



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.

Box
6

Folder
6

Lanier, Mark, 1988-1992.

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

HL2

File Commission VBA Who is to approach Lanier?

TO: Morton L. Mandel
NAME
DEPARTMENT/PLANT LOCATION

FROM: Henry L. Zucker
NAME
DEPARTMENT/PLANT LOCATION

DATE: 4/29/88
REPLYING TO
YOUR MEMO OF: _____

HLZ

SUBJECT:

I had a very good meeting with Wayne Feinstein in Los Angeles yesterday. By far, his first choice for a Los Angeles person on our Commission is Mark Lanier. You will recall that he was recommended by JESNA.

Mark apparently is a community leader, in his mid-forties, who has a very good chance of becoming a national president of JESNA and also a president of the Los Angeles Federation. He is one of three brothers who, with their father, have been in a very successful real estate business. They have assets probably reaching into a couple of hundred million dollars. They, and especially Mark, are very strong on the subject of Jewish education. The father is considering making a million dollar gift for this purpose in Los Angeles patterned after private gifts made in New York City. Wayne is prepared to approach Lanier on our behalf, but I indicated that we will probably approach him ourselves.



INFORMATION CONCERNING

INTERVIEW WITH
MARK LANIER

SEYMOUR FOX
JULY 8, 1988, NEWPORT BEACH

As far as he was concerned, the problems ought to be viewed essentially from the local perspective. He gave countless examples of opportunities that are missed because the local community is not organized properly. Continually losing people for that reason, a young person leaves school and there is no follow up, no coordination, and thus limited use of the potential that exists.

Most organizations and people are concerned about the short-term. He felt that essentially there were plenty of good people. Maybe, at one point, he even said enough good people, but what was needed was coordination in putting things together. On the other hand, both at this point in the conversation and later he brought up the fact that personnel lacked in status. He found that fringe benefits and salaries were a necessary condition and missing often. He did bring up the relationship of professionals to lay people, and indicated that, in this area, very poor relationships often existed between the community leader and the professionals, that they are treated poorly. He brought up the issue of early childhood and nursery schools, that there weren't enough. On the other hand, in terms of personnel, he felt that were not so serious a problem.

He gave me the important document that I'd heard about that was being prepared in Los Angeles about vital need. It was already unanimously approved and being acted upon. Barbie Weinberg is chairman of it, Steve Huberman is the professional. I ought to call Steve Huberman at 213-852-7725. Thus, they have created a fund for this purpose. I ought to check with the CJF about initiatives in other parts of the United States. Steve Huberman and Carmi Schwartz are probably the sources for this.

It would be interesting to compare what Sara Lee thinks about his conceptions of priorities, particularly his statement that there was enough personnel. He strongly supported the notion of Zeldan and Shulweiss being good choices, that they're very active and very well respected.

Again, he indicated there were enough good teachers in the system, claimed that often rabbis were poorly trained for their role in education and administration. He's been trying to bring this to the attention of the heads of the institutions of higher learning. He does admit that the big issues of training, status are important, but he thinks that no less important if not more important is getting more people into the system.

He brought up the issue of curriculum and was concerned about it, why everyone is trying to reinvent the wheel, and I indicated to him that the problem often was teacher preparation to use available materials. On the other hand, there were big areas where there were no materials.

He gave a very strong statement in support of CAJE as an organization that was making up the big difference. He himself was going to lecture at CAJE.

This is the end of my report of my meeting with Lainer. I believe he will be coming on August 1st to the meeting and I want to stay in constant touch with him. The notion of "camp counselors" who are in constant touch with the people that are interviewed appears to be one that has great effectiveness.

lainer11.88/2MN-W

THE COMMISSION ON JEWISH EDUCATION IN NORTH AMERICA

TOWARDS THE SECOND MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

INTERVIEW OF COMMISSIONERS

1. COMMISSIONER: MARK LAINER
2. INTERVIEWER: SEYMOUR FOX
3. DATE: NOVEMBER 1, 1988
4. SPIRIT: VERY COMMITTED & ENTHUSIASTIC
5. SETTING: HOTEL IN JERUSALEM
6. DURATION: 1 HOUR
7. COMMISSIONER'S CURRENT STAND:
 - A. PERSONNEL: SUPPORT
 - B. COMMUNITY: ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT. CLAIMS THAT ALL THE OTHER OPTIONS DEPEND ON IT.
8. SUMMARY:

VERY USEFUL MEETING WITH LAINER:

 - A) TO BRING HIM UP TO DATE; AND
 - B) TO CONTINUE TO BUILD ON HIS INITIAL ENTHUSIASM AND COMMITMENT.

HE LISTENED CAREFULLY AS I REVIEWED THE METHOD, PARTICULARLY THE CRITERIA AND WAS ABSOLUTELY STUNNED BY THE AMOUNT OF WORK AND THE NUMBER OF CONSULTATIONS THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE. HE KNOWS MANY OF THE PEOPLE LIKE SARA LEE, ALVIN SCHIFF, AND WALTER ACKERMAN VERY WELL. AND THE FACT THAT THESE PEOPLE WERE INVOLVED IN EARLY STAGES MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE IN HIS THINKING.

HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE FACT THAT RABBI ZELDIN AND RABBI SCHULWEISS MAY NOT BE PLANNING TO COME ON THE 13TH. SO I THINK THIS DESERVES A VERY SPECIAL INTERVENTION, POSSIBLY A PHONE CALL BY ONE OR SEVERAL OF US.

HE MADE AN IMPORTANT DISTINCTION WHICH ADDS ADDITIONAL STRENGTH TO THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN PROGRAMMATIC AND PRE-CONDITIONS (NECESSARY CONDITIONS). HIS CLAIM IS THAT ONLY A COMMISSION LIKE OURS COULD UNDERTAKE THE MACRO ISSUES, WHICH IS ANOTHER WAY IN WHICH HE EMPHASIZES THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PRE-CONDITIONS.

HE FEELS THAT THIS COMMISSION COULD CHANGE THE CLIMATE IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY AND THOUGH HE IS COMMITTED TO PERSONNEL, HE IS NOT AS ENTHUSIASTIC. HE THINKS THAT THE LOS ANGELES' PERSONNEL PROBLEM IS SERIOUS, BUT NOT AS CRITICAL AS IN OTHER PLACES IN THE WORLD.

HE WAS VERY IMPRESSED WITH MR. MANDEL'S DECISION TO MAKE IT CLEAR SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE MEETING THAT THE COMMISSION BELONGED TO THE COMMISSIONERS, AND WAS PLEASED THAT WE WERE TAKING ALL OF THESE STEPS SO THAT THERE WAS NO "RIGGING" OF THE DECISION PROCESS. HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR MR. MANDEL TO LAY OUT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING THE WAY THAT THIS MEETING MIGHT PROGRESS AND TO REMIND THE COMMISSIONERS AT APPROPRIATE TIMES THAT THE COMMISSION WAS THEIRS. HE ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW WE WOULD PROCEED AFTER THE DECISION, THOUGHT THE IDEA OF TASK-FORCES OR COMMITTEES WAS A GOOD IDEA, AND WAS HOPING THAT THE SAME KIND OF STAFF WORK WOULD ACCOMPANY THE NEXT STEPS.

HE SAW IT VERY USEFUL FOR US TO BRING THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THOSE CITIES THAT HAVE COMMISSIONS (CLAL, ETC.) TOGETHER, TO MEET AT SOME POINT, BOTH TO GIVE INPUT TO THE WORK OF OUR COMMISSION, AND TO KEEP THEM INFORMED ABOUT OUR WORK.

HE PLANS TO BE AT THE MEETING ON THE 13TH.

J. Reimer

Interview with Mark Lainer (5/1/89)

1 hour in a restaurant

1. Mr. Lainer is well attuned to the direction of the Commission and is supportive of the current thinking. He had the following comments.

- a. It is crucial that the 6/14 meeting deal not only with the process of implementation, but also with the content of the proposals around personnel.
- b. Before new projects in demonstrations be undertaken, we must know what is going on "on the ground" in the field. He suggests we send a team around to interview key people from the field in each of the central locations.
- c. What an implementation mechanism can do for a community like LA is to
 1. get into our heads and see the issues as we do;
 2. help us articulate the goals we set for ourselves;
 3. help us to evaluate if we are reaching our goals, and plan for how we can improve upon that;
 4. help us to consider alternatives to our current goals and plans;
 5. help us to understand our own successes - how they work as well as they do;
 6. help us to disseminate our successes - within our community and nationally.

2. Mr. Lainer is planning to attend on 6/14. He'd like to have his bio re-written as it does not accurately reflect his involvements in Jewish education

SHULAMITH R. ELSTER

Fax Memorandum

TO: Virginia F. Levi 216-361-9962
FROM: Shulamith R. Elster

301-230-2012

RE: Lainer - Cancer Update

DATE: November 19, 1991

Mark Lainer had open head surgery and is now recuperating at home. He is not expected back in the office until the first week of December.

I left a message. MCM may want to know!

Regards
S.

J. Reimer

Interview with Mark Lainer (5/1/89)
1 hour in a restaurant

1. Mr. Lainer is well attuned to the direction of the Commission and is supportive of the current thinking. He had the following comments.
 - a. It is crucial that the 6/14 meeting deal not only with the process of implementation, but also with the content of the proposals around personnel.
 - b. Before new projects in demonstrations be undertaken, we must know what is going on "on the ground" in the field. He suggests we send a team around to interview key people from the field in each of the central locations.
 - c. What an implementation mechanism can do for a community like LA is to
 1. get into our heads and see the issues as we do;
 2. help us articulate the goals we set for ourselves;
 3. help us to evaluate if we are reaching our goals, and plan for how we can improve upon that;
 4. help us to consider alternatives to our current goals and plans;
 5. help us to understand our own successes - how they work as well as they do;
 6. help us to disseminate our successes - within our community and nationally.
2. Mr. Lainer is planning to attend on 6/14. He'd like to have his bio re-written as it does not accurately reflect his involvements in Jewish education

Lanier

Memorandum

TO: Steering Committee/CIJE
FROM: Shulamith Elster *SE*
RE: Mark Lanier
DATE: January 3, 1992

I. On the CIJE

The telephone conversation on January 2nd was my first camper contact with Mark. An earlier effort to contact him was postponed due to his cardiac surgery in November. He is fully recovered and has resumed all of his usual activities. He was very interested in talking with me about the CIJE. He regrets that he was not able to attend the last meetings of the Board.

II. On the Lead Communities

Most of our time was spent in discussing the current status of the lead community project and specifically the time table for selection. I pointed out the importance of the Board deliberations on the content and process and how the materials were developed to set the stage for this discussion and board action. I promised to call him after he's had a chance to review the Board mailing so that we can continue the conversation.

III. Board/Annual Meeting

He is planning to come to New York especially for these meetings. He expressed interest in the Lipset findings- as have all of my campers- and in participating in both of the meetings on the 16th.

V. Footnote

I think that the annual and progress reports later this month will be helpful in the effort to obtain his financial support. I did not raise the subject but I got the sense that he was very pleased that a number of the projects are "off and running".

P.