



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 3: General Files, 1980–1993.

Box
12

Folder
14

Outreach. Association of Institutions of Higher Learning in Jewish
Education, 1989-1990.

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

*Senior Pol
ABW*IV

M E M O R A N D U M

June 29, 1989

TO: Mort Mandel

FROM: David S. Ariel

RE: AIHLJE MEETING - JUNE 7, 1989 - CHICAGO, IL

I reported to the institutional representatives at the meeting of the Association of Institutions of Higher Learning in Jewish Education on June 7, 1989. The following institutions were represented by the heads of their Jewish education programs: Yeshiva University, Jewish Theological Seminary, Hebrew Union College, Boston Hebrew College, Spertus College of Judaica (Chicago), Cleveland College of Jewish Studies, Brandeis University and McGill University.

The purpose of the report was to bring them up to date on the work of the Commission and to solicit their advice on the ideas before it. My report presented the Commission's thoughts about the enabling and programmatic options along with the assumptions about how to achieve change through local and national strategies.

The response was both strongly supportive and desirous to participate in furthering the goals of the Commission. Whereas in my previous reports, there was some caution about where the Commission was heading, this meeting was very positive. The group supported the idea of developing a strategy for change in Jewish education based on a strong grounding in theories of strategic change and school improvement. They thought that such an analytic perspective is the best approach to long-term improvement in the field. They expressed support for the serious way the Commission is going about its work and are eager to do their part in the effort.

The Association has begun to explore how its institutions can change in order to meet the challenges which they face. The Association is interested in beginning its own strategic planning process for the network of training institutions. I think it is fair to say that the Association looks forward to playing a significant role in implementing the recommendations of the Commission and would welcome the opportunity of contributing further to the planning process.

I think that the Association remains a very critical group in the field. With Sara Lee as Chairman and the heads of the major educator training departments

and institutions as participants, we should look to involve this group even further. They are key thinkers and spokesmen for the field who can help the Commission in many ways.

The next meeting of the AIHLJE is October 29-30, 1989 in New York. We should consider having a further report at that time. A visit by you at some point might also be considered as a very effective means of building a bridge to this group.

I think we should give further thought to the strategic roles of these training institutions and to a mechanism for working with them towards the goal of making them more effective.

I will keep you informed about the next steps taken by the Association.

DSA/pae

cc: Ms. Ginny Levi
Mr. Henry Zucker
Mr. Joseph Reimer



MEMO TO: David Ariel

FROM: Mark Gurvis *mg*

DATE: August 25, 1989

SUBJECT: AIHLJE

One of the important groups with which CJENA meets to maintain contact during the coming year is the Association of Institutions of Higher Learning in Jewish Education. I understand that Sara Lee is now the president of the Association, and that you have been designated as liaison to the Commission. I think it would be important to provide an update to that group on the Commission's work, particularly the research program under way, at its next meeting. I think it would make most sense for either you to report yourself, or for you as the liaison to ask Sara to do so as a member of the Commission. I would be glad to work with either or both of you on what it would make sense to cover in such a presentation.

Thanks for your help on this. Best wishes.

✓ cc: Henry L. Zucker



INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO: Henry L. Zucker
NAME
DEPARTMENT/PLANT LOCATION

FROM: Mark Gurvis *MG*
NAME
DEPARTMENT/PLANT LOCATION

DATE: 12/14/89
REPLYING TO
YOUR MEMO OF: _____

SUBJECT: OUTREACH TO AIHLJE

I spoke with David Ariel about the next step in reaching out to the Association of Institutions of Higher Learning in Jewish Education. They have a meeting scheduled for February 11th in New York. David's suggestion is that he and Sara Lee make a presentation to their colleagues on the recommendations for the Commission that will be reviewed at the February 14th Commission meeting. It would also be appropriate, he feels, for Aryeh Davidson to report on the finding of his research, which relate directly to these institutions.

I believe this is a logical approach for this group. I am a little concerned that Sara Lee will be put in the position of presenting material which she will not yet have had a chance to discuss with anybody. It would probably be worth our while to also have a staff member of the Commission present for that meeting, whether it is Joe Reimer, you, or me.

David Ariel usually sends Lifsa Shachter from the Cleveland College to these meetings and so does not have the budgetary funds in the Cleveland College budget for that trip to New York for himself. He has raised the question of whether the Commission would be able to cover his expenses for that trip. Please advise.

OUTREACH-
COJED MG
COMMISSION
ON JEWISH EDUCATION
IN NORTH AMERICA

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

September 28, 1989

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

In Formation

Senior Policy Advisors

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

Director

Arthur J. Naparstek
Staff

Virginia E. Levi
Joseph Reimer

Dr. Jack Sparks
Central Synagogue
123 East 55th Street
New York, NY 10022

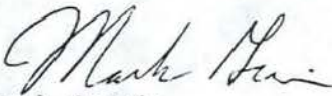
Dear Dr. Sparks:

The Commission on Jewish Education in North America is a new planning initiative in Jewish education. It has been convened by the Mandel Associated Foundations of Cleveland and is co-sponsored with JESNA, JWB, and in collaboration with the Council of Jewish Federations. The Commission is midway through its two-year process and is making an effort to consult with many organizations and institutions that are vitally involved in Jewish education. Accordingly, the Commission would appreciate an opportunity to have one or two representatives attend an upcoming meeting of the Council of Jewish Educator Organizations.

Our objectives for such an opportunity would be to provide background on the Commission and its process; review Commission progress to date; and provide an opportunity for COJEO members to add their input into the Commission process. Enclosed is the design document for the Commission, which will provide further background.

I understand that the Council meets 5-6 times each year in New York. Perhaps we can work together to find an appropriate opportunity at one of your next meetings for a presentation on the Commission on Jewish Education in North America.

Sincerely,


Mark Gurvis
Commission Staff

Enclosure

CC: HENRY L. ZUCKER
ALVIN SCHIFF

MG Oct 25
will let us
know after then.

MG

file
buttrinch

COJEO

MEMO TO: David Ariel, Seymour Fox, Annette Hochstein, Stephen H.
Hoffman, Martin S. Kraar, Morton L. Mandel, Arthur Rotman,
Herman D. Stein, Jonathan Woocher, Henry L. Zucker

FROM: Mark Gurvis *mg*

DATE: January 9, 1990

SUBJECT: Reactions to COJEO Presentation

Joe Reimer received the enclosed materials in reaction to his recent presentation to the Council of Jewish Educator Organizations. We thought you might appreciate having an opportunity to see them.



DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR A NORTH AMERICAN JEWISH TEACHER CORPS

I. THE NEED

- A. One of the greatest needs confronting Jewish education across the ideological spectrum is personnel. The preliminary reports of the Mandel commission at the 1989 CAJE conference in Seattle, for example, stressed this need. For any of the many innovative curricula and programs to work, teachers and other educators are needed.
- B. Most of the ideas for strengthening teacher training and attracting new full and part-time Jewish teachers seem most appropriate for medium-sized and large Jewish communities that have full-time federations and Bureaus of Jewish Education.
- C. How can financial and other improvements benefit our smaller and generally more isolated Jewish communities (such as Spokane, Kalamazoo, or Wichita) where the only real Jewish institution may be one or two synagogues, the only professionals the rabbi and perhaps cantor? If there is a "federation" in these communities, it often is basically a conduit for the national UJA, with at most a few thousand dollars for local uses. Yet clearly there are dozens of such cities, and thousands of children (and teens and adults) in such communities where the presence of one trained teacher might bring a doubling of human resources.

II. A PLAN

- A. To encourage service to the Jewish people, to bring young people into Jewish education, and aid smaller communities, a North American Jewish Teacher Corps would be created for post-college (and older) teachers. In return for one or two years of teaching in a small community, they would receive a significant scholarship (or loan-forgiveness grant) for graduate education--perhaps \$10,000 a year.
- B. To prepare themselves, candidates would need a minimum amount of undergraduate course work or its equivalent in Jewish studies, plus a summer intensive program to prepare them for the classroom. I would recommend that this summer program include attendance at the CAJE conference.
- C. There would need to be provisions for supervision, regional contacts, and a minimum stipend and benefits (medical insurance). I would require some "sweat equity" from the host community, such as providing an apartment, so that although the teacher is subsidized from without he or she is also a local investment.

- D. There would not be a requirement that the teacher permanently enter Jewish education after their period of service. At a minimum they would be more knowledgeable and experienced Jews, whatever their occupation. This experience would, I hope, encourage participants to consider careers in Jewish education, Jewish communal service, or the rabbinate. (Perhaps the scholarship grant should be increased for participants entering a Jewish career.)
- E. Models that might be examined include the former US National Teacher Corps and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee's Jewish Service Corps.

III. OUTREACH: A MODEST ADDITION

- A. There are Jewish communities in virtually every state that are even smaller than those I used as an example--they may have a congregation but are too small to have a rabbi or any Jewish professional. They may be totally dependent on lay leaders or untrained college students for both teaching and ideas. A modest outreach program might have the North American Jewish Teacher Corps members, in addition to their work in a host community, go to a nearby smaller community one or two days a month to bring programs for Jewish adults and children. (For example, in Eastern Washington there is a congregation in neighboring towns of Richland and Kennewick with some 65 families, and a 45-family Jewish community with a monthly Sunday school in Pullman, Washington-Moscow, Idaho. Neither group is big enough to employ professional leadership; both are hundreds of miles from the nearest large city, Seattle.)
- B. This outreach is something that rabbis, with a primary commitment to one congregation, have difficulty finding time to do.

The North American Jewish Teacher's Corps is a practical way to strengthen Jewish life in smaller Jewish communities, and potentially attract more teachers to this important field.

EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANT

EIGHT PROMENADE DRIVE • HUNTINGTON, NEW YORK 11743 • 516/692-8616

December 11, 1989

Dr. Joseph Reimer
Hornstein Program
Brandeis University
Waltham, MA 02154

Dear Joe,

It was a privilege to sit to your right and hear every word of the overview of goals and proceedings of the Mandell commission presented to the COJEO representatives. The stated purpose of your visit was to inform and gather new ideas. I would like to share some ideas with you.

LAY LEADERS

The lay leaders govern the federation world. More than a few possess only minimal Jewish education and yet are expected to make informed decisions in this area. They appear to be at a disadvantage. In addition, these same people are being asked to put something they are unfamiliar with on their personal and communal agendas. When UJA faced this problem they began involving their target audience through the "Israel mission system". Leaders buy into this scene, develop strong ties and can be counted on to support the effort. To the best of my knowledge, the "system" is developed by professionals who establish a link with the lay leaders. The two constituencies work together. Can this successful example serve as a guide for Jewish education?

COMMUNITY ACTIVITY CENTERS (HUBS)

I also wish to make a case for resource centers on the local scene. Presently, some large communities boast Jewish Teacher Centers. I see these being enlarged in scope to serve the needs of the wider Jewish audience in its many endeavors. It may be that various locales will house specialized collections such as Detroit's holdings focusing on family education, Los Angeles on early childhood, etc. This, in some ways, can be molded after the ERIC system in general education. The alternative may be for each community to attempt to collect a potpourri of resources. The centers should be designed to serve a population from the prenatal stage to the proverbial one hundred and twenty in both formal and informal settings. It would be a materials and media hub and a ready source of Jewish information in this rapidly changing world. It may also serve as the central address of the local efforts of the Commission situated in a central agency or community center. The site would include a library, media center, program bank, resource center, computer center, etc. in an all purpose enclosure. From the onset it should be computerized so the data can be shared electronically around the country. This would go a long way toward solving a problem Alvin Schiff often refers to in that some of the most creative work in Jewish education is the local community's best kept secret.

Dr. Joseph Reimer
December 11, 1989
Page two of two

Thank you for the opportunity to share these ideas which are conveyed with the deepest desire to see improvement for a better tomorrow.

Sincerely yours,

Carolyn

Carolyn Starman Hessel

cc: Eliot G. Spack
Jonathan Woocher

