

## Finding Loved Ones with Ease: HFBA Maps Mount Richmond Cemetery

This past August, Jack G. was looking for his mother's grave – still without a monument or marker. He wandered through the rows of Section 65 at Mt. Richmond Cemetery. His search was challenging – and frustrating.

As luck would have it, Jack came across Ronen Rybowski as he crisscrossed the burial rows. Although Ronen was a total stranger, Jack asked for his help. Ronen, the project manager of HFBA's mapping initiative, took out his phone and pulled up the map for Section 65 (This is the first pilot section to be completed as part of the Mt. Richmond mapping project).

Ronen walked Jack to the right spot within minutes. Even though the grave is unmarked, the new database provided quick and precise information, so that Jack could visit his mother's final resting place.

There are roughly 60 sections in Mt. Richmond Cemetery.

With your help, we can fully map all of the graves at Mt. Richmond in the next 18 months. This will enable thousands of visitors to easily find the graves of their loved ones. The total project cost is \$250,000. **Contributions of \$25,000 will cover an entire decade of burials. A gift of \$5,000 will map an entire section.**

It's rare we get to see the direct impact of the work we do. In Ronen's case, he felt this impact and was deeply moved by a chance meeting on a summer day. In the spirit of the High Holidays, we ask you to remember those whom we've buried, who received a dignified, Jewish burial even when they had no funds or no family to pay. Their loved ones deserve to be able to find their graves with ease.

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



*As summer ends and fall begins, we approach the High Holy Days of **Rosh Hashana** and **Yom Kippur**. During these especially chaotic and troubled times, our thoughts are filled with prayers and best wishes for you, our HFBA supporters, and for the entire world community, for a healthy, happy, safe year in a peaceful world.*

### 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.



## A Musical Night for HFBA Young Leadership

by Ari Schwartz-Weitz

On July 20th, HFBA Young Leadership hosted “Cabaret Night: A Night to Benefit HFBA,” at The West End Lounge in Manhattan. Comedian Eli Lebowicz, who performed an opening set and emceed the event, set the stage for 13 singers who performed 90’s hits and Broadway show tunes to the delight of the crowd that packed the room. The performers sang, while a delicious kosher meat buffet was offered in the back of the room. While The West End Lounge hosts “Cabaret Nights” often, it was an interesting change for HFBA - and one that worked out well for generating new supporters.

Looking past the success of the evening, this event signified something deeper for HFBA. The event welcomed the next generation of those who will take on the responsibility of caring for the needs of their fellow Jews. For most participants that night, it was an eye-opening revelation, that when the time comes to bury a loved one, there are expenses to be paid, services to be completed, customs that need to be followed – and, for many people, HFBA is an essential part of that process.

“So far this month, the Hebrew Free Burial Association has planned the funeral arrangements of 20 people. Today is the 20th day of the month, which means that for every day this month, we helped a family with the funeral of a loved one.” Gila Romanoff, the new Young Leadership Coordinator at HFBA, knew exactly what would draw the attention of the crowd at the first HFBA Young Leadership event that she was running. “Can you imagine losing a loved one, and not have the means to bury that loved one?” It was a needed somber moment taken during an otherwise exciting night. This event marked the beginning of a new wave of outreach that will carry HFBA into the future.



*Letters below have been edited for clarity and to protect confidentiality.*

*On Monday, I visited Mount Richmond Cemetery for the first time. I had found, online, a record of a sibling born prematurely (1938). I had no previous knowledge of this event. Rabbi Plafker very kindly took me to the approximate site of the burial and he also showed me the graves of the victims of the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire tragedy. Mount Richmond is quite a historical cemetery.*

*Thank you for all you do. Contribution enclosed.*

**Norma F.**

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*Enclosed is a contribution to support your work on behalf of the Jewish community. Last Monday, I visited the grave of Sarah P. at Mount Richmond Cemetery. I have been paying for annual upkeep on this grave as my father had done. He passed away in 2010 and I had no idea who Sarah P. was other than she was family. Rabbi Plafker and Andrew Parver were incredibly helpful in not only helping me and my cousin locate the grave, but also locating information in your records about Sarah P. who I now realize is my great-grandmother!*

*I want to take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for your kindness and for all the good work you do.*

**Barbara H.**

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*My name is Carol G., the sister of the man who lost his newborn son last week, and whom you were kind enough to help immediately, and with much generosity.*

*I want to thank you and apologize very much for the confusion when you sent out a liaison to pick up the baby's body. My brother and sister-in-law were in a lot of pain and could not think straight. You helped me and my family in a big way and I very sincerely thank you.*

*At some point soon I would like to bring my bat mitzvah student to come and volunteer with you and I will let you know about that.*

*From now on I will tell everyone I know about HFBA and let any donors or people looking to do a mitzvah know about you and your organization.*

**Carol G.**

# JEWISH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE: FALL 2016

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. Please note that the cemetery closes at 1:00 PM every Friday all year.

<b>ROSH HASHANA</b>	<b>OPEN/CLOSE</b>
Sunday, October 2	9AM-3:45 PM
Monday, October 3	CLOSED
Tuesday, October 4	CLOSED
<b>YOM KIPPUR</b>	
Tuesday, October 11	9AM-1:00 PM
Wednesday, October 12	CLOSED
<b>SUKKOT</b>	
Sunday, October 16	9AM-3:45 PM
Monday, October 17	CLOSED
Tuesday, October 18	CLOSED
<b>SHMINI ATZERET and SIMCHAT TORAH</b>	
Sunday, October 23	9AM-3:45 PM
Monday, October 24	CLOSED
Tuesday, October 25	CLOSED
YIZKOR is recited on Yom Kippur, October 12 and Shmini Atzeret, October 24.	
<b>Silver Lake Cemetery will be open:</b>	
Sunday, September 25 and October 9	9AM-3:45 PM
Sunday, October 2	9AM-1:00 PM

Для соблюдения обычая посещать могилы близких во время праздников, ниже приведены **часы работы кладбища Маунт Ричмонд в еврейские праздники осенью 2016 года**. Пожалуйста помните, что кладбище закрывается строго в 13:00 (час дня) перед началом каждого праздника

## РОШ ХАШАНА:

Воскресенье 2 октября	9:00-15:45
Понедельник 3 октября	закрыто
Вторник 4 октября	закрыто

## ЙОМ КИПУР:

Вторник 11 октября	9:00-13:00
Среда 12 октября	закрыто

## СУККОТ:

Воскресенье 16 октября	9:00-15:45
Понедельник 17 октября	закрыто
Вторник 18 октября	закрыто

## ШМИНИ АЦЕРЕТ и СИМХАТ ТОРА:

Воскресенье 23 октября	9:00-15:45
Понедельник 24 октября	закрыто
Вторник 25 октября	закрыто

По пятницам кладбище всегда закрывается в 13:00

From the HFBA archives:

## The New York Times

July 29, 1901

### A Soldier's Burial: Body Had Been Disinterred in the Philippines and Sent Home

The body of Charles Siegel, who was killed at Manila on March 27, 1900, was recently sent home by the government and was buried at 3 o'clock at Silver Lake Cemetery, Staten Island.

Siegel had been dead and buried for weeks before his relatives and friends in the city knew anything about it. They were very anxious that the body should be sent to the city for burial but they could not defray the expense. Samuel Lavinsky of a Hebrew charitable organization [HFBA] interested himself in the matter with the result that the government had the body disinterred and sent home.

## HFBA Founder's Descendants Visit Silver Lake Cemetery

HFBA was founded in 1888 by Barnett Freedman, president, and other dedicated members of the Jewish community whose names are inscribed on a granite block at the entrance to Silver Lake Cemetery.



Recently, Ruth Freedman, Barnett's great-granddaughter and Scott Schleifer, his great-great-grandson, visited to see the historical cemetery their ancestor had established and to take pride in the organization that HFBA had become over the last 130 years.

# РУССКИЙ ДАЙДЖЕСТ

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

## Как легче найти могилы близких: HFBA картирует кладбище Маунт Ричмонд

В августе этого года Джек Г\* искал могилу матери, поскольку могила не была отмечена. Он бродил среди рядов 65-й секции кладбища Маунт Ричмонд и встретил Ронена Рубовски, ответственного за картирование кладбища. Ронен достал мобильный телефон и вывел на экран карту 65-й секции. Затем связался с нашей новой базой данных, и таким образом смог указать Джеку место последнего упокоения его матери.

В эти особые дни священных еврейских праздников я прошу вас вспомнить о всех тех, кого похоронило наше Еврейское Благотворительное Похоронное Бюро. Взнос в \$25 тыс. обеспечит картирование погребений за целых десять лет. А пожертвование в \$5 тыс. поможет составить карту целой секции.

*Если Вы хотели бы пожертвовать \$5 тыс. или больше на картирование целой секции кладбища, пожалуйста позвоните г-же Эми Коплоу, исполнительному директору HFBA, по телефону (212) 239-1662.*

## Из архивов HFBA: Номер Нью-Йорк Таймс за 29-е июля 1901 года

*Похороны солдата: тело было эксгумировано на Филиппинах и послано домой*

Тело Чарльза Сигела, который был убит в Маниле 27 марта 1900 года, было недавно отправлено домой за счёт государства и сегодня в три часа дня похоронено на кладбище Сильвер Лейк, Стэйтен Айленд.

Только через несколько недель после того, как Сигел погиб и был погребен на Филиппинах, его нью-йоркские друзья и родственники узнали о его судьбе. Они настаивали, чтобы тело было послано в Нью-Йорк, но не могли оплатить расходы на это. Сэмюэль Лавинский из еврейской благотворительной организации HFBA заинтересовался этим случаем, и в результате правительство оплатило извлечение и перевоз тела домой.

## Потомки основателя Еврейского Благотворительного Похоронного Бюро посетили кладбище Сильвер Лейк

HFBA было основано в 1888 году Барнеттом Фридманом – он был первым президентом Бюро, и другими неравнодушными членами еврейской общины, чьи имена нынче высечены на гранитном блоке при входе на кладбище Сильвер Лейк. Недавно г-жа Рут Фридман, правнучка Барнетта, и Скотт Шлейфер, его праправнук, посетили историческое кладбище, основанное их предком, и восхитились тем, в какую организацию превратилось HFBA за эти 130 лет.

## Наша почта

*Выдержки из писем отредактированы для большей ясности и сохранения анонимности*

Меня зовут Кэрол Г. У моего брата на прошлой неделе умер новорожденный сын, и HFBA смогло помочь быстро и с огромной щедростью. Хочу поблагодарить вас и извиниться за недоразумение, поначалу возникшее когда ваш представитель приехал забрать тело младенца. Мой брат и его жена были в горе и не могли понять, что происходит. Ваши помощь и забота бесценны, и я хочу ещё и ещё раз поблагодарить вас.

Вскоре я смогу привести мою ученицу, готовящуюся к бат-мицве, чтобы она могла поработать у вас волонтером. Я сообщу вам заранее.

И ещё, я буду всем знакомым рассказывать о вашей организации, чтобы они могли совершить мицву, пожертвовав на нужды усопших.

*Кэрол Г.*

Чек с пожертвованием на вашу работу на благо еврейской общины прилагается. В прошлый понедельник я посетила могилу некоей Сары П., похороненной на кладбище Маунт Ричмонд. Всё это время я плачу за ежегодный уход за этой могилкой, как это при жизни делал мой отец. Он скончался в 2010 году, и сначала я понятия не имела о том, кто эта Сара П., знала только что она была членом семьи. Ваш раввин г-н Плафкер и сотрудник Эндрю Парвер помогли не только найти могилу Сары, но и отыскать сведения о ней в ваших записях. Оказалось, что Сара П. – моя прабабушка!

*Барбара Х.*

## HFBA помогает

Сергей Г. скончался во сне в возрасте 65 лет. Сергей и его жена Светлана оба работали, он – на оружейной фабрике, она – медработником на дому. Но получали они мало и поэтому не могли оплатить похороны. Горе посетило семью и раньше: их 24-летняя дочь умерла ещё до отъезда семьи из Украины, а сорокалетний сын Яков находился в больнице, подключённый к системе жизнеобеспечения после автомобильной аварии, случившейся год назад.

HFBA организовало похороны Сергея рядом с его шурином, умершим в 1995-м, и зарезервировало места для Светланы, её сына и сестры.

*Заканчивается лето, и приближаются особо торжественные еврейские праздники – Рош Хаашана и Йом Кипур. В эти беспокойные времена наши мысли обращаются к молитве и добрым пожеланиям для всех тех, кто поддерживает работу HFBA, и для всего мирового сообщества. Желаем вам здоровья, счастья, безопасности и мира.*

# HFBA Helps



**Sergei G.** died in his sleep at the age of 65 years. Although he and his wife Svetlana had both worked full time, Sergei in a gun factory and Svetlana as a home health aide, their salaries were so low that they were unable to afford a burial. Tragedy had struck their family in the past- a 24 year-old daughter had died before their emigration from Ukraine, and their 40 year-old son was in a rehabilitation facility with breathing and feeding tubes after a car accident the year before. HFBA buried Sergei next to his brother-in-law who had been buried by HFBA in 1995 and reserved adjoining graves for Svetlana, her son and her sister.

**Franz L.** was a Holocaust survivor who brought his wife and son from Germany to New York in 2000. Although he had been trained as an engineer and had built machinery in Germany, he was unable to find steady work. Franz suffered a stroke in 2012, as a result of which the family lost their apartment and lived homeless in a city park, with a short stay in a small basement room, until they received shelter from the agency Transitional Home. Because they did not have social security numbers, this

family fell through the cracks of the system although emergency Medicaid helped them with medical treatment. When Franz died in a municipal hospital, his son Paul, who had been taking care of his parents and was therefore unable to work, called HFBA. The family's case manager drove Paul and the wheelchair-bound Mrs. L. to the cemetery for the funeral. Rabbi Plafker was asked not to do the ritual of *kriya*. Because they had so few clothes, they could not afford to lose a shirt for this ritual during which the mourner's shirt is ripped.

**Betty L.**, age 71, suffered from Alzheimer's disease and very little was known about her in the nursing home in which she resided, including her occupation, any family background or religion. HFBA staff began to investigate and found some records from another facility from which we learned that Betty had a cousin, now deceased, who had cared for her previously. Fortunately, this cousin had a son, whose phone number was in the file and who confirmed that Betty was Jewish, of Austrian and German descent, had grown up comfortably in Manhattan and had been a talented, well-known illustrator of children's books. She had never married and the location of her parents' graves could not be determined. HFBA buried Betty with no one in attendance other than our rabbi and volunteer *minyán*.

*Names changed to protect confidentiality.*

## Save the Dates!

**Sunday, November 13, 2016 • 10 a.m.-12 p.m.**

**Parshat Chayei Sara Community Chesed Day  
Silver Lake Cemetery, 926 Victory Boulevard, Staten Island, NY**

Join a group of dedicated volunteers to clean and clear debris from the grounds of this sacred 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](http://www.facebook.com/hebrewfreeburial))*

For more information or to visit on another day, e-mail Andrew Parver at [aparver@hebrewfreeburial.org](mailto:aparver@hebrewfreeburial.org)



**Sunday, November 20, 2016 • 9:30 a.m.**

**Parshat Chayei Sara Staten Island Community Breakfast  
Young Israel of Staten Island, 835 Forest Hill Road, Staten Island, NY**

**Guest speaker: Rabbi Mordechai Becher**

## Eric Goldstein, CEO, UJA-Federation of New York Visits Mount Richmond Cemetery

Below are excerpts from Mr. Goldstein's CEO message after his visit:



It's not often you go to the funeral of a complete stranger. Recently I did.

Standing with about 15 others, I attended a funeral in Staten Island arranged by the Hebrew Free Burial Association, a UJA-supported agency that ensures the neediest of Jews are cared for with dignity — even in death.

At the conclusion of the funeral, a cousin of the deceased assisted by the rabbi, a HFBA employee, recited the *kaddish*, in the presence of a *minyan*. But the *minyan*, unlike the typical funeral, was not comprised primarily of family members and friends. Instead, HFBA depends on volunteers — people with good jobs and busy lives, who regularly carve out time to attend strangers' funerals so they may be buried in accordance with Jewish tradition.

As those benefitted can never express their thanks, I take this opportunity on behalf of our community to thank HFBA for their heroic and holy work.

# 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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