



HEBREW FREE BURIAL ASSOCIATION

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UJA-FEDERATION OF NEW YORK

Bar Mitzvah Circle Is Also Circle of Jewish Life For Family



On the 14th of Sivan, June 17, the family of Zev Wolf Karp will commemorate the 100th anniversary of his death. Two weeks later, his great, great grandson, Adam Karp Hurst, will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah. The two events will be forever linked by Adam's participation in the Hebrew Free Burial Association's Bar/Bat Mitzvah Circle for young adults and their families.

Zev Wolf Karp was only 32 when he died of tuberculosis, a young immigrant who left a wife and three small sons behind him. With no money for a burial, his wife Lena turned to HFBA for help. He was buried in Silver Lake Cemetery. Lena became a pushcart peddler to support herself and her children. Adam is named for Lena and Zev's son, Avraham Shlomo, who was his great grandfather.

The Karp's have never forgotten the kindness shown to their family during a time of great distress. When Adam was ready to become a Bar Mitzvah, the connection to HFBA seemed like a natural choice.

Included with the Bar Mitzvah invitations that were sent to family and friends was information about HFBA and the family's tie to our organization. Adam plans to have information about

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Innovative Program Teaches Children To Be Philanthropists

Adults don't think of a penny being worth very much anymore, but a non-profit organization called Common Cents® New York has proven us wrong, to the benefit of HFBA.

Common Cents® New York is dedicated to helping children of all ages and backgrounds develop and express their desire to become meaningful contributors to their communities and societies. For one month each year, New York City schools hold "Penny Harvests" to collect idle pennies left in drawers, saucers and other repositories around our homes. Each school tries to fill 25 sacks with 30 pounds of pennies.

This year's Penny Harvest netted 150 tons of pennies for a grand total \$395,013.17. Approximately \$1,000 of that money was raised by the religious school of S.A.J., a West Side congregation. A five student steering committee called the Roundtable was given the responsibility of researching the needs of their community as well as the charitable agencies meeting the challenges. In the end, the Roundtable chose five charitable organizations, including the Hebrew Free Burial Association, who benefited from the Penny Harvest. The Roundtable chose to contribute a grave marker to the Leave Your Mark program, stipulating that the marker be placed over the grave of an indigent child.

We salute Common Cents® New York for reaching out to today's kids and planting the seeds for tomorrow's philanthropists. Through this well thought out program, young people are finding out that there are many ways to make a dent in the myriad problems our society faces. We also congratulate S.A.J. teacher Amy Eichenwald, who guided the Roundtable, emphasizing the Jewish value of *tikkun olam* as the group made their decisions.



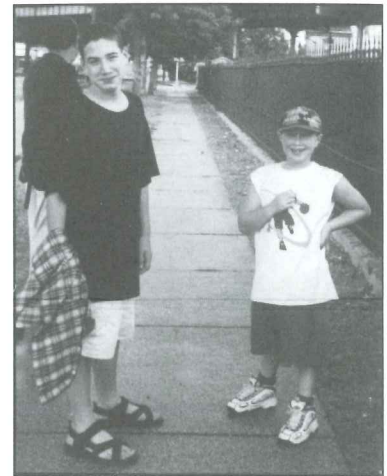
Naomi Gewirtzman, a member of the S.A.J. Round Table, presents Sandra Wiesel with a check for \$150. The funds will be used to place a monument over the grave of an indigent child buried in Mt. Richmond Cemetery.

Bar Mitzvah Circle Is Also Circle of Jewish Life for Family

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HFBA available at the Bar Mitzvah and will explain why he has chosen to join the Bar Mitzvah Circle. His parents have suggested to guests that a gift to HFBA in Adam's honor would be appropriate and appreciated.

Adam's participation in the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Circle is a reflection of the Jewish principles and education he received from his parents and the values transmitted through generations. We congratulate Adam, his parents and the Karp and Hurst families on this momentous and meaningful occasion.



Adam Karp Hurst and his brother Joshua, 9, in an informal moment.

Cemetery Committee Oversees Improvements at Mt. Richmond and Silver Lake

The completion of several capital projects has helped to enhance the look and functionality of both Mt. Richmond and Silver Lake Cemeteries.

Following the recommendations of the Cemetery Committee, headed by HFBA Vice President Howard N. Wallick, the main roadway leading into Mt. Richmond Cemetery from the Weinberg Chapel has been repaved. The cemetery staff is now in the process of installing concrete parking stops that will prevent any cars from accidentally straying from the roadway onto the burial grounds themselves. Footpaths now being constructed between each section will allow safer, more comfortable access to

individual gravesites.

The work is expected to be completed this year, although Mr. Wallick emphasized that visitors have already commented on the improvements.

The broken, deteriorated fence along the front wall of Silver Lake Cemetery, facing Victory Boulevard, has been replaced with a new, stronger model. The new fence will help deter unauthorized access to the cemetery and enhance its overall appearance. While there are no longer burials at Silver Lake Cemetery, HFBA is determined to safeguard its sanctity as a Jewish burial ground.

Weinberg Foundation Grant Allows For Accelerated Marking of Graves

The Hebrew Free Burial Association is attempting to remember 5,000 poor Jews whose graves remain unmarked by installing Leave Your Mark-sponsored stones during the current year, Vice President Bjorn Bamberger announced recently. A matching grant from the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation is facilitating the effort, he added.

A previous five-year grant from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation provided matching funds for 2,500 markers. The new grant of \$200,000 will help us reach our goal of installing 5,000 small stone monuments. The grant is dependent upon our raising the needed funds for these markers and on installing footpaths in the newest sections of the cemetery to make access to graves easier and more comfortable for visitors. While HFBA has until then end of 2001 to install the grave markers, the agency is determined to finish the project by the end of this year. Fifteen hundred markers have been delivered so far this year; an additional 500 have been ordered.

Until now, the Association has never installed more than 1,000 grave markers in a single year. The accelerated pace has put enormous strains on the cemetery and office staff. The rising number of installations means that cemetery workers must prepare more areas for the grave markers and footpaths. In the office, personnel

must now research the names and years of birth and death for five times the number of deceased indigents in the same amount of time.

Vice President Howard N. Wallick, chairman of the Cemetery Committee, explained that the agency's resolve to mark the large number of graves has had beneficial effects on the project. "We have changed the design of the stone in order to speed the manufacturing process and hold down the costs," he said. "We also benefit from the economies of installing more markers at the same time."

"Of course, it is not easy to work at this pace," he added. "The office and cemetery staffs have been extremely cooperative and helpful throughout the process. Everyone is committed to meeting our goal."



The grave of Alfred Stern, along with those of 5,000 others, will be marked by new, simple monuments as part of the latest Leave Your Mark effort.

AFTER THE BURIAL, SURVIVING BROTHER STILL NEEDS HELP

It is always difficult to bury one's only sibling. But when poverty and illness combine to isolate a surviving brother, our role doesn't always end when the deceased is buried.

David and Lila were a brother and sister living with the twin disabilities of dire poverty and Parkinson's Disease in a federally-subsidized apartment in Queens. Their illnesses had sapped their ability to work years ago, and they survived on their small social security checks. It was barely enough to pay their rent and utilities. They were in touch with a few cousins, but basically the two lived a solitary existence until tragedy struck.

One Saturday evening, HFBA received a call from a cousin in the Bronx. Lila had died that day. David needed help burying her, but he was homebound. There was no way he could make the trip to Manhattan to arrange for her funeral. Mrs. Wiesel immediately offered to visit David at home to help him complete the paperwork.

When she arrived, Mrs. Wiesel discovered that the effects of their grinding poverty and illnesses had effected every part of the siblings' lives. The apartment was in disarray, with mail dating back three years haphazardly piled up on a table in the dining area. A beach chair served as the living room furniture. Medication was strewn on the table. Even the help of a home attendant was not enough to maintain

order and cleanliness. Mrs. Wiesel sensed a strong, unhealthy odor in the apartment.

Though a sweet man, David's mental state was as disordered as his home. Yet, despite everything, David and Lila had maintained a strong connection to Jewish tradition. David proudly related how they ate only kosher food and how he had waited until the end of the Sabbath on Saturday night to call his cousin with the sad news. He described his annual trip to a synagogue to sell his *chometz* (bread products) before Passover, an arduous journey though the building was only a few blocks away.

When the documents were signed, arrangements were made for the burial. The Bronx cousin transported David to and from Mt. Richmond Cemetery, where Lila was laid to rest. David was left to mourn his loss in the apartment he had shared with his sister for so many years.

Usually, our involvement with the mourners would end at this point. But the next week, David called our office in a panic. He told Mrs. Wiesel that he had heard his sister call him. She told her brother she had been moved from her grave. He insisted that he had not been asleep; this had been no dream. It turned out that David was all alone. He had lost the services of the home attendant when Lila had died. Mrs. Wiesel comforted him and reassured David that Lila's

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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.

SCHARF AND LAWRENCE
IN MEMORY OF BERNARD J.
AND HELEN SHEFTMAN

IN MEMORY OF
GOODWIN NUSBAUM
SALLY & HARRY BARDIN
GERALD RUDDY

IN MEMORY OF GUSSIE & ALEX MAY
RACHEL AND MORRIS SLEPIAN

RABBI & MRS. MARK. A. DREILICH

DONATED BY DAVID L. MOSES
IN MEMORY OF LILLIAN L. MOSES

STEPHEN & JANE HIRSCH

IRVING & GERALDINE SCHAFFER
FOUNDATION

SURVIVING BROTHER STILL NEEDS HELP...

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grave had not been disturbed. She then called the home attendant to urge her to get assigned to David now that his sister was gone.

Shortly thereafter, we learned that David had been hospitalized. His family in Florida succeeded in placing him in a nursing home where he has been undergoing rehabilitative therapy. They are trying to obtain permanent placement in an appropriate facility.

Remember the Hebrew Free
Burial Association in your will.
Call us at 212 239-1992 for
more information and sample
wording.