

Board Report – September 2008

The IAJGS held its annual meeting on Wednesday during which the delegates elected Directors for the term of 2008 – 2010. Elected to the board were - Jan Meisels Allen (Agoura Hills, CA); Daniel Horowitz (Kfar Saba, Israel) William Israel (St. Petersburg, FL); Kahlile Mehr (Salt Lake City, UT), Paul Silverstone (New York, NY); and Jackye Sullins (Carlsbad, CA). They join the officers, President, Anne Feder Lee (Honolulu, HI); Vice President Michael Brenner, Las Vegas, NV); Treasurer Mike Posnick (Minneapolis, MN) and Secretary Joel Spector (Cherry Hill, NJ), who were elected in 2007, and Immediate Past President Hal Bookbinder of Oak Park, CA.

The delegates at the annual meeting approved the recommended recipient for the 2008 Stern Grant of \$2500: the Italian Genealogy Group which will use the funds to create a Brooklyn brides index for the years 1910-1930, from original records on 268 rolls of film from the Family History Library, that will be posted to their website: www.Italiangen.org.

After very spirited debate, the delegates approved two Bylaws amendments. Both concerned Article IX: Fees and Charge. The first amendment changes the month of May to March in Section 1 so that the language now reads: Section 1. The amount of annual membership fees to be paid by each Member shall be established at the Annual Meeting. Membership fees are payable to the Association each year on the first day of January. A member that has not paid its required membership fees by the first day of March next following shall cease to be in good standing until such fees have been paid.

The second Bylaws amendment approved adds a new section to Article IX which reads: Section 2. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to impose such late fees and interest as it may determine in connection with membership fees not paid by the date on which a member ceases to be in good standing for non-payment of its membership fees.

The 2008 IAJGS Achievement Awards winners were announced at the Banquet on Thursday, August 21:

The lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Howard Margol for his many years of pioneering work in Lithuanian Jewish Genealogy research.

The Outstanding Contribution to Jewish Genealogy Award was presented to Steven Lasky in recognition of his original contribution to the Jewish genealogical community by the creation of an online virtual museum, The Museum of Family History.

The Outstanding Project Award was presented to Petra Laidlaw for creating "The Jewish Community in Mid-19th Century Britain" database.

The Outstanding Publication Award was presented to The Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain for its collection of guidebooks comprising the "Jewish Ancestors?" series focusing on Jewish genealogical research in Europe, understanding Hebrew inscriptions and documents, and organizing family history records.

We thank all the members of the 2008 IAJGS Achievement Awards Committee and the 2008 Stern Grant Committee for their work and for making hard decisions among the many nominations submitted. Achievement Award committee members were: Stephen P. Morse -Chair of San Francisco, CA; Rieke Nash of Sidney, Australia; Ilene Murray of St. Louis, MO; Hal Bookbinder of Agoura Hills, CA; and Michael Brenner of Las Vegas, NV. The Stern Grant Committee members were: Eileen Polakoff-Chair of New York, NY; Alan Greenberg of Montreal, Canada; Hadassah Lipsius, New York, NY. We thank all of you who submitted nominations.

Please go to www.iajgs.org for more information about the winners. For the Achievement Awards winners, click on the left hand button for IAJGS Awards. For the Stern Grant awardee, scroll down the home page to find the box saying Stern Grant.

The IAJGS Board held two meetings in Chicago: one just before the conference began and one just after the conference ended. The Board will hold the Fall meeting in Salt Lake City in early November and the Spring board meeting in Philadelphia in early April. Let us know if there are items you want placed on our agenda.

Anne Feder Lee

President