

HEBREW FREE BURIAL ASSOCIATION

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In This Issue

2

Community activities, on the increase, disseminate information about HFBA to new friends.

5

More names for our Leave Your Mark plaque in the Weinberg Chapel means new markers in Mt. Richmond Cemetery.

6

A New Jersey columnist was stunned by the outpouring of sympathy and offers to help bury a man who died alone.

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UJA-FEDERATION OF NEW YORK

Bar and Bat Mitzvah Circle Introduces New Generation To HFBA

Over the past few years, HFBA has successfully reached out to schools in the metropolitan area, encouraging both works of voluntarism and collecting *tzedaka* for free burials. Classes have come to Mt. Richmond and Silver Lake Cemeteries to help with our massive fall clean-ups; groups of young men from a local yeshiva can be seen helping out with a funeral *minyan*. Several schools have sponsored monuments as part of our "Leave Your Mark" program.

This year HFBA is taking our student outreach program one step further with our new "Bar and Bat Mitzvah Circle." The Bar/Bat Mitzvah Circle will encourage and recognize various types of contributions made by young teens who use the occasion of their Bar and Bat Mitzvot to teach others about the work of the Hebrew Free Burial Association.

"HFBA is dependent upon the support of our friends to survive. It is important that our heritage and tradition of *chesed* be transmitted to the next generation. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah Circle will help us educate tomorrow's donors now," stated Vice President Howard N. Wallick.

Participation Tailored to Celebrants

The young celebrant can choose his or her manner of including HFBA in this important life event. *Bnai* and *Bnot*

Continued on page 4

Community Activities Spread

Michael Roth Honored At Chayei Sarah Breakfast

Members of the Jewish community of Teaneck gathered last December to pay tribute to Michael Roth, recipient of HFBA's *Anshei Chesed* Award, at the first Chayei Sarah breakfast ever held in the community.

"The breakfast was a golden opportunity to bring the message of our work to a new community," expressed board member Andrew Feinman, who attended the event. So many

people in this community have strong roots in New York and understand the need to take care of the final needs of New York's poorest Jews."

Michael Roth is the president of Congregation Bnai Yeshurun, one of Teaneck's largest synagogues and is active in several other important community agencies. He is lauded as a "leader among leaders" and a role model for others young and old.



Rabbi Steven Pruzansky (right), spiritual leader of Congregation Bnai Yeshurun, presents honoree Michael Roth with a tzedaka box, a token of HFBA's esteem, as he receives the agency's Anshei Chesed Award.

HFBA Message Across City

Riverdale Honors Two Rabbis

Riverdale residents joined together to honor Rabbi Gidon Rothstein, Associate Rabbi of the Riverdale Jewish Center, and Rabbi Aaron Frank, Associate Rabbi of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, at a gala breakfast at the Riverdale Jewish Center last month. HFBA board members Fred Sugarman and Howard Millendorf chaired the successful event.

Rabbi Rothstein was given the HFBA Anshei Chesed Award for his outstanding rabbinic and educational leadership, both within the congregation and the greater New York community. In addition to teaching myriad classes and lectures at the Riverdale Jewish Center, Rabbi Rothstein taught at the Drisha Institute, Yeshiva University and Lincoln Square Synagogue. He expects to



Breakfast co-chair Fred Sugarman presents Rabbi Aaron Frank with the Rabbinic Achievement Award as Rabbi Avi Weiss, Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, looks on.

earn his Ph.D. in Medieval Jewish History from Harvard University this Spring.

His counterpart at the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, Rabbi Frank, was honored for his many activities and programs that benefit young and old alike. He directs the Jewish Youth Encounter, an innovative project employing creative activities, Shabbat encounters and other techniques designed to bring Jewish children and their families closer to Jewish learning and life, the Jewish Encounter for Teens and a Learning Service for those who desire more involvement in Judaism. Rabbi Frank is also the originator and editor of the Riverdale Jewish Encounter, a free newspaper for the Riverdale community.



HFBA vice president Bjorn Bamberger (l) and president Gerald E. Feldhamer (r) present Rabbi Gidon Rothstein with the Anshei Chesed Award.

Siyum Mishnayos Recognizes Achievements of Frank Mandel



Community leader Frank B. Mandel (second from left) was honored at the annual *Siyum Mishnayos* organized by HFBA and the *Chevra Mishnayos Zichron Menachem* at the West Side Institutional Synagogue on January 9, 2000. He was presented with his award by (l-r) HFBA President Gerald E. Feldhamer, *Siyum Mishnayos* participant Mendy Pollack, and event Chairman Hillel Gross.

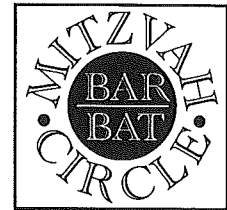
The *Siyum Mishnayos* celebrated the conclusion of study of the entire *Mishna* in memory of those buried by HFBA during the year 5759 and those who were denied burial during the Holocaust. It was begun several years ago by West Side resident *Jack Weiss*, who brought together a group of rabbis and lay leaders to undertake the annual cycle of study.

Yasher Cochachem to all those who participated in both the study of the *Mishna* and the *Siyum Mishnayos*.

Bar and Bat Mitzvah Circle ...

cont. from page 1

Mitzvah can make their own donations to further our work and/or can encourage others to contribute. Funds can be earmarked either for free burial or the Leave Your Mark campaign.



Young teens who participate in the Bar and Bat Mitzvah Circle will receive a handsomely designed and framed certificate as a token of our appreciation of their friendship and devotion to the *mitzvah* of *chesed shel emeth*.

"Over the years we received several letters from young teens and their parents about how meaningful their Bar or Bat Mitzvah was when it included HFBA," explained President Gerald E. Feldhamer. "Each letter told of how a day of great joy was heightened by an act of *chesed* and *tzedaka* directed towards the most unfortunate of our community.

"Their experiences encouraged us to formalize the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Circle to provide others with the chance to infuse a wonderful celebration with a *mitzvah* that demonstrates the role of *tzedaka* in our lives.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Circle information and brochures have been sent to Hebrew and Day School principals and congregational rabbis in our area. Information is also available from our office 212 239-1662.

We are pleased to announce that the following names have been added to our Leave Your Mark Donor Plaque in the Weinberg Chapel at Mt. Richmond Cemetery.

SYLVIA FRIEDMAN
IN MEMORY OF MOSES FRIEDMAN
28 KISLEV 5741

MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH HOROWITZ
IN MEMORY OF MORRIS HOROWITZ

FOR THE SIX MILLION WHO DIED
WITHOUT A PROPER BURIAL

GLORIA F. WOLINSKY
IN MEMORY OF MARVIN H.
WOLINSKY

AUDREY F. STEUER

DR. IRA JASSER

MR. AND MRS. ARTHUR BRAINSON

LINDA ROBERTS

RUTH AND ADRIAN SKYDELL

MAURY J. STORCH

MICHAEL W. TELLER

A.M. AND F.M. ROTHENBERG
FOR THE ROTHENBERG & JATLOWSKY
FAMILIES

BEQUESTS CONTINUE LIFETIME OF GIVING

The chances are that Leon Peskin, Darcia Weiss and Rosalind G. Alper did not know one another in life. As far as we knew, they had only one thing in common during their lives: they regularly donated modest sums to the Hebrew Free Burial Association. When they died, they became tied to one another and HFBA in another, eternal way. Each of these righteous men and women left a bequest to the HFBA.

In choosing to leave a legacy to HFBA, Mr. Peskin, Ms. Weiss and Ms. Alper assured

themselves and us that the work of the Hebrew Free Burial Association would continue as long as we are needed.

You don't have to be wealthy to remember HFBA in your will. Nor do you need to be a large donor. All that is required is the desire to ensure that indigent Jews will always have a place to turn to in times of need. For more information on how to remember HFBA in your will, call our office at 212 239-1662.

HFBA Becomes Friend To Man in Need

To most people, Samouil Levine was just another Russian immigrant, a man struggling to survive in a foreign country with neither the language nor the vocational skills necessary to even get by. He had come to the United States in 1995 at the urging of his wife, who died within a year. He spent the next four years trying to exist. But finally it was too much. Last February he was found in his apartment. It was not known how long he had been dead.

Levine had no relatives. His body lay in the morgue for a week before Sylvia Krenitz of Englewood read about him in a **Bergen Record** column. Mrs. Krenitz, a longtime supporter, contacted us and asked if we could help. We immediately sprang into action, contacting the morgue and the Public Administrator in Queens, where Mr. Levine had lived.

It took only a day for us to get the necessary approvals. He was buried at Mt. Richmond Cemetery within 48 hours of the original phone call.

Seamus McGraw, the columnist who wrote the original story of Samouil, was so touched by the outpouring of offers of assistance that he wrote a follow-up column less than a week later. After describing a few of the people who wanted to help, he wrote that "Members of the Hebrew Free Burial Society (sic), who had also read the story, arranged to have him laid to rest in one of their plots on Staten Island."

McGraw seemed to think that the circumstances of Levine's burial were so extraordinary that they merited a full column. While we are grateful for the mention, for HFBA and its supporters *chesed shel emeth* happens 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Elie Wiesel on New HFBA Video

NOBEL PRIZE WINNER AND acclaimed philosopher Elie Wiesel publicly reaffirmed the importance of free burial and the Hebrew Free Burial Association's place in our lives in our newest educational and fund raising video.

Mr. Wiesel spoke movingly on camera about the imperative to take care of the final needs of everyone in the community. His sensitive and compelling remarks emphasize the significance of our daily activities.

The new production tells the story of the HFBA from its first days and underscores the need for our continued services today. It will be used in conjunction with our present video as part of our ongoing outreach efforts to communities in the tri-state metropolitan area.

The eight-minute video is available free from our office. For more information, call 212 239-1662.