

# DHFLA Today

## Seeds of Hope V – 2014 Virtual Gala Honoring Sylvia Reisberg Feldman



Sylvia and her family have had a lifelong commitment to DHFLA. She is the daughter of DHFLA founder Wolf Reisberg and became involved with the organization at the beginning. Wolf ran Reisberg's Grocery store on Forest Avenue, in South Dallas, with the help of his wife, daughter Sylvia, and her four sisters.

It was in this grocery store in early 1935 that Wolf and the other founders met and gave birth to the idea of forming a Hebrew free loan in Dallas. A short time later, the organization was born. Sylvia was in high school then. She helped out preparing the statements and sending them to clients every month.

After high school, Sylvia attended business school in College Station, TX. She returned to the Dallas area after college and met her husband Label (Lewis) Feldman z'l. They married on January 3rd, 1937. Their family grew to include three sons and one daughter. She and her family continued to stay involved with DHFLA. Label was DHFLA president from 1969-1970. Son Marvin Feldman was DHFLA president from 1994-1995 and is still active with the association's board.

### Seeds of Hope V Sponsorship / Tribute Opportunities:

Forest - \$5000

Tree Grove - \$2500

Lane of Trees - \$1,500

Rose Bed - \$1,000

Seedling - \$500

Single Rose - \$75 each

Petal & Buds - \$36 each

Sponsorships and tribute donations are fully deductible. This virtual event allows all of the contributions raised to go directly to fund interest-free loans for members of our community.

A virtual tribute book with well wishes for these leaders will go live on the DHFLA website in late January.

Both Business and Personal Sponsorships/Tributes are available.

For more info Call 214-696-8008 or email [dhfla@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dhfla@sbcglobal.net).

The newsletter of the Dallas Hebrew Free Loan Association

December 2014



*A Hand Up Not a Handout*

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January 1, 2014 - December 1, 2014

Thank you for your generous support. Each and every donation has a positive effect on our clients and our community.

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## President's Letter

As my presidency of Dallas Hebrew Free Loan Association comes to an end, I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to lead such a worthwhile organization – one that has positively impacted so many lives in our Jewish community and in the process, given people in need a hand up, not a hand out.

I am proud of all we have accomplished. DHFLA is pleased to report that for the period November 2013 to 2014, there was a 34 percent increase in dollars loaned out, with 44 percent of borrowers utilizing special programs designed to help those who might not otherwise qualify. This past year, DHFLA experienced an increase in all loan categories. I am proud of the diverse loan portfolio we've developed. Two new loan programs which DHFLA is excited to offer to the community are small business loans and Jewish preschool/day school program loans. These programs will become available during the first quarter of 2015. Please watch for details.

I am gratified to have served as president of an organization that allows members of our community a way to retain their dignity when unforeseen economic or health factors intercede in their lives.

Most of all, I am inspired by all of you, our generous donors, who are the reason it is possible for DHFLA to loan out more dollars than ever before. I hope you will continue your emotional and financial commitment to this important organization, this coming year, and long into the future. Thank you for your support.

As a board, we continue to evaluate the needs of our community and update our program to stay relevant. It's important as we move forward as an organization to continue this goal, so that DHFLA will be as significant in the future as it is today and has been for the past 79 years.

Louis Marx



## Stories From Our Clients



I can't thank Dallas Hebrew Free Loan enough for making my educational dreams come true with an interest free student loan. I had long dreamed of being able to attend the Young Judea Year Course in Israel, and were it not for the assistance of the Dallas Hebrew Free Loan Association this would not have been possible. Hebrew Free Loan helped again as I continued my studies, first at Collin Community College, and then as I completed my studies at the University of North Texas. My family had multiple children in college at the same time, and the educational loans were critical in helping us bridge the gap when resources for our studies were scarce.

— Chantal Geiger

Having a family was always one of our top priorities. When we found out that we would need IVF to conceive, understanding the cost and looking at our own financial situation we were uncertain how we would be able to afford such a costly procedure. I had gotten the DHFLA newsletter in the mail and saw that adoption support was an option but didn't see infertility assistance. I called Deborah who told me that at the time that wasn't part of their loan program but that she would bring it to the board for consideration. Six months later, we received a call from Deborah telling us she reviewed our situation with the board and that we would officially be the first couple to be granted an infertility loan. A year later, our twins were born! Infertility is such an emotional roller coaster. We are grateful that the one thing we didn't have to worry about was finances. We owe Deborah and the DHFLA a huge thank you for helping to make our dreams come true! We will be forever grateful.

—SS

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\* Deceased

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