

YIZKOR

May the Lord Remember...

Yizkor is the prayer we say for the souls of our departed. It is a prayer based on remembrance and on memory. We remember our parents, siblings and other beloved who have left this world. We ask the Almighty to remember them, as well, as we will be giving *tzedakah* in their memory.

The charity we promise to give is at the crux of the *Yizkor* service. Judaism believes in the immortality of the soul. Although the departed can no longer perform good deeds, their souls can be elevated through our prayers and our charity.

Yizkor is recited four times each year – on *Yom Kippur*, *Shmini Atzeret*, the last day of Passover and the second day of *Shavuot*. Its origins can be found in the *Midrash Tanhuma* that quotes a verse in Deuteronomy (21:8): “Atone for Your people, Israel, whom You have redeemed.”

The *Midrash* tells us that the first half of the verse refers to the living; the latter half, to the dead. How are the dead redeemed? The *Midrash* explains: “... when we distribute charity for their sake, we take them out and bring them up like an arrow from the bow.”

Most of our liturgy is communal. We use the plural. In daily prayers, we speak collectively of our devotion and we ask — as a community — for the fulfillment of our needs. *Yizkor*, however, is deeply personal. We stand

alone and reflect on the lives that were taken from us, sometimes in ripe age and sometimes much too soon.

While *Yizkor* is only one section of the memorial service, it gives its name to the whole. The memorial has four parts. We begin with verses, recited aloud, that remind us how life is fleeting. “Man is like a breath; his days are like a passing shadow.” Many prayer books include Psalm 91, a meditation on G-d’s care for humankind. “You will be protected beneath His wings.”

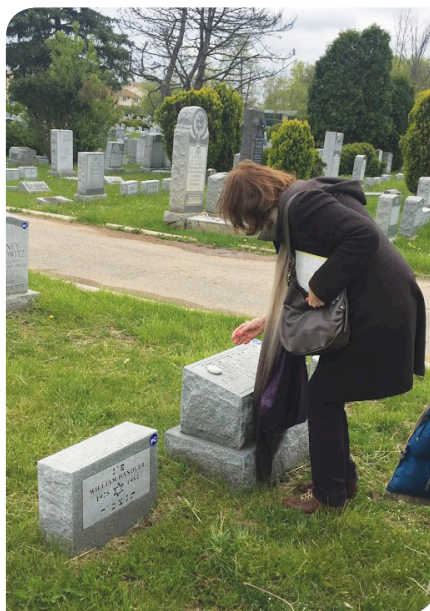
We then pray *Yizkor* silently. We recite separate paragraphs for each of our own loved ones. We include their names and offer to give charity on their behalf.

Yizkor is followed by *E-l Male Rachamim*, Lord Full of Mercy. This is the prayer that is recited at funerals

in a haunting, unforgettable melody. In our silent meditations, we again include separate paragraphs for each deceased family member. The cantor may sing the *E-l Male* aloud in memory of the Holocaust’s six million, soldiers who have fallen in Israel’s defense and members of the congregation. The words of *E-l Male Rachamim* follow closely those of *Yizkor*.

The memorial ends with *Av Harachamim*, a eulogy written originally for communities destroyed during the Crusades in the 11th century. Tragically, Jewish history

continued on page 3



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 *Helps*



Paul N., a Holocaust survivor from Czechoslovakia, died at 92 years. His father was killed in a concentration camp and he, his mother and brother had survived the war by hiding in the forests and mountains of their native country.

The social worker at the residence in which he had lived, and died, told us that Paul had been well-educated and was a U.S. veteran from the Korean War. He had never married and had been predeceased by his brother. His friends had been trying to have Paul buried expeditiously in a Jewish cemetery but the funeral was delayed by the slow-moving investigation conducted by the Public Administrator. Finally, seven weeks after his death, Paul was buried in Mount Richmond Cemetery. With a military honor guard in attendance, he was eulogized by three friends.

It is not unusual for HFBA to bury members of different generations of a single family.

In August, 2017, **Tamar E.** called HFBA to bury her mother, Raisa, who had died as a result of injuries sustained in a car accident. Years ago, Raisa and Tamar had emigrated from Siberia to Israel where Tamar had served in the IDF. They subsequently moved to New York, and Tamar worked as an artist. This past July, HFBA received a call from a cousin who informed us that Tamar, 51 years old, had died of cardiac arrest, precipitated by a drug overdose.

Cousins, neighbors and friends came to Mount Richmond Cemetery to honor her memory as Tamar was buried near her mother.

Harold S. was the son of a well-known set and film designer, instructor and theater historian. When Harold died at 82, his friend reached out to HFBA after she was unable to locate any relatives. HFBA turned to the Public Administrator to release the body and authorize the burial. During the investigation, the PA discovered that Harold's apartment had been cleared out and that valuables, which had been left to him by his father, had disappeared. Three weeks after his death, Harold was finally buried by HFBA.

Names and details were changed to protect confidentiality.

A Photo from the Past

HFBA frequently helps people researching their "roots." Sometimes, we are able to add to our own history with the help of the descendants of those buried in our cemeteries.

Recently, we received an e-mail, with a photo attachment, from Suzanne Axelbank. The photo had been taken at her paternal great-grandfather's grave in Mount Richmond Cemetery and shows five of his thirteen children. Samuel Lipkin had been buried by HFBA on June 14, 1915. Suzanne told us that he was born in Russia, came to the United States in 1905 and died at the age of 50. She also told us of two other relatives buried at Mount Richmond- Ida and Dora Shulman, a mother and infant daughter, who had died within a year of each other.

We appreciate that Suzanne shared this remarkable photo with us.



Standing left to right: Naomi Lipkin Schulman (Suzanne's grandmother), Becky Lipkin Kaplan, Lillian Lipkin Castles, Minnie Lipkin Chernoff, Seated: Annie Lipkin Chiat

If you have a story or photo connected to HFBA, email us at stories@hebrewfreeburial.org.

HFBA Welcomes New Board Member Debbie Newborn

Debbie Newborn, a graduate of Columbia University School of Law and Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Science, is a retired environmental attorney. She has been very active in many community organizations and is an experienced lecturer and writer.



Debbie lives in New Rochelle, NY with her husband. They have two adult children and two grandchildren.

"Judaism extols the value of *kavod ha'briot*, the dignity of man. A primary example of this value is the *mitzvah* of providing a proper Jewish burial for Jews who have no one to bury them. I am honored and grateful to HFBA for giving me the opportunity to participate in this great *mitzvah*," says Debbie.

HFBA is grateful and honored, too, that Debbie, with her unique talents and experience, has joined our Board. We look forward to working with her.



In the Mail

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

I wonder if the people in the New York area realize how lucky they are to have a cemetery that will accept Jewish people who do not have funds for burial. This is truly a blessing for those in need and their families. Keep up all the good work and G-d bless you and all involved.

G.L.

I am always touched by the stories you recount in HFBA Helps which touch my heart and confirm my commitment to your organization. You are unique in what you do for the Jewish community. Please accept my annual contribution enclosed and keep up the good work.

S.G.

My family lived on the Lower East Side when they came from Austria-Hungary at the end of the 19th century. I have no idea where my great-grandparents were buried and I suspect that they ended up in the city's mass graves. Your organization did bury my grandfather. I am grateful that this man, who I never knew, at least has a gravesite and grave marker.

E.L.

Because *Yizkor* can be too difficult to face, some do not recite *Yizkor* in the first year after the death.

Yizkor is a moment of profound connection. It binds the living and the dead. We pray silently and alone, yet alongside other mourners. We remember – and we ask G-d to remember. As *Yizkor* connects us with our past, the charity we pledge to give is our promise to the future. It is a small prayer that carries the entire weight of Jewish history and the belief in our ultimate redemption.

—**Margy-Ruth Davis**

YIZKOR ...continued from page 1

has expanded the roll of martyrs, now all included in this prayer. Recited on most *Shabbat* mornings, it asks, "May He recall with compassion, the devout, the upright and the perfect ones; the holy ones who gave their lives for the sanctification of [G-d's] name."

Many people make a special effort to attend synagogue services when *Yizkor* is said. Yet the prayer does not require a quorum and may be said at home. There is a custom to leave the service if one's parents are still alive.



May the Lord remember
the soul of my mother, my teacher, *(insert her name and her father's name here)*
who has gone on to her world.
Without making a vow, I shall give to charity on her behalf.

In this merit, may her soul be bound in the bond of life,
together with the souls of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah;
and together with the other righteous men and women in the Garden of Eden.

Now let us respond: *Amen.*

РУССКИЙ ДАЙДЖЕСТ

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

Изкор... Да вспомнит Вс-вышний...

Изкор («поминование» на иврите) – это молитва, которую читают по душам покинувших этот мир родителей, братьев и сестёр и других близких родственников или друзей.

Молитву изкор читают четыре раза в год: на Йом Кипур, в праздник Шмини-Ацерет, в последний день Песаха и на второй день праздника Шавуот. По каждому усопшему читают отдельную часть молитвы и объявляют о намерении участвовать в благотворительности от его или её имени. Это отражает наше убеждение в том, что души ушедших могут достичь в загробном мире больших высот благодаря нашей молитве и нашей благотворительности.

Чтение молитвы изкор – это миг очень глубокой связи между живущими и усопшими. Мы читаем эту молитву про себя и как бы в одиночестве, но тем не менее вместе с остальными скорбящими. Мы поминаем наших близких и молим Вс-вышнего помянуть их. С одной стороны изкор – это наша связь с прошлым, а с другой, наше намерение пожертвовать на благотворительность – это наше обещание будущему. Таким образом эта короткая молитва несёт в себе весь груз нашей еврейской истории и даёт нам уверенность в конечном искуплении.

HFBA помогает

Иногда Еврейскому Благотворительному Похоронному Бюро (HFBA) приходится хоронить членов одной семьи, представляющих разные поколения. Так, в августе 2017 года в HFBA позвонила женщина по имени Тамар*, чтобы помочь с погребением своей матери, которую звали Раиса, Та скончалась от ран, полученных в автомобильной аварии. Много лет назад Раиса с дочерью эмигрировали из Сибири в Израиль, где Тамар служила в Армии Оборона Израиля. Затем обе переехали в Нью-Йорк, где Тамар устроилась работать художником.

В июле этого года к нам в Бюро позвонила двоюродная сестра Тамар, сообщившая что Тамар скончалась в возрасте 51 года от сердечной недостаточности, по-видимому вызванной передозировкой наркотиков. Родственники, соседи и друзья приехали на наше кладбище Маунт Ричмонд, чтобы почтить память Тамар, которая была похоронена рядом с матерью.

Харольд С.* был сыном известного кинодекоратора и историка театра. Когда Харольд скончался в возрасте 82-х лет, его знакомая позвонила в HFBA, поскольку она не могла найти никого из родственников. HFBA в свою очередь обратилось в офис общественного администратора (OOA), чтобы там выдали тело и разрешение на погребение.

Проведённое OOA расследование показало, что квартира Харольда была обчищена и что все ценности и коллекции, доставшиеся Харольду от отца, исчезли. Через три недели после кончины Харольда HFBA организовало его похороны.

** имена изменены*

Поиски своих корней

С появлением доступных тестов ДНК и таких сайтов как Ancestry.com и 23andme, многие могут установить связь с родственниками, о которых они зачастую и не подозревали. Со своей стороны, HFBA часто помогает людям разыскать свои «корни», изучая могильные камни на нашем кладбище.

Например, недавно мы получили письмо с вложенной фотографией от некоей Джин П. На фотографии был могильный камень её прадедушки и стоящие вокруг камня четыре дочери, включая бабушку самой Джин. В настоящее время никого из них уже нет в живых. Джин посетила кладбище Маунт Ричмонд и с помощью наших сотрудников смогла отыскать могилы своих родственников со стороны отца: прадедушки (похоронен в июне 1914 г.), первой жены своего дедушки (погребена в ноябре 1910 г.) и маленькой дочери, которую они потеряли (похоронена в марте 1912 г.). С помощью HFBA Джин смогла постоять у той самой могилы, которая запечатлена на фотографии.

Нам пишут

«Я иногда задумываюсь, осознают ли нью-йоркцы, как им повезло что у них есть еврейской кладбище, которое принимает даже тех, у кого нет средств на оплату похорон. Это воистину благословение для всех нуждающихся евреев и их семей. Продолжайте делать своё доброе дело, и пусть Б-г благословит вас и всех, кто вам помогает. Г.Л.»

«Ибо молитва, раскаяние и жертвования отменяют самый суровый приговор»

Эти слова из праздничной литургии напоминают о нашей ответственности перед самими собой за то, чтобы стать лучше, перед Вс-вышним, от которого зависит наша жизнь, и перед нашей общиной. В эти дни торжественных осенних праздников, когда мы заняты внутренним поиском и молитвой, давайте помнить о тех, кому живётся хуже чем нам, и давайте направим наши усилия на то чтобы улучшить их жизнь и нашу. Мы желаем всем, кто поддерживает HFBA, Нового года, полного крепкого здоровья, удачи и мира !

HFBA Thanks Gary Katz

After serving on the HFBA's Board of Directors and on various board committees for the past 14 years, Gary Katz decided to resign his position. Dedicated to *chesed shel emet* as well as the care and sustainability of Jewish cemeteries, Gary has been most generous to HFBA with his time and philanthropy and was also instrumental in forming the Community Alliance for Jewish-Affiliated Cemeteries (CAJAC).



Gary, an investor, lives in White Plains, NY with his wife, Diane, and four children. He says, "My deep engagement in Jewish burial issues grew from the formative experience of losing my father, Daniel Katz z'l, when I was 18. The stabilizing impact of our Jewish traditions surrounding the burial and mourning of my father had a profound impact on me, my younger sisters and our late mother Rosalie Katz z'l. Ever since, I have sought to 'pay forward' to others the great comfort that strangers gave my family by attending to the needs of the *tahara* and burial as well as the needs of the mourners."

We are very grateful to Gary for his years of devoted service to HFBA and look forward to his continued support.

Fall Holiday Cemetery Schedule

It is traditional to visit "kever avot" (the graves of our ancestors and loved ones) during the High Holy Day period. Please see the schedule below.

Mount Richmond Cemetery

ROSH HASHANA

Sunday, September 29	9 am - 3:45 pm
Monday, September 30	CLOSED
Tuesday, October 1	CLOSED

YOM KIPPUR

Tuesday, October 8	9 am - 1 pm
Wednesday, October 9	CLOSED

SUKKOT

Sunday, October 13	9 am - 3:45 pm
Monday, October 14	CLOSED
Tuesday, October 15	CLOSED

SHMINI ATZERET and SIMCHAT TORAH

Sunday, October 20	9 am - 3:45 pm
Monday, October 21	CLOSED
Tuesday, October 22	CLOSED

Yizkor is recited on *Yom Kippur*, October 9 and *Shmini Atzeret*, October 21.

Согласно еврейской традиции принято посещать могилы близких (кевер авот) во время торжественных осенних праздников. Пожалуйста, ознакомьтесь с приведенным ниже расписанием.

Кладбище Маунт Ричмонд – расписание в осенние еврейские праздники:

РОШ ХАШАНА:

Воскр. 29 сентября	(вечер перед праздником)	9:00-15:45
Пон. 30 сентября	(Рош Хашана)	ЗАКРЫТО
Втор. 1 октября	(Рош Хашана)	ЗАКРЫТО

ЙОМ КИПУР:

Втор. 8 октября	(вечер перед праздником)	9:00-13:00 ровно
Среда 9 октября	(Йом Кипур)	ЗАКРЫТО

СУККОТ:

Воскр. 13 октября	(вечер перед праздником)	9:00-15:45
Пон. 14 октября	(Суккот)	ЗАКРЫТО
Втор. 15 октября	(Суккот)	ЗАКРЫТО

ШМИНИ АЦЕРЕТ и СИМХАТ ТОРА:

Воскр. 20 октября	(Хошана Рабба)	9:00-15:45
Пон. 21 октября	(Шмини Ацерет)	ЗАКРЫТО
Втор. 22 октября	(Симхат Тора)	ЗАКРЫТО

Поминальную молитву Изкор будут читать на Йом Кипур 9-го октября и в праздник Шмини Ацерет 21-го октября

Silver Lake Cemetery

Silver Lake Cemetery will be open for visitors on Sunday, October 6, 2019 from 9 am - 3:45 pm. This is the only day this year that the Silver Lake Cemetery will be open to the public due to the extensive preservation work taking place at the site.



“Repentance, prayer and charity repeal the evil decree...”

These words from the liturgy of the High Holy Days remind us of our responsibility to ourselves to become better people, to G-d upon whom our lives depend, and to our communities. As we search our souls and speak to G-d in prayer, let us always remember those less fortunate than ourselves and commit to making their world, and ours, a better place.

Wishing all our supporters a Happy, Healthy New Year!

**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

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CHESED IS PUBLISHED BY THE HEBREW FREE BURIAL ASSOCIATION

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

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Chesed Shel Emet How You Can Help



- **REMEMBER** to include HFBA in your will with a bequest, thereby ensuring HFBA's promise of a Jewish burial to future generations of indigent Jews.
- **MAKE** a qualified charitable distribution to HFBA from your IRA once you're eligible at age 70 ½, and you'll receive major tax benefits. Speak to your tax advisor for more information.
- **COMMEMORATE** a loss or an honor with HFBA cards. Cards cost \$18 and can include a personalized message.
- **CONTRIBUTE** to HFBA to ensure an annual *yahrzeit* reminder for your departed loved ones.
- **INSTITUTE** a perpetual *yahrzeit kaddish* for your loved one for a one time donation of \$180.
- **ARRANGE** for *kaddish* to be said for the eleven month mourning period following the 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.
- **VOLUNTEER** with your friends, classmates, fellow group members, or family at Silver Lake Cemetery Chesed Days.
- **PARTICIPATE** as a professional 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.