

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



Report from the Executive Director

Dear Friend,

Zinaida D – an accomplished woman who had been a physician in Russia – died on February 11, 2015 at the age of 77. Through bureaucratic mishaps, her body was abandoned and left at the morgue from February until July, five full months. The Kings County Public Administrator finally contacted HFBA. After several failed attempts to locate her family, we reached Mrs. D's brother in France who authorized the burial of his sister. He also told us that her husband had died just one year earlier.

Both highly educated, Zinaida and her husband had come to the US in 1993 with their daughter Helen. Although they arrived

> with high hopes, life in the States did not turn out well for them. In 1996, Mr. D suffered his first stroke and required full-time home

care after that. Helen, who had divorced, did not look after her parents when they were elderly and sick; friends reported that she showed up at their apartment during her father's final days in the hospital and took what she needed. Neither Mrs. D's brother in France, nor other relatives in Israel, could afford her burial. After months of laying alone, HFBA finally gave Mrs. D the proper Jewish burial she deserved, with a full *minyan* of volunteers present.

In 2015 HFBA provided 372 burials for

Jews who outlasted their funds, for Jews with no families or friends to step forward and provide for their final needs, for Jews who spent weeks in the City Morgue because no one came to claim their remains. Each received a traditional, dignified Jewish burial in our Mount Richmond Cemetery, with our rabbi reciting the consoling prayers, speaking words about each of the deceased, and in many cases, reciting *kaddish* with 10 members of our volunteer *minyan* present.

Our 2015 fundraising was defined by the unprecedented Matching Challenge Grant. We were honored by the 55 donors who came

forward to support us at the \$5000 + level, and by the hundreds of others who increased their gifts even if they couldn't give at the \$5,000 level.

2015 was the first full year that the Margaret and Leo Meyer and Hans M. Hirsch Tahara Facility at Mount Richmond Cemetery was in operation. Our state of the art facility allows the ritual washing of the deceased to occur on site. The Staten Island *chevra kadisha* has inspired us by its tremendous dedication to the *mitzvah* of *chesed shel emet* and continues to attract new members for this sacred task. Our roster of *minyan* volunteers continues to expand as well.

In 2015, major work continued to restore and preserve HFBA's original cemetery, Silver Lake Cemetery, which was quickly filled by 1909. We brought a herd of goats to eat the wild greens, poison ivy (harmless to goats), weeds and English ivy, their diet supplemented only with water. As they ate, forgotten graves appeared where they were previously obscured by the foliage, and the area became clearer, cleaner and more hospitable to those who visit or work in the cemetery. Thanks to generous funding from The David Berg Foundation, we were able to clean and grub the entire cemetery as well. This important task continues, signifying the respect we owe the dead even after burial.

And finally, once again,
HFBA earned Charity
Navigator's Four-Star Rating

- the highest an organization can earn – in recognition of our internal management and transparency.

It is because of you, our dedicated supporter, that HFBA is able to perform our holy work. On behalf of everyone at HFBA, I thank you.

With much appreciation,

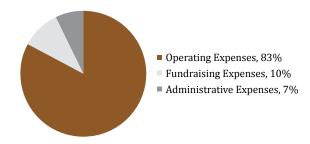
Amy Koplow
Executive Director



Financial Report

FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	2015	2014
CHARITABLE SUPPORT		
Contributions	\$1,040,797	\$839,745
Bequests	\$223,475	\$44,069
Grants Received	\$317,750	\$342,500
TOTAL SUPPORT	\$1,582,022	\$1,226,314
REVENUE		
Funeral Services	\$720,108	\$513,779
Interment and Grave Care	\$548,225	\$588,437
Rental Income	\$65,088	\$57,691
Investment Income	\$129,875	\$128,978
Realized Gain (Loss) On Sale of Investments, Net	\$51,821	\$32,869
Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments, Net	(\$357,406)	\$17,047
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,157,711	\$1,338,801
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$2,739,733	\$2,565,115
EXPENSES		
Operating	\$2,097,922	\$1,959,059
Fundraising	\$240,310	\$185,570
Adminstrative	\$175,872	\$173,822
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,514,104	\$2,318,451



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