



International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies 2011 Annual Meeting

**Grand Hyatt Washington Hotel
August 17, 2011**

Minutes

Call to Order

The Annual Meeting of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies was called to order at 2:21 pm EDT by IAJGS President Michael Goldstein.

Roll Call

Secretary Joel Spector called the roll of delegates; 44 IAJGS members were represented.

President Goldstein thanked the JGS of Greater Washington for the Conference and for all the work that its members have done in preparation. JGSGW President Marlene Bishow in turn thanked IAJGS Vice President and Conference Liaison Jan Meisels Allen for her efforts.

Election of Officers

Nominations Committee Chairperson Hal Bookbinder introduced the slate of nominees (Michael Goldstein (President), Jan Meisels Allen (Vice President), Joel Spector (Secretary) and Paul Silverstone (Treasurer)). He then reviewed the requirements for a "nomination from the floor;" as there were no such nominations, Chairperson Bookbinder called for a vote by acclamation. A motion was made (Nancy Adelson (Washington), Fred Blum (Philadelphia)) to elect by acclamation; the motion passed.

President Goldstein thanked outgoing Vice President Michael Brenner for his many years of service to the IAJGS as Director and Officer, and commented that he is still involved in IAJGS matters. A motion to that effect was made (Jan Meisels Allen, Max Heffler, Texas) and passed.

President Goldstein requested suggestions for individuals to fill the Director position, vacated by Vice President Jan Meisels Allen.

The current Board members and officers introduced themselves.

Future IAJGS Conferences

President Goldstein announced that the 2014 IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy would not be held in Jerusalem, Israel. A firm contract, initially promised in April, 2010, and then by August, had not been signed and produced. The IAJGS Board did not agree to a further extension, to November, 2011. The Board did agree to give Israel "first refusal" for the 2015 Conference.

Paris 2012: Bruno Bloch (Cercle de Généalogie Juive, France) reported that the society is proud to organize the Paris Conference and hopes that we will all attend. The program will be very attractive, and they are trying to arrange tours outside Paris. The Conference will be 100% bilingual. The website is Paris2012.eu.

Boston 2013: Conference Co-Chairperson Jay Sage reported on progress.

Past IAJGS President Bookbinder stated that one of the first issues in planning a conference is determination of the venue, which needs to be set about three years in advance. Contacts are being made in Salt Lake City with the Hilton and the Marriott Hotels for 2014. Past IAJGS Vice President Michael Brenner is working with Bookbinder.

A conference in Eastern Europe has been suggested repeatedly. Past IAJGS President Bookbinder stated that the financial issue there is the requirement of a lot of "up-front" money, and the IAJGS is now in a position to produce such a conference. Contacts have been made with the Hilton and Marriott Hotels in Warsaw, Poland, for the possibility of a three-day conference, with tours thereafter.

Marlene Bishow, Co-Chairperson of the 2011 Washington DC Conference, suggested that conferences be held in "not-major" sites (i.e. where there are not major resources, but other attractions prevail). Considerations are security, ADA and fundraising. She suggested creation of a standard list of donors.

Conference Concerns

Nancy Adelson (JGS of Washington State) asked about the time frame of the annual conference. The response was that it is always held during the summer because a majority of the delegates are in education, and are thus not available during school months. President Barbara Hershey (JGS of Oregon) suggested that we try to come up with creative ways to keep the expenses small, in particular accommodations and luncheons.

Past President Bookbinder stated that we are looking at technological ways of using electronics to enhance and facilitate conferences. President Goldstein stated that the IAJGS Board is looking at hosting and co-hosting, and whether we consortiums of JGSs could be used.

President Sandy Malek (JGS, Los Angeles) informed us that the JGSLA Board had a lengthy discussion which recommended that the IAJGS have a corporate memory for conferences and provide the tools that are now provided verbally. She gave examples of negotiations with hotels with items required in a hotel contract, the policy on spouses and the registration system. She also suggested having a budget template for the conference. She also recommended that the IAJGS offer seed money to get a conference started, and suggested an annual \$50. surcharge per society. President Goldstein responded that the IAJGS Board is looking at uniformity in conferences.

Committee Reports:

Rabbi Malcolm Stern Grant. IAJGS Past President Anne Feder Lee gave a brief history of the Stern Grant. 2011 Stern Grant Committee member Heidi Urich presented the Committee recommendations: (1) a Grant in the amount of \$2,000 to Gesher Galicia for continuation of inventorying and indexing the Cadastral Map and Landowner Records Project, and (2) a Grant in the amount of \$1,000 to the American Jewish Historical Society for continuation of microfilming the Boston HIAS records. A motion made to accept the Committee recommendation (Urich, Adelson) passed overwhelmingly.

IAJGS Financial Report. The report was reviewed by Treasurer Paul Silverstone.

IAJGS Membership Report. The report was presented by Treasurer Paul Silverstone.

Jewish Genealogy Month: Committee Chairperson Nancy Adelson announced the winner of this year's contest: Jillian Beroza, of Long Island. The poster was displayed, and a copy was given to each representative. She thanked the members of the committee for their efforts.

Public Records Access Monitoring Committee: Committee Chairperson Jan Meisels Allen presented the report of the PRAMC..

Bylaws Amendment

Director Nolan Altman reviewed the IAJGS Mission Statement, which is the basis of the Bylaws Amendment. A motion to approve the Amendment was made (Mark Manson, Nancy Adelson); the Bylaws Amendment was approved.

New Business

Aliza Fishbain challenged us to consider a youth division of the IAJGS. She suggested that models already exist, using an initial training session to teach how to use archives. The students in such a program could be mentored. It is critical, she said, for the youth to start their family trees, go to cemeteries, and send data to JOWBR. She will present a proposal at the next IAJGS Board Meeting.

Report of the President

President Michael Goldstein commented on the limited participation of JGS officers in legislative initiatives, and suggested that a local legislative person should be designated on each JGS board to monitor legislative initiatives. Director Mark Nicholls commented that the JGS of Great Britain has a committee that monitors those activities. Delegate Mark Manson commented that his society has a procedure whereby previous presidents are put in charge of some specific function.

Adjournment

The Annual Meeting was adjourned at 4:31 pm EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Spector

IAJGS Secretary