



# INSIDE IAJFL

## Spring 2025/Adar 5785

Is your Board of Directors up for the Challenge?

Every Board member of our associations plays an integral role in the success of their respective organization. Maybe you can challenge your Board members to extend beyond their normal responsibilities and duties on the Board. Here are just a few examples that I've encountered:

Give or Get – challenge each Director to both give a donation and get a donation that's new to your funding.

Bring in new HFL/JFL members – if your organization is member based, can each Director bring in a set number of new members for the year?

Obtain or provide one resource – Examples could include Financial Planner, Grant Writer, Underwriting Foundation, Speaking Opportunities, Corporate Sponsorship, Entertainment, Subject Matter Expert Speakers.

Sponsor or Mentor one new Director – strengthens Board diversity and addresses potential weakness in skills or professional leadership on the team which also leads to positive succession planning.

Write an article – provide a newsletter or article in support of your organization or find a local resource, possibly a committee volunteer, to assist.

Working together on a consistent basis can improve the overall results for your agency and I am very fortunate to work with so many impressive people from the various member organizations around the country and the world! If you see a topic that catches your eye during the annual Conference sessions and side discussions, Lunch & Learn events, Large and Small Agency presentations, Canadian group, or our newly formed groups for Non-Sectarian Agencies or the Federation JFCS Affinity Group, do not hesitate to reach out to a colleague and ask how they do it. We all have so much wonderful knowledge to share that can benefit others!

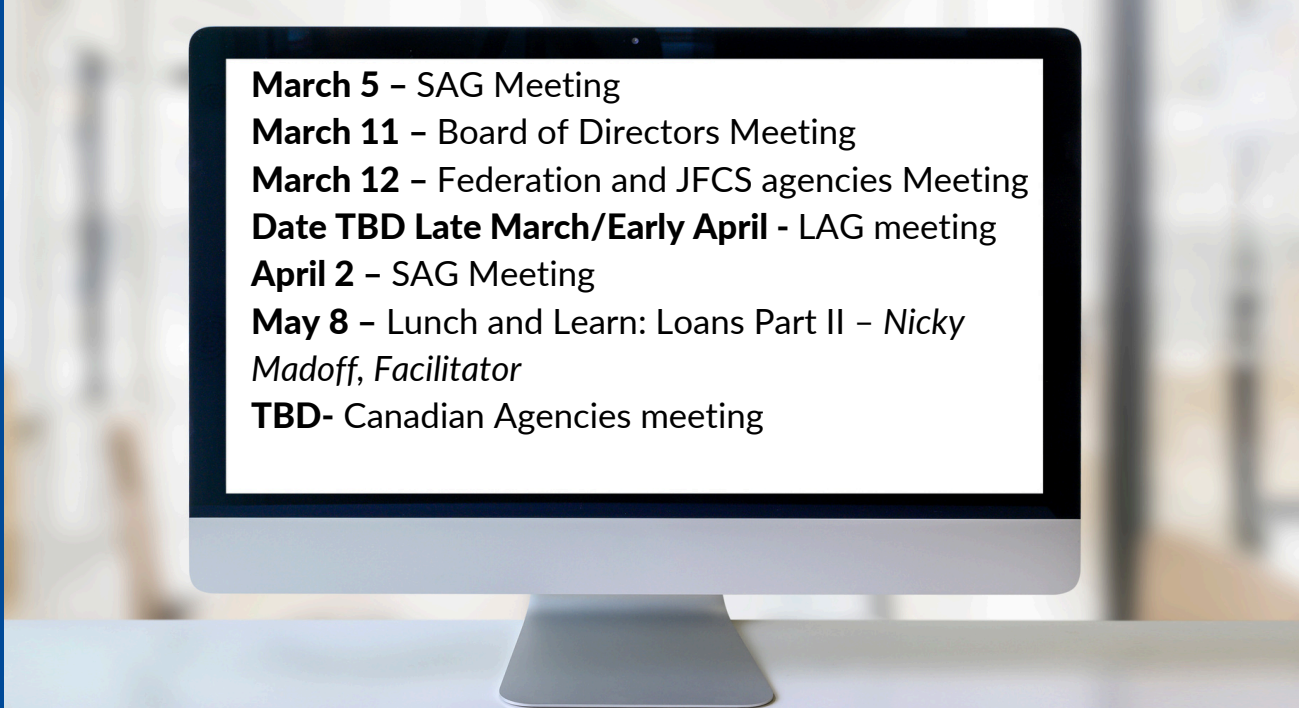


**Tim Grossman**  
2025 IAJFL President

**IAJFL**  
**Office Hours:**  
**Mondays**  
**8:30 AM - 1:30 PM**  
**(Mountain time)**

To better serve IAJFL members and inquiries to the IAJFL office, we have established regular office hours.

# Save the Date



**March 5** – SAG Meeting  
**March 11** – Board of Directors Meeting  
**March 12** – Federation and JFCS agencies Meeting  
**Date TBD Late March/Early April** - LAG meeting  
**April 2** – SAG Meeting  
**May 8** – Lunch and Learn: Loans Part II – *Nicky Madoff, Facilitator*  
**TBD**- Canadian Agencies meeting

Let us know if you have a topic and/or facilitator to suggest for future Lunch & Learns.

## Welcoming the St. Louis Jewish Loan Society

We are excited to officially introduce The Saint Louis Jewish Loan Society! While we've already made several loans through word of mouth, we are now publicly sharing our mission to support those in need.

The idea began when I moved to St. Louis in 2019, but COVID-19 happened (long, long delay). In 2023, I connected with Nancy (JIFLA) to discuss how they started and she led me to IAJFL. After incorporating and obtaining our 501(c)(3) status, I attended the 2023 IAJFL Annual Conference in Las Vegas where I learned best practices from helpful and wonderful resources like Rabbi David Rosenn.

Over the next several months, we developed our branding, loan documents, and banking partnerships. By summer 2024, we had successfully tested our systems with several loans. After refining our processes, we officially launched in November 2024.

We are thrilled to offer this vital resource and look forward to helping individuals and families achieve financial stability.

**Clifford L. Tager**  
*Executive Director*

## Meet Leia



**Leia Linn is the person behind the posts! She does marketing including newsletters and social media posts for IAJFL. She was the Marketing and Outreach Associate for Jewish Free Loan Phoenix and is currently in nursing school pursuing her Master's Degree.**

**If you ever want to contact Leia, you can email her at [marketing@iajfl.org](mailto:marketing@iajfl.org).**

# Save the Date!

## October 19-21, 2025

Mark your calendars today! Phoenix will be hosting the 2025 Annual IAJFL Conference. Get ready to connect in the desert!

### Read What “First Timers” Thought About the 2024 Conference

The 2024 IAJFL conference in Montreal was a wonderful experience, start to finish. You could see how much planning and care went into the process by how well everything was run, how seamless and well timed the daily scheduling was, how thoughtful the presentations were and how the topics were so relevant and timely. Splitting up groups by agency size or population served helped to focus the sessions and keep them on-point and intentional.

The local guest speakers were all excellent and really to the point for each presentation/talk. The food and the thought that went into engaging with each provider was so fantastic and the stories and connections to HFLA MTL was just so inspiring.

**Elizabeth Schoen**, Loan Intake and Accounts Manager  
Jewish Interest-Free Loan Association of Georgia

I had an amazing experience at my first IAJFL meeting. It was so valuable to connect face-to-face with colleagues who understand the challenges and rewards of our daily work. I felt a strong sense of belonging to a larger organization filled with expertise. I'm grateful to have this group to learn from and rely on.

**Mindi Frankel**, Executive Director  
Hebrew Free Loan San Diego

Attending the conference made me realize what a wonderful community I am part of and proud to be part of. The conference was the beginning of many wonderful connections established that have been very helpful in many ways.

**Michal Pescovsky**, Development & Partnerships Manager, N. America

**Ogen**  
Israel

Having the chance to be in-person with so many wonderful colleagues was a feeling I can't even begin to describe. My connection to the work was stronger than ever as I got to collaborate and build more meaningful relationships with people I regularly speak to via email and zoom. The topics were inspiring and I greatly look forward to being together again in 2025!

**Jessielyn Hirschl**, Board Member  
Jewish Free Loan  
Phoenix, Arizona

Attending the IAJFL conference for the first time in Montreal was an incredibly rewarding experience. Connecting with like-minded professionals who share a passion for the work we do was both inspiring and motivating. Don't miss out on learning from other chapters, sharing best practices and meeting new people. I look forward to coming together again!

**Lori Reichner**, Loan Coordinator  
Hebrew Free Loan Society of Greater Philadelphia

# Join Us in the Valley of the Sun for the 2025 IAJFL Conference

The International Association of Jewish Free Loans (IAJFL) is thrilled to invite you to our Annual Conference, taking place from October 19-21, 2025, at Valley of the Sun JCC in sunny Scottsdale, AZ. This event promises to be an enriching experience, bringing together professionals and volunteers from the IAJFL community to discuss and promote the vital work of interest-free lending and our member agencies.

## Why Attend?

**Networking Opportunities:** Connect with like-minded individuals dedicated to positively impacting lives through interest-free loans and related programming.

**Educational Sessions:** Share best practices and participate in workshops, covering a wide range of topics related to our daily work and the needs of the communities we serve.

**Inspiration and Innovation:** Discover new ideas and strategies to enhance your free loan's impact and effectiveness.



## Discover Phoenix /Scottsdale

- Phoenix, known as the "Valley of the Sun," is a city brimming with culture, history, and natural beauty. Here are some fun facts and must-see attractions to make your visit unforgettable:
- Sunny Days: Phoenix has more sunny days than any other major city in the U.S., making it a perfect destination for outdoor activities.
- Rich History: The city was settled as an agricultural community in 1867 and has grown into the fifth-largest city in the United States.
- Cultural Hub: Phoenix is home to world-renowned museums, including the Heard Museum, which showcases Native American art and culture.



## Top Attractions/Things to Do

- Desert Botanical Garden: Explore thousands of species of cacti, trees, and flowers from around the world in this stunning garden.
- Camelback Mountain: Hike to the summit for breathtaking views of Phoenix and Scottsdale.
- Musical Instrument Museum: Explore the vast collection of musical instruments from every corner of the globe.
- South Mountain Park and Preserve: Enjoy hiking, biking, and scenic drives in the largest municipal park in the U.S.
- Tempe Town Lake: Take a leisurely stroll or bike ride along the lake or try paddleboarding for a unique experience.
- Golf - Enjoy a round of golf at one of the 200+ golf courses in the Valley of the Sun.



More information about hotel accommodations, conference content, and things to do while you're in Arizona will be provided soon. We look forward to seeing you in October!



**This is a gentle reminder that the 2025 IAJFL membership dues are due!**

**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.

**Save the Date!  
2026!**

Pack your boots and get ready— the IAJFL 2026 Conference is heading to Austin! Join us for a Texas-sized gathering of ideas, innovation, and networking in the Live Music Capital of the World

**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**

**2025**

*President*

**Tim Grossman**  
(San Antonio)

*Treasurer*

**Selwyn Isakow**  
(San Diego)

*LAG Chair*

**Kim Kaplan**  
(New York)

*Executive Vice President*

**Terry Borer**  
(Toronto)

*Immediate Past President*

**Ellen Friedman Sacks**  
(Phoenix)

*SAG Chair*

**Mindi Frankel**  
(San Diego)

*Vice Presidents*

**Kim Kaplan**  
(New York)

*IAJFL Coordinator*  
**Tina Sheinbein**

*Federation/JFCS Chair*

**Ethan Shapiro**  
(Las Vegas)

**Nancy Weissmann**  
(Atlanta)

*Canadian Chair*  
**Joanna Wasel**  
(Vancouver)

*Non-sectarian Agencies Chair*

**Anna Koenig**  
(Milwaukee)

*Vice President/Recording Secretary*

**Joanna Wasel**  
(Vancouver)

**IAJFL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

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info@iajfl.org

Office Hours: Mondays 8:30 am to 1:30 pm (Mountain time)