

IAJGS Board Report from the Board of Director's meeting
Chicago, March 29-30, 2007
Major areas of discussion/decisions

1. Leadership Digest Mailing list. The list of recipients has been updated so that it is current. This is based on responses from Presidents of the member organizations when they were asked to look at the list of who was getting the Digest and removing/adding names.
2. Film Lending Library. The board agreed that the partnership agreement with the Jewish Community Library of Los Angeles (JCLLA) that allows member organizations to borrow films will be renewed as the program has been successful.
3. Jewish Genealogy Month. The board has determined that starting in 2008, the month to be celebrated as Jewish Genealogy Month will be Heshvan. For 2008, that will be 30 October - 27 November. Please mark your calendars so you will remember this change.

For Heshvan of 2008, we will begin holding an annual competition for a piece of work that can be used as either a poster or flyer for announcing and celebrating Jewish Genealogy Month. More details will be forthcoming and the requirements for the competition will be placed on the IAJGS website as soon as possible. Each year the winning entry will be unveiled at the annual IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy and will then be made available on our website.

4. Conference requirements and bid form. The board has approved revisions to the annual conference requirements and bid form. Any member organization interested in hosting a conference or working jointly with IAJGS on a conference in their locale should look at the revised document that should be up on our website soon.

5. Future conferences. Salt Lake City 2007 will be upon us soon and will include many exciting activities. Planning for Chicago 2008 is coming along nicely; the hotel is great and Chicago is full of wonderful things to do. For years after 2008, all is tentative at this point but we wanted you to have some idea of locations we are working on: Philadelphia for 2009; Paris for 2011 and Jerusalem for 2014. Again, these last three are tentative! We will, of course, let you know as soon as any of these are formalized.

We still need input for the years 2010, 2012, and 2013 so we look forward to hearing from any member organization interested.

6. Pages of Testimony. As all of you know, Yad Vashem is making every effort to increase the number of Pages of Testimony found at its website and others are assisting in this endeavor. The IAJGS Board passed a resolution endorsing all efforts to help in this most important project and encourages IAJGS member organizations to take on whatever activities they can to increase the number of Pages of Testimony.

7. IAJGS Salutes. The IAJGS Salutes committee has been hard at work and we hope you have noticed the two Salutes already up on our website. In evaluating the criteria that the board originally established, we decided to make two revisions: first, we want to clarify that individuals eligible must have done the work they are being saluted for as volunteers and not as paid employees and second, only individuals are eligible (institutions are no longer eligible). These changes will be made on our website soon. Please keep those nominations coming!

8. Conference of European Rabbis. The board evaluated a request from the Conference of European Rabbis for use of some data from the IAJGS Cemetery Project. The Conference of European Rabbis has started a project called "Holocaust Community Cemeteries & Martyr Sites, Database Project "Lo Tishkach." Their goal is to complete a database of all sites where Holocaust victims are buried. The board decided to cooperate by allowing use of the relevant portions of our Cemetery Project data and an agreement will be worked out.

9. One-day Seminars. The Board approved putting together materials on "How-To-Do" a one day Seminar. This effort can be of real help to our member organizations who have never done such a Seminar.

10. Fee Structure. The Board approved the establishment of a special committee to evaluate our current fee structure given that it has not been changed since the organization started in the late 1980s. The committee will be made of member organization Presidents (representing large, medium and small groups) and one Board Member (who will not be the committee chair).

The committee will be charged with preparing a report for the Board on the following issues: Evaluating the current fee structure; Recommending a new fee structure or detailing how IAJGS can raise funds; Evaluating whether Jewish Historical Societies should have a separate membership category and if yes, at what fee; and, perhaps, Evaluating the possibility of individual membership and making a recommendation; if yes, at what fee.

We also agreed that we will have a calm discussion with the delegates at the 2007 annual meeting regarding fees and the other related issues, the need for a committee, and asking for names of individuals interested in serving on such a committee. The committee would be appointed as soon after the annual meeting as possible and instructed to report back to the IAJGS board by the spring 2008 board meeting so any recommendations can be presented at the 2008 annual meeting.

Anne Feder Lee, President. April 2007