



# IAJFL Conference 2024

The Montreal-IAJFL Conference Committee has been hard at work in preparation for the conference, to take place September 22-24, 2024 at the new Hilton Garden Inn Midtown.

We have exciting ideas, and are eager to showcase our beautiful city, it's fabulous food and sites. We have a vibrant Jewish community and look forward to introducing you all to our city and to our Jewish institutions.

**Looking forward to seeing you all in September!**

Valerie Abitbol  
Executive Director, HFLA Montreal



**Registration and Hotel Reservations:**

To register for the conference, click [here](#).

For hotel room reservation, click [here](#).



# INSIDE IAJFL

## Spring 2024

Dear IAJFL Member,

As I take on the humbling responsibility of leading IAJFL as your incoming President, I am filled with a profound sense of gratitude and purpose. It is an honor to be entrusted with the stewardship of this extraordinary organization and continue the exemplary efforts of all those who came before me.

We begin this year under the shadow of ongoing conflict in Israel and Gaza. The human cost, the fear, the destruction – it weighs heavily on all of us who value peace and justice. The current conditions are a source of deep concern, and it reminds us of the pressing need for unity, compassion, and effective international collaboration. For within the depths of every crisis lies a spark of hope, a chance to be the change we wish to see in the world.

The recent efforts led by Rabbi David Rosenn from Hebrew Free Loan Society of New York City, along with many others, have allowed us to collectively support our member organization, Ogen, in Israel with funds of over 3 million dollars to help support Israelis who have been severely impacted by the disastrous actions that occurred on October 7th. Our organization has always stood for promoting collaboration, understanding, and humanitarian efforts across borders.

As we welcome in 2024, I invite each and every one of you to actively participate in our initiatives and committees, lend your voices to important causes, and help us create a world where compassion and understanding triumph over discord and division. Not being able to join everyone in October for our conference in Las Vegas was very disappointing for me, but I'm thrilled with the feedback that I've received from many of the attendees. It immediately reminded me of attending my first conference about ten years ago, and how exciting it was to gain various insights from others on how they successfully support their cause.

Thank you for your unwavering support, and I look forward to a transformative and impactful journey ahead for us all.

Be well,



**Tim Grossman**  
IAJFL President

timgrossman21@gmail.com / (210) 273-6240

**New IAJFL  
Phone Number:  
(602) 714-7763**

To better serve IAJFL members and inquiries to the IAJFL office, we now have our own dedicated phone number. Please be sure to update your IAJFL contact information.



# Lunch and Learn

April 2024

## UPCOMING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:

**Please Join Us!**



### **Building Your Borrower's Credit**

**Thursday, April 11**

**11:00am Pacific / 2:00pm Eastern**

**Please join us for this informative and interactive Zoom session,  
featuring **CARIE MILLER** and **MONICA PACANNIS**.**

The long-awaited topic of how to build credit for our borrowers will be addressed at the April 11th Lunch and Learn. Carie Miller, CEO of NE Ohio and Monica Pacannis, Operations and Compliance Manager of NE Ohio, will be speaking to us and sharing their experience with this important topic. We encourage you to join us on Thursday, April 11.

To join the live Zoom, please click [here](#).  
Meeting ID: 423 762 2412 Passcode: 613613



# A Word on the IAJFL 2023 Conference

In life, there are three things that are certain- death, taxes, and explosions of energy in rooms full of 65 Jewish professionals and lay leaders.

For three action packed days in October 2023, the IAJFL Conference in Las Vegas took the latter to the limit. While the result was a rousing success, I wanted to share a few thoughts on what it was like to host the conference and see it all come together.

It was an honor to be selected as the host city for the conference. Our HFL program is one that is smaller and relatively new. This was a unique opportunity for us to deepen our connection with the IAJFL and all of the participating agencies. What we didn't know, however, was just how powerful the experience was for our own brand awareness and growth of our program.

When one comes to Vegas, there is typically a 4.5 mile strip of land that visitors don't get the chance to leave. Our committee realized that Las Vegas probably isn't one of the cities that would pop into your mind when you think about thriving Jewish Communities, but it should be. We made the decision to take this Jewish conference away from the hustle and bustle of the strip and highlight the beauty of our Jewish campuses and local businesses. We met our Jewish Mayor at the famous Adelson Campus. We dined and danced at swanky Kosher restaurants. We gathered to learn in beautiful sanctuaries lit by the stained-glass sunrise, and we learned about the Jewish Mobsters who built our fascinating town.

Sure, the conference was a blast, but the takeaways are incredible. Our agencies that we used are more involved than ever. The synagogues and schools we visited gained a deeper understanding of the scope of our program- we are now receiving more referrals from them than ever. Our restaurants are thankful and engaged, donating prizes or food for our upcoming poker fundraiser.

Of course, our people are more engaged than ever. Over half of our HFL Committee attended and are now more prideful and passionate about our work. Plus, as we are a Federation agency- each and every one of our staff had an opportunity to come to the conference and hear the stories, learn about the program and its challenges. That has led to more collaboration, understanding and awareness amongst our entire team. For me, personally, I went into the conference as one of the newest staff members affiliated with IAJFL, and I left feeling like a veteran.

In all, our conference was three days and 28 hours of programming out of the year. Yet the memories, lessons, and connections that we took from these three days will last for years to come. As the host agency, our program will benefit from the effects of this conference in perpetuity. So, if I can offer one piece of advice? Go for it. Tell your board members that it is worth the time and effort. Your community, borrowers and donors all deserve it.

Here's to you, Montreal!

Ethan Shapiro, Jewish Nevada



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## SOMETHING TO SHARE?

We encourage you to help us share your good news and/or current events with the IAJFL community. Please send recent news stories, event updates, agency highlights, staff & volunteer happenings or anything else you think your fellow IAJFL member agencies would find interesting.

We may highlight your agency's story, event, etc. in a future newsletter and/or social media announcement.

Email your items to:  
tinasheinbein@iajfl.org

Please write "IAJFL News Item" in the subject line.

## DROPBOX

A reminder that the IAJFL Dropbox is a wonderful resource for member agencies. The IAJFL Dropbox serves as a repository for all types of written communication, including:

- Marketing materials
- Loan applications
- Policies/procedures
- Bylaws
- IAJFL annual City Reports
- And much more



We encourage you to submit your documents and review the items provided by other members as well.

## IAJFL LEADERSHIP

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