



International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS)

6052 Hackers Lane Agoura Hills, CA 91301

818-889-6616 tel 818-889-0189 fax

www.iajgs.org

Statement of the
International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies
Before the
Oversight and Government Reform Committee
Information Policy, Census and National Archives Subcommittee
History Museum or Records Access Agency? Defining and Fulfilling
the Mission of the National Archives and Records Administration

December 16, 2009

Officers

Michael Goldstein, Jerusalem, Israel, President@iajgs.org
Michael Brenner, Las Vegas, NV, USA, Vicepresident@iajgs.org
Joel Spector, Cherry Hill, NJ, USA, Secretary@iajgs.org
Paul Silverstone, New York City, NY, USA, Treasurer@iajgs.org

Immediate Past President

Anne Feder Lee, Honolulu, HI, USA Anne@iajgs.org

Directors-at-large

Jan Meisels Allen, Agoura Hills, CA, USA, Jan@iajgs.org
Nolan Altman, Oceanside, NY, USA Nolan@iajgs.org
Daniel Horowitz, Kfar Saba, Israel Daniel@iajgs.org
Bill Israel, St. Petersburg, FL, USA, Bill@iajgs.org
Kahlile Mehr, Bountiful, UT, USA, Kahlile@iajgs.org
Jackye Sullins, Carlsbad, CA, USA, Jackye@iajgs.org

The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) is an organization of 73 Jewish Genealogical Societies whose combined membership is approximately 10,000 persons. Of the 73 member societies, 47 are located within the United States. The IAJGS is an organization of organizations formed in the late 1980's to provide a common voice for issues of significance to its members, to advance our genealogical avocation, and to coordinate items such as the annual Jewish Genealogy Conference and to address issues of importance such as access to vital records on behalf of our members.

The objectives of the Association are:

1. To collect, preserve, and disseminate knowledge and information with reference to Jewish genealogy.
2. To assist and promote the research of Jewish family history.
3. To provide opportunities for the sharing of Jewish genealogical information.
4. To aim toward the publication of worthy material in the field of Jewish genealogy.
5. To promote membership in member Jewish genealogical societies.
6. To act as spokesperson for Jewish genealogical societies in areas of mutual interest.
7. To provide member societies with services to help them become more effective organizations.
8. To elevate Jewish Genealogy among Jewish people and in the academic community.
9. To promote public access to genealogically relevant records.

The IAJGS is one of the managing partners of the Records Preservation and Access Committee (RPAC) along with the Federation of Genealogical Societies and the National Genealogical Society. Other genealogical organizations represented on RPAC include: the Association of Professional Genealogists, Bureau of Certification of Genealogists, American Society of Genealogists, and Ancestry.com

We are very appreciative of and thank the Information Policy, Census, and National Archives Subcommittee of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee for permitting us to present our written statement on the critical issue of the mission of the United States' National Archives. We have also made a copy of our statement available to David S. Ferriero, Archivist of the United States.

The title of this hearing is very apt ...is the National Archives and Records Administration a history museum or a records agency or both? It appears that there is a movement to change NARA's direction and our concern can be simply stated: will the records agency be relegated to second class status to allow for a large history museum that may replicate exhibits of other national treasures? [see #3 below]. The NARA research facility is a national treasure and must remain effective, efficient, and accessible to the public. Researchers need to do their work in a quiet environment, with adequate space and tools, and not be encumbered with possible inefficient new

If you have any questions for us, we would make ourselves available to answer them by phone, or letter.

Jan Meisels Allen
IAJGS Director-at-large, and
Chairperson, IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee
jan@IAJGS.org 818-889-6616
6052 Hackers Lane
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Michael Goldstein
President, IAJGS
president@IAJGS.org
US phone number rings in Israel: -617-275 4246
Mevo Pal Yam 50
Jerusalem, 97890 Israel

Footnotes

<http://www.archives.gov/about/info/mission.html>

²<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/wo/woissues/governmentinfo/improvingaccess.cfm>

³<http://www.archives.gov/about/plans-reports/strategic-plan/2009/nara-strategic-plan-2009-2016-update.pdf>

⁴SAA Position Statement on NARA Space Study, July 1998.

<http://www.archivists.org/statements/stmt-naraspacestudy.asp>

⁵http://www.archivists.org/publications/proceedings/accesstoarchives/07_David_MENGEL.pdf, p. 2

⁶ Identity Fraud Trends and Patterns: Building a Data-Based Foundation for Proactive Enforcement. Gary R. Gordon, Ed.D.; Donald J. Rebovich, Ph.D.; Kyung-Seok Choo, Ph.D.; Judith B. Gordon, MLS. Center for Identity Management and Information Protection Utica College October 2007.

<http://www.utica.edu/academic/institutes/cimip/publications/index.cfm>

[The Center for Identity Management and Information Protection, housed at Utica College, is a research collaborative dedicated to furthering a national research agenda on identity management, information sharing, and data protection. Founded in June 2006, its ultimate goal is to impact policy, regulation, and legislation, working toward a more secure homeland.

CIMIP STAKEHOLDERS

Government stakeholders include the United States Secret Service, the United States Marshals Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the United States Postal Inspection Service. Utica College, and Syracuse University's CASE Center are the academic stakeholders.]