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10/18/2007

Kudos On Cemetery Suit

by Robert Avner

I want to congratulate John Lucker for initiating a class-action lawsuit against Congregation Shaare Zedek for its shameful long-term lack of maintenance of Bayside Cemetery. It was in the same condition in 1989 when I first visited my great-grandparents' grave at Acacia Cemetery, which is next to Bayside Cemetery. Bayside, Acacia and Mokom Shalom make up a complex of three Jewish cemeteries in Ozone Park, Queens. The latter two are managed by an organization called United Hebrew Congregations. Although Acacia is not in the same sorry state as Bayside, it is an uninviting, desolate place with no on-the-premises staff or security and no sense of safety. You feel that you're risking danger visiting your deceased relatives.

Fresh Meadows, Queens

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