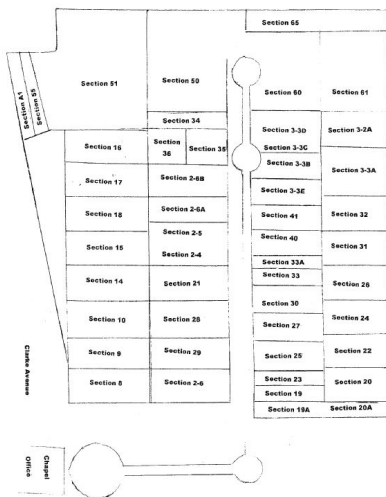


## HFBA Launches New Fundraising Campaign to Map Mount Richmond Cemetery

If you were to visit Mount Richmond Cemetery today, there would be no accurate map to help you find the graves of loved ones. There is no centralized directory, listing all burials and their locations. Instead, a staff member would have to spend significant time directing you to your loved one's gravesite. The process is frustrating to both the visitor and the cemetery staff.



Most current map in use – hand drawn in the early 1990's.

That is why HFBA has launched this critically needed initiative, to map Mount Richmond Cemetery. Funds are urgently needed to centralize the precise location of all burials.

### Why is this needed today?

When HFBA purchased Mount Richmond in 1909, it could barely keep up with the large number of burials. Records have always been kept and graves are neatly ordered in rows and sections. However, HFBA committed its scant resources to burying the dead; little was left over for other important tasks.

Over the past 107 years, some 55,000 individuals have been buried at Mount Richmond. Your contribution of \$5,000 will enable us to map a cemetery section and memorialize all those buried there. Among Mount Richmond's older areas is Section 22 which holds 700 graves, including the remains of 18 women and four men who were victims of the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire.

If you are interested in making a gift of \$5,000 to map a section of the cemetery, please call Amy Koplow, HFBA Executive Director at (212) 239-1662.

### 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.

## HFBA is Grateful to Dr. Elaine Beletz

(of blessed memory)

Dr. Elaine E. Beletz, a graduate of the Mount Sinai Hospital School of Nursing, and Columbia University's Teachers College, was president of the New York State Nurses Association from 1979-1981. In addition to her involvement in professional organizations at the state and national level, Dr. Beletz was Associate Professor in the College of Nursing at Villanova University and wrote many scholarly books and papers. When Dr. Beletz, a longtime donor to HFBA passed away in November 2014, she made HFBA a beneficiary for her IRA, a major gift for which we are very grateful.

Consider including HFBA as part of your charitable giving and estate planning. Speak with your financial advisors for the best ways to accomplish this. For more information call HFBA Executive Director Amy Koplow at (212) 239-1662.

## We've MOVED!

We've relocated to a new, larger space to accommodate our growing staff who handle our increasing caseload.

### OUR NEW ADDRESS IS:

Hebrew Free Burial Association  
125 Maiden Lane, Unit 5B  
New York, NY 10038

Our telephone number remains the same: (212) 239-1662

## HFBA WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS



**Shari Safra** currently lives on Manhattan's Upper East Side with her husband and two young sons. She grew up on Long Island and attended the University of Pennsylvania after which she graduated from Fordham University Law School. She practiced commercial litigation for eight years.

Joining our Board of Directors, Ms. Safra says, "Hebrew Free Burial Association was always an organization my family cared deeply about and I am excited to be getting more involved."

**Daniel A. Pilarski** grew up in Los Angeles, attended the University of Chicago and NYU Law School. He is currently a partner at the law firm of Watson Farley & Williams, specializing in tax law and lives in West Hempstead, NY, with his wife Rachelle and two young daughters.



Daniel told us that he was interested in HFBA because of "the importance of Jewish burial as part of the Jewish ritual life cycle," which was brought into sharp focus for him following his mother's death at a young age.

**We are pleased to welcome our two new Board members with their enthusiasm, dedication and commitment to HFBA.**

## The Goats are Coming Back!

If you visit historic Silver Lake Cemetery later this spring and notice our 4-legged staff nibbling the foliage,



your eyes are not deceiving you! Our super crew of goats will return to clear the overgrowth in the most efficient, environmentally friendly way. As they chew, previously obscured graves

appear and the area becomes clearer and more hospitable.

## Mount Richmond Cemetery Hours of Operation:

### Passover

Friday, April 22	9AM – 1PM SHARP
Sunday, April 24	CLOSED
Thursday, April 28	9AM – 1PM SHARP
Friday, April 29	CLOSED

### Shavuot

Sunday, June 12	CLOSED
Monday, June 13	CLOSED

*YIZKOR* recited Saturday, April 30 and on Monday, June 13. The cemetery always closes at 1 Pm on Fridays.

## Часы работы кладбища Маунт Ричмонд в праздники Песах и Шавуот

### ПЭСАХ:

Пятница 22 апреля	9:00-13:00 ровно
Воскресенье 24 апреля	ЗАКРЫТО
Четверг 28 апреля	9:00-13:00 ровно
Пятница 29 апреля	ЗАКРЫТО

### ШАВУОТ

Воскресенье 12 июня	ЗАКРЫТО
Понедельник 13 июня	ЗАКРЫТО

Поминальную молитву Изкор читают в субботу 30-го апреля и в понедельник 13-го июня

По пятницам кладбище закрывается строго в 13:00 (час дня)

*Visit and help us clean and clear debris.*

## Save the Date! Annual Spring 2016 Community Chesed Day Silver Lake Cemetery

**926 Victory Boulevard, Staten Island, NY  
Sunday, April 10 • 10am-12pm**

Participate in the *mitzvah* of *chesed shel emet* and join us to clean and clear winter debris from the cemetery grounds. For more information, please call Andrew Parver at the HFBA office (212) 239-1662.

*Weather permitting. The most up to date information will be posted at [www.facebook.com/hebrewfreeburial](http://www.facebook.com/hebrewfreeburial)*

## Annual Riverdale and Staten Island Breakfasts

We are pleased to report that our annual HFBA Breakfast, held at the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale on March 27th was a great success. Rabbi Paysach Krohn, always erudite and interesting, and also guest speaker at our Staten Island breakfast this past December, engaged the audience in an address about "Chesed Shel Emet." To listen to Rabbi Krohn's inspiring address, please email us at [info@hebrewfreeburial.org](mailto:info@hebrewfreeburial.org).



*life and with which her remains were given to the earth will stay with me forever.*

*The ease you afforded me in handling every detail was an absolute relief.*

*Debbie now rests in the place where she belongs and it is all due to the incredible mitzvah that you all perform at the Hebrew Free Burial Association.*

**Fran B.\***

*I want to thank the Hebrew Free Burial Association so much for the way in which you handled the burial of Rick Diller a"h.*

*You enabled a Jew to come to his final rest with honor and with dignity. As we depart this earth, there is no difference between rich and poor, and you made sure that Rick was afforded a proper and honorable Jewish burial.*

*This was all done, in spite of the fact that he passed away in New Jersey and his residence was in Poughkeepsie. The funeral was able to take place in a timely fashion even though it was New Year's Eve.*

*May you be blessed with good and kindness.*

**Rabbi Eliezer Langer,  
Congregation Schomre Israel, Poughkeepsie, NY**

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



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

*I want to take this opportunity to thank Rabbi Plafker and the rest of the HFBA staff.*

*The service today was so meaningful and brought such dignity to the burial of my dear cousin Debbie Lavine.\**

*I had been told that my cousin was failing and I knew that soon the imminent decision would fall to me. I did not know how I would be able to afford to burial in the plot that was set aside for her next to her dear parents. She had no money, only the small amount left in her account at the nursing home where she had spent the last 6 years of her life unable to move from her bed. I was afraid that the only choice available to me would be to let the city bury her in potter's field, This caused me many sleepless nights and I began to have anxiety attacks... I actually had to seek out the help of a doctor to deal with them. Then I found you!!!*

*I cannot express how much today meant to me. If it were possible that my Aunt (Debbie's mother) and my own dear mother could smile today...they would have. In spite of the sadness of losing her, the dignity with which she left this*

## Marilyn Shapiro 1953-2016



The HFBA community mourns the loss of Marilyn Shapiro, our dear friend and colleague who sadly lost her valiant battle with cancer.

Marilyn, a woman of unquestioned honesty and integrity began working at HFBA in 1995 as a data associate, processing donations, acknowledgments and thank you letters for donations. She kept our database up to date and spoke with countless donors and clients during her 21 year tenure at HFBA.

Marilyn is survived by her brother Stuart, sister Susan, and niece Melanie. She will be sorely missed by all her knew her especially by us, her HFBA family.



# РУССКИЙ ДАЙДЖЕСТ

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

## HFBA благодарит Фонд Еврейского Наследия (Legacy Heritage Fund) и доктора Элен Белец

Год и три месяца назад Фонд Еврейского Наследия связался с нашим офисом с удивительным предложением: если мы соберём полмиллиона долларов через крупные пожертвования (каждое не менее \$5,000), то Фонд предоставит такую же сумму. Вдохновлённые этой перспективой, дарители HFBA проявили необычную щедрость. Мы получили 54 пожертвования по пять тысяч долларов и более, причём 21 из них было сделано впервые или сильно превышало ежегодную сумму от конкретного дарителя.

Д-р Элен Белец закончила училище для медсестёр при госпитале Маунт Синай, а затем Педагогический Колледж при Колумбийском Университете. С 1979-го по 1981-й год она была президентом Ассоциации медсестёр. Д-р Белец, многие годы делавшая пожертвования для HFBA, скончалась в 2014-м. Она завещала HFBA свой пенсионный фонд – значительное пожертвование, за которое мы ей очень благодарны.

## HFBA помогает

Мэдлин Горман вела полную и насыщенную жизнь, работая секретаршей и моделью и занимаясь волонтерством. Она внезапно покончила с собой, прыгнув с крыши здания, в котором жила. Из-за неэффективности городских служб установление её личности заняло долгое время. В конце концов дело было направлено к нам в HFBA, и мы смогли найти сына Мэдлин, с которым она не общалась 20 лет. Тот сообщил, что Мэдлин была удочерена когда ей было всего два дня от роду. Поскольку HFBA хоронит только евреев, нам было важно установить, была ли Мэдлин еврейкой. Наш консультант Рабби Эльхонан Зонн поговорил с кузеном Мэдлин, который рассказал, что семья была соблюдающей, и что приёмные родители Мэдлин похоронены на еврейском кладбище. Р. Зонн определил, что скорее всего мать Мэдлин была еврейкой, или что она стала еврейкой согласно галахе (т.е. в соответствии с правилами ортодоксального иудаизма), и таким образом может быть похоронена на нашем кладбище Маунт Ричмонд.

## Мэрилин Шапиро (1953-2016)

Сообщество HFBA скорбит о потере Мэрилин Шапиро, нашего друга и коллеги, которая умерла от рака. Мэрилин начала работать в HFBA в 1995 году, сразу проявив себя надёжным и преданным сотрудником. В течение двадцати одного года она поддерживала нашу базу данных о донорах, внося информацию о пожертвованиях, рассылая благодарственные письма дарителям и беседуя с нашими многочисленными донорами и клиентами.

У неё остались мать Рита, брат Стюарт, сестра Сюзан и племянница Мелани. Всем, кто знал Мэрилин, и особенно нам в HFBA, будет её не хватать.

## Нам пишут

«Я хочу выразить огромную благодарность Еврейскому Благотворительному Похоронному Бюро (HFBA) за то, как вы провели похороны Рика Диллера, блаженной памяти. Вы сделали так, что ещё один еврей обрёл вечный покой по достойному обряду. Когда мы уходим из этого мира, то нет разницы между богатыми и бедными, и вы обеспечили Риду

## Мы ПЕРЕЕХАЛИ !

Мы перебрались в новое, большее помещение, чтобы лучше разместить наш выросший коллектив, который занимается увеличившимся количеством клиентов.

**Наш новый адрес:** Hebrew Free Burial Association  
125 Maiden Lane, Unit 5B, New York, NY 10038

Наш номер телефона остаётся прежним:  
(212) 239-1662

подобающие похороны согласно еврейской традиции.

HFBA организовало похороны вовремя, несмотря на то, что Рик, проживавший в Покипси, штат Нью-Йорк, скончался в Нью-Джерси, и, несмотря на то, что похороны пришлось на день перед Новым Годом.

Да будете вы благословенны совершать и дальше добрые дела.

Раввин Элизер Лангер

Синагога Шомре Исраэль, Покипси, штат Нью-Йорк»

## HFBA начинает кампанию по сбору средств на составление карты кладбища Маунт Ричмонд

Если вы сегодня посетите кладбище Маунт Ричмонд, то не сможете воспользоваться картой, чтобы найти могилы близких. На кладбище нет единого реестра, куда были бы занесены все погребения с указанием их точного места. Вместо этого сотрудник кладбища вынужден будет искать среди папок с документами, затем даст вам приблизительные указания, как найти ту или иную могилу. Это часто тяжело для посетителей, и нехорошо по отношению к тем, кто покоится здесь.

Именно поэтому HFBA начинает такой нужный процесс по созданию единой карты кладбища Маунт Ричмонд и по централизации информации о точном месте каждого погребения. Для каждой секции кладбища понадобится пять тысяч долларов, на которые можно будет составить карту и увековечить всех, погребённых там. Например, одной из старейших является секция 22, включающая около 700 могил. Среди них останки 18-и женщин и 4-х мужчин, погибших в 1911 году во время пожара на фабрике одежды «Треугольник» (в здании нью-йоркского «Утюга»).

## Отметьте этот день !

Ежегодный (2016) весенний день милосердия к усопшим  
Кладбище Сильвер Лейк на Стейн Айленд  
926 Victory Boulevard, Staten Island  
Воскресенье, 10-е апреля  
10:00-12:00

Желаем всем, кто нас поддерживает, счастливого праздника Пэсах !

## Шерстистые друзья возвращаются !

Позже весной, если вы посетите наше историческое кладбище Сильвер Лейк и увидите, как наши «четвероногие сотрудники» поедают листву, то знайте: глаза вас не обманывают! Наша команда козлов и коз вернётся этой весной, чтобы расчистить заросли наиболее эффективным и экологичным способом. По мере того, как козы пережевывают заросли, открываются для глаз ранее скрытые могилы, и всё кладбище становится чище и доступнее.

# With HFBA's Deepest Thanks

A true game changer is a person or organization whose vision transforms a reality. For HFBA, that game changer is an anonymous donor – to whom we are very grateful.

Fifteen months ago, this anonymous donor approached HFBA with a remarkable offer: if we were to raise \$500,000 in gifts of \$5,000 and above, the donor would provide a significant match. For decades, HFBA has relied on thousands of smaller givers – generous and loyal. We are especially proud that many donors to HFBA have been giving for more than two decades. These consistent and thoughtful donors ensure that we can provide burials to the indigent and forgotten. Still, we also urgently needed funding for significant repairs and upgrades at our cemeteries.

The donor provided us with a transformative opportunity.

Inspired by this challenge, the HFBA family responded with outstanding generosity. We received 54 donations of \$5,000 and above. 21 donors had never previously given at that level or were completely new to HFBA.

Jewish tradition tells us that anonymity in giving is a higher form of charity. The donor makes his gift without expectation of thank you or honor. Even so, we thank you. We are deeply grateful for your belief in our mission and in our donors.



## HFBA Helps

**Madeline Gorman**, who seemed to have had a full life as a model, secretary and active volunteer, suddenly ended her life by jumping off the roof of her building. Because of bureaucratic inefficiency on the part of city agencies, her identification was delayed. Finally, the case was referred to HFBA and we were able to locate her son from whom she had been estranged for 20 years. He informed us that his mother had been adopted two days after birth. Because HFBA only buries Jews, it was important to ascertain if Madeline was, in fact, Jewish. Rabbi Elchonon Zohn, HFBA's rabbinical advisor, spoke to Marilyn's cousin, who informed him that the family was observant and that the parents were buried in a Jewish cemetery. Rabbi Zohn determined that it was most likely that Madeline had been born to a Jewish mother or converted *halachically* (according to Orthodox Jewish law) and could be buried at Mount Richmond Cemetery.

A 75 year old decedent, **Joseph Ottman**, was referred to HFBA by the Public Administrator of Queens. HFBA found out that his parents and a brother were buried in a Queens cemetery but there was no grave reserved for him. Sadly, despite much research, HFBA could find nobody who seemed to know anything about him. He was buried by HFBA with only Rabbi Pflafer and the HFBA volunteer *minyán* in attendance.

Several years ago, **Martin Zissel**'s parents had been found dead in their apartment by the local police and were buried in New Montefiore Cemetery. After their death, Martin continued to live in the home, apparently sustained by his sister Regina who paid the rent and had groceries delivered to him. When neighbors called the police to report that they had not seen Martin in some time, they told the officers that the deliveries had stopped and the electricity had been turned off. The police found Martin's decomposed body in his apartment and, familiar with the family history, went to find Regina who had disappeared without a trace. Martin's body was difficult to identify because of the rubbish that had accumulated and there did not seem to be any medical or dental records. Finally, after a substantial delay, he was finally positively identified by the Medical Examiner who compared DNA with items found in the home. HFBA provided Martin with the dignity of a traditional Jewish burial.

**Norm Allen** was a morbidly obese 59 year old man when he was found dead in an apartment in the West Village, which he had rented via Airbnb. According to a friend, Norm had graduated from an Ivy League college, had a good Jewish education and spoke fluent Hebrew. At one point, he owned a telecommunications business and travelled extensively. However, he had fallen on hard times, suffering ill health and financial problems. At the time of his death, he was estranged from a brother whom HFBA was unable to locate. HFBA buried Norm with his friend in attendance.

*Names changed to protect confidentiality.*



# THOUGHTS FOR PASSOVER

As this mild winter turns to spring, our thoughts turn to the holiday of Passover which celebrates the liberation of the ancient Jews from slavery. Slavery does not only involve iron chains or evil taskmasters. Poverty, mental illness and isolation can also “enslave” the unfortunate. At HFBA we work to “free” the indigent and lonely by providing the dignity that every human life deserves at its end- a respectful burial and a marked grave.

We wish all our generous supporters a Happy Passover in a world in which freedom, in all senses of the word, is accorded to all G-d's children.

## 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.



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