



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE  
**AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES**

**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.

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Box	Folder
5	26

Gottschalk, Alfred, 1988-1989.

For more information on this collection, please see the finding aid on the  
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Commissioner Contact Sheet

Name Alfred Gottschalk Assigned to SF

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ Off. phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Telex \_\_\_\_\_

Comments Influential, leader of reform movement  
One of key leaders of Jewish Community.

Interested in research, <sup>scholarship</sup> scholarships in Jewish ed, training.

Date Nature of Contact/Status Next Steps/Action Needed

7/5/88 SF Visit - Pre s/i interview

8/15/88 SF Call - Follow-up on s/i

8/23/88 letter from AG to HLM

8/30/88 letter from HLM to AG

? ~~JR~~ JR call

2/89 SF call

12/88 SF meeting (N.Y.)

2/88 SF meeting (Jerusalem)

SF will see 4/89

COMMISSIONER CONTACT SHEET

Name Alfred Gottschalk Assigned to SF

Mailing Hebrew Union College  
Address 3101 Clifton Avenue Off. phone 513-221-1875

Cincinnati, OH 45220-2488 Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Telex \_\_\_\_\_

Comments Influential, leader of reform movement, one of key leaders of Jewish community, interested in research, Zabernic scholarship in Jewish education, training.

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8/30/88	Letter from MLM to AG	
12/88	SF meeting (NY)	
	JR Call	
2/89	SF Call	
2/89	SF meeting (Jerusalem)	SF will see 4/89

INTERVIEW WITH  
PROFESSOR ALFRED GOTTSCHALK

SEYMOUR FOX  
JULY 5, 1988 AT HEBREW UNION COLLEGE, CINCINNATI

He first spoke about the importance of Israel for education in the diaspora. He sees Israel as having a particular power for Jewish education in a diaspora. In a sense, he's telling the same story that Charles Bronfman did. He agreed that the personnel is certainly the most important problem. However, he saw even more important, the question of no philosophy or philosophers of Jewish education. What is being done in Jewish education, they are ad hoc philosophies but no real philosophy.

Professor Gottschalk sees the importance of building a philosophy of education, and particularly building from the top down. He sees the think tank as being the important issues. Thus he sees the importance of the Ph.D. program. A serious Ph.D. program would result because the people in the think tank would draw them and they would become the disciples that would take over. In thinking about a think tank, the importance of the ambiance of such an institution, he spoke about the Jerusalem Fellows as an example, where you have the conditions that make it possible for people to think and deliberate. He sees such an institution and the Ph.D. program as doing more than anything else for changing the image of Jewish education.

He then went to speak about rabbis and their lack of training for education, yet the important role that they play. He spoke about doing

something about that. Essentially, as I may have said already, this is a system which believes in moving from the top down. We spoke about the examples of John Dewey, of Martin Luber, of Rosensweig, all of examples of people who built from the top down. We spoke about rabbis as educators and rabbis and their relationship to educators.

In the meeting on August 1, which he cannot attend, he suggested that Mr. Mandel might quote from him and indicate that Professor Gottschalk's point of view was that the most practical thing that we could do would be to build some kind of an institute or think tank where the best minds in the Jewish world, and the best minds of Jews who are not involved in Jewish work, social scientists, humanists, etc. would sit together and deliberate on the values that a Jewish education want the young and their parents to internalize.

About the issues that a Jewish education has to tackle, he claimed that "Martin Luber did more than anyone else in his time for a Jewish education." He also wants to emphasize his concept of building from the top down.

He reemphasized the shortage of personnel, emphasizing his point about the role of individuals. He spoke about the great contribution that Luber had made in his school of communal service. He emphasized the importance of Hebrew for Jewish education and claimed that you'd have to emphasize or deal with the love of Hebrew before you could get people to study Hebrew.

and again this would be an assignment for the think tank.

We spoke about the importance of adult education and pre-school education. He told me about an interesting experiment that he was carrying out there in Cincinnati in pre-school and day school education.

He emphasized also the importance of developing lay leadership. In terms of where you would build, he thought it should begin with . he talked about his work in Los Angeles where he had developed a certain amount of critical mass to do work in education.

He also spoke about the possibility of building a non-denominational group or a cross-denominational group in Los Angeles, certainly with the conservative and possibly even with the orthodox.

In discussing informal education and its importance, he told me about the cultural center they are building in Los Angeles which will have three elements, a teaching museum which will emphasize museum education, a section on the arts, the Center for American Jewish Life which will deal with folk culture, and a conference center. He sees Los Angeles as the great center of the future.

He mentioned the name of a layman that he thought should be involved in one of the task forces, at least possibly even on the Commission, Alan Isilin from Albany. He spoke about a Rabbi Shi Zeldin in Los Angeles, who he thought could meet the problem that we discussed about rabbis being involved. He felt it was important for rabbis to be involved. In terms of the denominational problem, he suggested Rabbi Danny Sime and possibly co-oped him at the beginning, in the orthodox world Haskel Lipstein.

He told me about his conversation with Mr. Mandel about a fellowship program and he criticized the Wexner program because the fellowship was given to the individual and thus he was seen as "a fat cat" when he came to the institution.

Going back to Los Angeles, he spoke about the connections with UCLA and the possibility of building such an institution there.

He cannot come on August 1st, and he strongly urged us to stay in touch with Cynthia Marver, who is the person who handles his calendar. Another person whom he suggested for the Commission was Dick Scheuer, the Chairman of his Board.

## TOWARDS THE THIRD COMMISSION MEETING

## INTERVIEW OF COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONER NAME: PROF. FRED GOTTSCHALK  
INTERVIEWER: PROF. SEYMOUR FOX  
DATE: APRIL 7, 1989  
PLACE: 1 WEST 4TH ST., NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Summary:

My meeting with Prof. Gottschalk took place at the New York office of the Hebrew Union College. Its purpose was to bring him up-to-date of the work of the staff since the last meeting of the Commission on December 13th.

I took Prof. Gottschalk through the various steps that we had considered, moving from demonstration sites to the problem of who might undertake the assignment of implementing or carrying out the ideas of the demonstration site.

Prof. Gottschalk thoroughly grasped the notion of the need for some kind of mechanism. I think he was concerned about the complexity of establishing something as elaborate as an ii. During the discussion he brought up several important points, such as the role that rabbis could and should play in any demonstration site that may be undertaken. He particularly emphasized the weakness of the training of rabbis for the role that they must undertake as educators. I believe that Prof. Gottschalk will cooperate in helping us establish demonstration sites and will do his very best to bring the Reform Movement on board.



When I brought up the problem of denominations and indicated that MLM will want to meet with him to consult with him on that issue, he seemed to take the position that nothing should be done; that things were "fine" as they are. I think this is something which should be kept in mind as MLM prepares his meeting with Prof. Gottschalk on the issue of the denominations.

He has the 14th of June on his calendar and we went down to look at his facility in New York, toward the possibility of it serving as the next site for our meeting. In general, I can say that Prof. Gottschalk is certainly an involved and cooperative Commission member.

gott/2FOX-W

THE COMMISSION ON JEWISH EDUCATION IN NORTH AMERICA  
TOWARDS THE THIRD MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

INTERVIEW OF COMMISSIONER

1. COMMISSIONER: PROF. ALFRED GOTTSCHALK
2. INTERVIEWER: PROF. SEYMOUR FOX
3. DATE: JULY 26, 1989
4. SETTING: JERUSALEM
5. SUMMARY:

The meeting with Prof. Gottschalk began with his review of the third commission meeting. He thought the small groups had worked out very well and he feels that he had learned a great deal from them. He believes that the meetings of the Commission are well-planned and that we are developing momentum from meeting to meeting.

He thinks the Community Action Site is a good idea; he believes that the IJE should be established; and he feels that the issue of politics (the denominations, etc.) will be resolved when it is clear what our outcomes will be.

He raised the issue of personnel and described how difficult his own situation (Hebrew Union College) is, both in terms of the small number of faculty available to carry out the training assignment and the fact that the existing faculty is overburdened with so many tasks beyond the normal training and research responsibilities of professors.

He reminded us that an important actor in the field of Jewish education is the Rabbi, and that his training and understanding of Jewish education is very limited. He felt that the Commission ought to attend to this matter. He is very interested in continued participation in the work of the Commission.

He has a conflict on the 23rd, but will try to participate. I think that a phone call would encourage him to participate in part of the meeting.

Prof. Gottschalk suggested the possibility of cooperative efforts, at least between the Conservative and the Reform. He does not eliminate the possibility of the Orthodox joining in some community like Los Angeles, where they have a history of good relationships.

OCT 10 1989

TO: Virginia F. Levi  
NAME  
DEPARTMENT/PLANT LOCATION

FROM: Morton L. Mandel  
NAME  
DEPARTMENT/PLANT LOCATION

DATE: 10/10/89  
REPLYING TO  
YOUR MEMO OF: \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT:

This will summarize a conversation I had with Dr. Fred Gottschalk in New York on September 29. We met for lunch, and were together from about 12:30 to 2:30. During that time, I brought Dr. Gottschalk up to speed on the activities of the Commission, and he was quite interested. Regrettably, he will not be able to attend our meeting on October 23, because that is the same day as an all-day meeting of his Board.

The general thrust of our discussion was how we best could interface the Rabbis in the movement, particularly with regard to those who are interested in the Jewish educational aspect.

At the outset of our discussion, Fred felt that we were doing pretty well working with him, but as the conversation progressed, he agreed that it might make a lot of sense to convene a group of about ten, who would represent the various aspects of the reform educational apparatus, as well as the appropriate members of the rabbinate. This work group would, of course, include Rabbi Dan Syme. We agreed that such a meeting would be held most appropriately in December, January or February, and that he and I will coordinate as to when we would do this.

Essentially, this meeting would be an opportunity to bring this group up to date with regard to the Commission, and also give them the opportunity to input their ideas to the Commission. It was hoped that, by this connection, we will at least get them feeling that we are concerned with their reactions, and want to enlist their assistance.

As a further idea, we thought it might make sense for me to contact Rabbi Alex Schindler directly, in view of his leadership position with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

Fred was extremely supportive of the Commission work, and wants to do everything he possibly can to facilitate our objectives. He is solidly behind all that we are doing.

*Copy sent to  
HL2, MG, JR, AH*

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THE PRESIDENT

3181 CLIFTON AVE. • CINCINNATI OHIO 45220 2488  
(513) 221 1875

November 10, 1989

Mr. Morton Mandel  
4500 Euclid Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44103

Dear Mort:

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of the minutes of the October 23rd meeting of the Commission on Jewish Education. I am sorry that I had to miss what was a very productive meeting.

I asked Sara Lee to compile a list of leaders in positions of responsibility in Jewish Education in the Reform movement. She has sent me the following names:

1. Dan Syme and Howard Bogot - representing the UAHC and its Department of Education.
2. Rabbi Jonathan Stein of Indianapolis and Robert Tornberg of Toronto - as the co-chairmen of the UAHC Commission on Education.
3. Rabbi Sam Karff - as the President of the CCAR.
4. Dr. Zena Sulkes - as the President of NATE.
5. Jane West of Baltimore, Maryland - a graduate of the Rhea Hirsch School, who serves as the Reform Consultant to the Baltimore Bureau of Jewish Education. She is a very bright and articulate young woman who represents the perspective of serving Reform congregations in a communal context.
6. Rabbi Steve Garten - of the Leo Baeck Day School in Toronto, who is the most knowledgeable and articulate spokesman for the perspective of Reform day schools.

I would like to invite the above individuals, plus any other educators you may wish to include, to meet with you on a convenient date in January. Sara Lee, of course, will be present at this meeting.

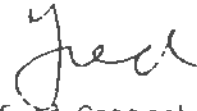
Mr. Morton Mandel  
November 10, 1989  
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Sara has suggested that the meeting take place in Los Angeles. I am doubtful if the people we would want to invite from New York would have the flexibility in their schedules to travel to Los Angeles.

Please advise me as to possible dates in January when this meeting to discuss education in the Reform movement could take place and what location would be preferred.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fred", written in dark ink.

Alfred Gottschalk

AG/ns