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**AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES**

**MS-831: Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation Records, 1980–2008.**

Series C: Council for Initiatives in Jewish Education (CIJE). 1988–2003.

Subseries 2: Board Members, Senior Policy Advisors, and Consultants, 1990–1996.

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Maryles, Matthew, 1991-1994.

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

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Steering Committee  
FROM: Shulamith Elster  
RE: Matthew Maryles  
DATE: October 25, 1991

### 1. On the CIJE

There is still need for clarification as to the 'ultimate objectives' of the CIJE. The mandate is not yet clear. What he sees lacking is shared ownership by the Board.

The community-at-large is not aware of the existence of the CIJE. If people know that successful lay people (i.e., Board members) are seriously involved this would be a real plus for the community support agenda. People only know about A Time To Act and the MAF grants from the press.

Most members of the Board have themselves experienced the failures of the Jewish educational system in their own schooling or in the education of their children and grandchildren. We should take time to focus on some of the successes in Jewish education! Perhaps a positive focus will be helpful.

Every board member should be required to serve as an "ambassador" for the work of the CIJE with responsibility for speaking to others within their own spheres of influence. There needs to be more outreach within the organized Jewish community. This may help to stimulate more grant dollars and grass roots support.

He suggested that there may not be enough philanthropic dollars to save Jewish education unless this "remarkably affluent Jewish community that can afford to have good schools' becomes serious." I liked the way he chose to express this: The community has to be told that it may "go down in the pages of Jewish history as an affluent community that just didn't care enough." To turn this around, we need a clear vision of what Jewish education should be.

### 2. RE: Teachers/Teacher Training

Comments on these were drawn primarily from his experience as a student and his experience at the Yeshiva of Flatbush. We spoke about teacher recruitment, retention, compensation and the self-esteem of teachers. He is very sensitive to these issues as his daughter is a day school teacher and wants to remain in the field teaching of both general and Jewish studies.

He wants to see in-service training especially for Orthodox rabbinical students who will 'land in schools of all denominations' because that is where they can find work. Essentially, he was suggesting the type of program that Torah



Umesorah is proposing. While he acknowledged that having Rabbi Fishman at the Senior Policy Advisor meeting was good, he thinks it would be better to have Rosh Yeshiva at the Board level.

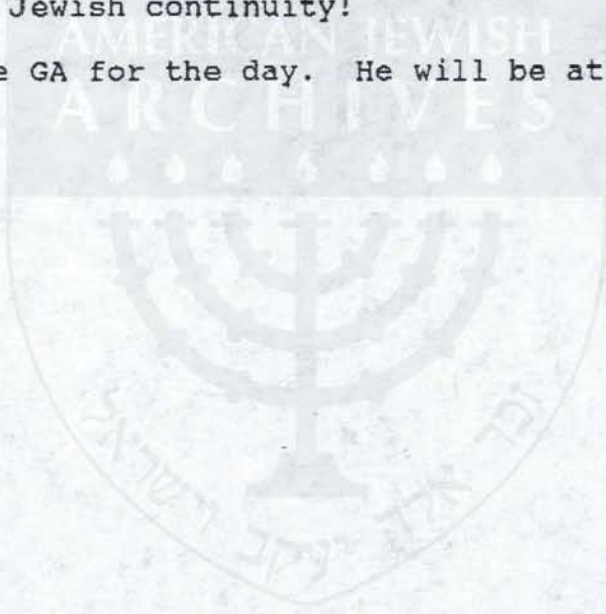
### 3. Lead Communities

He is still interested in East Queens, Nassau and Suffolk Counties (New York) as a possible lead community.

### 4. Footnotes

We discovered many similarities in our background. He grew up in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn where my grandparents lived and had their businesses. He attended the yeshiva my Grandfather helped to found. We spoke in his 34th floor corner office with a breathtaking view of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island...and there we spoke of Jewish continuity!

He may come to the GA for the day. He will be at the Annual Meeting.



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APR 27 1994

**MATTHEW J. MARYLES**

One World Financial Center, New York, NY 10281

April 22, 1994

Mr. Morton Mandel, Chairman  
Council for Initiatives in  
Jewish Education  
P.O. Box 94553  
Cleveland, Ohio 44101

Dear Mort:

My Jewish guilt is bothering me, as happens regularly. I have been unable to carve out the time for CIJE which it deserves. Furthermore, even when I set aside time, business conflicts preclude my participation, as occurred yesterday.

Accordingly, I would like to submit my resignation as a Vice Chair to enable you to replace me with someone who can give you more time and effort. I continue to be supportive of your endeavors and have unreserved admiration for your achievements with regard to this project and many other Jewish Communal initiatives.

I look forward to hearing from you. Best regards.

Sincerely,

*Mandel*



May 23, 1994

Dear Matty,

I have your letter of April 22 and under no circumstances will I accept your resignation! I know that you are busy and that you cannot make all of the meetings. I do understand that.

On the other hand if you feel that it is a "burden" to remain as a Vice Chair, I will accept that, so long as you agree to remain on our board and come to all the meetings you possible can.

I would hope that you will remain as a Vice Chair until we find a suitable replacement (that won't be easy).

Warmest Regards,

MORTON L. MANDEL

Mr. Matthew J. Maryles  
One World Financial Center  
New York, NY 10281



ADH file  
**CIJE** Council  
for  
Initiatives  
in  
Jewish  
Education

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Isadore Twersky  
Bennett Yanowitz

*Executive Director*

Alan Hoffmann

June 16, 1994

Mr. Matthew J. Maryles  
One World Financial Center  
New York, NY 10281

Dear Matt:

I was sorry to receive your letter of April 22 in which you submit your resignation from the board of CIJE. I have valued your affiliation with this important organization and have looked forward to the opportunity to meet with you.

I hope that you will remain supportive of the work of CIJE. Perhaps there will be a time in the future when you will be in a position to rejoin us. Please know that you are always welcome to do so.

Warm personal regards.

MORTON L. MANDEL - Chair

*NO*  
*we will not*  
*accept this*  
*resignation*  
*on*