

She Died Alone – Now Her Infant Son Will Be Remembered

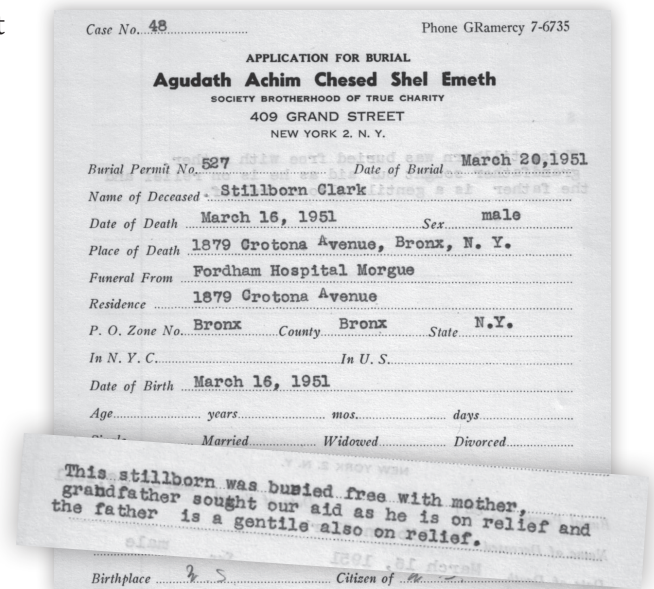
Why The Mount Richmond Mapping Project Is So Urgently Needed

On March 16th, 1951, a young woman died in childbirth. Her infant son did not survive. They both died before reaching Fordham Hospital.

Naomi was Jewish; her husband was not. There were no funds for a funeral. Both Naomi's husband and father were on welfare. They asked Hebrew Free Burial to bury mother and child in the Jewish tradition. They were buried side by side in HFBA's Mount Richmond Cemetery.

Naomi's grave was not marked by her family. Many years later a donor provided a Leave Your Mark stone for Naomi, but her baby's grave was forgotten.

In February, through our work at mapping Mount Richmond Cemetery, we rediscovered their graves. Now that we know their story, we will be placing a new marker on Naomi's grave that will include her infant son, dignifying the tragic premature deaths of mother and child.



Naomi and her son's story demonstrates – better than stats and facts ever could – why Mount Richmond's mapping project is so vital.

Your help is urgently needed to complete Mount Richmond's mapping project. The cost to survey and catalog each section is \$5,000.

What The Mount Richmond Cemetery Mapping Project Will Accomplish...

1. Pinpoint the exact location of each grave – making it much easier for visitors.
2. Digitalize and verify our records.
3. Identify available plots for a far more efficient use of cemetery space and significant cost savings.
4. Find unmarked graves and ensure that these burials are appropriately remembered.

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.

Meet the Man Behind the Mount Richmond Mapping Project

Ronen Rybowski, born and raised in Israel, came to the United States in 2014 and joined Behar Surveying, his father-in-law's 50-year-old company. Ronen earned an engineering degree in Geo-Information and Mapping from the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa. His studies included land surveying, aerial mapping, GPS (global positioning systems) and GIS (global information systems). With this expertise, Ronen developed new mapping solutions, thereby expanding the business and creating Behar Mapping. While his background and skillset would typically have led him to a career in real estate development, disaster relief or intelligence, Ronen chose to do something which had deeper personal meaning.

In 2016, HFBA engaged Ronen to design and launch the two-year project to map all 60,000 graves in Mount Richmond Cemetery. This work has affected Ronen on

both personal and professional levels. He realized that just so one cannot take living as a Jew for granted, so one cannot not taking dying and being buried as a Jew for granted. He believes that **"mapping a Jewish cemetery is a tool to support a Jewish legacy, traditions and values."** He notes that the mapping project reflects "how well HFBA does its job; further honoring the people who are buried there and respecting the visitors" who walk its grounds.



At completion, a database and digital map will be created after merging HFBA's written records with the technical information collected on the ground. HFBA will know precisely where each grave is located, if the grave is empty or occupied, and, if occupied, who rests there. Then, row and grave numbers will be accurately placed, old headstones will be restored and unmarked graves will be marked.

We are grateful to all who have donated thus far to map a section, and look forward to reporting on our progress throughout the year. With modern technology and HFBA's dedicated supporters, Ronen and his team will finally be able to reveal the secrets of this historic Jewish cemetery.

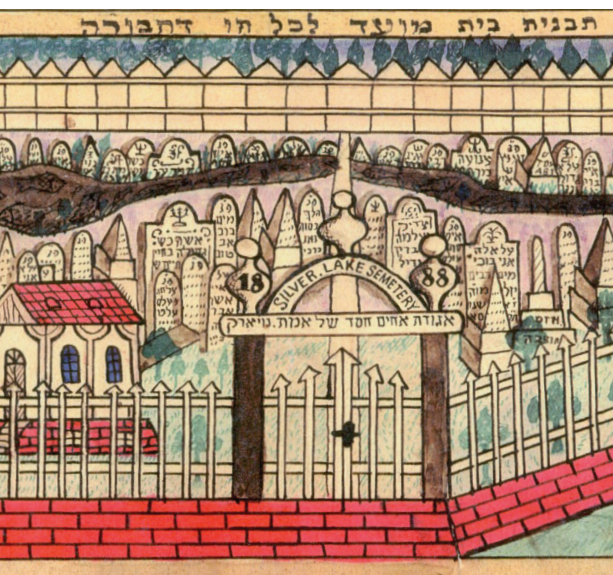
20th Annual Riverdale Community Breakfast

On Sunday, February 26, at its 20th annual Riverdale Community Breakfast, HFBA was pleased to honor the following people: **Jonathan and Victoria Scheiner** (*Chesed Shel Emet* Award), **Jay and Sharon Bar-David** (Community Service Award) and **Ben and Joy Wilson** (Young Leadership Award.) These community leaders inspire us with their dedication to *chesed* and *tzorachai tzibur* (community service.)



L to R, Jonathan and Victoria Scheiner, Joy and Ben Wilson, Jay and Sharon Bar-David.

Photo Credit: Tzvi Simcha Cohen



HFBA's Silver Lake Cemetery Nominated to National Register of Historic Places

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's office recently announced the addition of several New York State properties, including HFBA's first cemetery, to the New York State Register of Historic Places. Through this honor, Silver Lake Cemetery is now eligible to join the National Register of Historic Places.

As noted on the New York State government site, "With burials dating to 1892, it (Silver Lake Cemetery) is the first cemetery established by the Hebrew Free Burial Association, an organization dedicated to providing religious burial to members of the Jewish faith who did not belong to a burial society or synagogue."

Beatrice Noble, Ph.G. 1917-2014



We are honored to announce that Hebrew Free Burial Association recently became a beneficiary of the Noble Family Charitable Foundation, continuing the good works of its founder, Beatrice Noble.

Ms. Noble was born in Rochester, New York to Russian immigrants, Barnet and Jennie Rose Janovsky. Upon discharge from the United States army, her father was advised by his commanding officer to change his name, so it would be easier to find a job, during a time of severe anti-Semitism. Taking the surname of the helpful commander, they became Barnet and Jennie Rose Noble.

In 1938, Beatrice graduated from pharmacy school, the only woman in her class who completed the rigorous course of study, despite opposition from male professors and students. She worked in retail, hospital, and clinic settings for 52 years and recalled working 70 hour weeks. She declined payment for medications when she knew that her neighbors could not afford it.

As a single woman, Ms. Noble believed that she would find financial independence through investing, a lifelong passion. Self-taught, she became a mentor to others, giving investment advice and encouraging women, in particular.

Beatrice Noble provided for family, friends, and even needy strangers. When Beatrice created the Noble Family Charitable Foundation, she ensured the good she did in her life would continue long after her death.

Mount Richmond Cemetery Hours of Operation during Passover and Shavuot Holidays:

Passover

Monday, April 109AM – 1PM
Tuesday, April 11 CLOSED
Wednesday, April 12..... CLOSED
Monday, April 17 CLOSED
Tuesday, April 18..... CLOSED

Shavuot

Tuesday, May 30.....9AM – 1PM
Wednesday May 31..... CLOSED
Thursday, June 1..... CLOSED

YIZKOR is recited Tuesday, April 18 and on Thursday, June 1. The cemetery always closes at 1PM on Fridays.

Расписание работы кладбища Mount Richmond на время еврейских праздников

ПЕСАХ

Понедельник, 10 апреля.....9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Вторник, 11 апреля.....ЗАКРЫТО
Среда, 12 апреляЗАКРЫТО
Понедельник, 17 апреляЗАКРЫТО
Вторник 18 апреляЗАКРЫТО

ШАВУОТ

Вторник, 30 мая9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Среда, 31 мая.....ЗАКРЫТО
Четверг, 1 июняЗАКРЫТО

Поминальная молитва ИЗКОР читается в последние дни праздников: 18 апреля (вторник) и 1 июня (четверг)

КЛАДБИЩЕ ПО ПЯТНИЦАМ ВСЕГДА ЗАКРЫВАЕТСЯ В 1 PM (час дня)

HFBA Is Also Very Grateful For Generous Bequests From The Following Estates:

Elaine Beletz
Samuel I. Cohen
Marilyn Cooper
Stephen P. Glaser
Selma Hankoff

Herman and Tessie Heller
Helene Horowitz
Mildred Kalish
David M. Karp
Thelma S. Klein

Marcia Mehr
Ernest Milchman
Jane Spindel
Selma Weisz
Elliot Zagor

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 Amy Koplow, HFBA's Executive Director at (212) 239-1662.

РУССКИЙ ДАЙДЖЕСТ

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

Знакомство с Роненом Рыбовски: картирование кладбища Маунт Ричмонд

Ронен Рыбовски, родившийся и выросший в Израиле, приехал в Америку в 2014 году и стал работать в семейном бизнесе своей жены, имеющем 50-летнюю историю. Этот семейный бизнес, называющийся «Бехар-Съёмка», Ронен объединил с основанным им отделением «Бехар-Картирование», развивающим новейшие методы составления карт. У Ронена диплом инженера Техниона в Хайфе со специализацией в гео-информатике и картировании, что позволяет ему успешно применять свой опыт в наземной и аэро-съёмке, системах GPS (глобальная спутниковая система определения координат) и GIS (глобальные информационные системы) в работе семейного бизнеса.

Вышеназванные технологии и системы используются в основном в управлении и развитии недвижимости и помощи при естественных катастрофах. Именно Ронену принадлежит идея использовать эти современные методы при картировании кладбищ. Компания Ронена участвует вместе с HFBA в двухгодичном проекте по картированию всех 60-и тысяч могил на кладбище Маунт Ричмонд. Сочетание новейших технологий и письменных архивов HFBA позволит создать базу данных и оцифрованную карту с отметками для каждой могилы и указанием занята ли она, и если занята, то кто похоронен в ней. Проект нацелен на создание точных координат для каждой могилы, восстановление старых надгробий и создание новых именных табличек на всех ранее неизвестных могилах.

Огромное спасибо магазину «Кетер Иудаика» (магазин религиозной атрибутики в Краун Хайтс в Бруклине) за передачу нам в дар партии талесов. Мужчин положено хоронить в талесе и в белом льняном покрывале (тахрихим). Если Вы хотите пожертвовать использованный или новый талес, пожалуйста посылайте его по адресу кладбища Маунт Ричмонд: 420 Clarke Avenue, Staten Island, NY, 10306.

В январе 2017-го за 31 день HFBA провело 46 погребений, включая двух двадцатилетних молодых людей и четырёх недоношенных младенцев. А ещё за последние два месяца HFBA предотвратило 15 кремаций, оказав помощь нуждающимся семьям. Кремация строго запрещена в еврейской традиции.

HFBA помогает

• Ронни Т*, будучи наркоманкой, делала несколько попыток избавиться от зависимости. У неё была 11-летняя дочь, которая жила с тётей, поскольку Ронни не могла заботиться о ней. Когда Ронни скончалась во время очередного проживания в реабилитационной клинике, её мать Шила позвонила в HFBA и сообщила, что у семьи нет денег на

похороны. Шила всё ещё пыталась частично оплатить похороны двух других членов семьи, умерших за прошедший год: своих братьев Теда, умершего от рака, и Дина, найденного мёртвым в своей квартире в возрасте 43-х лет. Ещё раньше, в 1991-м году, HFBA занималось похоронами матери Шилы. Таким образом, включая Ронни, HFBA похоронило четырёх членов одной семьи.

• Родные братья Ховард и Филип Г* жили вместе до того времени, когда они поступили в разные клиники по уходу. Когда Ховард умер, его клиника связалась с дядей обоих братьев, но тот отказался и слышать об участии в похоронах, так как не хотел участвовать в расходах и к тому же предпочитал кремацию. Оказалось, что Ховард и Филип не общались с ним со времени похорон их матери в 2010-м, поскольку дядя настаивал на кремации, а братья убеждали его, что «евреи так делать не должны». Нашим сотрудникам удалось разыскать Филипа, который, несмотря на некоторое ослабление умственных способностей, смог дать разрешение на похороны Ховарда. В своё время HFBA похоронило их отца и теперь зарезервировало место для Филипа рядом с братом.

• 82-летний Ирвинг Т* был таксистом и в одиночку ухаживал за своей женой, страдавшей от деменции. Он потерял сознание, оказался в госпитале и затем был направлен в дом для престарелых, оплачиваемый страховкой Мединей. Когда Ирвинг скончался, его жена не была признана дееспособной для того, чтобы дать разрешение на похороны. Тогда HFBA смогло разыскать живущего в Калифорнии зятя Ирвинга, который и дал необходимое разрешение. Никто из друзей или родственников не присутствовал на похоронах Ирвинга.

** имена изменены для защиты конфиденциальности*

Когда мы отмечаем Пэсах

и сидим с близкими за пасхальным столом, мы размышляем о тех, кто несвободен от нужды, изоляции и одиночества. Мы молимся о том времени, когда никто не будет жить или умирать в бедности и одиночестве. До тех пор мы (HFBA) и вы, наши доноры, будем продолжать наше общее дело – обеспечивать достойные похороны по еврейскому обряду всем без исключения евреям.

Самых наилучших пожеланий в праздник Пэсах, и благодарим вас за вашу постоянную помощь.



Ronnie T. was a drug addict who had made several unsuccessful attempts to get clean. She had an 11-year-old daughter who lived with an aunt. Given her addiction, Ronnie was unable to care for her. At the time of her death, she had been in rehab yet again. When her mother Sheila called HFBA, she informed us that there was no money for Ronnie's burial. In fact, Sheila was still trying to contribute towards two family burials that HFBA had performed earlier this year- that of her brother Ted who had died of cancer, and her brother Dean who had been found dead in his apartment at the age of 43. Sheila's mother had also been buried by HFBA in 1991. With Ronnie's burial, HFBA has buried four members of a single family.

Brothers **Howard** and **Philip G.** had lived together until each entered separate care facilities. When Howard died, the hospital contacted an uncle who refused to have anything to do with the burial because of the expense and his preference for cremation. Howard and Philip had not spoken to the uncle since their mother's death in 2010 because the uncle had insisted on cremation and the brothers maintained that "Jews don't do that." HFBA staff managed to locate Philip who, despite mild developmental disabilities, was able to give authorization to HFBA. HFBA had previously buried their father and, after Howard's burial, we reserved a grave for Philip nearby.

Irving T., 82 years old, was a cabdriver and the sole caregiver for his wife who had dementia. He passed out on the floor, was taken to the hospital and eventually released to a nursing home with emergency Medicaid. When Irving died, his wife was incapable of authorizing a burial. Fortunately, HFBA was able to locate a brother-in-law in California who was willing to act as agent and authorize a burial by HFBA. No friends or family members attended Irving's burial.

Holly S., 22 years old, had been born into a dysfunctional family with a mother who was a drug addict and a father who was in prison for most of her life. She did have a loving grandmother with whom she had lived for several years. Tragically, Holly died of an overdose and at the HFBA funeral, her grandmother eulogized her as a sweet girl afflicted "by demons." A former classmate tried to read a short eulogy, but her words were inaudible because of the strong wind and her loud weeping.

Abe N. had been a successful businessman with a history of gambling. He had been married three times but by the time of his death, he had cut ties with his ex-wives and five children. HFBA was able to locate his first wife, his former high school sweetheart, who asked her daughter to authorize the burial. Although the daughter had not spoken to her father since he refused to contribute to, or participate in, her wedding years before, she did authorize the burial. Neither she nor any other family member attended Abe's funeral.

Names and details have been changed to protect confidentiality.

Parshat Chayei Sara Campaign

For the past two years **Progressive Temple Beth Ahavath Sholom** established crowdfunding campaigns for HFBA's Parshat Chayei Sara campaign. In both years, the members of PTBAS exceeded their fundraising goals. Many thanks to the synagogue and its members!

If your congregation is interested in a crowdfunding campaign for HFBA, please contact Andrew Parver, HFBA's Director of Operations.

In January 2017, HFBA handled 46 burials in 31 days, including two young adults in their 20's and four lost pregnancies. HFBA also prevented 15 cremations in the last two months by helping needy families. Cremations are strictly prohibited by Jewish law.

Thank you to **Keter Judaica** in Brooklyn for their donation of *taleisim*. Our male clients are buried in *taleisim* as well as in *tachrichim* (shrouds.) **If you have a *talis* to donate, used or new, please mail it directly to Mount Richmond Cemetery, 420 Clarke Avenue, Staten Island, NY, 10306.**

As we celebrate the holiday of Passover and sit at the seder table with our loved ones, we think of those who are not free — from want, from isolation, from loneliness. We pray for a time when no one will live or die, impoverished and alone. Until then we at HFBA, and you, our donors, will continue our commitment to providing a dignified Jewish burial for every Jew.

Best wishes for a Happy Passover and thank you for your continued support.



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 M. Greinsky
Gary Katz
Paul Lowenthal
Robert Mendeles
Paul H. Nagelberg

Yitzhak Pastreich
Daniel A. Pilarski
Shari Safra
Minna Monte Seitelman
Rabbi Dr. Henry Sheinkopf
Martha Steinmetz
Norman Weisman

RABBINIC ADVISOR

Rabbi Elchonon Zohn

CEMETERY CHAPLAIN

Rabbi Shmuel Plafker

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Amy Koplow

CHESSED IS PUBLISHED BY
THE HEBREW FREE BURIAL ASSOCIATION

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

125 Maiden Lane, Unit 5B
New York, NY 10038
Phone: (212) 239-1662 • Fax: (212) 239-1981
info@hebrewfreeburial.org
www.hebrewfreeburial.org
www.facebook.com/hebrewfreeburial

UJA Federation
of New York