

Chapel Renovations Completed Mt. Richmond Chapel Once Again Open To Public

The historic chapel at Mt. Richmond Cemetery, once a synagogue for the area's residents and always a place of repose, has been refurbished thanks to a grant from the Harry and Jeannette Weinberg Foundation. The capital improvements grant was approved by foundation vice president Nathan Weinberg earlier this year.

Dignified, modest renovations restore the original simplicity and design to the

exterior and interior and provide warmth and comfort.

The renovations include the installation of new period light fixtures, refurbished and repainted pews outfitted with bench cushions and the purchase of a new lectern. The three original founder's plaques, memorials to the caring men who began the Hebrew Free Burial Association more than one hundred years ago and to those who continued the tradition of *chesed shel emeth*, have been carefully restored.

Renovation deemed "Gift to the entire community"

President Gerald E. Feldhamer announced that the chapel will be rededicated on September 15, 1992 when the HFBA unveils the second group of grave markers purchased through the Second Century Campaign (see related story).

"We are particularly grateful to Nathan Weinberg, brother of the late Harry Weinberg, *zt'l*, for his concern for the Jewish poor in their darkest hours," he stated. "By pro-

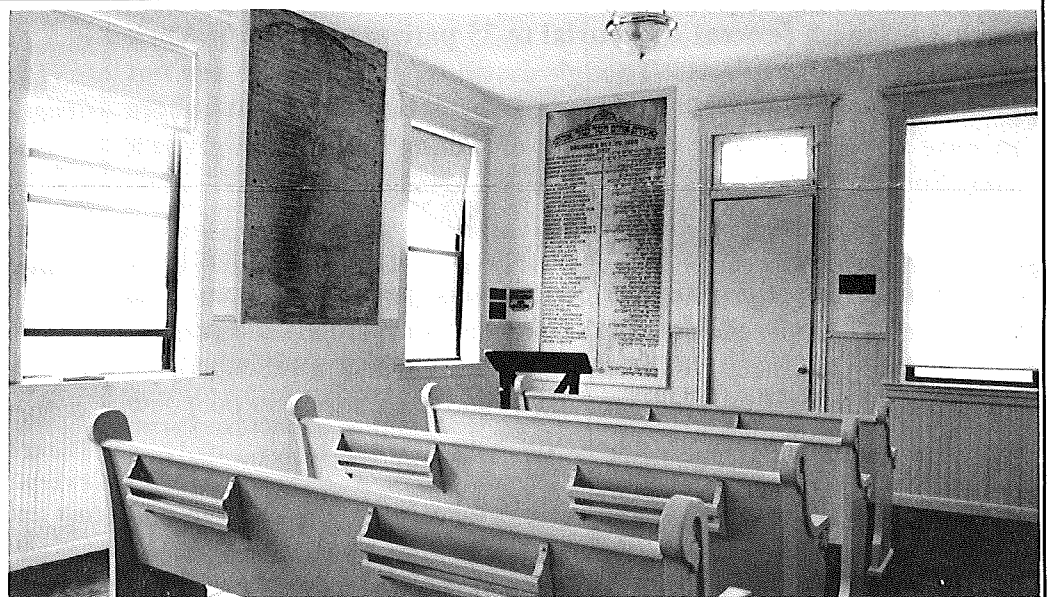
viding the funds to renovate the Mt. Richmond cemetery chapel, he has given a gift to the entire Jewish community. Families and friends of indigent Jews will now have a place to rest and compose themselves after the emotional turmoil of a funeral or cemetery visit. Just as we strive to provide a simple funeral for poor Jews, we want their loved ones to feel they are also being treated like all other Jewish mourners."

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Please call us at 212 686-2433.



Interior of the renovated chapel at Mt. Richmond Cemetery. Rededication of the chapel will take place on September 15, at the same time 50 monuments are unveiled as part of the Second Century Campaign. All friends and supporters of the Hebrew Free Burial Association are invited to attend this important ceremony.

From The President's Desk

HFBA Chapel Renovations Completed

(Cont. from page 1)

The specter of mental illness is a tragedy for the individual, the family and the entire Jewish community. Thankfully, we have passed the days when the prevailing wisdom stated, "There are no Jews who are mentally ill." However, many of those in psychiatric hospitals are indigent and have no family to care for them. When they die, there is no one to see they are buried in a Jewish cemetery. No one except the Hebrew Free Burial Association.

Plaque to be erected during dedication

An engraved plaque expressing the gratitude of the HFBA to the Weinberg Foundation for their generosity and foresight will be placed on display at the time of the rededication. "The entire board, the officers and all friends of the Hebrew Free Burial Association join me in thanking the Weinberg Foundation for their important contribution," he concluded.

One of the saddest cases to come across our desk in recent memory concerned an elderly Jewish war veteran who had been confined to psychiatric hospitals since the end of World War II. No one knows what horrors Sam F. saw while he was fighting for our country, but when he was released from the Army, he could not get his life together. He was originally diagnosed as "shell-shocked." His mental state deteriorated and he was placed in long-term psychiatric care. Over the years, he lost contact with this family.

The Hebrew Free Burial Association gratefully acknowledges the following grants for our various projects:

When he died, the Jewish chaplain at the state psychiatric institution to which Sam was confined contacted the Hebrew Free Burial Association. It was not the first time he had called; judging from the patient load, it will not be the last. But the chaplain knew that Sam would receive a traditional Jewish burial in a Jewish cemetery. He would not be forgotten by the community whose freedom he fought to ensure.

Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York/United Jewish Appeal

In the past four years, the Hebrew Free Burial Association has provided a Jewish funeral and burial to 35 patients from New York State psychiatric hospitals. Though destitute, these people are not eligible for welfare benefits. None of them had family members who were alive, in contact with them, or willing to see them given a proper burial.

*...Program grant for indigent burials
...Operation Exodus grant for burials of indigent immigrants from the former Soviet republics*

Gimprich Family Fund

...Burials of indigent immigrants from the former Soviet republics

HFBA gave them all a Jewish burial. The funds to pay for their simple funerals came from the generous donations of people like you. We count on you to supply the dollars that will buy the shrouds and prepare the gravesites. We need your help to make sure that a rabbi will be there for every mentally-ill indigent Jew -- and indeed for any poor Jew -- who needs us, just as we were there for Sam.

OUR CEMETERIES NEED YOU!

The combination of a recession and sweeping budget cuts have stretched our resources to the limit.

On behalf of the Boards of Directors and Governors, the officers and the executive committee, I wish you and those you care about a joyous New Year season and year of health and prosperity.

Do you have ties to charitable foundations that might be able to help us? If you do, please contact Jack M. Gross, treasurer, HFBA, Suite 912, 1170 Broadway, New York, NY 10001 or call the office at (212) 686-2433.

Gerald E. Feldhamer

50 Grave Markers To Be Unveiled September 15 Second Century Campaign Focuses on Men's Section

The unmarked graves of fifty men and women who died in the years following World War II will receive simple grave markers as part of the Second Century Campaign's ongoing program to mark all graves in Mt. Richmond Cemetery. The unveiling is scheduled for Tuesday, September 15 at 11:00 AM rain or shine.

This is the second year that the Hebrew Free Burial Association has been able to purchase grave markers with contributions from the Second Century Campaign. In a moving ceremony last year the first set of monuments were dedicated over the

graves of 75 children who died in the first decades of the 20th century.

According to vice president George Tice, the section that was chosen this year holds the remains of men (and a row of women) who passed away during the five years immediately after World War II. "This section is especially poignant because some of the people buried here fled Europe just before the War or came to our shores as refugees afterwards. They are the remnants of a once-great civilization that was destroyed by the Nazis and their henchmen. When they were buried, the board of

the Hebrew Free Burial Association was very aware that Jewish burial was not a possibility for so many of their peers.

"Others in the section were in either the First or Second World War. By law, any American serviceman or woman can choose to be buried at the military cemetery in Arlington, VA. Although they had no funds to pay for it themselves, these men and their families chose to be buried according to Jewish tradition and to be laid to rest among their brothers."

Second Century Campaign: Remembering those who time forgot

With the second annual unveiling, the Second Century Campaign is making another installment in its ongoing program of providing grave markers for the 30,000 unmarked plots in Mt. Richmond. Mr. Tice emphasized that the location of every grave is known through maps, charts and careful records kept by the Association. "But we were never able to afford a monument if the family of friends didn't have the funds," he said. "The Second Century Campaign is remembering those who time has forgotten."

From The Mailbag...

For several years, the HFBA has offered synagogue and communal groups tours of our historic Mt. Richmond cemetery. We recently received the following letter from an officer whose congregation visited us there. Its eloquence and sincerity has moved us -- as we hope they will move you.

Dear Mr. Feldhamer:

The famous poet Edna St. Vincent Millay wrote in her *Dirge Without Music*:

"I am not resigned to the shutting away of loving hearts in the hard ground, So it is, and so it will be, for so it has been time out of mind, Into the darkness they go, the wise and the lovely, Crowned with lilies and with laurel they go;

But I am not resigned."

In the spirit of the above poem, I am writing to you on behalf of our members and the Education Committee to express our deep gratitude to your wonderful organization for the extremely poignant, moving and informative tour that was recently arranged for our synagogue group. We shall never forget the sudden descent of mist to cover the gravesites that at that time still lacked headstones and the deep desire of your charitable group to collect sufficient funds to erect those headstones in fulfillment of the great *mitzvah* of *chesed shel emeth*, honoring the deceased.

We also noticed the 75 new headstones which mark the burial sites of children who died between 1925 and 1942 which were acquired as part of the Second Century Campaign, which we are anxious to join. You have honored these unfortunate Jews, born into poverty but

who were deeply loved by their families and who are now buried in a Jewish cemetery according to holy Jewish traditions, and not in some Potter's Field.

Aware of your desire that new monuments represent a beginning of a concerted effort to mark every grave in Mt. Richmond cemetery, our synagogue wishes to join in this important undertaking...Please find our contribution of \$150 to the Second Century Campaign enclosed.

We pray that you and your worthy organization, in the merit and *zechut* of this holy *mitzvah*, may speedily be rewarded by the One Who Inhabits Eternity, the One who does not forget the dead. May all of your endeavors be crowned with success...

Administrative Notes

New "Face" For Educational Campaign....

Although HFBA has been actively involved in the Jewish community for over 100 years, there are still many Jews who have never heard of us. In an effort to create greater awareness of the organization and its work, HFBA has begun an extensive educational and fundraising effort that focuses on who our clients are.

In generic stories culled from our own records, the HFBA highlights four "types" of clients. (No actual names or specific details were used in order to respect the confidentiality of our clients and their families.) An elderly man dying of cancer who has outlived his savings, a Russian immigrant grandmother diagnosed with a serious illness and a former teacher who is now homeless are some of the case histories illustrated in the informative brochure. In addition, the HFBA logo has been redesigned to simplify the graphic concept of the organization's work.

The concept and design was created by Alan Wood, presi-

dent of Alan Wood Graphic Design. Mr. Wood donated his time and energies through the New York Federation of Jewish Philanthropies' Management Assistance Program.

Copies of the new brochure are available by calling the HFBA office, 212 686-2433.

Silver Lake Cottage Rebuilding Proceeding...

After many meetings with the Planning Commission and other official bodies, the rebuilding of the Caretaker's Cottage at Silver Lake Cemetery is proceeding. No date has been set for completion of the project, but approval is being granted by the city.

Construction of the new Caretaker's Cottage, necessitated by a series of devastating fires, is on the priority list of the Second Century Campaign. However, work cannot begin until sufficient funds are raised to pay for the entire project. HFBA is currently looking for foundation and individual donations to cover the costs.

Our annual *Chayei Sarah* fundraising campaign is underway. This appeal focuses on synagogues in the greater New York area, requesting rabbis and congregations to dedicate *Shabbat Chayei Sarah* (this year, November 20-21) to raising awareness and funds for the HFBA. Synagogues participate in many ways, including written appeals from the rabbi, sermons and oral appeals during *Shabbat* services.

If your synagogue does not participate in the *Chayei Sarah* campaign, we urge you to speak to your rabbi and to contact the HFBA office, 212 686-2433.

*Please Be With Us
At The Unveiling
Of The Next 50 Headstones
Acquired As Part of
The Hebrew Free Burial
Association's
Second Century Campaign
And the Rededication
Of The H.F.B.A. Chapel
Tuesday, September 15, 1992
11:00 A.M.
Mt. Richmond Cemetery
Transportation Available
R.S.V.P. 212 686-2433*

**The Hebrew Free Burial Association
Notes With Sadness
The Death of our Former Secretary
and Funeral Director
Harry Moskowitz
May his wife and family be comforted
among the mourners of Zion.**