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MS-831: Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation Records, 1980–2008.
Series B: Commission on Jewish Education in North America (CJENA). 1980–1993.
Subseries 2: Commissioner and Consultant Biographical Files, 1987–1993.

Box
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Ackerman, Mona R., 1988-1992.

For more information on this collection, please see the finding aid on the
American Jewish Archives website.

Mandel
Associated
Foundations

1750 Euclid Avenue • Cleveland, Ohio 44115 • (216) 566-9200

Jack N. and Lilyan Mandel Fund
Joseph C. and Florence Mandel Fund
Morton L. and Barbara Mandel Fund

June 27, 1988

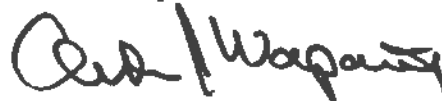
Dear Dr. Ackerman:

I am pleased that you will be serving as a member of the Commission on Jewish Education in North America and look forward to working with you in my capacity as director.

With the first Commission meeting scheduled for Monday, August 1, my colleagues and I are actively involved in meeting preparations. At that meeting we would like to distribute a brief biographical sketch of each commissioner. I would appreciate your sending me information on your background. Please send it, as soon as possible, to Premier Industrial Foundation, 4500 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44103.

You can expect to hear from me regularly during the months ahead. If you have any questions or comments about the Commission, I can be reached at (216) 391-8300.

Sincerely,



Arthur J. Naparstek

Dr. Mona Ackerman
Riklis Family Foundation
595 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10022

SEP 1 1988

HL2 ✓
VFL ✓
AJW

RIKLIS FAMILY FOUNDATION
595 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

MONA RIKLIS ACKERMAN, PH. D.
PRESIDENT
(212) 888-2035

August 25, 1988

Mr. Arthur J. Naparstek
Director, Commission on Jewish Education
in North America
Premier Industrial Foundation
4500 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44103

Dear Arthur:

The first Commission meeting on August 1st was a great success, for which you should be very proud.

I recognize and appreciate your skillful handling of this gathering, from the pre-meeting interviews to the structuring and organizing of materials for Commission members. Your careful attention to detail was most evident in the concise outline of the various issues before the Commission.

I also think it's wonderful that while the Commission will undoubtedly yield general approaches to various issues affecting Jewish education, these overviews, developed in our meetings, will enable individual Commission members to focus more clearly on the details in our own endeavors. For example: The Riklis Family Foundation is researching child development and daycare, and we recognize the need for a strong Jewish identity component for any such program instituted under our auspices; therefore we look forward to using concepts generated by the Commission in outlining our specific approach to this issue.

And of course I look forward to the next meeting of the Commission to continue our discussion.

Sincerely yours,



Mona Riklis Ackerman, Ph.D.

file

Premier Industrial Foundation

4500 EUCLID AVENUE
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44103

Commission

*New file
Dr. Krumm*

September 8, 1988

Dear Mona:

Thank you for your very nice letter of August 25, 1988. I am also very pleased with the first Commission meeting and look forward to working with you and the other commissioners during the coming two years.

Since the meeting, we have had a series of planning meetings to put together a four-month planning process that will lead to the December 13th Commission meeting. By this time you should have received a copy of the minutes which I thought more than represent the high quality of discussion that we experienced at the August 1 meeting.

In reviewing the August 1 meeting, the planning group decided that the next step would be to put forward an options paper. The options paper will include the possible alternative for the content of the Commission, the topics the Commission could decide to focus on. It will be based on the proceedings of the first meeting, the interviews and knowledge of the field, and of educational theory. This paper could become the background document for the deliberations on what issues to address and how to address them. It will be the basis for a research design that will be used in consultation and interviews.

A second paper we are working on is one we are for now calling "The Future is History." This document will appear first in outline form and will present a vision of possibilities of a Reformed system of Jewish education. It will offer an illustration of what Jewish education in North America could be.

I plan, with Professor Seymour Fox and Annette Hochstein, to meet with commissioners and review each of these papers prior to our December 13th meeting. It will be at this time that we can look at ways in which the option paper and the vision paper can more clearly link in with the philanthropic agenda of the Riklis Family Foundation and other philanthropic initiatives. I hope to be able to set up a time within the next two weeks so that we might be able to meet in early October.

Again, it was wonderful to have seen you on August 1 and I look forward to seeing you very shortly to discuss the drafts and helping us to prepare for the very important December 12th meeting.

Sincerely,



Arthur J. Naparstek
President

Dr. Mona Riklis Ackerman
Riklis Family Foundation
595 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10022

mona/1FOX-W

TOWARDS THE THIRD COMMISSION MEETING

INTERVIEW OF COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONER NAME: DR. MONA ACKERMAN
INTERVIEWER: SEYMOUR FOX
DATE: MAY 5, 1989 -- 1:00 P.M.
PLACE: NEW YORK CITY

Summary:

Mona Ackerman is very excited about the work of the Commission and thinks that it will serve as a catalyst for all activities in Jewish education. Her main interest is in model early childhood day care, which she sees as related to family education.

She believes that a rationale has to be developed of why Jewish continuity can be built through day care, and that's something she'd like to be involved in.

She would be happy to participate in a sub-group of the funders. She certainly thinks the funders should be brought together and was very concerned, and brought this up several times, that the funding be thought about before we go into a demonstration site. She understood the idea of demonstration site quickly and thought that her own day care interests could find their expression there.

She then brought up something which I imagine will accompany us throughout our work. She said that she has to make a large contribution in New York City. "If your demonstration site could have something to do with my work in New York City, I can give a great deal of money. If it is going to be outside of New York City, I don't know how much money I can give."

She thought all the funders should be asked to contribute some money now to a feasibility study about the demonstration site. She said, "If any one of the funders is not ready to contribute, they ought to be thrown off the Commission."

She is the first person who asked us to serve as a broker for her. She asked us particularly to meet with Dr. Alvin Schiff and work out with him what her role could be in New York City in the area of day care. Schiff had mentioned something to me about this and now I understand that he has been negotiating with her as well. She thought that we could be a broker without a vested interest and could represent her in terms of content.

She also asked that we be in touch with Kathy Hat who is her right arm on the foundation.

She seems to be fairly close to Eli Evans and she is ready to join small groups. She has some problems about the meeting on the 14th, because her son is graduating from Ramaz that same day. I think if we remind her and encourage her, she will come to all or most of the meeting.

Again, we are reminded of how important it is to get the funders together. I think that she also must be met with regularly to keep her on board.

MORTON L. MANDEL

4500 EUCLID AVENUE • CLEVELAND, OHIO 44103

VFL

file

January 2, 1990

Dear Mona:

I have just learned that you may not be able to personally attend the meeting of our Commission on Jewish Education, scheduled for February 14 at the UJA/Federation Building.

I'm really very disappointed to hear that, because I feel you have, and can, make an important contribution to our deliberations. I do ask that you try very hard to rearrange your schedule and attend. We really need and want your input.

You may recall that, at the last meeting, you asked a member of your staff to attend in your place. We really do not permit "substitutes", even though I know such a person might be extremely well qualified.

We really want you. Please try to be with us.

Sincerely,

MORTON L. MANDEL

Mona Ackerman
Riklis Family Foundation
595 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Aron

COMMISSION
ON JEWISH EDUCATION
IN NORTH AMERICA

4500 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44103
216/391-8300

Commissioners

- Morton L. Mandel
Chairman
- Mona Riklis Ackerman
- Ronald Appleby
- David Arnow
- Mandell L. Berman
- Jack Bieler
- Charles R. Bronfman
- John C. Colman
- Maurice S. Corson
- Lester Crown
- David Dubin
- Stuart E. Eizenstat
- Joshua Elkin
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- Harriet L. Rosenthal
- Alvin I. Schiff
- Lionel H. Schipper
- Ismar Schorsch
- Harold M. Schulweis
- Daniel S. Shapiro
- Margaret W. Tishman
- Isadore Twersky
- Bennett Yanowitz
- Isaiah Zeldin

April 20, 1990

Dr. Mona Ackerman
Riklis Family Foundation
595 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Dear Mona:

As you know, a series of papers were commissioned during the past year to provide background information for our process and final report. The papers are nearing completion, having undergone extensive review by our staff and senior policy advisors. I am pleased to forward the first of the papers to you, titled "Towards the Professionalism of Jewish Teaching" prepared by Dr. Isa Aron, professor at the Rhea Hirsch School of Education of Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles.

Isa had two assignments. First was an explanation of how the goal of "professionalism" relates to the field of Jewish education. The second assignment was an analysis of data from the field on characteristics of the people now working in Jewish education.

The first three sections of this paper define the profession in terms of three commonly accepted criteria, and analyze the ways in which Jewish teaching meets those criteria. Section three, which looks at the criterion of commitment, encompasses an interesting discussion of the unique dimensions of Jewish teaching. Finally, the last section points toward ways in which policy-makers in Jewish education can work to increase professionalism.

I hope you will share your thoughts with me or our staff.

Please continue to hold June 12, 1990 for our final Commission meeting. Details on time and place will be sent as soon as possible. Warmest regards.

Mort
Morton L. Mandel

*Sent to all Commissioners
and policy advisors*

In Formation

Senior Policy Advisors

- David S. Ariel
- Seymour Fox
- Annette Hochstein
- Stephen H. Hoffman
- Martin S. Kraar
- Arthur Rotman
- Carmi Schwartz
- Herman D. Stein
- Jonathan Woocher
- Henry L. Zucker

Director

Henry L. Zucker

Staff

- Mark Gurvis
- Virginia F. Levi
- Joseph Reimer

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Director

Henry L. Zucker

Staff

Mark Gurvis
Virginia F. Levi
Joseph Reimer

May 16, 1990

Dear Friend:

The Commission on Jewish Education in North America has been working for two years to develop recommendations that will lead to improvements in Jewish education. At its final meeting in June 1990, the Commission is expected to review a draft of its final report, which will be issued in the months to follow.

In the course of our work, we commissioned a number of background papers to strengthen the knowledge base for our work and conclusions. I am pleased to share the first two papers with you now.

The first paper is by Dr. Isa Aron of the Rhea Hirsch School of Education, Hebrew Union College, Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles. Entitled "Toward the Professionalism of Jewish Teaching," the paper explores the relationship of the concept of professionalism to the field of Jewish teaching.

The other paper enclosed is by Walter Ackerman, Shane Family Professor of Education at Ben Gurion University of the Negev, on "The Structure of Jewish Education." One of the challenges in studying Jewish education is developing a concrete working understanding of this complex field. Ackerman's paper is a clear and concise analysis of the structure of Jewish education, and how various elements relate to each other.

While these and the other papers commissioned reflect the work and ideas of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Commission, each report is believed to be a valuable contribution to our knowledge and understanding of Jewish education. In that spirit, the Commission is pleased to share these papers as a service to the community. The other papers will follow shortly, and our final report, when completed, will also be sent to you.

Please feel free to share your comments and reactions on this, or any of the papers to follow, with me, our staff or the authors.

Morton L. Mandel
Chairman

sent to Ben-Gurion Directors 56
Pittsburgh 44
Cleveland 6
106

Aron

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ON JEWISH EDUCATION
IN NORTH AMERICA

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April 27, 1990

Dear Friend:

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Morton L. Mandel

Morton L. Mandel
Chairman

sent to outreach list

THE RIKLIS FAMILY FOUNDATION

HAS MOVED
TO NEW OFFICES

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MONA RIKLIS ACKERMAN, Ph.D.

PRESIDENT

KATHLEEN M. HAT

ADMINISTRATOR OF CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

MAY 1, 1990

COUNCIL FOR INITIATIVES
IN JEWISH EDUCATION

1750 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
216/566-9200 Fax 216/861-1230

(Temporary Address)

Honorary Chair
Max M. Fisher

Chair
Morton L. Mandel

Acting Director
Stephen H. Hoffman

Chief Education Officer
Dr. Shulamith Elster

March 3, 1992

Dr. Mona Ackerman
Riklis Family Foundation
109 E. 89th Street, Suite 1E
New York, NY 10128

Dear Dr. Ackerman:

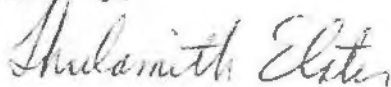
As one who served with distinction as a member of the Commission on Jewish Education in North America, I thought that you would be pleased to know of the CIJE's progress on one of the recommendations of the Commission.

The Lead Communities Project has been officially launched with the publication of the Guidelines for participation which have been distributed to the eligible communities in North America.

On Monday, February 24th, thirty communities from around the continent participated in a cable teleconference on the project through the CJF Satellite Network. We were pleased with the level of participation and with the general interest thus far in this project, which we anticipate will establish lead or model communities for Jewish education in North America.

It is my plan to keep you informed about our work. A copy of the Guidelines is enclosed for your information. I would be very pleased to have your comments and suggestions as we proceed with this and the other projects of the Council.

Cordially,



Shulamith R. Elster
Chief Education Officer

Enclosure

Commissioners who aren't Board members
or Sr. Policy Advisors:

Mona Ackerman

Ronald Appleby

Lester Crown

Stuart Eigenstat

Eli Evans

Joseph Gross

Robert Hiller

Carol Ingall

Haskel Loshstein

Robert Loup

Donald Mintz

Harriet Rosenthal

~~Lynne Schipper~~
(dropped - inactive)

~~Harold Schalmers~~
(dropped - inactive)

Daniel Shapiro

Peggy Tishman

~~Isaiah Zeldin~~
(dropped - inactive)