



To: IAJGS Members- 2013 Annual Session

From: Jan Meisels Allen, Vice President

Subject: Membership

Date: August 7, 2013

I am delighted to announce that since last year's annual session IAJGS gained three new members:

- Kremenets District Research Group
- Jewish Genealogical Society of South Africa
- Triangle [NC] Jewish Genealogical Society

Recently, the JGS of Denmark merged with The Society for Danish Jewish History, with the former JGS board representing 50% of the new merged board. They remain an IAJGS member.

We are working with several other groups that we anticipate will join IAJGS during the next year: the reconstituted Capital District Jewish Genealogical Society [Albany, NY]

A start-up society in Italy, Associazione Italiana di Genealogia Ebraica, and a new society in Tucson, AZ, the Southern Arizona Jewish Genealogy Society.

Other areas of outreach are ongoing –see below under Membership Development Committee.

We had one member that dropped out—the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society as they currently are not doing any genealogy, but indicated if they get back to genealogy in the future they will review rejoining IAJGS.

As of this report IAJGS has 73 members—Jewish genealogical societies, Jewish historical societies and SIGs.

IAJGS Board Liaisons

Each IAJGS member is assigned a liaison from the IAJGS Board. This way each member organization has one person to go to with questions to or assistance from IAJGS. With the changes in board members resulting from the election there will be some realignment and those societies whose liaisons are being changed will be notified later this summer.

Assisting Member Organizations

During the year IAJGS was approached to help several member societies—different problems which involved structure, organizational issues, programming, and membership. IAJGS board liaisons and Membership Development Committee (see below) representatives helped them all are now on track! If you know of a society that needs some assistance please contact us.

Membership Development Committee

The Membership Development Committee is finishing its second year of operations and has been very busy. It was created to address increasing IAJGS membership, outreach to new organizations, and helping members who are experiencing problems.

The Membership Development Committee was set up with regional representatives from different types of IAJGS members, with the representatives personally invited to participate—invitations were not by organization but by person. Two committee members resigned during the year due to other commitments, Phyllis Kramer, Palm Beach County US and Carolynne Veffer, Canada. Two new regional representatives—one for Canada and one for Latin America have been nominated and the IAJGS Board will act on those nominations during the conference.

The Membership Development Committee worked on several new documents to assist existing and potential new members. They include: An updated, *How to Create A Jewish Genealogical Society in Your Hometown*, Sample Bylaws, and a document explaining Bylaws called, *About Bylaws*, and a proposal for a virtual JGS. These new products are to be reviewed by the IAJGS Board of Directors at their August 9 Board meeting. When adopted, they will be placed on the IAJGS website under the Membership Development area.

The IAJGS JGS Management session at this conference was a two-hour session with Membership Development Committee Members: Jan Meisels Allen, Marlis Humphrey and Mark Nicholls. In preparation for the program a survey was sent to each of our members—we had a ~50% response rate. The panel provided information on the survey results and on day-to-day operations including programming, financial aspects from basics to alternate sources of revenue, by laws/governing documents, board composition, leadership succession, communications, and trends. All IAJGS member presidents will receive a copy of the survey results after the conference. We anticipate the program's power point presentation to also be posted to the IAJGS website.

During this conference, outreach was made to attendees from geographic areas that do not have JGSs. A breakfast was held where conference attendees who are not affiliated and live at least 50 miles from an existing IAJGS member were invited to attend and meet the members of the Membership Development Committee. This was to initiate discussion about creating a society in their area. We are hopeful that several attendees will be willing to work to create a new society.

If you know of a genealogical organization that is not a member of IAJGS or someone in a geographic area with interest in genealogy that currently does not have a genealogical society please let us know.

During the year the Membership Development Committee has made outreach to existing organizations or tried to find people in geographic areas who would be interested in starting JGSs to belong to IAJGS. These included:

Europe Austria; Holland; Hungary, Luxembourg; Poland; Portugal, Romania, Spain

Latin America: Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Mexico

North America:

USA: Birmingham, Alabama; Savannah GA; Kansas City, KS/MO; Charlotte, NC; Charleston, SC; Puerto Rico; Rhode Island; Memphis and Nashville, TN

The Membership Development Committee Members.

Jan Meisels Allen, Chairperson, West US, (President, JGSCV)

Daniel Dratwa, Europe, (President, Cercle de Généalogie Juive de Belgique), [JGS Belgium]

Barbara Hershey, Pacific Northwest (President, JGS Oregon)

Marlis Humphrey, Southeast US (Vice President, JGS Greater Tampa)

Mark Nicholls, Europe (Past Chairman, JGS Great Britain)

Carol Shkolnik, Midwest US, (Chairperson, Columbus Jewish Historical Society Genealogy Group)

Janette Silverman, Southwest US, (President, Phoenix Jewish Genealogical Society),

Chuck Weinstein, Mid-Atlantic and New England US, (Past President, JGSLI)

Michael Goldstein, *ex officio*, Israel, president, IAJGS