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Official letter by Lorna Goldberg, ICSA President.

International Cultic Studies Association

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Oggetto: Exciting changes in ICSA periodicals

Dear Friend of ICSA:

If you already responded to a postal version of this appeal, thank you for your donation.

I'm writing to ask you to reaffirm your support of ICSA and to tell you about exciting changes that are planned for next year.

These changes are related to our long-range goal of making ICSA permanent by markedly expanding its membership over the next five to ten years. An expanded membership will give ICSA a more reliable source of funding and, equally important, more and younger volunteers to contribute to the organization's programs to help ex-members and families, forewarn the public, and improve our knowledge and skills through research and professional study.

The most important change in 2010 will be the publication of a new magazine, ICSA Today. You will find the cover of the first issue, which should be ready for mailing in May, here (copy and paste the URL into your browser, if the link does not work for you):

http://www.icsahome.com/infoserv_icsatoday/covers/01%200129nov09.jpg

The magazine will be published in four-color on glossy stock three times per year and should have 24 - 48 pages per issue.

The cover of the first issue is a painting by an ex-member artist, Christine Cole. Christine is one of the artists whose work was featured in our Phoenix Project, an exhibit that some of you may have visited during conferences. We were so impressed by the quality and quantity of art submitted to the Phoenix Project that we have decided to use ex-member art for the covers of all ICSA Today issues.

ICSA Today will include the following:

- news on groups
- announcements on new books, articles, Web links of note
- news on ICSA member activities
- profiles on people
- personal accounts
- practical articles
- opinion essays
- art work
- poetry
- literary articles
- special reports from correspondents around the world.

Michael Langone will be the chief editor of ICSA Today. Section editors and international correspondents will include Arthur Buchman, Cristina Caparesi, Patricia Cartledge, Raffaella Di Marzio, Linda Dubrow-Marshall, Rod Dubrow-Marshall, Gillie Jenkinson, Joseph Kelly, Piotr Nowakowski, Diana Pletts, Ann Stamler, and Lois Svoboda.

Because ICSA Today will provide such a wide range of information for our entire ICSA community, in 2010 we will be able to sharpen the academic focus of ICSA's scholarly journal. We have decided to change the name of the journal to International Journal of Cultic Studies (IJCS). IJCS will be multi-lingual with a distinguished academic and professional editorial board. The new co-editors will be Carmen Almendros (Autonomous University of Madrid), Dianne Casoni (University of Montreal), and Rod Dubrow-Marshall (University of Glamorgan in Wales). IJCS will initially be an annual. We hope to have the first issue ready for our annual conference in July.

The annual conference will take place July 1-3, 2010 at the Doubletree Hotel at George Washington Bridge, just across the Hudson River from New York City. The Doubletree has a shuttle to Manhattan and will honor the special conference rate for two days before and after the conference for those who would like to add a New York vacation to the conference.

We will have over 90 speakers from 14 countries. You will receive a brochure on the conference in January. Online information can be found at this URL: http://icsahome.com/infoserv_conferences/conference_home_2010_ny.asp

Because the information in the current e-newsletter will be contained in ICSA Today, we will discontinue that newsletter. Approximately bi-monthly we will send members via e-mail the ICSA Member Update, which will report briefly on the activities (e.g., educational talks, conference presentations, publications, etc.) of ICSA members around the world. We will also make available to members the ICSA News Desk's weekly e-mailing of a news article deemed to be particularly important or interesting. Members will automatically receive the News Desk e-mailing, unless they decide to opt out.

On November 29th of this year, ICSA held its first local monthly meeting in Philadelphia. Led by mental health professionals Dr. Steve Eichel and Roberta Eisenberg, who volunteer

their time, this monthly meeting seeks to provide a model of support, information, and education that can be adopted in other metropolitan areas in the future. Contact ICSA if you are interested in attending future monthly meetings in Philadelphia.

In addition to these new developments, ICSA will continue its other programs, including

- workshops for ex-members, families, mental health professionals, and researchers
- the ICSA Annual conference and special conferences, such as the victim assistance conference held in Denver in October of this year
- maintenance and development of ICSA's Websites and e-Library (more than 300,000 people visit our Web site each year)
- an information phone line
- support for cultic studies research
- peer consultation and training

More than ever, ICSA needs your generous support.

You can become a member and/or donate online at this URL:
http://store.icsahome.com/merchant.mvc?Screen=PROD&Store_Code=ICIB&Product_Code=Donation&Category_Code=Mem

Or, send a check or Visa or Mastercard number and expiration date, along with your name and contact information.

Thank you for helping us implement the changes described above.

Sincerely,

Lorna Goldberg, M.S.W., L.C.S.W.

President

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