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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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Folder
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Zeldin, Isaiah, 1988-1990.

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

COMMISSIONER CONTACT SHEET

Name Isiah Zeldin

Assigned to _____

Mailing Address Stephen S. Wise Temple
15500 Stephen S. Wise Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90077

Off. phone 213-476-8561

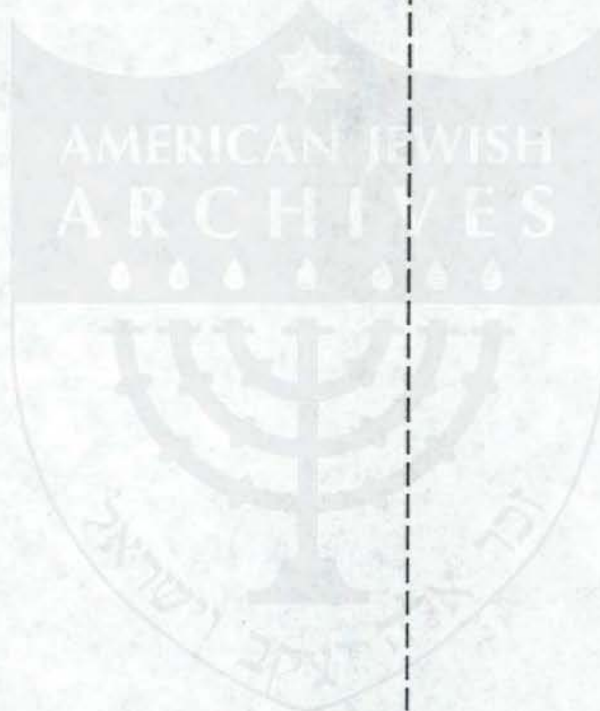
Home phone _____

Fax _____

Telex _____

Comments _____

Date | Nature of Contact/Status | Next Steps/Action Needed



July 18, 1988

Dear Rabbi Zeldin:

I called your office today and learned that you are on vacation and will be back next week. Your secretary suggested that I write.

I would like to invite you to join me in a new initiative. The Mandel Associated Foundations is in the process of organizing a Commission on Jewish Education in North America. The Commission will function in cooperation with the JWB and JESNA and in collaboration with the CJF.

The purpose of this Commission is to bring together the best lay and professional minds we can assemble to make a positive impact on the quality of Jewish education in the United States and Canada.

We believe that Jewish education needs a great deal of improvement if it is to make its appropriate contribution to the constructive continuity of the Jewish people. We believe that our Commission has a good chance to bring about important results, because American Jewish leadership is now sufficiently concerned to make this a high priority, and because there are important new financial resources available for Jewish education if we show how these resources can be utilized to good effect.

Enclosed is a paper describing our concept of the work of the Commission. It reflects the thinking of a small group that has worked to describe the idea behind the Commission. I am also enclosing a list of those who have agreed to serve on the Commission, thus far.

I hope that you will serve as a member of this Commission. The Commission will meet four to six times over a period of eighteen months to two years. It will have the benefit of a professional staff and consultants who will do the research directed by the Commission, and staff the Commission and its subgroups. The first meeting of the Commission is scheduled to be held on August 1st, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., UJA Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York, 130 East 59th Street, New York, New York.

I know that you can be an important addition to the work of the Commission and I hope that you will wish to participate.

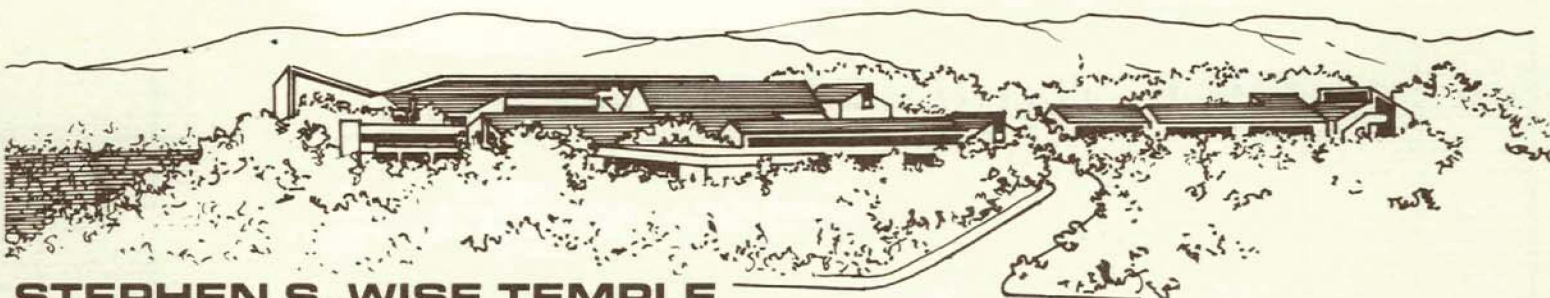
Sincerely,

Morton L. Mandel

MORTON L. MANDEL

STEPHEN
STEPHEN
Rabbi Isaiah Zeldin
Steven S. Wise Synagogue
15500 Steven S. Wise Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90077

Enclosures



STEPHEN S. WISE TEMPLE

JUL 28 1988

July 26, 1988

Mr. Morton Mandel
4500 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44103

Dear Mr. Mandel:

In response to your letter of July 18, 1988, I will be happy to serve as a member of the Commission on Jewish Education in North America.

I am sorry that I am unable to attend your first meeting on August 1st, but in the future if you will let me know months ahead of time of your meetings I will try to work my schedule around it so that I may attend.

Sincerely,

Isaiah Zeldin
Rabbi Isaiah Zeldin

IZ:at

J. Reimer

Interview with Rabbi Isalah Zeldin (5/1/89)
One hour in his office.

1. In explaining the general direction of our work, Rabbi Zeldin reacted to several points, based on his experience at the Stephen Wise Temple, an education-oriented synagogue and its sponsored day school.
2. He believes that dissemination is a crucial issue not done well at present. He gave two examples. When they began their parenting center, one woman was hired half time by the reform movement to disseminate the model which she did to over 90 other congregations. When she asked for more time to support those sites, she was refused. No further dissemination has taken place since. Also he sees family camps as a very promising new idea. It has succeeded in several places in California, but has no way to spread beyond that narrow circle. A real effort at dissemination would be crucial.
3. His temple has set up a substantial fund to which teachers in the day school may apply for training grants. Rabbi Zeldin believes this has stimulated teacher initiative to plan their own professional development and has allowed for innovative practices such as sending general studies teachers to Israel to learn Judaica to incorporate into their classrooms. (Interestingly, the temple does not extend this to teachers in the supplementary school and the rabbi does not believe they should.)
4. Rabbi Zeldin believes there are certain positions that are lacking which could be crucial for both dissemination and training of personnel. He cites the example of a coordinator for the dozen reform day schools. Those schools have no way now of consistently sharing or networking, and yet one additional person could make a real difference.
5. He sees federations and foundations playing a significant role if they could subvent the costs of Jewish education for families. Especially for day schools, but also for supplementary schools, he thinks cost is an increasing factor in keeping students away. Perhaps a campaign to support Jewish learning. As for denominations, he believes they have little role to play beyond producing materials. Education is not their priority and hence not really their active domain.

Rabbi Zeldin is not planning to attend 6/14 meeting. He'd appreciate announcing the dates for next year now to allow him to plan in advance to come.

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
Eli N. Evans
Irwin S. Field
Max M. Fisher
Alfred Gottschalk
Arthur Green
Irving Greenberg
Joseph S. Gruss
Robert I. Hiller
David Hirschhorn
Carol K. Ingall
Ludwig Jesselson
Henry Koschitzky
Mark Lainer
Norman Lamm
Sara S. Lee
Seymour Martin Lipset
Haskel Lookstein
Robert E. Loup
Matthew J. Maryles
Florence Melton
Donald R. Mintz
Lester Pollack
Charles Ratner
Esther Leah Ritz
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

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Senior Policy Advisors

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Annette Hochstein
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Arthur Rotman
Carmi Schwartz
Herman D. Stein
Jonathan Woocher
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Director

Henry L. Zucker

Staff

Mark Gurvis
Virginia F. Levi
Joseph Reimer

July 16, 1990

Rabbi Isaiah Zeldin
Stephen S. Wise Temple
15500 Stephen S. Wise Drive
Los Angeles, California 90077

Dear Rabbi Zeldin:

We had our sixth and final working meeting of the Commission on Jewish Education in North America in New York last month and are now preparing the Commission's final report. We had been listing you as a member of the Commission, but as you did not attend any meetings, we feel it would be unfair to list you as a Commission member in the final report.

If you have any questions, or care to make any comments about the work of the Commission, please contact me. I would be very pleased to hear from you.

Mort

Morton L. Mandel
Chair