

It's Never Too Late to Honor a Hero

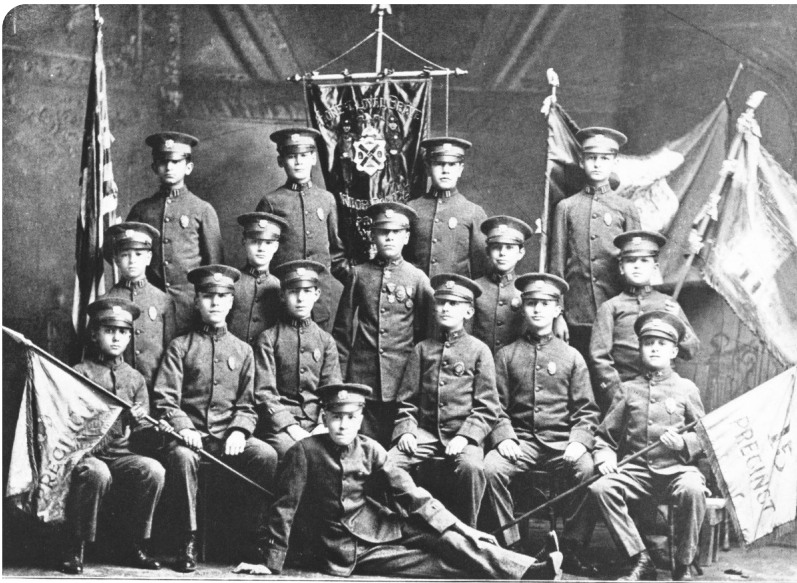
Ten-year-old Tobias Gellis was inducted into NYPD's Junior Police Force (JPF) in 1916. On July 10, 2016, he was ordered by the precinct captain to warn neighborhood children about recent cases of infantile paralysis. Most parents couldn't speak much English; the children were to convey the threat to their families. Standing on the roof of his

crimes. It was clear to the public and to the NYPD that they improved the day-to-day quality of life in the city.

On July 10th, a century after his death, Tobias received the funeral he should have had, the one accorded all members of the police force who die in the line of duty. The NYPD, preparing to celebrate its 175th anniversary, decided to commemorate Tobias' death by according him full NYPD honors.

A procession, including members of the Shomrim Society (the organization of Jewish police officers), Explorers (today's version of the JPF) and a Jewish chaplain, solemnly marched to Tobias' gravesite. Under rainy skies, bagpipes sounded a sorrowful melody and a trumpeter played the mournful tune of "Taps." A cloth was removed to reveal Tobias' gravestone.

In the moving ceremony, young Tobias Gellis was formally recognized by the NYPD as a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice. The presiding officer, Inspector Terence Hurson, ended his remarks by saying, "All members of the NYPD salute you Captain Gellis. Please rest in peace."



OFFICERS OF THE JUNIOR POLICE, 15TH PRECINCT

tenement at 209 Fourth Street, Tobias began to yell as his audience became noisy and unruly. In reaction he stepped back from the crowd, fell off the roof — and plunged to his death. One hundred and four years later, this tragic event was commemorated at HFBA's Mount Richmond Cemetery.

Few people are aware of this footnote in NYPD history. The JPF functioned from August 1914 to July 1918, engaging 6,000 mostly Jewish boys in "police work" to keep them out of trouble. Their duties included "preventing swearing in public streets and games of craps as well as stopping the building of bonfires and smoking" among the neighborhood youth. They also acted as lookouts, alerting police officers to possible



NYPD at Mount Richmond Cemetery, July 10, 2020

HFBA Helps

Names and details have been changed to protect confidentiality.



Eleanor T., who died at 73, was being held at a county morgue. Officials located her cousin Sue who called HFBA. Sue told us that Eleanor had once been married and worked as a journalist for a local Jewish newspaper. At the time of her death, she was living in an assisted living facility, prior to which she had been homeless. She was buried at Mount Richmond Cemetery with the volunteer *minyan* in attendance.

Dora W. was born in Germany in 1938 and was a “hidden child” during World War II. Her father was murdered in the Holocaust but Dora was reunited with her mother and brother after the war. Together they came to the USA when she was 17. When Dora died of Covid-19 in April, there was no one to claim her remains. She died without friends or family. After two months at the Medical Examiner’s morgue, HFBA was contacted to pick up the body. Finally, Dora was buried with dignity, surrounded by fellow Jews – Rabbi Plafker and the HFBA *minyan*.

Isaac D., 59, was one of the thousands of the unclaimed in the NYC Medical Examiner’s morgue trailers in Brooklyn. At the time of his death from Covid-19 in April, there were 40 refrigerated trucks holding frozen bodies in that morgue. Although the Public Administrator was notified of Isaac’s death and his religion in May, his remains were not released to HFBA until mid-July. We learned that Isaac was born and

raised in New York City, had never married and had no siblings. He had worked at various low level jobs over the years and had about \$300 in his bank account at the time of his death. Isaac was laid to rest in Mount Richmond Cemetery.

Prior to his death at 69 from cardiac arrest, **Arthur N.** was living in an assisted living facility. It was known to the staff that he was separated from his wife and had a daughter with a serious medical condition. Sadly, however, no one had ever visited him, nor was there any contact information for his next of kin. His body was released to HFBA and he was buried with the volunteer *minyan* standing at his graveside, responding to the *kaddish*.

Three years ago, with the help of her friend Diane S., **Edith J.** had set up a pre-need arrangement with HFBA which had buried her parents in 1953 and 1973. Edith had worked as a bookkeeper and, sadly, had no family, her husband gone and her only child having died in infancy. She had been friendly with Diane’s mother and had helped the older woman when she became incapacitated. Diane, returning the favor, helped Edith as she aged and, when she died in July at age 97, contacted us for the burial. Diane and her husband attended Edith’s funeral and, after the service was over, paid a visit to the graves of Edith’s parents.

FROM The New York Times

April 5, 2020

Metropolitan Section, Reader’s Comments

I remember [the Happy Land Social Club fire of 1990] because I was working the night shift at a hospital in Brooklyn. We were listening to the E.M.S. citywide

*dispatcher and then the news radios started to report the deaths. Later that day, I was in Manhattan at the memorial for the Triangle Fire that is held every year to commemorate the deaths of 146 workers, mostly young women, that day in 1911. By then there were more details about the Bronx fire and a lot more tears. Every year on this day, I light a memorial candle for all those souls and visit the **Mount Richmond Cemetery (owned by the Hebrew Free Burial Association)** where some of the Triangle victims are buried. We must never forget them, ever. —Themomcat, N.Y.*



In the Mail

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

I saw in your most recent newsletter the need for used *taleisim*. My father had his *bar mitzvah tallis* and another one that he was buried in. The Hebrew Free Burial Association was there for my family when my sister, Francine L., passed away suddenly in November of 2012. I am thankful to be able to give back in this small way for all the comfort and support we received at that very sorrowful time in our lives.

I would like to donate this *tallis* in memory of my father, Stuart L.

Mark L.

I want to thank you for your amazing help in facilitating the burial of Simon B., a member of the Montefiore Hospital Synagogue.

As a gesture of thanks to you, to HFBA, and to Simon's memory, I am happy to enclose a donation to your organization.

Saul U.

This evening I made a contribution to HFBA in memory of Abe D. who was my great-grandfather. He was an early member of the Hebrew Free Burial Association. If you check your archives you will find that he was the individual who was responsible for the burial of at least 17 victims of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire. Someone from your organization interviewed my cousin and me several years ago about this. I understand that right now the need is great to gather funds to bury those who have died as the result of Covid-19. I hope that our small donation helps.

Ruth G.

I used to be a volunteer until I moved to Florida four years ago. My wife and I decided weeks ago that as our income has not been adversely affected as a result of this pandemic, should we receive funds from the stimulus bill, we would donate it all to charity. Last week we donated some of it to two food banks. Then we realized that HFBA must be overwhelmed as a result of this crisis. I hope the enclosed check can help. Please stay safe and thank you for what you do.

Sam R.

Volunteer Minyan Update



On Friday, June 26, HFBA's volunteer *minyan* gathered at Mount Richmond Cemetery for the first time since the middle of March. As the Jewish community shut down its synagogues, HFBA pushed pause on our volunteer *minyan* as well. It was among the many sad realities that we had to deal with, burying so many during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic without a *minyan*.

We are so grateful for our volunteers who are currently participating, masked and socially distanced, as they help us provide a final *kaddish* for those we are burying.

РУССКИЙ ДАЙДЖЕСТ

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

Никогда не поздно почтить героя

Прошло сто четыре года после смерти 10-летнего Тобиаса Геллиса, когда полиция Нью-Йорка устроила ему торжественные похороны со всеми почестями, полагающимися тому, кто погиб при исполнении служебных обязанностей. Десятки сотрудников полиции собрались почтить память мальчика.

В 1916 году Тобиас был членом юношеских полицейских сил Нью-Йорка. Шесть тысяч мальчиков, в основном евреев, получили задание «не допускать ругательств на улицах и игр в кости ... не допускать разжигания костров и курения» среди местной молодежи. Они также действовали как наблюдатели, предупреждая сотрудников полиции о возможных преступлениях.

Капитан – начальник участка – поручил Тобиасу предупредить соседских детей о недавних случаях детского паралича. Большинство родителей плохо говорили по-английски, поэтому предполагалось, что дети расскажут об этой опасности своим семьям.

Десятого июля 1916 года, стоя на крыше своего многоквартирного дома номер 209 на Четвертой улице, Тобиас начал громким голосом оповещать группу подростков, в ответ те стали шуметь и буянить. Тобиас был вынужден отступить на шаг, упал с крыши и разбился насмерть.

Готовясь отпраздновать свое 175-летие, полиция Нью-Йорка заново переоткрывает свою историю. Исследование архивов показало, что в своё время смерть молодого Тобиаса прошла незамеченной.

И вот больше века спустя, 10 июля 2020 года, торжественная процессия прошла под морозящим дождём к могиле Тобиаса на кладбище Маунт Ричмонд. Руководил церемонией полицейский капеллан. Волынки играли мелодию «Тэпс», когда был снят кусок материи, укрывавший надгробный камень на могиле Тобиаса.

Во время этой трогательной церемонии юный Тобиас Геллис был официально признан полицией Нью-Йорка героем, принесшим высшую жертву. Старший офицер на церемонии, инспектор полиции Теренс Херсон, закончил свое выступление словами: «Все сотрудники полиции Нью-Йорка приветствуют тебя, капитан Геллис. Покойся с миром».

HFBA помогает

Тело Исаака Д. было одним из тысяч невостреченных тел в трейлерах временного морга в Бруклине, принадлежащего офису главного нью-йоркского судмедэксперта. Когда Исаак скончался в апреле в возрасте 59 лет от Covid-19, в этом морге находилось 40 грузовиков-рефрижераторов с замороженными телами. Хотя городской администратор был уведомлен о смерти Исаака и его еврейском происхождении ещё в мае, его останки были

переданы в Еврейское Благотворительное Похоронное Бюро (HFBA) только в середине июля. Мы узнали, что Исаак родился и вырос в Нью-Йорке, никогда не был женат, и у него не было братьев и сестер. На протяжении многих лет он работал на низкооплачиваемых должностях, так что на момент смерти на его банковском счету было около 300 долларов. Исаак был похоронен на кладбище HFBA, один из сотен жертв коронавируса, похороны которых организовало HFBA.

Нам пишут

Сегодня вечером я сделала пожертвование в пользу HFBA в память об Эйбе Д., который был моим прадедом. Он был одним из первых членов Еврейского Благотворительного Похоронного Бюро. Если вы посмотрите в архивах, то обнаружите, что именно он был ответственным за захоронение по крайней мере 17 жертв пожара на фабрике в печально известном здании нью-йоркского Утюга. Несколько лет назад Ваш представитель связывался с моим двоюродным братом и со мной по этому поводу. Я понимаю, что сейчас огромная потребность в сборе средств для похорон тех, кто умер из-за пандемии Covid-19. Я надеюсь, что наше небольшое пожертвование поможет в этом.

Руфь Г.

Молитва на Йом Кипур

Для многих самая важная, задевающая за живое молитва в осенние праздники – это молитва Унетану Токеф, которой начинается празднование Йом Кипур. Она выражает самую суть наших мыслей, когда мы стоим перед Вс-вышним, прося о прощении и о благословенном грядущем годе. Эта молитва особенно животрепещуща в год, когда мы столкнулись с эпидемией такого масштаба, который был просто неизвестен никому из современников.

«... на Рош Хашана будет записано, а на Йом Кипур будет скреплено печатью, сколько покинут этот мир и сколько будут созданы, кто останется жив и кому умереть... кому от воды, и кому от огня ... кому от голода и кому от жажды, кому от бури и кому от болезни, ... кто отдохнёт и кто будет скитаться, кто будет наслаждаться покоем и кто будет страдать, ... кто обеднеет и кто разбогатеет...» (*по тексту Artscroll*).

Спасибо всем за вашу помощь, благодаря которой мы устояли и смогли похоронить столь многих евреев, ушедших из-за пандемии коронавируса. Вступая в новый 5781-й год, мы надеемся и дальше с вашей помощью выполнять миссию HFBA, состоящую в оказании милосердия к усопшим (хесед шель эмет).

Мы желаем всем замечательного Нового года, здоровья, избавления от опасности, года сбывшихся надежд и упований.

L'shana Tova: Looking Towards a New Year

For many people, the most moving prayer in the liturgy of the High Holy Days is *Unetaneh Tokef*. In a way, this prayer sums up the essence of our thoughts as we stand before G-d begging for forgiveness and a for a blessed year to come. The prayer has special resonance this year as we confront a modern-day plague unlike anything that has been known in our lifetimes:

On Rosh Hashanah will be inscribed, and on Yom Kippur will be sealed, how many will pass and how many will be created, who will live and who will die...who by water, who by fire... who by famine, who by thirst, who by storm, who by plague... who will rest and who will wander...who will enjoy tranquility and who will suffer...who will be impoverished and who will be enriched... (translation: Artscroll)

Thank you for helping us rise to the challenge of burying so many Jews lost to the coronavirus plague. As we begin the New Year of 5781, we look forward to being your partner in HFBA's mission of *chesed shel emet*.

We wish you a good year, a safe and healthy year, one filled with hope and promise.

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

Friday, September 18	9 am – 1 pm
Sunday, September 20	CLOSED

YOM KIPPUR

Sunday, September 27	9 am – 3:45 pm
Monday, September 28	CLOSED

SUKKOT

Friday, October 2	9 am – 1 pm
Sunday, October 4	CLOSED

HOSHANA RABBA

Friday, October 9	9 am – 1 pm
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SIMCHAT TORAH

Sunday, October 11	CLOSED
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Silver Lake Cemetery

Silver Lake Cemetery will be open for visitors on Sunday, September 13, 2020, from 9 am - 3:45 pm.

Кладбище Маунт Ричмонд – расписание в осенние еврейские праздники:

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

РОШ ХАШАНА:

Пятн 18 сентября	(вечер перед праздником)	9:00-13:00
Субб 19 сентября		ЗАКРЫТО
Воскр 20 сентября		ЗАКРЫТО

ЙОМ КИПУР:

Воскр. 27 сентября	(вечер перед праздником)	9:00-15:45
Понед. 28 сентября		ЗАКРЫТО

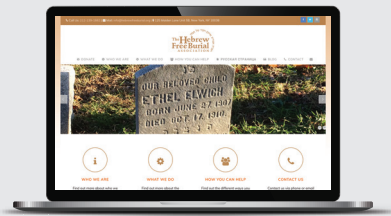
СУККОТ:

Пятн 2 октября	(вечер перед праздником)	9:00-13:00
Субб 3 октября		ЗАКРЫТО
Воскр 4 октября		ЗАКРЫТО

ШМИНИ АЦЕРЕТ и СИМХАТ ТОРА:

Пятн 9 октября	(Хошана Рабба)	9:00-13:00
Субб 10 октября	(Шмини Ацерет)	ЗАКРЫТО
Воскр 11 октября	(Симхат Тора)	ЗАКРЫТО

Поминальную молитву Изкор будут читать на Йом Кипур 28-го сентября и в праздник Шмини Ацерет 10-го октября



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now more than ever.**

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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.

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Underwrite a Covid-19 Burial

Every funeral and burial costs HFBA about \$5,400. This year HFBA anticipates twice the number of last year's interments, to over 600 burials.

You can participate in the *mitzvah* of taking care of one Jewish soul at the end of life. If you underwrite the full cost of a burial, we will send you the name and profile of the deceased and a *yahrzeit* notice next year, creating your personal connection to someone everyone else has forgotten.

Give a Gift That Lasts Forever and Costs Nothing Today

The pandemic has shown us how important it is to have a plan in place for ourselves and our loved ones. It may be uncomfortable or scary to think about, but it's not something to be completely ignored.

Here's a tool that can provide value and peace of mind: a free will writing resource. A will can help you protect the people and the things that are close to you.

Writing a will can help you:

- Assign guardians for children and pets
- Make a plan for your assets and possessions
- Create a powerful legacy with HFBA and other organizations you care about
- Dictate your funeral wishes



This easy online tool takes 20 minutes or less and is completely free to use. It can help you protect what matters most and create a lasting legacy.

Visit www.hebrewfreeburial.org/freewill



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For those with appreciated assets looking to provide immediate support to our community, gifts of stock maximize your impact while maximizing your savings. When you cash out your stocks, you are required to pay capital gains tax. However, if you transfer the stock directly, you will be able to deduct the full amount of your stock, completely avoiding capital gains tax. We have a free online tool to help you through the process in just a few minutes. Visit:

www.hebrewfreeburial.org/stocks