a moment to make the corrections and send them off to us.

Caretaker's Cottage at Silver Lake Demolished

The caretaker's cottage at Silver Lake cemetery, twice the site of arson-related fires, has been demolished in preparation for redevelopment of the site.

According to Rabbi Shmuel Plafker, administrative assistant with responsibility for the cemetery, plans are being laid now to erect a new caretaker's cottage. Construction had been expected to start last spring, but was delayed when the cottage was destroyed in the beginning of 1991.

"We have spoken with the architect and engineer and are awaiting their reports and recommendations," said Rabbi Plafker. He added that no firm date for the project has been set since funding sources have not yet been secured.

Chernobyl Victims Buried at Mt. Richmond

We think of it as one of mankind's worst ecological disasters. But for the families who lived in the Chernobyl area when the nuclear reactor was destroyed, the real horror was the human toll: the terrible sickness and death that followed the meltdown.

Thousands of miles away and five years later, the Hebrew Free Burial Association is helping families through the final stage of the Chernobyl drama: burying the loved ones who succumbed to radiation-induced illnesses. One of the Chernobyl victims whose families made their way to freedom in the United States has already been buried in Mt. Richmond cemetery. Many more men, women and children who were exposed to the lethal concentration of radiation emanating from the reactor core are developing cancers and other fatal diseases even years after the accident. We fear more will need our services in the years ahead.

CHESED

CHEVRA AGUDATH
ACHIM CHESED
SHEL EMETH

A Publication of The Hebrew Free Association, 1170 Broadway, Room 912, New York, N.Y. 10001

VOLUME 2

NUMBER 3

June 1991 Sivan 5751

Children's Headstones Dedication Set For June 18

The first seventy five headstones acquired as part of the Hebrew Free Burial Association's Second Century campaign will be unveiled on June 18, 1991, Gerald Feldhamer announced.

The headstones will mark the graves of children buried in Mt. Richmond Cemetery whose families could not afford the cost of a monument. The children died between 1925 and 1942.

The unveiling will take place at 12:30 in the afternoon on Tuesday, June 18, at a moving graveside ceremony. Contributors and friends of the Hebrew Free Burial Association are invited to attend. Free transportation will be provided from Manhattan. Please call 212 686-2433 to reserve a seat.



The Children's Section at Mt. Richmond Cemetery. On Tuesday, June 18, 1991, 75 footstones will be erected on this site.

"The dedication of these headstones represents the beginning of our concerted effort to mark every grave in Mt. Richmond and Silver Lake Cemeteries with a simple monument," stated Mr. Feldhamer. "Every person buried in our cemeteries deserves to be remembered."

The simple monuments are inscribed with the name, birthdate and date of death of the deceased. As part of the Second Century campaign, every synagogue in the metropolitan New York area is being asked to donate one headstone annually to be placed over an unmarked grave. The Westchester Jewish Center has taken the lead in this program, pledging to sponsor two headstones every year.

A Mission of Kindness

Occasionally our work encompasses more than the burial of indigent Jews and the comforting of relatives. The following case illustrates the lengths to which we are prepared to go to assure the well-being of the families of our clients.

We were notified of the particularly gruesome death by starvation of an old woman in Brooklyn. We began to make the arrangements when we met her son, a bedraggled, rake-thin man of about 60. He was evidently distraught, did not appear to accept his mother's death and could not bring himself to bury her. He was too upset to answer our administrative assistant's questions or to cooperate in filling out the necessary forms.

In the course of the initial interview, we ascertained that the problem was deeper than simple grief. The son had not eaten for days, nor (it seemed) had he been able to feed his mother once she was too ill to look after the two of them.

When Joel Morris, president of IJ Morris Funeral Homes, heard of the predicament, he immediately filled the man's apartment with prepared food. But the son still refused to eat. "I don't want food," he cried. "I want my mother." He was then visited by Rabbi Shmuel Plafker, who brought him cooked food for several weeks before *Shabbat*.

Rabbi Plafker perceived the need for psychiatric assistance and began to contact agencies until he found the right one for this man. Once the referral was made, the agency took over, providing support services and the immediate psychological intervention necessary to prevent the son from becoming a fatal casualty of his emotional disability.

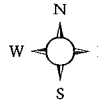
Visiting Mt. Richmond and Silver Lake Cemeteries

Guests are always welcome at both Mt. Richmond and Silver Lake cemeteries. You need not have a relative buried in either cemetery to visit.

Synagogue, school and organizational groups are gladly accommodated by appointment. A knowledgeable guide is available to accompany groups through the cemeteries, relating the history of the Hebrew Free Burial Association against the background of the Jewish community of New York. Please contact Sandra Wiesel, Administrator, at 212 686-2433 to arrange a cemetery tour for your group.

Family and friends of those buried at our cemeteries can contact Rabbi Shmuel Plafker for assistance in locating a specific grave. Rabbi Plafker can be reached at the Mt. Richmond cemetery office, 718 667-0195.

Travel Directions



To Mt. Richmond Cemetery
420 Clarke Avenue
Staten Island

By car: Staten Island Expressway (278) to Richmond Avenue exit. Follow service road around to Richmond Avenue (follow signs for hospital.) Take Richmond Avenue straight until St. Patrick's Place. Make left turn and proceed two blocks to cemetery. Mt. Richmond is across from the Richmondtown restoration.

By public transportation: Take Staten Island Ferry, then Bus #113 to St. Patrick's Place. Walk two blocks to Clarke Avenue.

To Silver Lake Cemetery
926 Victory Boulevard
Staten Island

By car: Staten Island Expressway (278) to Clove Road. Turn right onto Clove Road and continue to Victory Blvd. Turn right. Cemetery is a few blocks ahead on the right side.

Mt. Richmond and Silver Lake cemeteries are open to the public:

Monday to Thursday 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Friday 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Sunday 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM

The cemeteries are closed on Saturdays and Jewish holidays.

Chevre Agudas Achim Chesed Shel Emes
Hebrew Free Burial Assoc.
1170 Broadway
New York, N.Y. 10001

NON PROFIT ORG
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Rockville Cntr, NY
 Permit No.235

Not in Co
 MOK
 LEO OUNANO
 340 WEBSTER AVE
 BROOKLYN, NY 11230-1449

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED