



From the Director's Desk:

Your support is urgently needed to meet a \$500,000 challenge grant. Your gift will help underwrite some 400 burials this year.

Earlier this year, an anonymous foundation offered Hebrew Free Burial Association a generous matching grant. **If we can raise \$500,000 in donations of \$5,000 and greater by December 1, 2015, the foundation will contribute \$250,000.**

We are getting closer to our goal. We need your help now more than ever.

Your contribution can ensure that every Jew, no matter how poor or marginalized, leaves this world with dignity and respect. If you'd like to discuss how your gift can impact our work, please call me at 212-239-1662 or email me at akoplow@hebrewfreeburial.org. We cherish gifts of any size and are grateful for our donors' ongoing commitment to *chesed shel emet*. Thank you for your continued support.

Shana tova u'mitukah,

Amy

P.S. See below what we've accomplished this year through July 31!



341 unmarked graves marked by Leave Your Mark donations



207 burials arranged from Jan. thru July 2015



121 volunteers ensure a minyan at HFBA funerals



SILVER LAKE RESTORATION PROJECT:
50 gravestones recovered after clearing half of Silver Lake Cemetery
 Thanks to The David Berg Foundation



22 goats cleared from Silver Lake Cemetery



Through July we've had people put in 170 volunteer hours in our midtown office.



1,000 participants from 23 groups volunteered at Silver Lake Cemetery from Sept. 2014 thru Jul. 2015

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 New York metropolitan area dedicated to assuring that every Jew, regardless of financial means or religious affiliation, receives a dignified, traditional Jewish funeral and burial.



Frederic and Dora R. emigrated from Argentina to the United States in the 1960's with their children, one of whom died on the ship during the journey. Although it was Dora who was sick and suffering from Alzheimer's disease, Frederic pre-deceased her and HFBA reserved a grave next to his for his wife. When Dora died six weeks later, she was buried next to her husband.

Although it is not unusual for HFBA to bury several members of a single family, it was shocking when **Michael K.**, at the age of 64, fell ill at his mother's funeral at the cemetery and was buried beside her three weeks later.

Jerry T., who previously had a career in Information Technology but was receiving SSI at the time of his death at the age of 59, shared a small apartment with his friend Paul. Jerry suffered from morbid obesity and died suddenly at home. With Paul's help, HFBA located Jerry's 85 year old mother in Oklahoma who was caring for her severely ill 46 year old son. She was despondent over the death of her son but was unable to contribute to the cost of the funeral. The HFBA volunteer *minyán* attended the burial which required three extra men to lower the coffin because Jerry weighed over 400 pounds. Rabbi Plafker called the mother from the cemetery so she could participate in the burial.

Yacob N. was from a Sephardic family, born in Colombia. Although he immigrated to the United States as a young man, it was clear from old correspondence discovered in his home that he had at least four siblings. His close friend **Solomon R.** was paying his rent and when he did not hear from him for several weeks, he alerted the police who discovered Yacob's body in his home.

HFBA reached out to the Sephardic community in his birthplace but were told that all family members had died or moved away, including a sister who, it was believed, had lived in Panama. Unable to locate any family members, HFBA proceeded with the burial. Solomon, in attendance, told us that Yacob had been his mentor, having had a distinguished career as an art educator, collector and seller. He spoke seven languages, translated books on art and had been a beloved friend and mentor to many.

Names changed to protect confidentiality.



HFBA's 4-Star Award!

HFBA is proud to announce that for the third consecutive year it has received the highest rating from America's premier charity evaluator, Charity Navigator. The award letter states, "(R)eceiving four out of a possible four stars indicates that your organization adheres to good governance and other best practices that minimize the chance of unethical activities and consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way. **Only 12% of the charities we rate have received at least 3 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that Hebrew Free Burial Association outperforms most other charities in America.** This 'exceptional' designation from Charity Navigator differentiates Hebrew Free Burial Association from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust."

HFBA appreciates our donors' trust in us and our commitment to using contributions as effectively as possible to fulfill our mission of giving every Jew, no matter how poor or isolated, a Jewish burial.



Thank you to the estate of **Toni Fox**, a beneficiary of the estate of **Hugo Aufrichtig** who had received a damage award for the loss of properties in Berlin through the efforts of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

and to: **Ceil Sollander** **Adeline Hymoff** **Jerome Simon**
Erika Ettner **Allan Mosak**

for generously including HFBA in their wills.

A **bequest** to HFBA through a will or living trust is an opportunity to give critical long-term support. It is a living legacy of compassion and concern for the impoverished Jews we help by providing dignified Jewish funerals and burials. If you are interested in including a bequest to HFBA in your will, please consult your attorney or call the HFBA office.

SAVE THE DATE

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

Sunday, November 8, 2015 • 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 on another day,
please e-mail Andrew Parver at aparver@hebrewfreeburial.org.**

Yashar Kochachem!

Our volunteer *minyan* is made up of dedicated men from the Staten Island community who attend HFBA burials to ensure that *kaddish* can be said for the deceased. Burt Migdal has attended over 400 burials and Bob Diamant over 350 in the last 5 years!

We are grateful for the group's commitment to the *mitzvah* of *chesed shel emet* as exemplified by Burt and Bob.



Readers Respond

Many readers of the last issue of *Chesed* responded enthusiastically to the article describing the use of goats to clear unwanted foliage from historic Silver Lake Cemetery. This eco-friendly method of removing weeds and ivy was performed by a herd which ate eagerly, allowing obscured graves and paths to become visible, restoring dignity to the decedents and safety to those who visit and work at the cemetery.

We are looking forward to next spring when our friendly, efficient animal crew returns to our cemetery as nature's lawn mowers!



HFBA receives many letters from people who have had experience with our organization. Below are recent examples.

Many, many thanks for the wonderful funeral service you orchestrated for my late sister, Pauline. I will confess that initially I was concerned that a free burial would short-change my sister. Nothing could have been further from the truth. I felt that she was ennobled by the very fine job you did and by the personal touch provided by the volunteers.

I left feeling that my sister got a wonderful send off, with a personalized caring quality, and that we were indeed escorting her to a better place where she would be under G-d's care.

Thank you.

Elaine R.

I just want to thank you for your assistance with the burial of my brother Ted. Your thoughtfulness, sensitivity and attention to detail reduced much of the stress one endures under these circumstances. I have enclosed a donation in memory of my brother.

Thank you.

Selma V.

**Names have been changed and letters edited for clarity and to protect confidentiality.*

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.



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 2015

ROSH HASHANA	OPEN/CLOSE
Sunday, September 13	9AM-3:45 PM
Monday, September 14	CLOSED
Tuesday, September 15	CLOSED

YOM KIPPUR	
Tuesday, September 22	9AM-1:00 PM
Wednesday, September 23	CLOSED

SUKKOT	
Sunday, September 27	9AM-3:45 PM
Monday, September 28	CLOSED
Tuesday, September 29	CLOSED

SHMINI ATZERET and SIMCHAT TORAH	
Sunday, October 4	9AM-3:45 PM
Monday, October 5	CLOSED
Tuesday, October 6	CLOSED

YIZKOR is recited on Yom Kippur, September 23 and Shmini Atzeret, October 5. The cemetery closes at 1:00 PM every Friday all year.

Расписание работы кладбища Маунт Ричмонд во время еврейских праздников:

Новый Год (Рош Хашана):	
Воскресенье, 13 сентября	9:00-15:45
Понедельник, 14 сентября	закрыто
Вторник, 15 сентября	закрыто

Йом Киппур:	
Вторник, 22 сентября	9:00-13:00
Среда, 23 сентября	закрыто

Суккот:	
Воскресенье, 27 сентября	9:00-15:45
Понедельник, 28 сентября	закрыто
Вторник, 29 сентября	закрыто

Поминальная молитва "Изкор" будет читаться в Йом Киппур (23 сентября) и в праздник Шмини Ацерет (5 октября)

Silver Lake Cemetery will be open:
September 6 and September 20, 9:00 AM-3:45 PM
September 13, 9:00 AM- 1:00 PM

РУССКИЙ ДАЙДЖЕСТ

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

HFBA помогает

• В 60-е годы Фредерик и Дора Р.* иммигрировали в США из Аргентины со своими детьми, один из которых умер на корабле еще во время путешествия. В последнее время Дора страдала от болезни Альцгеймера. Когда Фредерик скончался, рядом с его могилой Еврейское Благотворительное Похоронное Бюро (HFBA) зарезервировало могилу для Доры. Она была похоронена в ней шесть недель спустя.

• HFBA приходится иногда хоронить нескольких членов одной семьи, но этот случай был особенным. Шестидесятичетырехлетний Майкл К.* присутствовал на похоронах своей матери. Прямо на кладбище он почувствовал себя плохо, слёг, и всего три недели спустя был похоронен рядом со своей матерью.

• Джерри Т.* работал в области информационных технологий. К 59-и годам Джерри получал пособие по инвалидности (у него было патологическое ожирение) и жил в маленькой квартирке со своим другом Полом. Когда Джерри внезапно скончался у себя дома, HFBA разыскало его 85-летнюю мать, жившую в Оклахоме и присматривавшую за своим больным 46-летним сыном, братом Джерри. Она была сильно огорчена известием, но у нее не было возможности оплатить часть расходов на похороны. Наш мишьян добровольцев присутствовал на похоронах. Число мужчин, опускавших гроб в могилу, было на три больше чем обычно, так как Джерри весил около двухсот килограммов. Наш раввин г-н Плафкер связался с матерью Джерри по телефону, чтобы она могла слышать погребальную службу.

* имена изменены

Нам пишут

Хочу выразить огромную благодарность за удивительную похоронную службу, которую вы организовали для моей усопшей сестры, П.Р. Признаюсь, сначала я беспокоился, что бесплатные похороны будут посредственной «дешёвкой», но в действительности всё было совершенно иначе. Я увидел, что ее похороны были достойными, как замечательно все было проведено, включая глубоко личное отношение ваших добровольцев.

После службы я уехал, чувствуя что мы достойно попрощались с моей сестрой, и что мы и вправду проводили ее в лучшее место, туда, где о ней позаботится Вс-вышний.

Спасибо ещё раз,

Е.Р.

Козы, расчищающие заросли на кладбище Сильвер Лейк

Наши читатели с энтузиазмом восприняли статью в последнем номере «Хесед», рассказывающую о козах, расчищающих мешающие всем заросли на историческом кладбище Сильвер Лейк. Этот экологически чистый метод расчистки от сорняков и ядовитого плюща позволяет вновь увидеть давно заросшие могилы и тропинки к ним. Мы с нетерпением ждём следующей весны, когда наша дружелюбная, но мощная «команда» животных вернётся на кладбище в качестве созданных природой «газонокосилок».

Успеха в дальнейших начинаниях !

Наш мишьян добровольцев состоит из энтузиастов общины Стейтен Айленда. Они приходят на организуемые HFBA похороны, чтобы был непременно прочитан кадиш по усопшему. Бёрт Мигдал посетил уже более четырёхсот погребений, а Боб Диамант – более трёхсот пятидесяти погребений за последние пять лет ! Успеха им во всём !

Осенние праздники

«На Рош Хашана будет записано и в Йом Киппур скреплено печатью, кто покинет эту землю и кто родится на ней, кто умрёт и кто будет жить, кто умрёт в отведённое ему время и кто до времени...» (перевод с иврита, молитвенник издательства ArtScroll Machzor).

Мы благодарим нашу общину за усилия в помощи тем, кто покинули эту землю одинокими и обедневшими.

Желаем всем тем, кто нас поддерживает, счастливого и здорового Нового Года и мира на земле !



"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..."

(translation from the Hebrew, ArtScroll Machzor)

We appreciate the HFBA community's efforts to help those who passed from this earth alone and impoverished.

We wish all our supporters a happy, healthy New Year in a peaceful world!

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 Silver Lake Cemetery Chesed Days.

GET INVOLVED as a professional with HFBA by donating your expertise and skills in an area that can help us.

DONATE your property, used vehicle or boat and receive a generous tax donation.



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.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Herbert Block
Andrew Feinman
Richard Fishman
Charles Greinsky
Gary Katz
Anna Kleyman
Paul Lowenthal

Robert Marcus
Robert Mendeles
Paul H. Nagelberg
Yitzhak Pastreich
Minna Monte Seitelman
Rabbi Henry Sheinkopf
Norman Weisman

RABBINIC ADVISOR

Rabbi Elchonon Zohn

CEMETERY CHAPLAIN

Rabbi Shmuel Plafker

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Amy Koplou

CHESED IS PUBLISHED BY

THE HEBREW FREE BURIAL ASSOCIATION

Renée Septimus, Editor Adam Rawson, Designer
Printed by Spencer and Worth, Ltd.

224 WEST 35TH STREET, ROOM 300
NEW YORK, NY 10001

PHONE: (212) 239-1662 • FAX: (212) 239-1981

EMAIL: INFO@HEBREWFREEBURIAL.ORG

WEB: WWW.HEBREWFREEBURIAL.ORG

