

## Tips for First Timers

### What does registration include?

Conference registration includes access to almost all sessions of the conference. Sessions include lectures, the film festival, evening entertainment sessions, and the keynote speech and reception. It also includes access to the Resource Room and Exhibitor Room. When you check in at the registration area, you will receive a conference tote bag containing a printed conference planner, the conference syllabus on a USB flash drive, your badge and badge holder, and other materials. Your conference badge will be your ticket for admission to the conference areas. On-site conference registration begins the night before the conference begins.

### What does almost all sessions mean?

Some sessions require pre-registration and have a fee for attendees. These sessions include some computer workshops and other sessions for which the conference incurs additional expenses, such as the cost of computer rental. A number of computer workshops will be offered during the conference for PC users only. These workshops will allow you, using computers provided by the conference, to learn about how to do searches, access various databases, and learn software. They are given by experts and are designed for beginner and intermediate users. There is a separate charge for these workshops, and it is a good idea to register for them early, as they will fill up.

### Meals

Meals are not included in the price of registration, but there are breakfasts, lunches, and a banquet that you can sign up for before the beginning of the conference – these meal events must be paid for in advance, and are add-ons on the conference registration page.

Breakfasts with the Experts will be available each day at an additional cost, and many of the SIGs provide lunch meetings during the conference for an additional cost. It is best to sign up for these as early as you can, but if you don't sign up when you first register, you can add them to your registration until they are filled to capacity. Most of these breakfasts and lunches will fill up.

The same is true with the conference gala banquet, which will also reach capacity. When you arrive at the conference, you can choose your seating preference for the banquet at the hospitality area. If you wish to sit with friends or other members of your JGS, it is important to select seating early. Tickets for all pre-purchased meals will be given to you with your badge and other conference material at check in. Many attendees prefer to tuck their tickets in behind their conference badges in the badge holder for convenience.

You'll need to present your ticket at the door for all add-on events.

### Is the hotel included in the conference fee?

The hotel room charges are not part of the conference registration fee. You must register for the hotel separately. The conference has negotiated a special rate for hotel rooms with the Sheraton. It is

important to reserve your room early because we only have a limited number of rooms available at the special room rate.

The conference rate will be available for several days before and after the conference for those who wish to arrive early or stay for a while in Seattle.

### **Internet access**

All conference areas have free wi-fi. All hotel rooms in the conference block also have free wi-fi.

### **What is a SIG?**

SIGs are **S**pecial **I**nterest **G**roups. JewishGen sponsors a variety of SIGs, which cover many areas where Jews lived, as well as some non-geographic topics. A few SIGs are independently run, including the Litvak SIG (covering modern Lithuania), JRI-Poland, and Gesher Galicia (covering the Austro-Hungarian province of Galicia). There are no fees to join the JewishGen-sponsored SIGs. These groups offer a Discussion Group Mailing List for members to ask questions and learn about resources for research, help in finding your roots, and a variety of databases reflecting vital records, tax records, business directories, etc. All SIGs are run by volunteers, and they always need volunteers to help with a wide variety of tasks.

### **What is a BOF?**

**B**irds **o**f a **F**eather groups are organized by individuals for much smaller areas than the SIGs. Typically, they are researching a town or a small region. Many of the BOFs have informal meetings during the conference. Some BOF meetings might be scheduled in advance and listed in the conference programs. Others may be announced at the last minute. There will be a message board outside the hospitality area where information on BOF meetings can be posted.

### **During the conference, how will I know when sessions are added or cancelled or special events are happening?**

The conference features a free app, downloadable for Apple and Android systems, including a calendar of events that makes it convenient to check your schedule on your phone or tablet during the day. Every time something changes, you will be notified. The app is also a convenient way to store your own personal conference schedule.

For additional information, see the Conference Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) by clicking on the Web link or going directly to <http://www.iajgs2016.org/faq/>.