

the

IAJGS

ECHO



January 2004

Powerful tools to assist in the effective management and growth of every JGS.

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the **IAJGS ECHO**. This publication will serve as a periodic update from the IAJGS Board of Directors. We will use this format to provide timely information about the activities of the IAJGS and also to share useful ideas that can be implemented at the local level. These topics could include operations such as budget, leadership structure, volunteer recruitment, publicity, programming, and local projects. Member societies are encouraged to contribute original or reprint articles that provide examples of local JGS management.

WHAT?	Information about IAJGS and local JGS operations and activities.
WHY?	To provide better communication between the IAJGS Board and member societies.
WHO?	For JGS leaders to share with officers and members at the local level.
WHEN?	Published 3 times a year after each IAJGS board meeting.
WHERE?	Posted in PDF format online at the IAJGS website. A link will be emailed to JGS Presidents when each new issue is ready.

JGS Checklist

- Complete and return the enclosed membership dues survey to grapevynwest@comcast.net.
- Update your city listing for cemeteries in the IAJGS Intl Jewish Cemetery Project. <http://www.jewishgen.org/cemetery/>
- Consider submitting nominations for annual Achievement and Stern Awards.
- Consider submitting IAJGS bylaw revisions. Send to Joel Spector at JLSpector@aol.com.
- Plan now to attend the annual IAJGS conference in Jerusalem. <http://www.ortra.com/jgen2004/>.
- Share the **IAJGS ECHO** with your local officers and members.

Conference Calendar

July 4-9, 2004

– Renaissance Jerusalem Hotel, **Israel**

July 10-15, 2005

– Flamingo Hilton Hotel, **Las Vegas, NV**

Summer 2006 – **New York, NY**

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Meeting the Needs of Member Societies

The next IAJGS Chat is scheduled for Sunday January 25, 2004. Members of the Jerusalem 2004 Organizing Committee will discuss the upcoming conference. Hal Bookbinder will post instructions for your participation on the IAJGS exchanges. If you have questions, please send them to Hal at bookbinder1@earthlink.net.



Highlights of Fall Board Meeting

The IAJGS Board of Directors is required by organizational bylaws to meet four times a year. Two of those meetings occur during the annual summer conference. The other two meetings are scheduled in the fall and spring each year. The most recent board meeting was held on Saturday and Sunday November 8th and 9th in Newark, NJ. In attendance were Hal Bookbinder, Michael Brenner, Michael Posnick, Joel Spector, Anthony Josephs, Ellen Shindelman Kowitt, Martha Lev-Zion, Howard Margol, Daniel Schlyter, and Arnie Tolkin. A version of the November 2003 board meeting minutes can be found on the IAJGS website.

To contribute an article for the next "IAGS Echo" issue or to submit information for the current survey about JGS dues, please contact:

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The Changing Role of IAJGS

As with any organization, an umbrella group such as IAJGS must evolve in order to meet the needs of its members and the times. A major change for IAJGS will be to play a more active role in planning upcoming conferences. Too many small societies located in major cities have been unable to commit to the large task of hosting a summer conference. In response to this, IAJGS will now offer all member societies the opportunity to partner with the IAJGS Board to organize future conferences. A proposed outline dividing up local and IAJGS responsibilities has been created.

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IAJGS Chat Room - The purpose of providing scheduled IAJGS chats is to feature prominent genealogists live on the Internet who lecture on a given topic and then allow time for questions from attendees.

While still in testing stages, the chats will be open to all, but likely to require pre-registration to limit attendance.

A beta test chat occurred on Saturday December 13th with 6 attendees. IAJGS Board Director and Family History Library professional, Daniel Schlyter, led the discussion about new acquisitions and filming at the Family History Library. Lasting just under an hour, Daniel reported that new filming has begun in Uzhhorod, Lviv and in Chernivtsi.

Daniel also reminded us that the most up-to-date Family History Library resources relevant to Jewish genealogists can be found on the FHL Internet catalogue by typing in "Jewish". <http://www.familysearch.org/>

Conference Planning Guide

A major step in implementing this partnership between IAJGS and local JGS' is the creation of "**A Conference Planning Guide**" currently being written by members of the IAJGS Board of Directors. No less than 22 topics will be outlined in great detail including The Role of Chair and Co-Chair, Overall Timeline, Budgeting, Publicity, Program Content, and Hotel Negotiations.

JGS Newsletter Library - Online

IAJGS will create an online library at the IAJGS website where members societies may post PDF formatted versions of local newsletters. The issuing JGS could send a note to IAJGS presidents and editors announcing its availability with an embedded link to the issue. This method could also be used for internal distribution.

Coordinated Speaking Tours

In an effort to make prominent speakers more widely available to smaller societies, IAJGS is discussing the future coordination of speaking tours. This idea was generated on the President's List Serve when JGSLA led the effort to bring speaker Yale Reisner to five cities this spring including L.A., Toronto, NY, Long Island and Michigan. The cost per JGS was \$450-\$500 plus ground accomodations.

IAJGS Awards Process – Providing Better Guidelines and Publicity

A recent evaluation of the IAJGS awards process revealed that most member societies are not aware of how the process to nominate and receive one of 4 awards is facilitated. Suggestions were discussed and it was determined that there need be more specific award proposal guidelines as well as a significant effort to publicize how the process works. Guidelines are being clarified and will be available online at the IAJGS website.

We hope that at least one member of each JGS will be able to attend the conference in Jerusalem. The program is gaining momentum with the addition of new databases on CD, extensive Sephardic programming and activities, a Glatt Kosher hotel, a reception at Yad Vashem on its 50th anniversary, and scheduled landsman and family reunions.

2003 IAJGS Membership Snapshot

- There are 73 paid member societies comprised of 8,363 individuals. Down 10% from 2002, IAJGS had 9,278 individual members the year before.
- The top ten societies total 4,445 individuals or 53.1% of all IAJGS membership.
- 34 societies (47%) have a membership ranging in number from 26-99 individuals each.
- At the 2003 IAJGS conference held in Washington, DC, only 590 (52%) out of 1128 total attendees reported membership in a JGS on their application.

Top Societies by Paid Membership

912 JGS New York
858 JGS Great Britain
490 JGS Los Angeles
468 Cercle de Genealogie Juive Paris, France

Survey for Next Issue - Dues Structure

In each issue of the **IAJGS ECHO**, we hope to address operational questions of interest to all member societies. If you could take a moment to answer the following questions about your local JGS dues structure, we will publish the collective results in the next issue. Email to grapevynwest@comcast.net.

- In 2004, what individual dues will your JGS charge?
- What family dues will your JGS charge?
- If you offer a "family dues" structure, for how many people is this?
- Do you publish a JGS newsletter?
- How much will you charge a non-member for a subscription to your publication?
- Do you offer lifetime membership?
- If you do offer a lifetime membership dues structure, how much does it cost per individual?
- Please describe any other dues that your JGS offers.
- Please describe any other revenue generating activities your JGS plans for 2004.

Family History Fairs – A Success for Publicity and Outreach

As part of family history month in October, family history fairs were held at the Denver Public Library and at The Graduate Center, City University of New York in Manhattan. Representatives from various local genealogy chapters including the Computer Interest Group, W.I.S.E., Hispanic Genealogy, Palatines to America, Italian Research Group, LDS, and the Jewish Genealogy Society were in attendance to lecture, distribute information, and interest new members. This event is an excellent way for any Jewish Genealogy Society to gain free publicity. Planned in conjunction with local chapters of the Association of Professional Genealogists, more local fairs are expected to occur around the country in October 2004.

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