

F. b. HK  
MINUTES OF HEBRA KADISHA SHEUR MEETING, FEBRUARY 1, 1976 - 30 SHEVAT 5736

The fourth Sheur Meeting of the Hebra Kadisha (HK) of The Jewish Center was called to order at 8:25 P.M., Sunday evening, 30 Shevat 5736, at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Ira Kellman. Rabbi Sidney Applbaum was introduced by the chairman, and gave the Sheur on Hilkhoh Keriah, continuing from the Yoreh Deah, Ch. 340.

The following members were present:

Mr. Ainsberg	Mr. & Mrs. I. Kellman (hosts)
Mr & Mrs. Bayer	Mr. Lerner
Mr. Gold	Mr. Lunzer
Mrs. J. Green	Dr. & Mrs. Offenbacher (chairman)
Dr. Gribetz	Mrs. Parkoff
Mr. Hausman	Mr. Szmulewicz
Mrs. Kahn	Rabbi Wermuth

Rabbi Applbaum devoted the second half of the Sheur to a discussion concerning his trials and tribulations with the funeral directors, in an effort to make this service conform to Halakhic principles.

The compromise that evolved was that the funeral directors would observe the Jewish religious laws as pertaining to Taharah, Shemirah, Tachrichim, Aron, Keriah, and Kevurah. The Rabbis, on their part, would not interfere with the profit principle of the free enterprise system. This was justified by Rabbi Applbaum by the psychological desire of the mourners to spend money on the deceased and by the fact that any money saved for the family would not enhance charitable institutions anyway.

Rabbi Applbaum also touched on the not too different problems present in the major Israeli cities which he canvassed in his travels there.

A lively and inconclusive discussion followed concerning the morality of the present compromise.

After the Sheur:

1. The minutes from the Sheur meeting of December 20, 1975, were read and accepted.
2. Dr. Offenbacher acknowledged a \$100 donation from Mrs. Wolfsohn to the HK.
3. Dr. Offenbacher read Mr. I. Kellman's reply to Mrs. P. Jasne concerning her Tahara request.
4. The minutes from the Gabbaim Meeting of December 20, 1975, at Dr. Offenbacher's home were discussed as follows:
  - a) A separate bank account for the HK of The Jewish Center should be established.
  - b) A problem with the purchase of the tachrichim by the HK arose. Suggestions as to the solution of this problem were forwarded. Other sources of supply in Williamsburg and in Washington Heights will be investigated.
  - c) The cost of the funeral at Riverside were compared with that of Gutterman's. There was little difference. It was noted, however, that certain items, such as tachrichim, which were supplied by the

HK were charged again by Riverside. When this was pointed out, the charge was deleted.

- d) The Shemirah problem was discussed again. A favorable response was obtained from an ad at YU for participants. It was decided that to do an effective job, no shomer should be present for more than eight hours at a time. He should be paid at the rate of three dollars an hour. It was also suggested that Rabbi Lamm should rule as to what a Shomer can study during his eight-hour period, and what must be done for eating and bathroom interruptions, etc.
  - e) The casket problem was discussed again with exasperation on the part of the participants.
  - f) The appropriate portions of the constitution of the HK were read, and Mr. Kellman was appointed as a nominating committee to introduce a slate of officers at the Annual Meeting - March 9, 1976.
  - g) The Gabbaim decided that the HK should present to all leaders of the Sheur meetings an \$18 gift certificate or check towards the purchase of any book or religious article that would be desired by the teacher. After its purchase, an appropriate inscription would be made by the chairman.
  - h) A set minimum amount of payment for the Seudah Havraah (meal of condolence) will be decided upon and given to the party who delivers it to the mourners. The maximum will depend upon the total number of mourners served.
5. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 P.M., after the Chairman thanked Rabbi Applbaum for leading the Sheur, and Mr. & Mrs. Kellman for hosting the Sheur.

DR. I. GRIBETZ,  
FOR MR. I. KAPLAN,  
SECRETARY