



# INSIDE IAJFL

## Winter 2025/ Kislev 5785

Dear IAJFL Members,

I am truly honored to begin my term as IAJFL President, following over 15 years of involvement, primarily with Jewish Free Loan Toronto (JFLT).

My first connection to our international work was through the City Reports during my JFLT presidency, which helped us craft our goals and know what was possible for us to achieve as an agency. A decade later I'm in my second year of managing the city reports to try and pay it forward.

The recent conference in Phoenix was a tremendous success. Nothing beats meeting in person, and I got dozens of good ideas and insights. I'm particularly interested in seeing how the AI trials of some agencies progress, specifically whether chatbots can streamline applications without alienating clients.

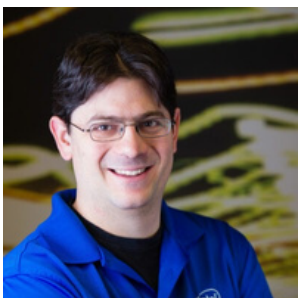
The IAJFL Board has established three core strategic priorities for the next two years, to be led by our past president Tim Grossman. The three focus areas are:

- Technology (Lead: Terry Borer)
- Member Services (Lead: Nancy Weissmann)
- Community Engagement (Lead: Mindi Frankel)

For technology, many people indicated they'd like us to modernize, perhaps using Microsoft Teams. We've started to pilot this for our board operations, and if goes well, we'll figure out how to roll it out to all members. Current tools such as Dropbox, Google Groups, Zoom, shared calendars, and some internal email chains could be replaced by Teams.

Your input is critical, since ultimately IAJFL exists for its members. If you have ideas or thoughts, please send any of us an email to discuss. My personal email is [terry@saraandterry.com](mailto:terry@saraandterry.com); always happy to chat about anything!

Thank you for your continued dedication to helping people in need.



Terry Borer  
2026 IAJFL President

**IAJFL Office Hours:**  
**Thursdays 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.

**SAG meeting For Executive Directors:  
Wednesday, January 7: 11 AM Pacific time**

**AI Lunch and Learn:  
Thursday, January 22: 11 AM Pacific time**

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

## Harnessing AI for Impact in the Jewish Nonprofit World

How Emerging Tools Are Strengthening  
Community Work and Expanding  
Possibilities

As technology continues to evolve, AI is becoming a powerful ally for Jewish nonprofits. Some examples include helping streamline workflows, enhance communication, and deepen engagement across our communities. In this article, we highlight a selection of practical AI resources generously shared by David Rosenn, offering tools and insights that can support everything from fundraising to program development. Whether you're just beginning to explore AI or looking to integrate it more strategically, these resources provide a good place to start.

Co-Intelligence: Living and Working with AI by  
Ethan Mollick

Also his substack "One Useful Thing"  
<https://www.oneusefulthing.org/>

The Alignment Problem: Machine Learning  
and Human Values by Brian Christian

Building our seat at the table: Lessons from  
two years of nonprofit AI exploration  
<https://crenyc.org/resources/building-our-seat-at-the-table-lessons-from-two-years-of-nonprofit-ai-exploration>

For more information, please contact David Rosenn.  
[drosenn@hfls.org](mailto:drosenn@hfls.org)





Wishing you a bright and joyous Chanukah!  
May your home be filled with light, warmth, and overflowing blessings.  
May the flames of the menorah inspire hope, strength, and countless moments of happiness.

## A First-timers Perspective

A newcomer's point of view on an unforgettable experience

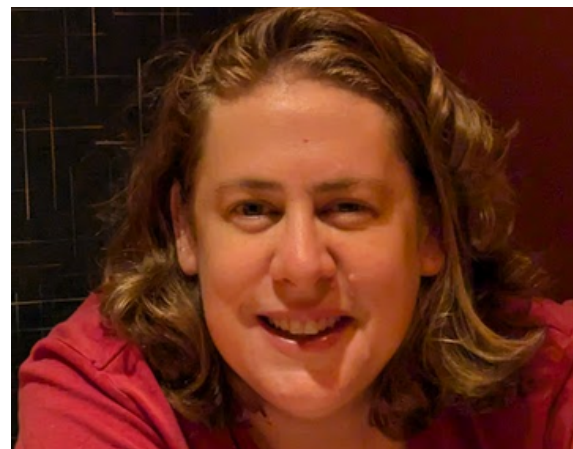
My first IAJFL conference was an extraordinary experience. The greatest strength of our own small organization is our people. The combined compassion, commitment, expertise and generosity brought together by being with other teams elevated it to a level that exceeded my expectations.

Beyond learning a lot of US geography and finding like-minded and brilliant colleagues, I was able to join sessions that spoke directly to the challenges we face and the questions we debate. These sessions included concrete and meaningful steps we could implement and perspectives we might consider to move forward in our own complex decision making, funding, growth, and community-focused caring.

While the innovative ideas, techniques, and research findings filled our minds, the people and fun filled our souls. I was glad to pile giggling into a Waymo (self-driving car) with new friends, especially since it was important that my last moments were happy ones! We did survive the ride and rewarded our bravery with shared meals and inspiring partner agencies.

The organizing committee did an outstanding job, including details that made our stay more interesting and our participation more meaningful. We shared bus rides, opportunities to connect and dig deeper, and more than anything, we shared a vision to create the best agencies and programs that serve the communities we love.

The problem of course, will be finding a way to get all of our people to Texas next year. Because if this is how it begins, I absolutely cannot wait to see what the future holds.



Julia Cornester  
Calgary



**IAJFL 2025  
Conference  
Photos  
Phoenix, AZ**





## Hebrew Free Loan of San Francisco Wins Prestigious Award

Hebrew Free Loan of San Francisco was recently recognized by the DAF Giving Summit with its annual Synergy for Change Award in honor of our collaborative work with the Jewish Federation Bay Area during the Covid-19 pandemic. The DAF Giving Summit is the premier national organization celebrating individuals and organizations making a lasting impact through donor-advised funds. We received this award jointly with the Federation in September 2025 at a conference in Washington, DC.

When the pandemic began, it unleashed a flood of need that surpassed our lending capacity. We developed a campaign with the Federation to encourage donor-advised fundholders to designate funds from their DAFs for the Federation to pool and lend, interest-free, to Hebrew Free Loan. We used these funds to extend loans to borrowers for a wide range of needs, and we returned the funds to the Federation after the loans were repaid.

Because of this partnership, we were able to meet people's needs during that tumultuous time when so many lost their incomes overnight, and the Federation and its donor-advised fundholders had the opportunity to provide a vital community lifeline. Given our 99.9% loan repayment rate, we could offer donors a high degree of confidence that the funds would be returned to their donor-advised funds to be recycled into new philanthropic efforts.

The collaboration has continued. Over the past five and a half years, the Federation and its donor-advised fundholders have loaned us roughly \$9M, allowing us to assist thousands of additional borrowers.

The model's success inspired the Federation to launch an ongoing Impact Investing Program that extends beyond Hebrew Free Loan, promoting opportunities for DAF-holders to loan funds to other nonprofit partners as well.

The DAF Giving Summit's Synergy for Change Award recognizes innovative models of giving that strengthen relationships, maximize resources, and drive meaningful change. Our partnership with the Federation accomplished exactly that in our own community, and we hope it will serve as a successful philanthropic model for other Jewish communities across North America.



We're grateful to Mark Abelson, Past President of Hebrew Free Loan's Board of Directors, for representing us in Washington, DC to receive this award, together with Nicole Levine, Managing Director of Jewish Federation Bay Area. If you're interested in developing a program like this in your own community, feel free to reach out to Cindy Rogoway for more information: [cindy@hflasf.org](mailto:cindy@hflasf.org).



**HEBREW FREE LOAN**  
INTEREST-FREE LENDING SINCE 1897



Please note that Tina,  
our IAJFL  
Coordinator, will now  
be available on  
Thursdays from 8:30  
AM to 1:30 PM  
instead of Mondays.

### 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!

### November 8-10, 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 - 2026

*President*

Terry Borer  
(Toronto)

*Treasurer*

Selwyn Isakow  
(San Diego)

*SAG Chair*

Jody Angell  
(Hartford)

*Executive Vice President*

Nancy Weissmann  
(Atlanta)

*Immediate Past President*

Tim Grossman  
(San Antonio)

*Federation/JFCS Chair*

Lori Kabrun-Berry  
(St. Louis)

*Vice Presidents*

Kim Kaplan  
(New York)

*IAJFL Coordinator*

Tina Sheinbein

*Non-sectarian Agencies Chair*

Anna Koenig  
(Milwaukee)

Mindi Frankel  
(San Diego)

*Canadian Chair*  
Joanna Wasel  
(Vancouver)

*IAJFL Social Media Outreach*

Leia Linn  
(Phoenix)

*Secretary*

Anna Koenig  
(Milwaukee)

*LAG Chair*

Kim Kaplan  
(New York)

### IAJFL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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info@iajfl.org

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