



INSIDE IAJFL

Summer 2025/ Sivan 5785

Looking Ahead to Phoenix: A Decade of Perspective

As I look forward to the upcoming IAJFL Conference this October in Phoenix, I can't help but reflect on my first annual session nearly ten years ago in Los Angeles. At the time, I was new to the international community of members, nervously excited about connecting with peers and soaking in as much knowledge as I could.

I remember flying to the West Coast with a notebook full of questions and the hope of finding answers. What I quickly discovered is that while we all share a common mission—to support our loan recipients—our approaches vary greatly. I had expected to learn primarily from organizations similar in size to my own, but I was pleasantly surprised by the value I gained from agencies of all sizes. Each session offered new insights, and even small tweaks from someone else's experience proved to have a meaningful impact back home.

I came away with ideas about fundraising, outreach strategies, software solutions, bylaw structures, volunteer management, and application evaluation processes. I didn't get every question answered, but I received enough information, advice, and inspiration to move forward—and I left with even better questions that led to continued growth.

For those already planning to attend this year's conference in Phoenix, I encourage you to come prepared to think, share, and collaborate. If you haven't made plans yet, I urge you to consider the immense value of attending. Beyond gaining knowledge, you have the opportunity to offer your own. Often, it's in conversation with others who are facing the same challenges that we find the most powerful solutions—together.

I look forward to connecting with all of you in Phoenix!



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

July 10th - IAJFL Lunch and Learn: Organization Partnerships & Collaborative Programs: An in depth look at some of the benefits, pitfalls & impact

We hope you will join us for a very important topic presented by Nancy Weissmann, Executive Director of Jewish Interest Free Loan Association of Georgia. Valuable information for both staff and volunteers.

July 15th - Federation/JFCS meeting

July 30th Non-sectarian meeting

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

IAJFL mourns the death of Bernard Granor, IAJFL President, 1998 and 1999.

Bernard and his wife Marie were also the founders of Philadelphia's Hebrew Free Loan.

We appreciate and thank Marshall Granor, Bernard's son, for sending the IAJFL office files from when his father was active in IAJFL, then known as IAHFL.

May Bernard's memory always be for a blessing.

Welcome, Hebrew Free Loan of Greater Boston, to the IAJFL Family!

We are thrilled to welcome the Boston Hebrew Free Loan program to the International Association of Jewish Free Loans (IAJFL). In partnership with CJP, the Boston program offers interest-free loans—rooted in Jewish values of dignity and compassion—to individuals and families living in Greater Boston.

Loans from \$1,000 to \$10,000 are available for a wide range of needs, including life-cycle events, healthcare, home and car repairs, childcare, small business expenses, and more.

We're excited to have Boston join the IAJFL in helping more people navigate life's challenges with dignity and support.

JF&CS
Jewish Family & Children's Service



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!

The Desert is in Bloom – 2025 IAJFL 43rd Annual Conference

The Conference Planning Committee is hard at work putting together an exciting 3-day conference which includes topics on Economic Vulnerability, Cyberspace Security and AI. In addition to sharing innovative ideas, and meeting in “affinity groups” (agency size, Canadians, Non-sectarian, Federation & JFCS), three different times are planned for small group discussions on loans, marketing, fundraising/development, governance and community partnerships.

Early-bird registration runs until July 31 and the conference registration closes on September 30th. First timers have a special rate of \$275 until September 30th. Hotel rooms are available through the summer at the special IAJFL rate of \$179.

2025 IAJFL Conference Planning Committee

Ellen Friedman Sacks, Chair, Phoenix

Iris Aaron, Montreal

Valerie Abitbol, Montreal

Debbie Cohen, Austin

Dana Epstein, Austin

Debby Finkel, Phoenix

Mindi Frankel, San Diego

Tim Grossman, IAJFL President, San Antonio

Jessielyn Hirschl, Phoenix

Anna Koenig, Milwaukee

Stuart Laves, Austin

Jenna Shulman, JELF, Atlanta

Jeff Stanlis, Phoenix

Joanna Wasel, Vancouver

Nancy Weissmann, JIFLA, Atlanta

Carole Zeichick, Phoenix

Tina Sheinbein, IAJFL Coordinator

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Photos from the archives.



Left to right, officers of the 1995-96 AHFL and board members: Shirley Barnett, Convention Chair; Irving Levine, President; Mark Meltzer, Board of Directors (Past President); Harry Adler, Board of Directors (Past President); Henry Leopold, Board of Directors (Past President); Efraim Joffe, Board of Directors (Past President); Bernard Granor, Vice President; Alta Kreindler, Recording Secretary; Steve Ross, Vice President; Julius Blackman, Chairman of the Board (Past President)



IAHFL, 1994

Fall/Winter 1996

The FREE LOAN ENDORSER

The Newsletter of the International Association of Hebrew Free Loans

In Review: 1996 Annual Convention in Phoenix

The 15th annual meeting of the International Association of Hebrew Free Loans was held on Friday, August 30th through Monday, September 2nd at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Phoenix, Arizona. The following is a synopsis and review of the conference submitted by Recording Secretary, Alta Kreindler:

After registration on Friday, the Executive Committee met with Steve Ross to update and revise the Bylaws of the Association.

It was decided that Shirley Barnett would be in charge of contacting overseas Hebrew Free Loans for Outreach purposes, and Shana Novick would cover the United States.

Eliezer Jaffe felt the dues structure should be reviewed. He felt \$300 for an overseas association was not warranted and, perhaps, there should be a different category for overseas affiliates.

There was discussion concerning having the convention next year in San Francisco to coordinate with their 100th Anniversary celebration.

The convention would start on Sunday, September 21st to September 25, 1997.

In regard to the Main Office, we are filed with the State of Michigan, however we use New York City as a principal office. It was suggested we should have a telephone listing in the New York phone book.

Shabbat dinner was scheduled for 7:30 P.M. After the welcome by Harry Adler of the Phoenix Hebrew Free Loan, Irv Levine had some introductory remarks and presented Irwin Weiner, who gave his talk.

On August 31st, a number of members attended Shabbat services at the Beth El Congregation, where Ruth Marcus and Julius Blackman were each honored with an Aliyah. The Rabbi invited Helen Handler to give a presentation on the function of the Hebrew Free Loan movement. Helen Handler is Vice President of the Phoenix Association, founded in 1940.

In This Issue

- 1996 Phoenix Convention Review
- San Francisco 1997 Convention Preview
- Keynote Address
- IAHFL President Acceptance Speech
- D'Var Torah

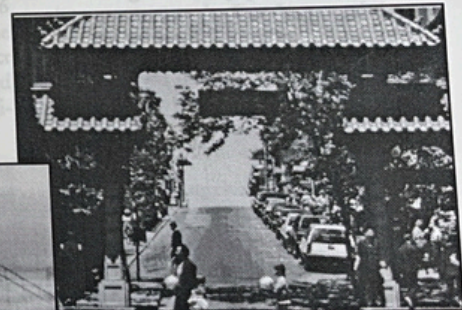
Shabbat luncheon was held at the hotel followed by a discussion led by Danny Siegel. The topic included the WHY of Free Loans.

Sunday, September 1 was an intensive day with three sessions. The first session from 9:30 until 11:30 discussed Board development and community relations. The moderator was Steve Ross. The panelists were Ruth Marcus, David Silberg and Jack Smith.

(continued on page 2)

San Francisco to Host 1997 IAHFL Convention

Plans are underway for the 1997 IAHFL Convention to be held in San Francisco, California from Sunday, September 21 through Wednesday, September 24, 1997. The site is the St. Francis Hotel on renowned



Union Square. This milestone event in "the city by the bay" will be highlighted by a Sunday evening banquet to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Hebrew Free Loan Association of San Francisco. Convention chairman Irwin Wiener also promises sightseeing tours along with some surprising seminars. The hotel is holding 50 rooms. Reservations should be made as soon as possible to insure you're part of this unique opportunity.

(San Francisco Convention & Visitors Bureau photos)

(continued on page 2)

Perhaps you, or someone you know, might have some "buried treasure" in the form of IAHL/IAJFL files tucked away in your office. These materials could be valuable additions to the IAJFL archives in Scottsdale.

If you believe you may have any of these items, please contact Tina Sheinbein, IAJFL Coordinator, at tinasheinbein@iajfl.org.

Thank you for helping us preserve our shared history!

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

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(San Antonio)

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2025

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