



Your VOICE

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS ON KIVREI TZADDIKIM ARTICLE

TO THE EDITOR:

Thank you for your enjoyable weekly magazine. I found the article in the *Parashas Va'eira*/January 21 article on *kivrei tzaddikim* in America very interesting. The article mentioned *kevarim* in Chelsea, Massachusetts. I was born and bred in Chelsea; my father, *alav hashalom*, was a Rav there for over forty years. I had never heard about any *tzaddikim* buried there, but the mention caught my eye, and I was curious. Would there be a phone number or email to contact Rabbi Yonah Landau or the Vaad Hanesiah L'Kivrei Tzaddikim B'Artzos Habris V'Canada?

Thank you.

NAME WITHHELD

RABBI GESSER RESPONDS:

Thank you for your kind words. The *tzaddik* who is buried in the Chelsea, Massachusetts area is the Makarover Rebbe, Harav Menachem Nachum Twersky, *zt"l*. He is buried in Netzach Yisrael Cemetery, which I understand is actually in nearby Everett, Mass.

Rabbi Landau's number is (718) 387-4139.

TO THE EDITOR:

I read with great interest your article "Kivrei Tzaddikim in America, A Link With the Past" in a recent issue. Reb Baruch Amsel is to be commended for his work locating the *kevarim* of many outstanding rabbinical personalities buried here in America.

Rabbi Yosef Gesser quotes Reb Baruch as saying, "Reflective of Rav Henkin's modesty is the fact that his *matzeivah* is a simple one and does not lie near those of other great Rabbanim." Reb Baruch notes that Rav Henkin's *sefer*, *Lev Ivra*, published in 1924, was the first *sefer* in *lashon kodesh* to be printed in the United States.

I contacted Reb Yosef Goldman, the author of the authoritative and exhaustive work *Hebrew Printing in America, 1735-1926, A History and Annotated Bibliography*, because I was sure that this statement by Reb Baruch was not correct. Reb Yosef replied, "You mean *Perushei Ivra — Lev Ivra* was published in 1957. As you can see in my book, the first *sefer* on *drush* is *Avnei Yehoshua* (#688), and the first *halachah sefer* is *Yerushalmi Bikurim* (#568)." Reb Yosef's book gives 1860 as the date of publication for *Avnei Yehoshua* and 1887 for *Yerushalmi Bikurim*. Given that Rabbi Yosef Eliyahu Henkin was born in 1881, it is clear that he did not publish the first *sefer* in *lashon kodesh* to be printed in the U.S.

I realize that space considerations did not allow you to include

information about the burial places of many other Rabbanim who made valuable contributions to *Yiddishkeit* in America. One such person is Rabbi Moshe Weinberger, who is buried in Union Field Cemetery, not far from the *kever* of Rabbi Yaakov Yosef. *Hamodia* published three articles about Rav Weinberger not too long ago.

Kol tuv,

PROFESSOR YITCHOK LEVINE
STEVENS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

RABBI GESSER RESPONDS:

Professor Levine is indeed correct about the fact that the *sefer Lev Ivra* was not the first *sefer* published in America; this was an error on my part.

In response to his other points, there are many, many *kivrei tzaddikim* in America, especially in the New York area, and it would be impossible to mention all of them. I selected a number of Torah personalities whom I felt would be of special interest to our readers. Hopefully, the article will prompt readers to visit the *batei chaim* and do their own research.

I am aware that Rav Moshe Weinberger, *zt"l*, is buried in Union Field Cemetery and that he was the subject of past articles in *Hamodia*. The purpose of this latest article was to spotlight *tzaddikim* who may not have been featured previously in the paper.

TO THE EDITOR:

I was surprised that your recent article on *kivrei tzaddikim* in America neglected to mention the *kever* of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, *zt"l*, located in Montefiore Cemetery in Queens, N.Y., to which Jews from all over the world come to pray.

ELANA ADLER
RAMAT BEIT SHEMESH

RABBI GESSER RESPONDS:

Thank you for taking the time to contact me with your concerns. In my first article on *kivrei tzaddikim* close to three years ago, I cited Rabbi Yonah Landau, who has revived interest in visiting *kevarim* in view of the great benefits to the *niftar*. It is especially meritorious to visit *kevarim* of *tzaddikim* who were not well known and don't receive many visitors. As was said earlier, in an article of this type it is possible to mention only a small number of *kevarim*. As Ms. Adler herself states, the Lubavitcher *ohel* is very famous, and thousands come to *daven* there. This was reason, in view of space limitations, to discuss other *kevarim* that are not as well known.

I should also mention that an article on the seventh Lubavitcher Rebbe, Harav Menachem Mendel Schneerson, *zt"l*, appeared in *Hamodia Magazine* about three years ago, and another one appeared in "Today in History" in the *Hamodia* daily, which included a photo of the Lubavitcher *ohel*.

