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Folder
357

National Foundation for Jewish Culture, correspondence,
memoranda, minutes, and notes, 1980-1984.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

490-2280

April 21, 1980

Office of the President

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver, Chairman
Academic Advisory Council
The Temple
University Circle at Silver Park
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Two years ago when you reported to the Board of the Foundation on the status of the scholarly grants program you indicated that significant changes were taking place in the field of Jewish Studies so that for the first time there would be many more graduating Ph.D.s than prospective faculty openings. The question was raised at that time whether this new development called for a review of the Foundation's doctoral grants program, and it was your suggestion that this be deferred until after the Academic Advisory Council has had time to study the matter further in light of additional information.

Inasmuch as the Academic Advisory Council will be meeting shortly, I would hope that it will give consideration to this matter and be able to submit some recommendations to the Foundation as to whether in the light of the changing picture in the field of Jewish Studies it is desirable for the Foundation to maintain its present program or whether the program should be modified, and if so in what direction. Of course, it would be helpful if the supporting rationale for the Council's recommendations will be set forth.

Obviously, as custodians of communal funds the Foundation has the responsibility to deploy them in manner that is consonant with the best interests of the Jewish community. We are eager, however, to obtain the considered judgment of the Academic Advisory Council as to how the needs of American Jewish scholarship will be best served in grants support programs of the Foundation in the immediate period ahead.

The counsel and assistance of yourself and your colleagues on the Academic Advisory Council is deeply appreciated by the Foundation, and I want again to assure you of our warm thanks for your valued efforts.

Sincerely,

Amos Comay
Amos Comay

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017 10168

490-2280

May 19, 1980

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver
The Temple
University Circle at Silver Park
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Dear Dan:

On July 1 Harry I. Barron will retire as Executive Director of the National Foundation for Jewish Culture after many years of devoted and exemplary service to the community. To honor him, I cordially invite you as a member of the Foundation's Board of Directors to a reception on Friday afternoon, June 6th.

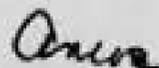
Harry has been our Executive Director for the last fifteen years and has brought to his work the wisdom and leadership that has characterized his entire distinguished career of service to the Jewish community and to humanity. In the fulfillment of his professional duties at the National Foundation for Jewish Culture, and as Director of the New Orleans Jewish Welfare Federation and of the Jewish Community Council of Cleveland, among his other important responsibilities, he has won universal respect and admiration by his deep commitment, historical perspective, and uncompromising standards. To many of us, he has been not only a splendid professional but also a warm friend. His understanding, compassion, and devotion have touched many of our lives profoundly.

Although the Board of Directors will dedicate its annual dinner at the General Assembly in Detroit this November as its way of doing honor to Harry, we are planning a more informal event for the Board and the JCA organizations during the Quarterly meetings of the Council of Jewish Federations. It will be held on Friday, June 6, 1980 starting at 5:45 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the Foundation offices (Suite 1512). We do hope you will join us.

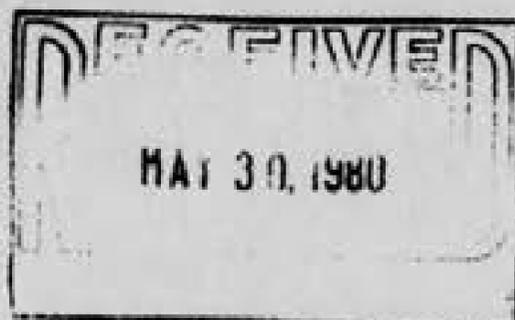
On this occasion we will be presenting Harry with a symbol of our appreciation for his long and productive services. For those Board members who wish to join in the purchase of an appropriate gift, I suggest a contribution of perhaps \$25 for this purpose. Please send such checks to Abraham Atik at the office.

I look forward to seeing all of you in June.

Cordially,



Amos Comay
President



May 23, 1980

Dr. Harry I. Barron
Executive Director
National Foundation for Jewish Culture
122 East 42nd Street
New York, New York 10017

Dear Dr. Barron:

Thank you very much for your letter of May 9 which reached me (after some delay) yesterday.

I am very pleased to hear that the Academic Advisory Council of your Foundation has recommended that I receive a Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship. I sincerely appreciate the confidence your Foundation has shown in me by granting me this fellowship.

I would like to inform you that I have received a Fulbright-Hays Dissertation Fellowship for my research in Barcelona. This fellowship will extend for nine months, beginning in October, 1980 and extending through to June, 1981. Since I would like to stay in Barcelona for longer than the nine months covered by the Fulbright-Hays grant, I will, of course, require additional funds. I hope to stay in Barcelona for three or four months after the expiration of the Fulbright grant and then return to Los Angeles to complete my dissertation here. In your letter, you mentioned the possibility of deferring receipt of the grant from your Foundation until the final year of my dissertation work. I believe that this would be best for me, since it would provide me with some funding during the last critical months of writing. Consequently, I would like to request that my grant be deferred until the Fall of 1981, for use during the 1981-82 academic year. At the moment, I do not anticipate that I will have any other funding for this period, but I will keep you posted of the situation.

I would be most grateful if you would write to me and let me know if the grant may be deferred until next year, and what the specific amount of the grant will be. This will enable me to make my own research plans and to assess my financial situation for next year.

I will be in Los Angeles until July 10 and my correspondence address is:

c/o Perl
1121 Hi Point St.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90025

I want to thank you and the National Foundation for Jewish Culture again for extending this support to me. It will help tremendously. I hope that the final results of my work will be worthy of the confidence and support you have given me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leila Berner".

Leila Berner

June 2, 1980

Mr. Abraham Atik
National Foundation For Jewish Culture
122 East 42nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10168

Dear Abe:

I want to add this to the check being given to Harry on his retirement. Many thanks for taking care of it.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

Encl.

Ch 1069
6/2/80

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

490-2280

June 10, 1980

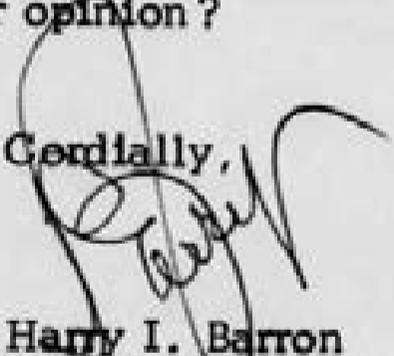
Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver
The Temple
University Circle at Silver Park
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Dear Dan:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter we received from one of our successful grants candidates in which you will note that she is asking whether it is possible to defer our grant to her until 1981.

While it would make things somewhat easier for us if we could use the \$5000 this year for one or more other grantees, we have never committed ourselves to an actual deferment which then obligates us to set aside an amount next year for her. What is your opinion?

Cordially,


Harry I. Barron
Executive Director

HIB:bg
encls.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

490-2280

June 10, 1980

Dr. Herbert H. Paper
Hebrew Union College-JIR
School of Graduate Studies
Office of the Dean
3101 Clifton Ave.
Cincinnati, Ohio 45220

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Dear Dr. Paper:

I have just received your letter of June 6th with the enclosures of Jack Neusner's letter to you of June 3rd and your reply to him.

I am in complete agreement with you about the absolute necessity for confidentiality to be observed by both the members of the NFJC staff and of the Academic Advisory Council regarding the discussions that take place at the Council's sessions. This has always been staff policy and to the best of my knowledge it has never been violated.

Abraham Atik kept me informed of his conversations with Neusner and I repeatedly cautioned him about how far he could go in placating Jack. He has assured me that the only information he shared with Neusner was providing him with the current roster of the Academic Advisory Council -- a matter of public record. Jack did try to ferret out from him the identity of those who voiced negative opinions about the Brown doctoral program but Abe says that he did not divulge any names. It is his recollection that when Jack learned of the composition of the Academic Advisory Council he himself decided who the likely opponents were and subsequently I believe he hinted to Abe that he had spoken with one or two members of the Council in order to corroborate his suspicions.

This is not the first time that we have encountered problems with Neusner. Even when he was a member of the Academic Advisory Council himself he was inclined to behave badly. On previous occasions he vowed to keep his students from applying to the NFJC for grants. But after a year or two we would again get applications from his students and supporting reference statements from him.

He is trying to press Abe to obtain a reconsideration of the decision on his student, Peck, holding out the implied promise of help to the Foundation in its dealings with the National Endowment for the Humanities (he serves on the NEH Commission). As far as I can see, there is no way in which Peck will qualify for a grant this year since he is Alternate #3.

Dr. Herbert H. Paper

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June 10, 1980

I do think it is important that members of the Academic Advisory Council be cautioned again about the importance of keeping the discussions confidential. Failure to do so will bring us no end of problems.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

Harry I. Barron
Executive Director

HIB:bg

cc: Rabbi Daniel J. Silver
Dr. Chaim Soloveitchik

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

490-2280

File

June 10, 1980

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver
The Temple
University Circle at Silver Park
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

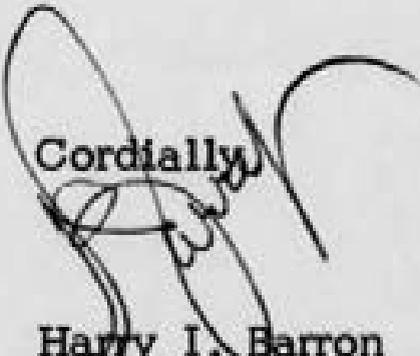
Dear Dan:

Since you have already received correspondence from Jack Neusner and Herb Paper on this matter you might as well have my reply to Herb. I understand that you spoke yesterday with Abe about the matter after getting a love note from Jack.

In view of what has been going on and the likelihood that Jack will continue to be in touch with other members of the Academic Advisory Council it probably would be a good thing for you to send out a note to all the membership of the Council about the importance of confidentiality. One of the problems, I fear, is that some whose terms have now expired, such as Marvin Fox, may have unwittingly or otherwise provided Jack with some of the grist for his mill.

Keep well.

Cordially,


Harry I. Barron
Executive Director

HIB:bg
encl.



HEBREW UNION COLLEGE — JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION
Cincinnati • New York • Los Angeles • Jerusalem

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES
Office of the Dean

3101 CLIFTON AVENUE • CINCINNATI, OHIO 45220
(513) 221-1675

June 24, 1980

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver
The Temple
University Circle at Silver Park
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Dear Daniel:

I have your note of June 20 with the news about Neusner's postal habits. He is really something not to write home about.

It is just too bad that in the midst of all sorts of busy schedules we have to take time to worry about him and his antics. And yet something ought to be done. I have watched for too long scholars here and in Israel say and do nothing about his vilifications, and the bad behavior that he has consistently demonstrated. So what to do?

I have no specific plan. But from now on, whenever anyone asks me about him I am going to say un-nice things about him. I didn't used to. Maybe the word ought to get around more widely so that the stream of lecture invitations and honorary degrees will stop.

As I have thought about our Committee's deliberations, it has finally occurred to me that the most likely source of details revealed to Neusner was Halivny. I have learned of their close relationship and I can think of no one else in the room who would have done the talking. Now maybe Halivny talked — this is only a surmise on my part — in all innocence, but Neusner is uncontrollable in matters of this sort.

What do you suggest we do?

My wife and I are leaving next week for a vacation of sorts and will be away from Cincinnati for about three weeks. The absence from my desk and from the necessity of writing heaps of letters ought to do us some good. Correspondence with you does not fall into the irksome category by any means, I can assure you, except for the topic in which we have been unfortunately engaged.

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver (continued)

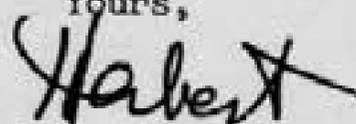
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June 24, 1980

I am going to be speaking at a Bnai Brith Adult Institute in the Poconos over the July 4 weekend and from there we will be travelling around mostly visiting brothers and sisters in various places in the East.

Have a good summer.

Yours,



Herbert H. Paper

HHP:rmn

P.S. I was amused that your secretary addressed me as 'rabbi' — a title which I admire but do not deserve, since it is a degree for which I never qualified. Does the typed address amount to 'private smicha'?

HHP

June 26, 1980

Mr. Abraham Atik
National Foundation For Jewish Culture
122 East 42nd St.
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Abe:

My expenses to New York, which are chargeable to the Foundation, were \$220. If we plan enough ahead for all of our meetings we can reduce the cost because we will be able to get one of the saver fares.

I am sending under separate cover Harry's book, Magic Carpet: Aleppo-In-Flatbush which I read on the plane. Thank you for lending it to me.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp



HEBREW UNION COLLEGE - JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION
Cincinnati • New York • Los Angeles • Jerusalem

Filed

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES
Office of the Dean

3101 CLIFTON AVENUE • CINCINNATI, OHIO 45220
(513) 221-1875

July 25, 1980

Mr. Harry I. Barron
Executive Director
National Foundation for Jewish Culture
122 East 42nd Street
New York, New York 10017

Dear Mr. Barron:

In the most recent issue of ITEMS published by the SSRC, there is reference to doctoral research fellowships awarded to two of the candidates we considered at our meeting. Both Barbara Johnson (anthropology, U Mass) and Daniel Schroeter (Near East Studies, U of Manchester) were awarded fellowships.

I thought you would be interested in knowing about this for your files.

I am still seeting over the recent Neusner affair.

All the best.

Sincerely yours,

Herbert H. Paper

Herbert H. Paper

HHP:rmn

cc: Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver ✓

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

	1979 Experience (Audit)	1980 Approved Budget	1980 Jan.-July Actual	1980 Aug.-Dec. Projected	1980 Projected	1981 Projected
INCOME						
Contributions						
Welfare Funds.....	\$188,647	\$239,800	\$127,000	\$ 85,000	\$212,000	\$220,000
Foundations.....	} 38,836	29,200	18,663	3,000	21,663	25,000
Individuals.....		20,500	1,225	3,775	5,000	10,000
Memberships-Associates.....			2,000	6,000	8,000	15,000
Sub-Total	\$227,483	\$289,500	\$148,888	\$ 97,775	\$246,663	\$270,000
Other Income						
JCA Administrative Reimbursement.....	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 17,500	\$ 17,500	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000
Newman Trust.....	31,000	26,500	9,150		9,150	15,000
Newman Trust Admin. Reimbursement.....		5,000	5,000		5,000	5,000
Interest, Miscellaneous Income.....	6,395	5,000	3,828	1,000	4,828	4,500
Sub-Total	\$ 72,395	\$ 71,500	\$ 35,478	\$ 18,500	\$ 53,978	\$ 59,500
Special Projects						
Jewish Theatre Festival.....	\$	\$	\$ 20,763	\$ 3,000	\$ 23,763	
Total	\$299,878	\$361,000	\$205,129	\$119,275	\$324,404	\$329,500
EXPENDITURES						
Salaries, Benefits, Taxes.....	\$151,326	\$170,000	\$ 94,421	\$ 61,074	\$155,495	\$158,070
Consultants.....	5,528	16,000	9,141	4,500	13,641	15,000
Auditing.....	2,500	3,000	1,500	1,500	3,000	3,000
Rent, Maintenance, Services.....	20,173	22,000	11,821	10,500	22,321	23,500
Telephone.....	4,840	4,800	2,775	2,000	4,775	5,000
Stationery & Supplies.....	1,211	3,000	784	1,800	2,584	3,000
Postage.....	1,268	3,000	1,900	1,000	2,900	4,500
Printing & Interpretation.....	7,164	11,000	3,344	4,000	7,344	13,000
Insurance.....	1,512	1,750	1,509	400	1,909	2,100
Travel and In-Town.....	} 10,601	8,000	2,230	3,000	5,230	6,000
Meetings & Conferences.....		8,000	3,649	1,500	5,149	6,000
Office Equipment & Maintenance.....	1,534	2,500	370	2,200	2,570	2,000
Books, Dues, Periodicals.....	438	1,000	426	300	726	1,000
Doctoral Grants.....	} 89,672	59,000	29,513	22,933	52,446	60,000
Publication Grants.....		20,000	10,000	5,000	15,000	6,000
Newman Grants.....		26,500	14,150		14,150	20,000
Miscellaneous.....	363	1,000	397	603	1,000	1,000
Sub-Total	\$298,130	\$360,550	\$187,930	\$122,310	\$310,240	\$329,170
Special Projects						
Jewish Theatre Festival.....	\$	\$	\$ 23,593	\$ 343	\$ 23,935	
Total	\$298,130	\$360,550	\$211,523	\$122,653	\$334,175	\$329,170
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 1,748	\$ 450	\$ (6,393)	\$ (3,378)	\$ (9,771)	\$ 330

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

490-2280

M E M O R A N D U M

August 28, 1980

To: Executive Committee
From: Abraham Atik, Executive Director
Subject: Future Directions

The Executive Committee, at its meeting of September 4, 1980, will begin a review of the activities of the Foundation with the intention of setting a course for the coming year and indicating directions for the period beyond that. The objective of this memorandum is to offer some suggestions regarding a description of program categories in the light of what we are now doing, and to offer an integrated approach to the Foundation's staffing, budgeting and committee structure which will reflect and serve the thrust of its programs in an effective manner.

PROGRAM For the purposes of better definition and control it would
CATEGORIES be useful to divide the activities of the Foundation into three major program categories: academic services; arts services, and inter-organizational planning and coordination.

Academic Services include the Foundation's Doctoral Grants Program and its work relating to scholarly institutions, particularly through its ongoing commitment to the Council of Archives and Research Libraries in Jewish Studies and the World Council of Jewish Archives. Among the other current activities of the Foundation that fall within this category are the publication grants to the Association for Jewish Studies for its annual Review and the consultation services regarding scholarly affairs that the Foundation provides to communities.

In addition to a pressing need for evaluation of the past programs there are a wide variety of activities which need exploration and development. These include an active program of working with communities regarding their archives, creating opportunities within Jewish communal service for those with a Jewish Studies background - a program which could strengthen both communal service and Jewish Studies, increasing local community support for Jewish scholarship, and making Jewish scholarship available to the broader community by such means as the conducting of symposia and the location and preparation of materials for lifelong Jewish education.

[Aug 28, 1980]

- 2 -

In addition, the Foundation must maintain an ongoing program of evaluation and data collection, relating to its own program the field at large, so as to play an effective role as a planning agency and clearing house in this field.

Arts Services include the Foundation's present activities relating to the Jewish Theatre Association, the Jewish Ethnic Music Festival, the more intensive development of the Council of American Jewish Museums, and the continued efforts to bring the concept of a Fund for the Arts to fruition.

There are, in addition, a number of areas that are currently being explored for possible future development. These include residencies in the arts, the creation of a Jewish Dance Association, conferences to bring together poets and composers, publications in such areas as creative Jewish writing and aspects of Jewish performance, and the development of programs for television and other media.

As in Academic Affairs, the Foundation must keep abreast of current developments and inform the community of the needs and opportunities in this area.

Inter-Organizational Planning and Coordination consists primarily of the Foundation's efforts on behalf of the Joint Cultural Appeal. In addition, there are a number of activities in which the Foundation calls together or participates with other organizations concerning current issues or to commemorate events of significance in Jewish life.

In the divisions above, a separate category was not discussed for community services, and for its expression through the Newman Incentive Awards Program. This is not because of their lack of importance, but on the contrary, it is because this area of service should run through all the Foundation does in all of its programming. Indeed, in the discussions above, aspects of community service, such as working with Federations and other organizations in the area of archives, were stressed, and many of these might lend themselves to Newman support.

ADMINISTRATIVE MECHANISMS Assuming this division of program categories is useful in describing what the Foundation is doing and of the programs it intends to explore, it might also be beneficial to structure the basic institutional mechanisms so that they correspond to the organization's functions and thrusts.

1. Thus, staff functions would be assigned so as to assure more precise responsibility and to bring to bear special and individual skills to the individual program categories. Under the supervision of the Executive Director, there will be a Director for Academic Services, a Director of Arts Services, while inter-organizational responsibilities will be directly administered by the Executive Director.

(Aug 28, 1980)

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2. In formulating the budget it would be important to strive for greater precision in determining how the limited financial resources of the Foundation are allocated among its programs, so that expenditures reflect the priorities of the organization. Until 1979 the expenditure categories of the Foundation were as follows: Grants and Fellowship Programs, Program Planning and Coordination, Services to Communities, Supportive Services (Information and Fund Raising), General Administration.

Beginning in the 1979 audit we sought to refine ways in which we reported our expenditures in the categories listed as follows: Program services - Program planning and coordination; organizational planning and coordination; consultation and community service; interpretation; Jewish Studies, scholarships and awards; supporting services (management and general, fund raising).

A further refinement is recommended to reflect the programs of the Foundation as follows: academic services, arts services, community services, interorganization planning and coordination, interpretation, management and fund raising.

Although community services was not considered a separate program category in the previous discussion, it is projected as a separate budgetary item as a demonstration to communities of the importance we attribute to meeting obligations.

3. The Foundation has not had notable success in involving its lay leadership in the organization's program. It shares this problem with many other national organizations, but efforts need to be intensified to overcome this deficiency, as the commitment of an active Board is vital to the organization's development and growth.

It is interesting to note that though the present committee structure of the Foundation is somewhat top heavy as it relates to administrative matters, with an Executive Committee, Finance Committee, and a Public Affairs Committee, it is the Program Committee that has met most frequently. This should not be surprising, for it is the program of the organization which is its heart, and all other functions are for the purpose of enhancing the program objectives. It is also likely that these aspects of our work are the most interesting.

Consistent with what has been suggested in the earlier discussion, therefore, it is suggested that each of the major program categories need to be guided by a lay committee, assisted perhaps by professional advisory committees, and

[Aug 28, 1980]

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that each Board member serve in one of these areas. Thus, instead of one relatively small Program Committee as we now have, there might be two substantially larger Program Committees, one for academic services, and one for arts services. All other areas of governance are related for the most part to administrative matters, and should be assigned to the Executive Committee which may, of course, delegate particular items for review by ad hoc groupings.

SUMMARY What is being suggested, therefore, is that:

1. The program categories of the Foundation be described as relating to academic affairs, arts services, and inter-organizational planning and coordination, with community service being a major component in each of these.
2. The staff structure should reflect program thrusts, with the professional staff assigned clear responsibility in each of the major program areas.
3. The budget of the Foundation should in turn reflect that program priorities of the Foundation are being met.
4. The committee structure should be modified, so that there is far greater involvement by the Board in the program aspects of the Foundation's work, while the Executive Committee will assume greater and more direct responsibility for all other areas of governance.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

490-2280

M E M O R A N D U M

August 28, 1980

To: Executive Committee

From: Abraham Atik, Executive Director

Subject: September 4th Meeting

Enclosed are additional materials for review prior to our September 4th meeting. These include a budget and a memorandum with some preliminary suggestions for integrating our organizational structure.

In regard to the Budget, please note the following:

- 1) A deficit of nearly \$10,000 is projected for 1980. This is due primarily to shortfalls in income rather than overspending. The actual size of this deficit will depend to a great degree on what we can do to increase our income in the four remaining months.
- 2) Income received for the Jewish Theatre Festival and its out-of-pocket expenses are recorded as separate items. There are no similar data provided for 1981, not because none are projected, but because this entire area needs to be reviewed and expenditures authorized. At the present time there are projects with total expenditures of approximately \$150,000 (with off-setting projections of income) that are in various stages of discussion.

I look forward to seeing you next week.

aa/dbs
encs

~~FE~~ File

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE
122 EAST 42ND STREET • NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017 • 490-2280

September 16, 1980

Dr. Daniel Jeremy Silver
The Temple
University Circle at Silver Park
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Dear Dan:

First, please let me wish you a very happy, healthy, and productive New Year.

There are a number of matters which I need to review with you, and I will be calling you early next week for your thoughts. Our new staff member, Dr. Carl Rheins, is now on board, and is eager to begin to work in some of the areas we had discussed over the past year, and he will be joining me in our conversation.

I am enclosing with this letter a memorandum that had been discussed by our Executive Committee relating to the structure of the Foundation. As you can see, I am highlighting the individual program areas of the Foundation and I am assigning specific responsibilities in both Academic Affairs and in the Arts. I propose separate committees for each, and my thought it to have both a lay committee and a professional advisory committee. In the case of Academic Affairs the Academic Advisory Council would serve as the advisory committee. The lay committee would help review priorities in these areas from the Foundation's point of view and will have a particular responsibility to help develop funding sources for programs we plan to undertake, although this is not specifically spelled out in their charge.

Amos and I would certainly like you to continue in the immediate future as Chairman of the Academic Advisory Council. A number of names have been considered as chairman of the lay committee, particularly Abe Karp of Rochester or Paul Vishny. I am not looking for complex structures with all kinds of reporting problems, but I am asking a deeper involvement by our Board in the programs of the Foundation, as I think that the Board must become the body on which we will build the support for expanded programming. Officers of the Foundation, who met during the CJF Quarterly, approved these recommendations.

- 2 -

September 16, 1980

Dr. Daniel Jeremy Silver

Carl Rheins will be going out to Cincinnati in two weeks to attend the meeting of the Society of American Archivists on behalf of the Council of Archives and Research Libraries in Jewish Studies, which he will now staff. He expects to be meeting with Mike Meyer at that time to review ways in which our organizations might work together.

Things here are quite exciting, but I must say that with the GA looming simple procedural questions are quite pressing. By the way, we plan to honor Harry at the Friday night dinner at the GA in Detroit. Can you make it?

I look forward to speaking with you next week.

Cordially,



Abraham Atik
Executive Director

aa/dbs
enc

1) STILL NEED REVIEW

2) Rheins - Position Paper



October 30, 1980

Mr. Abraham Atik
National Foundation For Jewish Culture
122 East 42nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Abe:

I think we accomplished a good bit. My expenses to New York were \$250. It is getting expensive. See you soon.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10168

(212) 490-2280

November 12, 1980

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Dear Dan:

As you will remember, last year we initiated our Associates Program (at an annual fee of \$100) to broaden the base of support for our Foundation's activities. Along with most of our Board members, you joined us in this, for which we are most appreciative. Bill for your annual contribution will be sent at the appropriate time.

We are now endeavoring to expand this effort and to attract a cadre of supporters in various cities throughout the country. Such support is critical if we are to carry out the programs to which we are committed. The Grants Program provides support to only a fraction of the qualified applicants; we are unable to respond to important requests in the areas of publications and research; we urgently need to expand our community services, and we are planning a Jewish Ethnic Music Festival for 1981 as well as to repeat our enormously successful Jewish Theatre Festival at a later date (both of which only scratch the surface of what needs to be done in the Arts).

In order to "test the water" I made a mail request to a number of my friends and colleagues in Pittsburgh to enroll as Foundation Associates, after first clearing with our Federation Executive. Thus far I have enrolled 25 new Associates. At its last meeting our Executive Committee suggested that we ask all of our Board members to undertake a similar effort.

I am suggesting that after clearing with your local Federation you, too, solicit Associates from among your friends and colleagues. I am enclosing 25 brochures explaining the program and a copy of my letter as one model for your use. Our staff will give you as much help as you might need, such as preparing the letters on your letterheads, and the envelopes, including one that would be stamped and self-addressed for return, etc.

I believe such an effort will bring immediate results and I urge you to undertake it soon. I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Cordially,



Amos Comay, President

encs

P.S. If you send out such a mailing on your own without our staff involvement, please inform Abraham Atik at the office.

COPY

AMOS COMAY
1333 SQUIRREL HILL AVENUE
PITTSBURGH, PA. 15217

August 27, 1980

Dear

As you may know, I have been deeply involved in the work of the National Foundation for Jewish Culture for many years and am now serving as its President.

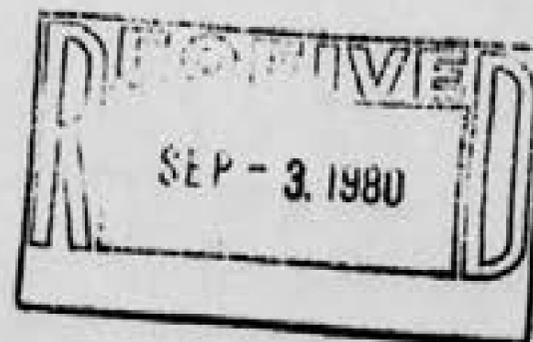
In a quiet way, without publicity or fanfare and with limited funds, the Foundation has compiled an impressive record of accomplishments which have enriched the cultural life of the American Jewish community. At the same time, our limited funds have prevented us from responding in many cultural areas where our assistance is truly needed.

I am writing at this time to urge you to become an Associate of the National Foundation for Jewish Culture by making an annual contribution of \$100.00.

Please take the time to read the enclosed brochure, which briefly describes the Foundation's activities and its challenge of unmet needs. Your support will help us to carry on programs which we believe will have an important impact on the quality of Jewish life in America.

With deep appreciation,

AG/ps
Enclosure



November 19, 1980

Mr. Amos Comay, President
National Foundation For Jewish Culture
122 East 42nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10168

Dear Amos:

Before I go ahead with the Associates Program I want to understand one item in your letter. You suggest I clear with the Federation. Here that is a lengthy process which will involve budget hearings etc. Are you determined that I take that route?

I hear that the meetings in Detroit were successful. I am sorry I couldn't get up for the dinner but there are no commuter flights on Saturday between Detroit and Cleveland and there was no way for me to get back in time for me to give a major speech Saturday noon to the Biennial Conference of the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods.

Abe, I am sure, has told you of our plans to review the disbursement of fellowship monies. There seems to be real energy and a sense of direction in the office in our work and I can see your fine hand in the plans.

With all good wishes I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

November 19, 1980

Dr. Harry Barton
10 Elk Avenue
New Rochelle, New York 10804

Dear Harry,

I was sorry not to get to Detroit. I assumed that I could get back as easily as I could get there and long ago had accepted to be the major speaker at the Biennial Conference of the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods on Saturday. To my chagrin I found that the commuter airlines did not fly on Saturday and that between 6:15 A.M. and 1:15 P.M. there are no flights from Detroit to Cleveland. It was a question of driving all night or counting on your understanding and, knowing you as I do, I chose the latter course.

I hear it was a fine dinner and that you spoke exceedingly well. Is there any chance of reading a typescript of your remarks?

We are well and hope you will soon be visiting Cleveland. I was in the office a few weeks ago trying to get the question of fund grants straightened out and I must say I missed you. With all good wishes from house to house I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

HARRY I. BARRON

Belle

~~EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR~~
~~NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH EDUCATION~~
~~1000 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.~~
~~WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004~~

December 1, 1980

Dear Dan,

Of course your absence in Detroit was noted and missed but I can fully understand why you couldn't make it. It would certainly have been most pleasant having you there but you know how I feel about accolades....

As those things go, it was a warm, informal evening, and from the standpoint of the Foundation, it helped extend the chain of Friday night events sponsored by the NFJC, building the "tradition" and Mazakah. Fellows like Saul Viener are convinced that there needs to be more events for comraderie and good fellowship under the sponsorship of the Foundation....

Abe - Abik

As for my remarks, they were not exceptional. Really tailored for a lay audience. The only typescript I had I turned over to Abe for whatever use he may have for it.

I heard some rather good things about your session with Abe and Carl Rheins. Some of the items they mentioned to me as suggested by you sounded very promising, and I gather they are following up. I assume you will keep a fairly close watch to make sure that progress is being made.

Unlike you, I try to avoid funerals. But today I made a real effort to get to one in Indianapolis but couldn't : planes all sold out due to the post-Thanksgiving Day holiday crush. Maybe by this time you've heard that Julian Freeman committed suicide Saturday. He had been getting increasingly depressed about his failing health. Most recently he had a couple of strokes which made it impossible for him to speak or write. His mind, however, continued to be quite sharp. He dreaded the thought of becoming completely dependent on others and to being "superfluous and useless". Until a couple weeks ago I was able to have some influence on him in our lengthy telephone conversations but since his loss of speech this became impossible. My association with him goes back over 30 years, and I was saddened by this ending of a leader in Jewish life who was really a cut above the average....

Hope to see you before too long. Keep well. Miriam joins me in sending the best to you and Adele.

H. I. Barron

DRAFT DECEMBER 17

MEMORANDUM

TO:
FROM: RABBI DANIEL J. SILVER
SUBJECT: ESTABLISHING NEW NFJC ACADEMIC PRIORITIES FOR THE 1980's
DATE:

I was pleased to learn that you had accepted our invitation to assist us in a self study of a number of the Foundation's activities relating to Academic Affairs. This memorandum will provide some background and will indicate ~~some~~ questions we would like you to help us address.

During the NFJC's relatively brief history of 21 years, it has become one of the principle funding sources for young scholars preparing themselves for academic careers in the field of Jewish Studies. It has been directly responsible for the expenditure of more than one million dollars of community funds and has played a role in securing additional monies for the field. Its former grantees, both established scholars and advanced graduate students, have distinguished themselves in a variety of ways, and many of them, as you know, have achieved national recognition for their scholarly achievements. The Foundation has also played a role in advancing the work of the Association for Jewish Studies by providing financial assistance for the publication of the AJS Review, and other AJS projects.

In recent years, however, the Foundation's income has not kept pace with inflation, or with the demands of the profession. Although requests for funds have increased rapidly, the Foundation has been forced, as a

result of severe budgetary constraints, to suspend its program providing grants-in-aid to established scholars (1974), and its program providing stipends to students studying for comprehensive examinations.(1979).

However, we are more convinced than ever that the needs of the field should be defined in a manner which will elicit an understanding response from the organized Jewish community. To this end, we have begun to map out for ourselves the direction we will be taking in the coming decade. During this process, a number of questions have arisen which require the commission of a Self-Study Task Force. For instance, given the declining job market for recent Jewish Studies Ph.D's, should the Foundation continue to support as many graduate students as it does? Has the Foundation successfully supported such critical subfields as Talmud, Biblical Studies, etc. . . , in which there may be a shortage of trained scholars? Should the Foundation seek new funds or reallocate existing funds in order to reestablish post-doctoral fellowships? What role should the Foundation play in support of scholarly publications? How can the Foundation assist in improving undergraduate teaching? What role, if any, should the Foundation play in encouraging the development of new Jewish Studies curricula designed for non-traditional clientele?

With these questions in mind, the Foundation hopes to undertake a critical look at its past and future role in the field of Jewish Studies. To help us plan this process, I should like to invite you to attend an organizational meeting, to be held at the NFJC's offices

in New York City on January 16 at 10:00 a.m. The purpose of the meeting will be to define the areas of specific concern which the Self-Study Task Force should explore, the process by which the study can take place, and a tentative timetable for the completion of the project.

Of course, traveling expenses would be reimbursed by the Foundation. I would appreciate it if you would call Dr. Carl J. Rheins, 212-490-2280, to confirm your attendance at this meeting, and to discuss any questions you may have.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10168

(212) 490-2280

December 17, 1980

Rabbi Daniel J. Silver
The Temple
University Circle at Silver Park
Cleveland, OH 44106

Dear Dan:

Enclosed is a copy of a memorandum which, following your corrections, will be distributed to those who will participate in the self-study.

Thus far, Herb Paper, Erich Meyer, Baruch Levine, Marvin Herzog, Isadore Twersky and David Sidorsky have all agreed to participate, while one or two others remain to be contacted. The date is tentative, and merely a suggestion.

I am also enclosing a report which you will find interesting.

I will call you Monday.

Sincerely,



Abraham Atik

AA:lrc
enclosures (2)

January 27, 1981

Mr. Abraham Atik
National Foundation For Jewish Culture
122 East 42nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Abe:

The enclosed obviously affects our program and also our plans for the future. I assume you received a copy, but just in case, I am sending mine along.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

Encl.

[1980]

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE
122 EAST 42ND STREET NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017 490-2280

DRAFT

Dear Amos:

Upon my return from an extended stay abroad, I found your letter of April 21, 1980 regarding the changes that are taking place relating to teaching opportunities in Jewish Studies, the implications for the Foundation's grants program, and the role of the Academic Advisory Council in making recommendations to deal with these emerging developments.

Prior to my departure for Europe I had discussed with Abraham Atik a number of steps, including a possible conference that would have dealt in part with this subject. Following my return I learned from Abe that after several informal discussions with the leadership of the Association for Jewish Studies, and in light of the efforts that were taking place regarding alternative careers for academics, it would not have been appropriate to continue along the lines we had been discussing.

In any case, the questions remain and need to be addressed. Although I would be glad to involve the Academic Advisory Council in a process that would indicate the direction the Foundation should take in support of scholarship, I would think that the context for deliberations in this area need to be provided by the Foundation itself.

What are the Foundation's objectives in supporting scholarship? Until now its purpose has been to encourage the development of a cadre of American scholars who would fill the vacuum caused by the destruction of the European Jewish community and who could meet the needs of the American university community. This objective may well have been accomplished -- an hypothesis

[1980]

-2-

Amos Comay

which needs to be examined. What other objectives in scholarship are vital to the Foundation's mandate? Should large-scale scholarly projects which otherwise might not be feasible become a focus of the NFJC's support? Should the dissemination of scholarship within the university as well as the general Jewish community now become a primary objective? Should the Foundation now seek to affect how Judaism is represented within the scholarly world by those not trained within the Jewish Studies context? Should we now seek to encourage a transfer of scholarly skills and training represented in the academic community to the Jewish communal enterprise?

Although I think an exploration of this nature may well conclude that the program we are now conducting is still the most effective use of our resources, I do think that an examination of these questions is important for the Foundation to undertake.

May I suggest that any effort to explore these issues be a joint exercise of the Foundation Board and the Academic Advisory Council? Perhaps the Board might draw up a list of issues about which it would desire guidance from the academic community. I would be glad to draw the attention of the Academic Advisory Council, or a subcommittee thereof, to these issues. Subsequent to these steps, joint deliberations might be in order to arrive at appropriate decisions.

I will certainly do all within my ability to assist in the Foundation's efforts regarding the field of Jewish scholarship. I am sure the academic community joins me in this.

THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF AMERICA

3080 BROADWAY • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10027

212 RIVERSIDE 9-9000

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

CABLE ADDRESS: SEMINARY, NEW YORK

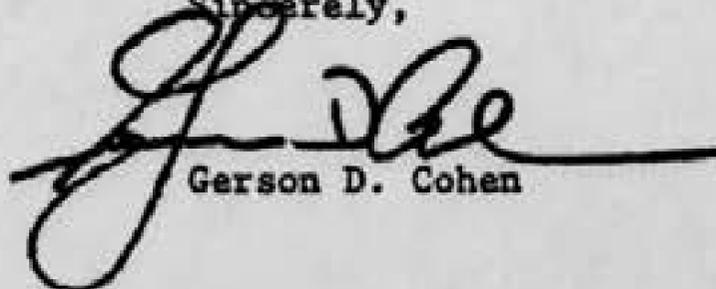
January 20, 1981

Dear Colleague:

I would like to invite you to nominate candidates for the Charles H. Revson Fellows Program at the Graduate School of The Jewish Theological Seminary of America. The program is designed to identify promising and talented students planning to enter the field of Judaic scholarship. These students will be offered the opportunity to pursue their doctoral studies in our Ph.D. program, with an award which includes a full tuition scholarship and a cash stipend of up to \$5,000, depending on family obligations. A housing and travel allowance for summer travel in connection with the Fellow's studies may also be available. The initial term of the fellowship is for one year. Fellowships may be renewed by reapplication.

As you know, our Graduate School excels in its range of offerings and depth of faculty. Study here is further enriched by our own library resources and by consortium agreements with other institutions of higher learning in the area including Columbia University, Princeton University, Union Theological Seminary, City University Graduate Center and Y.I.V.O. The Graduate School of the Jewish Theological Seminary admits students irrespective of age, sex, race, religion or national origin. I hope that you will nominate students who can take full advantage of this unique opportunity.

Sincerely,



Gerson D. Cohen

THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF AMERICA

**CHARLES H. REVSON
FELLOWSHIPS FOR
DOCTORAL STUDIES IN
JUDAICA
AT THE GRADUATE SCHOOL**

**THE SEMINARY'S
GRADUATE SCHOOL**

The proliferation of Jewish studies in the context of the humanities programs of American colleges and universities has made quality graduate education in Judaica both a necessity for American education and a means to a viable career in academe. The Graduate School offers candidates for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in any area of Judaica access to the Seminary's unique faculty and library resources.

**APPLICATION PROCEDURE
1981-82**

Candidates must apply by March 1, 1981. Application forms and catalogues can be obtained by writing to Dean Mayer Rabinowitz at the Graduate School office, 3080 Broadway, New York, New York 10027.

**THE REVSON
FELLOWSHIPS**

Charles H. Revson Fellows will be selected via a competition which will seek to identify the most talented and promising students planning to enter the field of Judaic scholarship. Fellowship awards will carry with them full tuition remission, a housing allowance, and a cash stipend of up to \$5,000, depending on family obligations. Support for summer travel in connection with the Fellow's studies will also be available. Fellowships may be renewable by reapplication.

**FIELDS
OF STUDY**

Ancient Judaism	Jewish Literature
Bible	Philosophy
Education	Rabbinics
History	

The Graduate School of
The Jewish Theological Seminary of America admits students
irrespective of age, sex, race, religion or national origin.

Please Post

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10168

(212) 490-2280

THE FOLLOWING LETTER SENT SENT TO THE ATTACHED LIST

February 2, 1981

I should like to take this opportunity to thank you for agreeing to serve as an "outside" reader for the Academic Advisory Council of the National Foundation for Jewish Culture. Since 1961, the NFJC has awarded 229 doctoral dissertation fellowships to advanced graduate students preparing dissertations in the field of Jewish Studies or in an area in which the dissertation is integrally related to Jewish community life or institutions, representing a total contribution of approximately \$600,000. Many former Foundation fellows have made significant contributions to research and scholarship, and most now teach at academic institutions either in the United States or in Israel. Your assistance this year will insure that the Foundation again awards fellowships only to the most promising students preparing their dissertations in Jewish Studies, or in a related field.

Accompanying this letter are the fellowship application or applications which you agreed to read. We hope you can complete this task within four weeks, and return the enclosed dossier(s) and rating sheets to us by March 4th at the latest.

Each dossier, which will be sent to three readers, contains the candidate's application, the approved dissertation prospectus or project outline, undergraduate and graduate transcripts, and letters of recommendation. In some cases, a curriculum vitae has also been enclosed. At the top left-hand corner of the first page of each file, the applicant's GRE score (verbal section) has been recorded. The notation "NO GRE" indicates that the applicant was not required to take this test at the time of his or her admission to graduate school.

The grading system we suggest is "A" - Superior, "B" - Merits Consideration, and "C" - Unsatisfactory. Obviously only those receiving the very highest grades -- usually at least two A's -- will be considered for financial support. In addition to assigning a letter grade, we would also like to ask you to comment on a separate sheet of paper on the scholarly potential of the individual and the possible contribution of the dissertation to the literature in your field. You may also wish to note

- 2 -

the possibility of the candidate's receiving the necessary guidance at his or her particular institution, and the candidate's training in necessary foreign languages, or his or her grasp of other methodological tools.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me collect.

I wish to extend, in advance, my deepest appreciation for your efforts.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Carl J. Rheins

enclosures

cc: Rabbi Silver

THE ATTACHED LETTER SENT TO THE FOLLOWING LIST

- Professor Jay Baird, Dept. of History, Miami, University, Oxford, Ohio 45056
- Dr. Dan Ben-Atips, 539 East Durham Street, Philadelphia, PA 19119
- Dr. Henry Krystal, 702 Northland Medical Building, Southfield, MI 48075
- Professor William McGrath, Dept. of History, University of Rochester,
Rochester, NY 16627
- Dr. Baruch Levine, Near Eastern & Judaic Languages, New York University,
New York, NY
- Dr. Mark Slobin, Dept. of Music, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT 06457
- Dr. Melford Spiro, Dept. of Anthropology, UCSD, LaJolla, CA 92037
- Dr. Bernard Wasserstein, Dir., Tauber Institute, Brandeis University,
Waltham, Mass. 02254

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10168

(212) 490-2280

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MINUTES

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

NEW YORK CITY
MARCH 22, 1981

ATTENDANCE

Present: Gerrard Berman; Amos Comay; Joseph D. Hurwitz, Chairman, Pro Tem; Jeremiah Kaplan; Abraham Karp; Wolfe Kelman; Daniel J. Silver; A. Walter Socolow; Mrs. Judah Stone; Judah Stone (guest); Abraham Atik (staff); Carl Rheins (staff)

INTRODUCTION

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Joseph Hurwitz, Chairman Pro Tem, in room 503 of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion Brookdale Center at 10:45 a.m.

The Chairman Pro Tem began the meeting by noting that, as a result of the Foundation's administrative reorganization in September 1981, the Executive Committee had recommended the establishment of a permanent lay committee on Academic Affairs, a committee which would parallel the Foundation's already existing Arts Services Committee.

The Chairman Pro Tem went on to point out that the March 22 session was both an organizational meeting for the committee, as well as an opportunity for committee members to review the Foundation's various programs in higher education. Turning to this point, Mr. Hurwitz introduced for discussion a report prepared by Dr. Carl Rheins, which outlined the Foundation's past record in support of graduate education, the Foundation's current activities in five specific areas, and questions relating to the Foundation's future role in support of Jewish studies on the post-secondary level.

GRADUATE
EDUCATION

Rabbi Daniel J. Silver, Chairman of the Foundation's Academic Advisory Council, reported that the Foundation had received more than 150 inquiries from students seeking financial support to complete their doctoral dissertations in 1980-1981, for the 1981-1982 academic year. The criteria for selection as a fellow, according to Silver, has always been academic excellence. Silver pointed out that the Academic Advisory Council would meet on April 2, 1981, in New York City to nominate this year's NFJC Doctoral Dissertation Fellows. In addition, Silver noted that the Foundation had begun to address itself to the problem of an oversupply of Ph.D.'s in Jewish Studies and pointed out that the Foundation had organized a meeting of national Jewish agencies in Spring 1980 to discuss possible alternate careers for those Ph.D.'s in Jewish Studies who were unable to secure regular academic appointments. Gerrard Berman put forth the view that communities with Jewish populations of over 20,000 might be able to provide employment for some young unemployed scholars through the creation of a national scholar-in-residency program. Comments and discussion followed.

[Mar 22, 1981]

In response to a question from Mrs. Judah Stone as to the placement record of current and former NFJC fellows, Carl Rheins reported that the vast majority of the Foundation's grantees had secured initial academic appointments. Dr. Rheins added that the Foundation's Division of Academic Affairs was about to launch a survey of the Foundation's former fellows to determine how many of them had actually secured tenure, as well as to learn to what extent NFJC Fellows were involved in local Jewish communal affairs.

check
for
action

Jeremiah Kaplan urged the Board of Directors to adopt a clear strategy especially with regard to the Foundation's commitment to ensure a steady supply of young scholars over the next two decades.

FACULTY RESEARCH GRANTS AND SUPPORT FOR SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS
Dr. Rheins recommended that the NFJC reconsider its 1974 decision to suspend faculty grants-in-aid. Rheins pointed out that some of the Foundation's most recent grantees now find themselves without the means to pursue the kinds of research projects which would allow them to be considered favorably for tenure. Rheins noted that one way in which the Foundation could maximize its support for Jewish Studies was to ensure that its former grantees also had the means to pursue their research interests beyond the dissertation.

Get
new
support

DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO LEARNED SOCIETIES AND PROFESSIONAL SCHOLARLY ORGANIZATIONS
The chair noted that the Foundation had played an instrumental role in the establishment of the Association for Jewish Studies, and that the Foundation's Executive Committee had agreed to award an annual grant of \$6000 for the publication of the AJS Review, for the next three years. The Chair did note, however, that the AJS appears to have matured sufficiently to the point where it is almost financially self-sufficient.

Mr. Amos Comay reviewed the history of the Foundation's involvement with the Council of Archives and Research Libraries in Jewish Studies. Comay noted the importance of several of the Council's recent projects, including its proposed May 13, 1981 conference in New York City entitled "Jewish Archives -- Where are Yours?" Comay pointed out that without Foundation support the Council would most likely disappear and therefore urged continued support for the organization's on-going activities.

RESOLUTIONS
Following further general discussion and comments, the Chair entertained resolutions from the floor. Abe Karp moved the following resolution:

The Foundation's Advisory Committee on Academic Affairs views its support of Jewish Studies as a historic mission.

The Foundation's Advisory Committee on Academic Affairs remains committed to its support of graduate education including the Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Grants Program, and the Foundation's support of Jewish archives and research libraries.

The Foundation's Advisory Committee on Academic Affairs recommends that the Academic Advisory Council, headed by Rabbi Daniel J. Silver, review the

[Mar 22, 1981]

-3-

Foundation's current efforts in support of Jewish Studies on the post-secondary level and make appropriate recommendations with regard to the establishment of new programs in areas where the Foundation is not presently engaged.

The Foundation's Advisory Committee on Academic Affairs respectfully requests that the Academic Advisory Council report its recommendations in time for the Committee's fall meeting, and make final recommendations to the Foundation's Board of Directors no later than April 1982.

Following additional discussion and debate, the resolution was adopted unanimously.

In the absence of any additional resolutions, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

March 24, 1981

Mr. Abraham Atik
National Foundation For Jewish Culture
122 E. 42nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Abe:

I thought they were good meetings and I was particularly pleased at the way the academic side of things developed. I hope our meeting with the Advisory Council can be as productive.

My expenses were \$300 of which \$270 was the airlines ticket. See you on Tuesday.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

April 3, 1981

Mr. Abraham Atik
National Foundation For Jewish Culture
122 East 42nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Abe:

The meeting went well and there was a good spirit and unanimous agreement on the grantees.

We decided to create two committees, one to deal with publications, the other with grants. There was a great deal of interest on the publications matter. I suggested that we have back to back meetings in June or July so that I need to make only one trip and you all have a chance to draw together the necessary information.

I hope you have a good trip to Detroit.

My expenses were \$240.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

Observed

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE
122 EAST 42ND STREET • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10168 • (212) 490-2280

June 17, 1981

Dr. Daniel Jeremy Silver
The Temple
University Circle at Silver Park
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Dear Dan:

Enclosed is a copy of the letter that Walter Socolow would like us to distribute to universities. I don't think this is appropriate, but I would like to harness his energies, and this area is much on his mind.

Can you find out from Moshe Davis what he has done? In addition, can you give me your comments and suggestions?

Have a pleasant trip.

Cordially,



Abraham Atik
Executive Director

aa/dba
enc

Letterhead of
NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

[June 17, 1981]

We are undertaking to investigate the nature and extent of general survey courses and programs at American universities and colleges on or related to basic Jewish culture in such areas as history, literature and other societal components. We should be grateful for your cooperation in informing us of your experience in offering undergraduate students introductory courses in Judaica so that we may determine the significance and effectiveness of Jewish education to college students.

The goal of our project is to develop a funding program which would encourage institutions of higher education to revise, expand or develop such basic courses and we hope to be able to provide certain institutions with sufficient funds to carry out such programs. Your confidential report to us of your courses in Jewish studies and your appraisal of student experiences and benefits therefrom should be of great value to us in carrying out our objective in this area. We shall appreciate your cooperation in furnishing us with this information at your earliest convenience.

Yours very truly,

MEMORANDUM

TO: Abraham Atik, Executive Director
FROM: Dr. Carl J. Rheins, Director of Academic Affairs
SUBJECT: Proposal to Establish an NFJC Publications Project: A Preliminary Report
DATE: June 26, 1981

INTRODUCTION

In January 1976, in response to the widespread concern in the academic community that a "crisis in finance threatened. . .the (future) viability of scholarly publishing,"¹ the American Council of Learned Societies (A.C.L.S.), a private, non-profit federation of 42 national scholarly organizations established a National Enquiry into Scholarly Communication. In assessing the "crisis" then facing the academic community, the staff of the National Enquiry noted that as of the mid-1970's "fewer copies of new scholarly books were being published, (that) prices of scholarly books and journals were increasing rapidly. . .and that a growing number of high quality but specialized manuscripts would go unpublished unless subsidized" (italics added.)²

The A.C.L.S. task force also noted a basic concern about the future viability of scholarly journals; namely that editors of scholarly journals, primarily in the Humanities and Social Sciences, "faced an. . .uncertain future because of their dependence on institutional subscriptions and the poor prospects for increasing individual subscriptions." ³ Overriding these concerns were two other seemingly contradictory charges; "that too many books and journals of marginal quality and usefulness were being published, and second that works of considerable scholarly value were failing to find outlets."⁴

Concerned about the implications of these national trends for the field of Jewish Studies, the National Foundation for Jewish Culture, as early as 1973, circulated a questionnaire designed to ascertain the need for new American-based scholarly journals in Jewish Studies, and to assess the quality, content, editorial practices and receptivity to new authors of those journals already in existence. Although the findings of this survey proved inconclusive, the data did indicate that this problem should be monitored. In response to these findings, the NFJC's Reassessment Committee recommended that the Foundation establish an "on-going committee on publications" in 1974. ⁵ Recognizing the Foundation's responsibility to articulate the needs of scholars in Judaica to the organized Jewish community in the United States, the Reassessment Committee urged the Foundation to begin discussions with the Jewish Publication Society of America, the Conference on Jewish Social Studies, and the American Jewish Historical Society, as well as with university presses and commercial publishers in order to elicit answers to three crucial questions:

[JUNE 26, 1981]

- 2 -

1. To what extent are scholarly manuscripts in Jewish Studies not being published because publishers are unwilling to incur financial risks?
2. Is there evidence to suggest that meritorious journal articles in Jewish Studies are not being published because of a lack of acceptable outlets?
3. Are there major publications projects (i.e. multi-volume works) that should be supported, but are not being published because of lack of financial sponsorship?

Although the publications committee envisioned in 1974 was never activated, between 1974 and 1977 discussions of the NFJC's Academic Advisory Council often focused on the problems which younger scholars face in finding a publisher for their first book.

With the establishment of the Foundation's Division of Academic Affairs in September 1980, and the subsequent creation of a lay Advisory Committee on Academic Affairs in March 1981, the National Foundation has again focused on the need to support scholarly communication in Jewish Studies. Suggested programs include establishing an endowed fund(s) to provide title subsidies to meritorious manuscripts. Like other foundations, the NFJC believes that it is crucial that there be a wide dissemination of the results of research that it has financed, and that it should help insure the continued growth of Jewish Studies in the United States by providing on-going support to scholars whose future careers in academia largely depend on their ability to publish.

TITLE SUBSIDIES FOR RECENT PH.D.'S IN JEWISH STUDIES

Since 1975, the NFJC has maintained a consistent policy of refusing to consider proposals for title subsidies from scholars who have already received their Ph.D.'s. Despite this decision the Foundation continues to receive inquiries from scholars requesting financial subsidies for forthcoming publications. Cutbacks in university budgets, including the budgets of university presses, coupled with the reduction of Federal aid available to scholars working in the humanities and social sciences have resulted in increased inquiries. Between September 1980 and February 1981, for instance, the Foundation received formal requests from eight faculty members for title subsidies. A few of these inquiries have come from former NFJC fellows, who, as junior faculty, now find themselves without the financial means to pursue the publications projects which would allow them to be considered favorably for permanent appointments. For example, on October 20, 1980, a former NFJC fellow, now teaching Jewish Studies part-time, at a private Northeastern university wrote:

Last spring I taught a course on Jewish Women's history for the University of _____ Women's Studies Program and Department of Religion; I repeated a version of this course this past summer at _____ College. I have the honor this coming spring to introduce in _____ University's Honors Program a course on Women in the Religious Traditions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

[June 26, 1981]

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I am writing to request a grant application form in support of a book I wish to edit on Jewish Women's Studies. . . It will be a pedagogically oriented book providing articles for prospective teachers in this new area of endeavor. The _____ Press has shown interest in considering my proposal.

While the merits of this specific request need not concern us here, the Foundation's staff has over the last two months sought the opinions of recognized senior scholars in Judaica, editors of university and commercial presses as well as others involved in scholarly publishing to ascertain the need for a program designed to provide title subsidies to recent Ph.D.'s, including those attempting to publish revised versions of their dissertations.

On May 5, 1981, members of the Foundation staff met with Professor Yosef Yerushalmi, endowed professor of Jewish history at Columbia University, and chairman of the Academic Advisory Committee of the Jewish Publication Society of America. Yerushalmi argued very strongly against providing title subsidies for revised dissertations. According to Yerushalmi, the best dissertations are already being published and there is little or no evidence to suggest that first rate manuscripts are going unpublished because of lack of available outlets. Yerushalmi argued that if the Foundation insisted upon establishing a subvention program for recent Ph.D.'s, subsidized manuscripts should first be accepted for publication by one of the top university presses in the United States. Yerushalmi warned, however, that the announcement of such a program could prove to be counter-productive. University presses which are not now seeking subventions for their Judaica series might begin to demand subventions if they believed that Jewish communal funds were available for such projects. In a separate meeting with members of the Foundation's staff, Bernard Levinson, Executive Vice President, of the Jewish Publication Society of America, noted that in general most Ph.D. dissertations received by JPS were poorly written and often had to be farmed out to copy editors to put them in shape for publication. Like Yerushalmi, Levinson believes that the best dissertations in Judaica are being published by university presses. He did note, however, that a few "second rate" dissertations were not being published but probably should be. Moreover, Levinson saw little relationship between publishing a monograph by a young scholar, and that individual's ability to secure a permanent academic appointment. On the contrary, Levinson noted that two recent dissertations published by JPS were authored by Ph.D.'s who were no longer in academia. Levinson argued that quality, not the future career goals of the author, should be the overriding consideration in selecting a manuscript for financial subvention. These opinions were echoed by others involved in scholarly communication. In a letter to the Foundation, Bernard M. Goldman, Director of Wayne State University Press, wrote:

Dissertations are not the young scholar's first brain child; they are his first exploration in and experimentation with the equipment and processes that produce the creative act. Dissertations should be mined for a couple of good journal length articles to give the young scholar the feel of writing for publication, and then he should go on and write that marvelous book for which we have all been waiting.

With regard to the specific question of whether quality manuscripts are going unpublished because of lack of publishing outlets, Goldman wrote, "I have never returned a manuscript in Judaica to its author because I could not afford it. . . I have published all good manuscripts in Judaica that have crossed my desk." ¹⁰ And as John D. Moore, Director of the Columbia University

[June 26, 1981]

Press noted, "Dissertations are readily available to scholars without the intervention of book publishers through xerox and University Microfilms International."¹¹

Based on the evidence available, it appears that the problem facing recent Ph.D.'s is not their inability to find reputable publishers for their publications per se, but rather the problem of delay which often intensifies their anxieties as they begin to be considered for tenure by their colleagues.

TITLE SUBSIDIES FOR OTHER TYPES OF MANUSCRIPTS IN JUDAICA

Assuming for the moment that revised doctoral dissertations are not the manuscripts which may justify a new NFJC publications program, the staff has attempted to ascertain what other types of books could possibly merit financial subvention. Bernard Goldman attempted to answer this question. "There are manuscripts in Judaica which are basic compilations of data, records of the Holocaust, correspondence relative to the founding of Israel, official documents on Jewish social and historical matters. Such materials usually bulk very large and have a potential sale of a hundred or so copies to specialized research libraries. These I cannot afford to publish. . . There are manuscripts which require very expensive production techniques (extensive use of Hebrew type, charts, graphs, maps, illustrations, photographs) which cannot now be financed."¹² Other types of works in Judaic Studies which appear to have difficulty finding publishers include bibliographies, translations of ancient texts and reference volumes, not to mention works in Arabic, Aramaic or cuneiform text. Multi-volume works in Judaica also face dim prospects today unless outright title subsidies are provided.

TITLE SUBSIDIES: THE BOTTOM LINE

Faced with major economic constraints University presses are not afraid to ask for title subsidies from either Foundations or from potential authors. The criteria used to determine which manuscripts require subsidy are not difficult to specify. Once a manuscript has been approved on editorial grounds, presses calculate the net income that the published manuscript is likely to generate. A negative figure means a subsidy is required. Obviously a number of factors enter into the cost of publishing a monograph and the actual manufacture (composition, paper, printing and binding) usually represents less than half the cost of publishing a new book. Employing traditional methods of publishing a 250 page book (no illustrations or special features) with a press run of 1500, hardcover with a dust jacket, a book would have a manufacturing price tag of about \$6000, according to Bernard Goldman.¹³ This is the size of the subvention his press would seek. Other non-commercial publishers now seek subventions of between \$4000 and \$5000 per book.

Short of providing direct title subsidies, there is another aspect of financing that is frequently overlooked because it is indirect. Because funds are limited and subventions are difficult to obtain, many university presses and commercial publishers are reluctant to provide "risk capital" for books which they expect will have only limited sales. These same presses, however, would welcome any significant financial support which the Foundation could provide directly to authors, to allow scholars to acquire the typing services and editorial assistance they need to complete a manuscript prior to submitting it for publication.

[June 26, 1971]

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ALTERNATIVE FORMS TO TRADITIONAL PUBLISHING

Jeremiah Kaplan, Editor-in-Chief of Macmillan Books, and a member of the NFJC's Board of Directors, is one of the several individuals who advised the Foundation's staff about alternative forms of publishing. Kaplan noted that by using a sophisticated word processor, coupled with a Xerox 9700 Electronic Printing System, a university press subsidized by the NFJC could produce a 200 page work with a press run of 200 for about \$2000. (See enclosure A.) The merits of producing such types of works have been given careful consideration by the newly created Society for Scholarly Publishing and the American Association for University Presses. Like the National Enquiry on Scholarly Publication, Kaplan and others do not believe that the use of the "new technology" will make traditional book publishing technologically obsolete. Nor is there any evidence to indicate that microfilm or microfiche works will replace the demand for books since user resistance to microfilm and microfiche remains strong.

Yet, ironically, the types of manuscripts which we have already identified in this report as most deserving of being published and which are least likely to find a publisher are exactly those works which least lend themselves to the new technology.

With these points in mind we propose the following questions for further discussion by the NFJC's Academic Advisory Council:

1. Should the NFJC establish an endowed fund for new publications in Jewish Studies, and if so which types of manuscripts should be given highest priority? Where is the need greatest?
2. How should this new project be funded? Should some of the funds now devoted to the Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship Program be reallocated to support this project? Should new funds be solicited through the establishment of an endowed fund by an individual, family or group of donors?
3. If the Foundation establishes a publications project, should it establish an on-going relationship with an existing university press by providing an annual title subsidy, or should it continue to explore the possibility of publishing through new technology?

[June 26, 1981]

NOTES

1. American Council of Learned Societies, Scholarly Communication: The Report of the National Enquiry (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1979), p. 1.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid., p. 2.
5. G.M. Zeltzer, et. al., National Foundation for Jewish Culture Reassessment Committee Report (New York: National Foundation for Jewish Culture, 1974), p. 14.
6. Ibid.
7. According to Margot Backas, Project Officer, Division of Research, National Endowment for the Humanities, her division will receive a 30 percent reduction in allocations for FY '82, thus seriously curtailing NEH's efforts to support scholarly publications Communication, Margot Backas to the author, May 26, 1981.
8. Letter. Dr. Edward Levinson to the NFJC, Philadelphia, October 20, 1980, p. 1.
9. Letter. Bernard Goldman, Director, Wayne State University Press, to Dr. Carl J. Rheins, June 3, 1981, p. 2.
10. Ibid., p. 1.
11. Letter. John D. Moore, Director, Columbia University Press to Dr. Carl J. Rheins, June 5, 1981, p. 1.
12. Letter. Goldman to Rheins, pp. 1-2.
13. Ibid., p. 2.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10168

(212) 490-2280

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Abraham Atk, Executive Director
FROM: Dr. Carl J. Rheins, Director of Academic Affairs
SUBJECT: Placement Record of NFJC Doctoral Dissertation Fellows, 1961-1980
DATE: June 26, 1981

In November, 1980, the National Foundation's Division of Academic Affairs undertook a major assignment designed to measure the impact of the Foundation's Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship program on the growth of Jewish Studies in the United States. As the first step in this process, this office released a statistical profile of those advanced graduate students who had received NFJC Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships between 1961 and 1980, on December 16, 1980. In this report, which was later transmitted to both the NFJC's Board of Directors and to the Academic Advisory Council, the Division of Academic Affairs examined in close detail the Foundation's total financial commitment to the Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship program, and identified, among other items, the fields of concentration of NFJC fellows since 1961, those departments and institutions producing the largest number of fellows, and the Foundation's record of support for female doctoral candidates.

Immediately following the publication of this profile, this office embarked on another task; namely, to determine how many of our former Doctoral Dissertation Fellows are currently teaching in institutions of higher education, to ascertain how many of our former grantees have actually received their Ph.D. degrees, to determine how many of our former grantees are currently unemployed, and to ascertain how many of our former grantees are living and teaching in Israel. Using our own questionnaire and other printed sources of information, we are able to provide answers to these questions.

Simply stated, the NFJC's placement record is impressive. Of the 200 doctoral candidates in Jewish Studies who received NFJC fellowships between 1961 and 1980, 129, or 64.5%, are now teaching at one of 78 different institutions of higher learning in the United States, Israel and Canada. Four other former grantees or 2% are currently holding post-doctoral fellowships, while an additional ten fellows or 5% are still working on their dissertations full-time with the expectation of completing them by 1982. Presumably, some, if not all, of these students will also find academic positions. Some former fellows whom we were unable to contact and whose current status is unknown, may also hold academic appointments.

Recognizing that the academic job market has contracted since 1975, it was important to determine how many of our former fellows had found meaningful positions outside of the university. Here too, the Foundation's placement record is impressive. At the present time, 13 of our former fellows, or

[June 26, 1981]

6.5%, are employed either as teachers and principals of Jewish high schools and Yeshivot, or as executives of Jewish communal agencies, both in the United States and in Israel. Three of our former grantees hold significant positions with the United States government, while several others are engaged in business. During a period when the public is constantly being bombarded with tales of underemployed or unemployed Ph.D.'s, it appears that only one of our former grantees is currently unemployed.

Equally important is the completion rate of our former grantees (i.e. the number and percentage of those who actually received their Ph.D.'s). Based on the evidence available, it appears that no less than 147, or 73.5% of our former grantees have received their doctorates. Another 31, or 15.5%, expect to complete their degrees within the next 18 months. Assuming that many of these individuals do finish their degrees, we can estimate a completion rate of close to 90%, a figure which reflects the high degree of selectivity which has been employed in choosing individuals for fellowships.

While most of our former grantees are now teaching at universities in the United States, 33, or 16.5% are now living in Israel, where they are making a major contribution to Israeli academic life.

This preliminary analysis will be followed in the fall by a more detailed examination of the questionnaire responses, and by an overall report on the impact of the Foundation's Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship program on the growth of Jewish Studies in the United States.

cc:

NFJC Board of Directors
NFJC Academic Advisory Council
Dr. Jerry Hochbaum

,n

July 1, 1981

Mr. Abraham Atik
National Foundation For Jewish Culture
122 East 42nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10168

Dear Abe:

I did not have a chance to meet with Moshe Davis since I was in Israel for only seventy-two hours - I was called back for a funeral.

I remain convinced, as you do, that this is not the way to go. Why don't you hold things until you spend time with Moshe in August.

I received the statistical material on placement of our doctoral fellows. It's interesting, it really doesn't get us very far - unless we are simply interested in pumping the program. I still haven't seen the kind of material which would be useful for our discussions in the fall.

As always,

Daniel Jessmy Silver

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10168

(212) 490-2280

July 10, 1981

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver
The Temple
University Circle at Silver Park
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Dear Dan:

Thank you for your recent note. I am sorry your trip to Israel was cut short, and particularly for such an unfortunate event.

I am enclosing a report Carl wrote regarding publications. I would like to do some work on it myself before we distribute it to the Academic Advisory Council for a Fall meeting, but I think you should see the direction of the investigation.

I will try to see Moshe Davis when I am in Israel in August. I am trying to discourage Walter Socolow from pursuing this inclination he has.

Cordially,



Abraham Atik
Executive Director

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NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10168

(212) 490-2280

July 17, 1981

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver
The Temple
University Circle at Silver Park
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Dear Dan:

I am taking this mid-year opportunity to bring you up-to-date on some of the activities of the Foundation and to ask your help. I am enclosing the report I gave at our Annual Meeting in March and the Minutes of that meeting, which describe the activities of 1980 and also indicate some of the issues the Foundation will be facing in the future.

Since the Annual Meeting a number of exciting events were completed. The Ethnic Music Festival was a major success, attracting more than 2,000 participants and generating great enthusiasm. The enclosed review from Hadassah Magazine will indicate some of what took place.

As a result of this festival, in recognition of the quality of our work, we have good reason to expect two additional grants of \$10,000 each from the National Endowment for the Arts. One will be for initiating a Sephardic Cultural tour; and the second, for transforming our tapes of the Ethnic Music Festival into radio programs which will be made available to communities. We have also received a \$5,000 grant from the Detroit Community Foundation for the establishment of an artist-in-residence program which we are planning in cooperation with the JWB.

We are working on two new programs relating to theatre. We are active participants in the planning and implementation of an International Jewish Theatre Festival which will be held in Tel-Aviv in March, 1982. Planning is under way for our Second Jewish Theatre Festival in the United States in June, 1982.

In the area of academic affairs, you have already received the report which summarizes the impressive record of our doctoral dissertation program since its inception. Some time ago, we were forced to discontinue post-doctoral, research and publication grants due to lack of funds. However, the needs in these areas are substantial, and our staff is exploring options that might permit us to resume these programs.

[July 17, 1981]

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In May the Council of Archives and Research Libraries in Jewish Studies (which the Foundation was instrumental in establishing, and which we continue to staff) conducted a conference on the archives of Jewish community organizations. The conference was designed to provide policy guidelines as well as practical advice on preserving and organizing these important records of Jewish history. More than 100 people attended, and although it was planned as a regional conference, there was substantial representation from throughout the United States, from as far away as Oregon and Florida. The widespread interest was beyond what we had expected, and as a result a second regional conference is being planned for the Spring of 1982.

What I have reported thus far is only a sampling of the programs we are working on, and that in turn is only a small step in meeting the many needs with which our organization is concerned. To do this properly, the Foundation needs your assistance. Our budget has always been severely limited, and our attempts to respond to the many needs in a more adequate fashion is straining our financial capacity even more. I am, therefore, urging each of the Foundation Board members to do three things:

1. Continue as an Associate of the Foundation, which involves an annual contribution of \$100.
2. If possible, make (or secure from others) an additional contribution toward the work of the Foundation.
3. Enroll your friends and colleagues as Associates of the Foundation, where your Federation practices permit. From a simple mailing which I sent to 75 friends in Pittsburgh, 27 individuals enrolled as Associates.

The Foundation's office will be happy to provide you with any assistance you will need in carrying out the efforts I have described. The record of our organization is one in which you can take pride. With your support, the NFJC will continue its meaningful contribution to the quality of Jewish life.

Cordially,



Amos Comay, President

encs.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

490-2280

October 5, 1981

Mr. Abraham Atik
Executive Director
National Foundation for
Jewish Culture
122 East 42nd Street
New York, New York 10168

Dear Abe,

I have been offered and have accepted another position and, therefore, I am resigning my position as Director of Academic Affairs as of the close of business on October 21, 1981.

I am grateful for the positive opportunities which came in my work with the Foundation's National Academic Advisory Council, the Council of Archives and Research Libraries in Jewish Studies, the World Council on Jewish Archives, the Council of Jewish Federations, as well as with the Foundation's Board of Directors. Likewise, I hope that the Foundation has found my work to be beneficial in the short time I was here. I regret that the Foundation's overall financial situation has precipitated my change.

I wish the National Foundation continued success in this new year.

Sincerely,



Carl J. Rheins, Ph.D.
Director of Academic Affairs

cjr/ss

cc: Mr. Amos Comay
Mr. Alfred Eisenpreis
Mr. Joseph Hurwitz
Ms. Doris Sattenstein
Mr. Richard Siegel
Dr. Daniel Silver

October 26, 1981

Dr. Carl J. Rheins
Director of Academic Affairs
National Foundation For Jewish Culture
122 East 42nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Carl:

I am sorry that you will be leaving the Foundation. I enjoyed working with you and I know that you will bring great skill to whatever position you have undertaken. I hope that our paths will cross in the future. With all good wishes I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS imp

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

490-2280

MEMORANDUM

January 5, 1982

To: Executive Committee

From: Abraham Atik, Executive Director

Subject: The NFJC and the JCA

As you know, we have been struggling over the course of the past year to develop a process and a set of principles which would enable us to restructure the way the Joint Cultural Appeal is administered. What was satisfactory for the first decade of this consortium is probably not suitable on an ongoing basis. The primary weaknesses of the present structure from the NFJC's point of view are that it does not provide the latitude for the Foundation to carry out its own mandate and program, does not lend itself to the allocation of funds among the member organizations on a sound, rational basis, and that it does not allow for a realistic response to organizations not now part of the JCA which request support from the organized communities through this instrument.

The task of bringing about basic changes is understandably difficult. Whatever the faults of the JCA, it does work. Given the difficulties that surrounded its creation, sensitivity and the respect for the interests of each of the participating organizations was essential to allow it to function as well as it has. Changes may well bring about unforeseeable negative results which would be to the benefit of no one, not the Foundation, nor the communities, nor the participating organizations. And yet the effort to see if change is required must be made, for all of the reasons above and also because the organized communities, particularly through the Large City Budgeting Conference, are asking for such an examination.

In my view, and in accordance with the sense of the Executive Committee discussion in September, five major items need to be considered in arriving at the Foundation's position:

1. The agenda of the National Foundation for Jewish Culture
2. The relationship of the NFJC to the JCA
3. Sources of support of the NFJC and of the JCA
4. Changes affecting the current structure of the JCA

5. Admission of additional organizations to the JCA

An attempt at formulating the agenda of the NFJC is set forth in an accompanying document. It is obviously ambitious, and priorities for implementation will need to be established in an intensive process of review.

The remainder of this memorandum will deal with the other issues listed above, which to some degree flow out of the NFJC's own program.

THE NATURE OF THE JOINT CULTURAL APPEAL The Foundation has always viewed its mandate as far broader than that of a fund-raising organization which provides financial support for the eight other organizations included in the JCA. On the other hand, the perspective of the organized communities is often shaped by their exposure to the Foundation as primarily an instrument of support for these organizations. The Foundation was created by the Federation movement and derives nearly all of its support from the organized communities, and these perceptions carry great weight.

There are two basic approaches that can be taken regarding the NFJC's relationship with the JCA:

1. The JCA could remain a mechanism to support the organizations now participating in it, with whatever changes in distribution or in admitting additional organizations will be decided upon. In this case, the NFJC will need to develop an approach to communities and other sources for support of its activities in the broader cultural field.
2. The JCA could be transformed over time so that it becomes the primary instrument of the organized communities through the Foundation of their support of the whole cultural field. This will call for a dramatic shift in emphasis, probably away from exclusive support for maintenance of organizations to the support of programs - organizational, inter-organizational, individual, and even international.

SOURCES OF FUNDING No matter which of the options regarding the JCA are chosen, it is becoming obvious that unless a radical change occurs the allocation process will be increasingly limited as a means of providing adequate support. Welfare fund support to the JCA is not keeping pace with inflation, and there does not seem to be a realistic prospect that the needs of the organizations now in the JCA - even excluding the implications of the NFJC's broader agenda - will be met from current sources, much less if additional organizations are admitted. Certainly, if the JCA is to become the instrument of community support for the cultural field as a whole, the entire scope of community funding will need to be radically transformed.

Where will these funds come from? The allocation process from the communities' annual campaigns can certainly not be ignored, despite the constraints. If the JCA continues more or less in its present form, there may be the possibility of shifting some funds from one organization to another, and together with increased allocations over and above inflation this might permit the inclusion of additional organizations, although at a rather limited minimal level. This, however, may well meet current needs, but will certainly not permit the support that the cultural field requires.

An option that recommends itself strongly, although the difficulties are recognized, is the development of a program to tap community endowment funds. By the very nature of these funds it can be expected that specific programs designed to meet cultural needs, without reference to organizational auspices, are more likely to win support than organizations needing assistance for their ongoing operations. The scope of such an effort will depend on whether the JCA will continue within its rather narrow framework or whether it will be expanded to cover a broader range of cultural activities. If the scope remains narrow, the NFJC will need to develop a program to solicit endowment funds to support the cultural activities it feels need to be assisted. In either case, involvement of the LCBC and the CJF will be of extreme importance.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE JCA There are a number of issues that need to be addressed in determining the changes that may be required in the way the JCA is administered. These issues relate to the distribution formula, the viability of the organizations, and of assessing programs.

In discussing these areas, we need to remember how decisions are now arrived at in the JCA. There is, at present, no formal process for making decisions. All matters have been decided by consensus. Although the NFJC has a review function, it has been sharply limited in exercising this in practice because of its own status as one among nine equal organizations, so that any real review would immediately get caught up in the accusations of self-interest that nearly prevented the establishment of the JCA in the first place.

Probably the most difficult issue of those that need to be addressed is that of finding a more rational way to distribute community funds among the organizations currently participating. Over the past several months a variety of options were considered, primarily along the lines of trying to separate support for ongoing operations from that of programs. Although this concept continues to retain validity, it can only be implemented by the use of funds taken from those the organizations have come to expect, or monies over and above those now received by the JCA - either increased allocations or through the endowment process. A better procedure for distributing current funds among the organizations now participating still needs to be developed, and the comments below are to suggest for discussion the elements of one such procedure.

A basic premise of this procedure is to tie allocations to the criterion of need, and to provide for the objective application of the criterion. The following are some of the steps that may be necessary to carry out this process.

1. Each of the organizations would be required to justify its request for welfare fund allocations on the basis of the need for funds. To determine need each will be required to submit, in addition to its budgeted request for welfare funds (this to be based on its present percentage of a realistically projected total JCA achievement) an assessment of the program implications of a substantial reduction in welfare fund allocations, perhaps as much as 30%. In addition, each organization would be permitted to provide a description of that which it would be enabled to undertake if it received a specified amount (10 or 15%) more than its budget request.
2. A panel (with LCBC participation) should be established by the NFJC to review the budgets, the assessments described above, and the financial condition of the organizations in the JCA - particularly reserves, other sources of income, and accumulated deficits. The review of the panel should be budgetary rather than of program evaluation. Based on this review, the NFJC should recommend an allocation formula to the JCA. A consensus of acceptance for this formula should be sought, but if one is not achieved, acceptance by a majority of the other organizations would be sufficient. If this majority cannot be achieved, the LCBC would be called in for review and assistance in arriving at a resolution.
3. In order for this process to work, the NFJC needs to be removed as a competitor of the other JCA organizations for basic allocations. Its budgetary requirements with income based on the current percentage of JCA achievement, should be reviewed by the LCBC.
4. It is possible that as a result of this process not all funds received from communities would be allocated to organizations. These funds will be available for projects and for admitting new organizations.

The discussion above deals only with the distribution formula. A more difficult issue, for which no adequate resolution may be found, is the relative value of the overall objectives of the individual organizations, and perhaps no direct approach to this in terms of the participation of those already in the JCA ought to be attempted.

However, this issue can be approached indirectly. The establishment of a program to fund projects will necessitate evaluation of the relative importance of the individual projects, a process that will be carried out by panels of experts under the administration of the NFJC. These evaluations will, by definition, establish priorities among the various programs of the organizations and individuals submitting applications for support.

In addition, the Foundation has begun an examination of the viability of several of the organizations within the JCA and their ability to carry out their program objectives. If as a result of these examinations basic structural and functional changes are recommended, these will also necessitate a look at the organization's overall functions and their relevance.

EXPANDING
THE JCA

Since the beginning of the JCA a number of organizations have requested that they be included in its framework.

A list of the organizations that have made the request, or who could realistically be expected to do so includes the American Jewish Archives; Bitzaron, a Hebrew Journal; Olam Chodash, a Hebrew newspaper for children; the Forwards, a Yiddish newspaper; the Great Yiddish Dictionary; Sh'Ma; MOMENT; the North American Jewish Students Appeal; the Center for Jewish Community Studies, and the Association for Jewish Studies, while Dropsie may again be considering this prospect. This list, which is easily expandable, is already two more than the number of organizations now in the Joint Cultural Appeal.

The basic response of the Joint Cultural Appeal organizations in the past had been to delay consideration of these requests as long as their own minimal needs had not been met. The amounts that federations were allocating to the JCA and its agencies was small in the first place, inflation was making it even smaller, and it made no sense to divide this amount into even smaller and less meaningful portions. All cultural organizations which had been receiving support from the communities at the time of the JCA's inception could have affiliated if they chose. Those that did surrendered their claim to individual support, lost some of their visibility in the communities, and their capacity to approach federations. They expected, rightfully, that they have a special claim on the community for its support of culture. In addition, the Joint Cultural Appeal has not in the past held the position that it spans the totality of the cultural field, nor has community support ever been at a level to justify such expectations.

And yet perhaps a more forthcoming approach is called for. Certainly, if there is recognition of the National Foundation for Jewish Culture's responsibility to serve the cultural field as a whole, and if the JCA is the community's instrument for that purpose so that expanded funding can be expected, whether from allocations or endowments, then the recipients of this support should not be limited to those organizations now in the JCA. If a program category is developed, all cultural programs, not only those of the JCA organizations, will be entitled to consideration.

If expanded funding is not available, little but cosmetic changes are practical. Additional organizations may need to be admitted. Criteria for inclusion should be based on need. The member agencies of the JCA should not be penalized by including more organizations, so that only as increases are realized over and above the rate of inflation, and only as the objectively determined needs of the current affiliates are met, should allocations be available to additional organizations. This obviously entails bringing in new groups on a very gradual basis.

As in all the issues discussed in this memorandum, this matter is one of great complexity, and a satisfactory approach will only evolve as a result of community consultation and community acceptance of responsibility.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

490-2280

January 5, 1982

THE CULTURAL AGENDA

Culture, the way we understand and express our history, values and aspirations, provides the content about which Jewish continuity will revolve in an era of continuous challenge. The cultural enterprise is a conscious effort to tie ourselves to our roots - to our history, traditions, languages - to attempt to understand the meaning of our experience, and to find ways of expressing our understanding, doubts, and aspirations so that we can contribute to and become part of the continuum of Jewish life.

To a community which, despite its wealth and sophistication, is uncertain about its future, unsure how it can continue to maintain its distinctiveness in a society whose openness and dynamism divert energies, involvement, and allegiance away from the deepest issues of Jewish concern, the effort to shape a forceful and creative cultural voice is a matter of urgent priority. The NFJC was created by the organized Jewish communities, as represented by the Federation movement, to mobilize the resources needed to shape that cultural voice.

In functional terms, in order to further this process, it becomes our obligation to:

1. Promote the study of and understanding of our experience.
2. Stimulate creative expression through which the Jewish experience is renewed.
3. Foster full participation in the cultural process throughout the community.

SCHOLARSHIP

The Jew has always venerated learning. In the American setting the dynamic growth of academic Jewish Studies on university campuses has a dynamism which has great promise in meeting the special requirements and challenges of our community. In terms of achievement, the American contribution to Jewish scholarship is already immense, and lays the groundwork for deeper and more insightful understanding of our history and heritage. In community terms, it provides an intellectual Jewish presence on our campuses and offers an opportunity for our terribly undereducated young people to be exposed on a mature level to a serious approach to the Jewish experience.

- GRANTS: The National Foundation for Jewish Culture has provided more than \$1,200,000 for - 240 pre-doctoral grants to permit promising young scholars to complete their studies - 42 grants to assist in publishing scholarly works - 52 post-doctoral grants to advance special research projects.
- COMMUNITY SUPPORT: The National Foundation has consulted with more than 50 communities regarding establishing programs of support for Jewish Studies, including the endowment of more than a dozen chairs.
- PRESERVATION: The National Foundation has created a Council of Archives and Research Libraries in Jewish Studies, concerned with the preservation and organization of our historical records. Through this Council \$1,100,000 was secured as a result of National Endowment for the Humanities grants.
- ASSOCIATION FOR JEWISH STUDIES: The NFJC has throughout the years assisted in the development of the Association for Jewish Studies, a dynamic force for development of the academic field. The Foundation provides ongoing grants for the AJSReview, the preeminent Journal in Jewish Studies in the United States and has supported the AJS's regional conferences.

THE UNFILLED
AGENDA

Despite this record of achievement only a small part of the agenda has been accomplished and the Foundation must seek to intensify its efforts in a variety of ways.

- GRANTS: The Foundation has in the past been forced to terminate its programs of support for publications projects and post-doctoral study, and much necessary research is not being done. The Foundation must seek the means to provide an expanded level of support in this area.
- JEWISH STUDIES: There are many campuses in the United States in which Jewish Studies programming is extremely weak despite their large number of Jewish students. Particularly in the light of the battleground campuses have become because of the Arab-Israeli dispute and the infusion of Arab and pro-Arab money, efforts to expand a Jewish Studies presence are even more essential.
- PRESERVATION: Archival and library materials which are of major importance to the study of Jewish history and appreciation of its heritage are deteriorating at a pace faster than at any time in history, and a massive preservation program is a first order of priority.
- UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION: Programs to encourage more and better quality undergraduate study by involving more students, improving instruction, and stimulating innovative institutional projects so that both Jewish and non-Jewish students will have a better understanding of the Jewish experience need to be developed.

THE ARTS

The Jew in the twentieth century plays a disproportionately prominent role in all areas of culture, but this achievement is perhaps most startling in the arts. As all people do, Jews have expressed themselves through the arts but did not develop the sophisticated traditions in this area equal to that of the societies in which they lived until the present.

For the educated Jew today, the arts have become a natural language to express and illuminate the issues of the most vital importance to the individual. To the extent that the arts can focus on issues of Jewish concern, they can provide a powerful instrument of Jewish renaissance. The National Foundation for Jewish Culture has begun to develop programs in the arts only in the last three years. In this short period there are many accomplishments to its credit.

- THEATRE: The NFJC conducted a major Jewish theatre festival, the first of its kind, which attracted more than 2,000 participants and 14 performing groups. This festival provides visibility for this field, artistic credibility, and impetus for its future development. As a result a second festival, of far greater scope, is now planned for July 1982 in Israel.
- MUSIC: The Foundation presented a Jewish Ethnic Music Festival in 1981, the first of this kind in the United States, with 1,800 participants at three days of workshops and performances. As an outgrowth of this festival, a series of radio programs based on tapes of its activities are being produced, with the assistance of a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.
- PLAYWRIGHTS AWARD: The NFJC has initiated an annual playwrights award which has already resulted in important new works on the Jewish experience being written and gaining exposure.
- MUSEUMS: The National Foundation coordinates the Council of American Jewish Museums which provides a forum for discussion of problems of interest to these important institutions and is in the midst of developing programs relating to such areas as traveling exhibits and internships.
- ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE: The NFJC is now instituting an Artists-in-Residence program to assist communities raise the level of arts activities and programming.

THE UNFILLED
AGENDA

These are only the first steps in an effort to realize the full potential of the arts for community growth.

Among the many items remaining on the Foundation agenda are:

- GRANTS: A grants program to assist the many individuals and groups who wish to relate their work in the arts to their Jewish concerns must be established. We have already received more than 360 requests.
- MEDIA: There is a great demand in the communities for cultural programming for the various media that are now available, particularly television, and together with other organizations working in this field the Foundation is developing a response.
- LITERATURE: There is at present no publication dedicated to Jewish creative writing of high quality, and the Foundation is exploring how to fill this need.
- EXHIBITS: The community continually seeks exhibits of original materials relating to the Jewish experience. Through the Council of American Jewish Museums we have begun to explore what is possible in this area, and it is obvious that a substantial program is required.
- MUSIC, DANCE AND THE VISUAL ARTS: The Foundation has not yet begun to address the areas of art music, Jewish modern dance and the visual arts. In each of these areas, productions of excellence need to be assisted in finding their audience.
- CONFERENCES AND COLLOQUIA: Exploration of the status of the arts as they relate to the Jewish community will be helpful in giving direction to future efforts, and festivals of the kind the Foundation has already conducted will provide visibility and impetus.

CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS One of the most important needs that led to the creation of the Foundation was for a mechanism to better channel community support to cultural organizations. The Foundation has undertaken a variety of efforts in this area, culminating in the creation of the Joint Cultural Appeal in 1972.

- FUNDING: As a result of these efforts, the Foundation has raised and distributed to the cultural organizations more than \$5,500,000 over the past ten years. For some of the organizations this support has made a difference in regard to their survival, while to many others it has allowed them to provide increased and more relevant programming for the communities.
- SPECIAL PROJECTS: The Foundation has developed and provided support for special projects, particularly in the areas of preservation and library cataloging. These special projects were a result of the grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities which the Foundation helped secure, and the monies raised for these projects were to meet the matching requirements.

THE UNFILLED
AGENDA

Although the achievements in the support of cultural organizations have already been significant, the magnitude of this support needs to be greatly increased. The organizations now in the Joint Cultural Appeal are still facing intense difficulties in meeting their needs, and in some cases in which the organizations were receiving significant funding from governmental sources these needs may be more serious than ever. In addition, a number of organizations not now receiving support have been requesting admission to the Joint Cultural Appeal and a way must be found to allow for this expansion. The Foundation also receives an average of 80 requests a year for support of special projects relating to research, publications, preservation, and a host of other areas from organizations in the cultural field, and a response must be developed.

COMMUNITY
CULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT

The cultural process involves not only the work of the individual innovator, the scholar or artist, or that of the cultural organizations, but is also dependent upon a culturally aware and active community. Not only are the various communities the sources of the support which makes much of our cultural life possible, the community is also the audience which the innovator must reach if he is to have more than a very limited impact. And it is through the creative participation by the wider community that the sources of creativity are nourished and replenished. Given the high level of education among Jews, the extended reach of contemporary communications, and the mobility of population which is so much a part of the Jewish scene today, sophistication and awareness are no longer the preserves of the great cultural centers, if they ever were. Jews throughout the country demand and deserve access to the highest quality cultural resources and programming.

The major instrument the National Foundation has developed in recent years to foster cultural programming in communities is the Newman Incentive Awards Program. Through this effort, the Foundation has expended \$242,000 for 37 grants for innovative programming in communities.

- CONTINUING EDUCATION: The Foundation has provided grants for university-based continuing education programs in archeology and biblical studies, and for the television production of series on Jewish history and Jewish literature which were locally-based and which involved the active participation of the community.
- TRAVELING EXHIBITS: Through the Newman program, the Foundation has assisted three museums to make available to the community 16 different traveling exhibits to 132 communities, and visited by hundreds of thousands of individuals.
- LOCAL HISTORIES: The National Foundation for Jewish Culture has made possible the sponsoring of three regional conferences on writing of local histories and the maintenance of archival materials.

- FESTIVALS: Through the Newman Awards Program four arts festivals in various community centers were conducted, and two festivals on Yiddish culture were sponsored in universities.
- GUIDES: The NFJC has initiated a series of Guides for communities, the first two being to national cultural resources and plays of Jewish interest.

THE UNFILLED
AGENDA

Through this program, the Foundation has become more aware than ever of the rich potential that remains to be tapped in the communities which would enrich the total cultural enterprise. A wide variety of resources need to be produced and made available to communities, whether in programming for cable television, study guides, exhibits, or basic Judaica libraries. Local efforts to mine the riches that are indigenous to communities need to be stimulated and supported, and cooperative arrangements among communities should be fostered to make efficient and effective use of new cultural resources that will become available. In addition, the National Foundation for Jewish Culture is working on establishing artists-in-residence and scholars-in-residence programs based in communities to make available the best of what is developing in Jewish culture.

TABLE 6

DISCIPLINES AND FIELDS OF CONCENTRATION OF NJFC DOCTORAL DISSERTATION FELLOWS*
1961-1980

Discipline	# NJFC Fellows
Anthropology	3
Archaeology	3
Art History	1
Bible	9
Cinema Studies	1
Comparative Literature	2
Education	1
English	2
Folklore	1
History	87
Jewish Philosophy, Religion and Thought	31
Linguistics (including comparative grammar)	4
Music	2
Near Eastern Languages and Literature (including modern Hebrew and Arabic)	15
Political Science	5
Rabbinics	15
Romance Languages and Literature	1
Social Work	1
Sociology	14
Yiddish Language and Literature	5

*As a result of the interdisciplinary nature of many dissertations, the above classifications should be considered an approximate breakdown of fields.

(San 11, 1982) 767-3000

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

490-2280

- I. Basic objectives of Foundation programs in scholarship
 - A. To support the processes which promote Jewish scholarship
 - B. To strengthen the role that scholarship can play to promote the development of the American Jewish culture identity.
- II. In carrying out I.A. the Foundation has thus far
 - A. Given grants to help prepare scholars fill developing positions.
 - B. Tried to expand opportunities for Jewish Studies
 - C. Helped in developing the necessary infrastructure, which includes assisting AJS and work with libraries and archives. Publications and the dissemination of scholarship has been only cursorily examined.
- III. Can we say that the goal of preparing scholars for developing positions is no longer relevant?

Can we accept as a new goal the obligation to assume a flow of outstanding scholars for Jewish Studies?

What are the implications of this objective for:

- A. The number of grants
- B. The amounts
- C. Renewal policies
- D. The stage of study at which grants should be given
- E. Applications in the social sciences.
- F. Citizenship
- IV. Does the Foundation have a continuing responsibility to its grantees in terms of career development, particularly tenure and the role of publications?
- V. Does the Foundation have responsibility in other areas of the scholarship process, such as in publications or the dissemination of scholarship?

VI. The available options in publications

- A. Subsidization
- B. Microfiche publications

VII. Other possible programs

- A. "Grantlets"
- B. Travel or research grants
- C. Sponsored projects - translations, scholars-in-residence

VIII. Possible approaches to communities

- A. Expansion of Jewish Studies Programs

1/11/82

January 12, 1982

Mr. Abraham Atik
National Foundation For Jewish Culture
122 East 42nd St.
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Abe:

I am enclosing a copy of my letter to Moshe Davis. I thought we had a good meeting. Just so our conclusions agree, it is my understanding that a) we will revise the grant submission document; b) remain in the grant business at the full \$60,000 level; c) insist on the completion of the comprehensive examination before making a grant; d) look more favorably on support for more than a single year; e) consider raising the sum of the individual grants which, in effect, will lead us to make fewer grants.

In the area of publication, it is my understanding that the Foundation will investigate structural relationship between JPS, the AAJR and us - or some other university press - with an eye to creating the mechanisms to choose and publish a small number of important first books by young scholars. Further, it is my understanding that the Foundation will circulate the present and past Board of Academic Advisory Council to discover whether in fact there are such works in existence.

The Grants meeting of the Academic Advisory Council will be on Monday, April 5, and all preparatory work by the readers will be done by that time. I will make a submission on behalf of the Academic Advisory Council on the conclusions to your June Board meeting.

It was good seeing you. You looked a bit harried but in control. My expenses to New York were \$160.00.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

Encl.

January 12, 1982

Dr. Moshe Davis
14 Balfour
Jerusalem, Israel

Dear Moshe:

I am writing this letter as Chairman of the Academic Advisory Council of the National Foundation For Jewish Culture. As you know, we have been in the business of making pre-doctoral grants to young scholars and have, in the past 25 years, dispensed in this way over one and a quarter million dollars. We have also supported the publications and meetings of the Association For Jewish Studies and look on ourselves as the interface between the Jewish community of America and the Jewish Studies programs in our universities. You and I have talked of that work before.

I had a committee meeting yesterday of some of our academic advisors. David Sidorsky and Arthur Lyman, among others, spoke of conversations with you over the last months about the new center to encourage the teaching of Jewish Studies in the Diaspora which you are launching. I could conceive of beneficial cooperation between the Foundation and the center in a whole variety of areas. In the first instance, we have 25 years of experience working in the field. We have contact with most of the major scholars and academic centers, and we can and do promote interest from Federations in this area. I would be happy to correspond with you on this matter and sit down with you on your next visit to the United States.

In any case, I hope this letter finds you in good health. Adele joins in sending our best to Lottie and you for the new year. The prospect of working together is a pleasing thought. With all good wishes I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

HOME NEWS

Centre to promote Jewish studies in Diaspora

By JUDY SIEGEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The first board meeting of a new international centre for encouraging the teaching of Jewish studies in Diaspora universities was held Sunday morning at Beit Hanassi (the President's House.)

The session brought together 50 scholars and laymen from 11 countries who want to expand the university teaching of Jewish subjects. President Yitzhak Navon, has given his patronage to the centre. Its founder and director is Prof. Moshe Davis of the Hebrew University's Institute of Contem-

porary Jewry.

Despite the general trend in universities away from the humanities and other "impractical" subjects to fields that promise well-paying jobs, the number of students in Jewish studies courses in the Diaspora is increasing, Davis said.

Although official statistics are unavailable, according to Davis it is assumed that 35-50,000 Jewish university students in the U.S. — or from 10 to 15 per cent of the total Jewish student body — are enrolled in Jewish studies courses. These include anything from Hebrew language to courses on the Kabbala

or seminars on the Holocaust.

"We want to prepare a compendium of Jewish studies syllabi that have proved successful here or abroad that can be used as models for other university courses," he explained.

Today more than 200 colleges and universities in the U.S. offer 1,745 different courses in Jewish studies. There are 19,000 students taking Hebrew language courses, most of them undergraduates and assumed to be Jewish.

Davis said the new centre needs \$1 million annually for five years to prove itself.

Asking the rabbi's

ONE OF BEGIN'S points in the much-publicized monologue to U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis was to emphasize that Israel is not a banana republic. Having done so, his next move may be to change the national anthem, replacing "Hatikva" with "Yes, We Have No Bananas."

NOW IT CAN BE TOLD DEPT. Agudat Yisrael MKs Avraham Shapiro and Shlomo Lorincz sought out the advice of none other than Labour MK Chaim Herzog before the controversial Golan Law vote.

According to my sources, they were asked to do so by the Gerer Rebbe, Rabbi Simha Bunim Alter, and by Rabbi Eliezer Schach of the Ponevezh Yeshiva. The two members of the Council of Tora Sages value Herzog's advice not because he's a former chief of military intelligence or West Bank military governor, or because of his years as Israel's ambassador to the UN. The reason is that he's the son of the late Chief Rabbi Yitzhak Halevi Herzog.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Meir, who happened by during the Aguda-Herzog conversation, advised his partners that "nothing terrible will happen" if the law passed. But they passed Herzog's predictions on to Schach, who ordered an abstention.

The ensuing *broigez* between Begin ("I won't have Rabbi Schach running the country") and the Aguda has been well publicized. Some people see a connection between it and the visit of an Aguda group headed by Lorincz, Rabbi

PUBLIC F
Mark Se



Chaim Herzog

has disclosed that the money available to be started. And he hopes it will soon be flowing it self-supporting. designate is Yehuda S. partisan professional put out the Israel De Encyclopaedia.

LEARNING EXPERIENCE people are claiming the Minister Ariel Sharon has acquired a higher education explain how Arik is finishing the Bir Zeit U

DOMESTIC RELATIONS subject on which Asher tures at the Tel Aviv Uni School. When students why he'd been picked Minister Dr. Yosef Bu



Forming a "human Hanukka candelabrum," these members of the Public

From the desk of—

RABBI DANIEL JEREMY SILVER

January 22, 1982

**Abe, you asked for Stuart Eizenstat's
telephone number - (202) 347-0066.**

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10168

(212) 490-2280

MEMORANDUM

February 9, 1982

To: Board of Directors

From: Abraham Atik, Executive Director

Subject: Update on Foundation Activity

The activities of the NFJC have been broadened in scope and number, generating both excitement and day-to-day pressures which have stood in the way of my contacting you on a more regular basis regarding all that we are doing. Highlights of these programs are described below.

THEATER The matter of most immediate interest is that of a special benefit event that we will be co-sponsoring with the Kinneret Foundation, a group dedicated to promoting Israeli arts, which will take place in the evening of March 15, 1982. Your invitation to this event is now in the mail. The program will be held at the Public Theater in New York City and will be hosted by Producer Joseph Papp and Mrs. Robert Arnow. Appearing with Mr. Papp will be Elizabeth Swados, Joseph Buloff, Mike Burstyn and other prominent theater personalities in what promises to be a very memorable evening.

This evening is in anticipation and celebration of the International Jewish Theatre Festival which we are co-sponsoring with the Kinneret Foundation and Tel Aviv University, and which will take place in Tel Aviv starting July 3. This Festival is a direct result of our own First Jewish Theatre Festival which took place in New York in 1980, and will be of major importance. A tentative program is enclosed for your review. We are responsible for all the American aspects of this Festival. In working out the arrangements, it had been anticipated that the American financial contribution to the Festival as a whole would be \$75,000. Mr. Micha Taubman, who had been of such great assistance to us in the past, has pledged \$25,000 towards this effort, the Friends of Tel Aviv University have also pledged \$25,000, and the remainder of \$25,000 which was the NFJC's component has been raised in its entirety by Mrs. Robert Arnow, who has assumed a major leadership role.

In conjunction with the Festival, we have been giving serious consideration to the possibilities of organizing a two-week cultural tour which would include the Festival and other cultural activities in Israel, a number of days in Spain visiting sites of significance to the Jews and their history, and time in New York visiting some of our own Joint Cultural Appeal agencies. We expect to know the details regarding costs and itinerary in the very near future, and these will be sent to you. We hope as many of you and your friends who can will join us in the tour.

[Feb 9, 1982]

- 2 -

ACADEMIC
AFFAIRS

The NFJC has, of course, remained active in the academic sphere. Its recent projects include:

Guide to Jewish Archives, the first directory to Jewish archives throughout the world. This was published by the World Council on Jewish Archives, which the NFJC was instrumental in creating and to which it still provides staff services in regard to North America.

The 1981 AJS Review, the annual publication of the Jewish community's leading scholarly organization, the Association for Jewish Studies. The AJS depends on the NFJC for the financial support of this journal and, as is evidenced by the caliber of the most recent issue, richly deserves this assistance. A copy will be mailed to you under separate cover.

The Academic Advisory Council planning sub-committee met recently under the leadership of Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver to review the grants program and the guidelines for its administration. A report from the Academic Advisory Council will be made at this year's annual meeting, which we are planning for June. In regard to the current academic cycle, 56 high-quality applications have been accepted for consideration, and the Academic Advisory Council will be meeting on April 5th to make its recommendations regarding grants.

COMMUNITY
SERVICES

As a result of the Ethnic Music Festival which the National Foundation for Jewish Culture sponsored in 1981, two new projects have been developed. One is a Sephardic Cultural Tour which we are calling From Barcelona to Baghdad, a Cultural Tour of Sephardic and Oriental Jewry. This tour is designed to showcase the authentic music and dance of these communities and we expect it will be traveling to a number of communities throughout the United States. In addition, we will be producing a series of tapes for radio broadcast, probably on National Public Radio, which is based on highlights of the 1981 Jewish Ethnic Music Festival. Both of these projects were awarded grants by the National Endowment for the Arts, and we have also received funding for the Sephardic Tour from the New York State Council on the Arts. Additional funding from governmental and other sources is expected, but we will still need to raise some funds for matching purposes, and your assistance in this regard will be greatly appreciated.

RELATIONS
WITH THE
ORGANIZED
COMMUNITIES

As you may know, the NFJC has been conducting a series of discussions with the Large City Budgeting Conference of the Council of Jewish Federations and with the agencies of the Joint Cultural Appeal regarding whether and how to restructure the JCA. We expect that these important discussions will continue for some time, and we will keep you abreast of developments as they occur.

[Feb 9, 1982]

- 3 -

I would also like to alert you to the need for us to make extra effort this year in regard to our allocations from communities. We expect that economic pressures will be intense and the needs of the cultural field will need to be interpreted clearly if we are to maintain even the current level of support. This issue will need to be addressed in an organized way.

* * * * *

What I have reported to you are only a few of the exciting developments with which we are engaged. The responsibilities we face are great, and despite our limited resources we are making every effort to meet these to the fullest possible extent. Your comments and thoughts would be most welcome.

[Feb 9, 1982]

TENTATIVE

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND FESTIVAL OF JEWISH THEATRE

July 3-9, 1982 PROGRAM Tel Aviv, Israel

SPECIAL EVENTS

Gala Opening Ceremony at Habimah, the National Theatre of Israel, under the patronage of His Excellency, Itzhak Navon, President of the State of Israel.

Opening Performance "A Night in the Old Market" by I. L. Peretz, Haifa Municipal Theatre, directed by Yossi Yzraely.

A Tribute to the Yiddish Theatre, presented by Joseph Buloff.

An Evening of Poetry and Music by Elizabeth Swados and Yehudah Amichai.

Michoels Plays "King Lear", a multi-media presentation of the world-reknown Yiddish actor and director, compiled by Dr. Mel Gordon.

Gilgamesh, presented by the Department of Theatre of Tel Aviv University, directed by Imre Goldstein; based on the first 'semitic' epic.

The Marranos, presented by Nissan Nativ Studio, directed by Anna Sokolov; based on theatre music by Shidlovsky.

PERFORMANCES

ISRAEL:

"It's a Sin", conceived and directed by Joseph Chaikin, The Group Theatre; an experimental theatre project with Israeli Jewish and Arab actors, directors, writers and musicians. (Premiere)

"God of Vengeance", by Sholom Asch, Beersheba Municipal Theatre, directed by Esther Izvitzki. (Premiere)

"Good" by S. P. Taylor, Cameri Theatre, directed by Ilan Ronen; deals with the Nazi rise to power and the attitudes of the German intellectual towards "The Final Solution." (Premiere)

UNITED STATES:

"The Price" by Arthur Miller, directed by Dan Held, American Jewish Theatre, starring Joseph Buloff.

"Coming From a Great Distance", A Traveling Jewish Theatre, directed by Naomi Pollack; the legend of the Baal Shem Tov retold in our times.

"The Last Yiddish Poet", A Traveling Jewish Theatre, directed by Naomi Pollack; an experimental work which probes the inspiration and despair of Yiddish culture.

"Subjects of Childhood" by Grace Paley, Playwrights Lab of the Jewish Repertory Theatre, directed by Ed Cohen, performed by Susan Merson.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY:

"Nichts Ist Vollkommener Als Ein Gebrochenes Herz" (or "A Hassidic Evening") Theatre der Stadt Heidelberg, directed by Yossi Yzraely; based on dreams, stories and prayers of Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav.

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC:

"Jiddische Lieder" performed by Lin Jadalta, Jalda and Eberhard Rebling; songs and stories based on experiences in the Holocaust.

NORWAY:

"Smoke Without Fire" by Julian Garner; Trondelag Teater; depicts the wartime experiences of the Trondheim Jewish Community.

UNITED KINGDOM:

"Letters from K" directed by Michael Almaz; a play about Franz Kafka's private life.

FRANCE:

"Cinq Vies d'une Melodie" by I. L. Peretz, directed by Richard Dembo; a play for two actors, a clarinet, and six tons of sand.

CANADA:

"Go Close the Door", by Lisi's Bubbatron Theatre; a special puppet show for young audiences, based on the tales of Chelm.

GENERAL INFORMATION

DATES

July 3-9, 1982

LOCATION

Tel Aviv University, Ramat Aviv

REGISTRATION (See accompanying Registration and Travel Information Kit)

Fee: \$100.00 includes: Conference materials, participation in workshops and seminars, admission to the Gala Opening, eight (8) performances, and one (1) additional special event.

Note: A Festival schedule and further program details will be sent to registrants in mid-May. At that time, registrants may choose the specific events they wish to attend.

CANCELLATIONS

See accompanying Registration and Travel Information Kit

FORMAT OF THE CONFERENCE

Seminars will be held in the mornings, workshops in the afternoons, and performances in the late afternoons and evenings. Special events will take place as announced.

LANGUAGE

Seminars and workshops will be conducted in Hebrew and/or English. Simultaneous translation will be provided. Performances will be presented in the original language.

CLIMATE

The weather in Tel Aviv in July is always pleasantly sunny. Temperature range from 18° - 27° Centigrade, 64° - 81° Fahrenheit.

CLOTHING

Dress is informal for all Conference events.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Kenes Tours is the official travel agent for the Conference and Festival. See the accompanying Registration and Travel Information Kit for details.

El Al Israel Airlines is the official carrier for the First International Conference and Festival of Jewish Theatre.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND FESTIVAL OF JEWISH THEATRE CONTACT:

USA: National Foundation for Jewish Culture
122 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10168
212/490-2280

ISRAEL: Secretariat
First International Conference & Festival of Jewish Theatre
Tel Aviv University
Department of Theatre Arts
Ramat Aviv, Tel Aviv 69978
Tel: 413786

COLLEGE STUDENTS

and graduating high school seniors are invited to

Join THEATRE/ISRAEL 1982 a special five week Seminar and Tour of the theatre scene in Israel. College credit available. For information, see accompanying travel brochure or contact:

THEATRE/ISRAEL 1982
Israel Program Center
American Zionist Youth Foundation
515 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10022

212/751-6070

SEMINARS

I. Jewish Theatre: Exploring Unused Sources

Participants:

Prof. Theodore Herzl Gaster (Barnard College, NY) -- "The Theatrical Potential in the Hebrew Calendar and Ancient Festival Cycles."

Dr. Yaakov Raz (Tel Aviv University) -- "Theatrical Elements in Kabbalah."

Dr. Michael Govrin (Hebrew University, Jerusalem) -- "Theatrical Elements in Hassidism."

Dr. Barbara Meyerhoff (University of Southern California) --

Dr. Mel Gordon (New York University) -- "Rituals and Festivities Among Eastern Jewry."

Dr. Imre Goldstein (Tel Aviv University) -- "An Approach to Acting Through the Bible and Martin Buber."

Prof. Richard Schechner (New York University) -- "Experimentation, Ritual and Being Jewish."

Dr. Kobi Weitzner (Hebrew University, Jerusalem) -- "Yiddish Theatre and the Language of the Stage in the work of Alexei Granowski."

Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz (Shefa Institute, Jerusalem) -- Final subject not yet determined.

II. Traditional Jewish Storytelling: A Theatrical Perspective

Chairman: Prof. Dov Noy (Hebrew University, Jerusalem)

Topics: - The Folk Tale

- The Individual Narrator: The Storyteller and the Preachers

- The Jewish Folk Theatre: History and Motifs

- Jewish Storytelling in the Ethno-cultural Context

III. Jewish Drama in Our Time

Participants:

Mr. Mendel Kohanski - "The Theatre of the Holocaust."

Dr. Freddie Rokam - "The Search for Tradition in Jewish Theatre between the World Wars."

Prof. Michael Kustow and Dr. Ehud Manor - "The Jewish Experience and the Anglo-Jewish Predicament in the Drama of Pinter, Wesker, Shaeffer and Kops."

Prof. Arthur Sainer - "The Jewish Character and Experience in Contemporary American Drama."

IV. Jewish Playwrights' Forum

Outstanding playwrights from the international community will discuss their work in light of the Jewish experience.

V. Roundtable on Jewish Theatre

Participants of the Festival will examine, discuss and compare their work and their visions.

WORKSHOPS

- "Contemporary Theatrical Interpretation of Biblical Passages and Stories", led by Elizabeth Swados (USA)
- "Acting and Praying", led by Yossi Yzraely (Tel Aviv University)
- "The Storyteller as Actor", led by members of A Traveling Jewish Theatre (USA)
- "Purification Rituals and the Use of Water in Judaism as Theatrical Elements", led by Richard Dembo (France) and Yaakov Raz (Tel Aviv University)
- "A Theatrical Exploration of the Fast of the 17th Day of Tammaz", led by Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz (Jerusalem) and Prof. Michael Posnick (Hunter College, USA)

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

490-2280

Office of the President

M E M O R A N D U M

February 16, 1982

To: Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver
From: Amos Comay
Subject: Executive Committee Meeting

We are scheduling a meeting of the Executive Committee for March 15, 1982 at 4 p.m., at the offices of the National Foundation for Jewish Culture. Earlier in the day several of us will be meeting with the JCA organizations and an LCBC sub-committee to continue our discussions regarding the restructuring of the JCA. In the evening, the events celebrating the International Jewish Theatre Festival will be taking place.

A number of important subjects will be coming up for discussion at the Executive Committee meeting, about which you will receive information soon, and I hope you will make every effort to attend.

March 17, 1982

Mr. Abraham Atik
National Foundation For Jewish Culture
122 E. 42nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Abe:

I have the read the two dissertations which you sent. Unfortunately, you didn't include a grading sheet.

I would give Eli Lederhendler an A and Jack Jacobs a B+. The Lederhendler submission is particularly attractive.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER

STUART GELLER
Associate Rabbi

STEPHEN A. KLEIN
Assistant Rabbi

ALVIN CRONIG
Executive Secretary

April 9, 1982

Mr. Abraham Atik
National Foundation For Jewish Culture
122 E. 42nd Street
New York, N. Y. 10017

Dear Abe:

I thought we had a good meeting and that the new directions are positive. Please remember to get me that date of the June board meeting as soon as you can. My expenses to New York were \$265.00.

Happy Passover,

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:fdb

From the Desk of:

DR. DAVID S. HACHEN, Rabbi

April 21, 1982

Dear Dan,

Just a note to ask you to send me the name and address of the young woman who was undertaking the research project regarding synagogue architecture and programing in the Midwest.

I think originally you mentioned that the title was something like "The Sociology of the Midwest Synagogue," and that she is a sociologist at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Thanks for the help.

As ever,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

April 26, 1982

Mr. Abraham Atik
National Foundation For Jewish Culture
122 East 42nd St.
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Abe:

One of the ~~grants~~ proposals which we received this year came from a candidate in this area who proposed to study the architecture of synagogues as an expression of the congregation's attitudes and convictions. As I recall, we did not make the grant.

I happened to mention this to Rabbi David Hachen, Director of UAHC in the area. He expressed interest in contacting this candidate. I wonder if you could check in your files and send him her name and address.

Hope all is well. Many thanks.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

cc: Rabbi David Hachen
25550 Chagrin Blvd. Suite 108
Beachwood, Ohio 44122

June 15, 1982

Mr. Abraham Atik
National Foundation For Jewish Culture
122 East 42nd St.
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Abe:

You might file away this list. People who establish book funds ought to be useful to the Foundation.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

Encl.

Twenty New Judaica Book Funds Established Through The Harvard Campaign

Since the October 1981 issue of *The Harvard Librarian*, the following new Judaica Book Fund endowments have been established:

The George G. Adler Book Fund for Judaica, established in the cherished memory of George G. Adler on the occasion of the seventy-fifth birthday of his wife, Mollie Barron Adler, May 6, 1982, by their son and daughter-in-law, James B. Adler '53 and Esthy Adler of Bethesda, Maryland.

The Burnstine Judaica Book Fund, established by Dr. Richard C. Burnstine '50, M.D. '54, of Northbrook, Illinois.

The Benjamin W. and Mildred A. Cohen Judaica Book Fund, established by their sons Richard L. Cohen '45 of New York, Herbert M. Cohen '46 of Lawrence, Mass., Howard I. Cohen of Sudbury, Mass., and their families.

The Lilian Adlow Friedberg Judaica Book Fund, established by her children Judith E. Friedberg '42 of New York and Simeon A. Friedberg '46 of Pittsburgh.

The Agnes W. Goldman Judaica Book Fund, established in her memory by Robert I. Goldman '54 of New York.

The Louis A. Horvitz Judaica Book Fund, established by Louis A. Horvitz '29 of Hyannisport, Mass.

The Mary Ann and Mose Hyman Judaica Book Fund, established by their son Jerome E. Hyman, LL.B. '47, of New York.

The Richard A. Kaye Judaica Book Fund, established by Richard A. Kaye '45, J.D. '49, of Newton, Mass.

The Isaac and Mary Kiev Judaica Book Fund, established by their son Dr. Ari Kiev '54 of New York.

The Sidney S. Korzenik Judaica Book Fund, established by Sidney S. Korzenik '29 of New York.

The Lenore and David Levinson Judaica Book Fund, established by David J. Levinson '55 of San Francisco.

The Michael Malina Judaica Book Fund, established by Michael Malina '57, LL.B. '60, of Scarsdale, New York.

The Richard and Vivian Marson Judaica Book Fund, established by Richard H. Marson '55 of Needham, Mass.

The Morris and Harriet Michelson Judaica Book Fund, established by Morris Michelson '24, J.D. '27, of Boston.

The Robert Arthur Novick Harvard Law School 1967 Judaica Book Fund, established in his memory by his parents, Bessie and Leonard Novick, of Lowell, Mass.

The Gertrude J. and Samuel Rosen Fund for Jewish Music, established by their son Harris N. Rosen '55 of Pawtucket, R.I.

The Rosenbloom Judaica Book Fund, established by Richard S. Rosenbloom '54, M.B.A. '56, D.B.A. '60, of Cambridge, Mass.

The Harry Starr Judaica Book Fund, established by Harry Starr '21, LL.B. '24, of New York.

The Harris E. Stone Judaica Book Fund, established by Harris E. Stone '56 of Westwood, Mass.

The Cecille and Herbert Wasserman Judaica Book Fund, established by Herbert Wasserman '52, LL.B. '55, of Larchmont, New York.

Harvard College Library



The Gertrude J. and Samuel Rosen Fund for Jewish Music

*established in their memory by
Harris N. Rosen
Class of 1954*

Robert Arthur Novick
Harvard Law School 1967
Judaica Book Fund



*The word of truth
is in his mouth*

Harvard College Library

*Established in his memory
by his parents
Bessie and Leonard Novick*

The Louis A. Horvitz Judaica Book Fund

in the
Harvard College Library



*Established by
Louis A. Horvitz
Class of 1929*

The Mary Ann and Mose Hyman Book Fund for Judaica

in the
Harvard College Library



*Established by their son
Jerome E. Hyman
LL.B. 1947*

With preference to be given to the acquisition of material relating to Jewish life in the southern states of the United States

Harvard College Library



*The
Morris and Harriet
Michelson
Judaica Book Fund*

*established by
Morris Michelson
Harvard College, C.B. 1924
Harvard Law School, J.D. 1927*

June 11, 1982

Mr. Abraham Atik
National Foundation For Jewish Culture
122 East 42nd St.
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Abe:

I think you may have yourself a president. I certainly hope so. My expenses to Boston were \$290 including air fare, car rental, parking, a meal etc.

Two other matters. As indicated to you, I will not be in New York on Friday, the 25th, and I think it would be wise not to make too many decisions pending a new president, and I certainly trust that the Grants Program will not be touched. I will be in New York on Monday and Tuesday, the 28th and 29th if we need to talk. I have the OCAR meeting.

Speaking of that, will you make a reservation for me at the Algonquin for Tuesday, the 29th of June, at 12:15? I have some business I have to attend to over lunch.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

September 10, 1982

Mr. Abraham Atik
National Foundation For Jewish Culture
122 East 42nd St.
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Abe:

I thought you had a good meeting and Marver conveyed the energy I know he is going to bring to the Foundation. As I told him, I am ready in any way possible to help.

My expenses to New York were \$260.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

November 1, 1962

Mr. Abraham Atik
National Foundation For Jewish Culture
122 E. 42nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Abe:

Just a brief reminder that you were going to send
me a copy of Dov Noy's speech at the Conference
in Israel.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10168

(212) 490-2280

November 8, 1982

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver
The Temple
University Circle at Silver Park
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

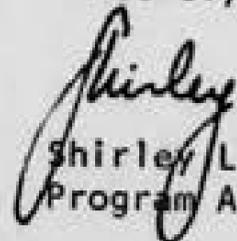
Dear Rabbi Silver,

I am enclosing with this letter a copy of a dissertation prospectus sent to us by Mr. Jeff Gresser for the purpose of determining whether the title of his dissertation would fit the guidelines of our Doctoral Dissertation Grants Program. Mr. Atik suggested that I send this copy to you for your comments.

I will be in touch with you next week in order to solicit your response.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,


Shirley L. Schwartz
Program Associate

encs.

[NOV 18, 1982]

Dissertation Prospectus

Title: The Garden of Eden Story in the Traditions of Psychological Interpretation and Jewish Biblical Exegesis: An Argument for Psychological Exegesis.

This dissertation will be an attempt to determine the proper use of psychological ideas in the exegesis of a biblical text—specifically the Garden Story—within a particular religious tradition, in this case, Judaism. It is an attempt to put psychological ideas in the service of the understanding of a biblical text as Scripture. "Scripture" is understood to be a text which on the one hand makes a normative claim on its religious community and on the other claims to mediate to that community an authentic understanding of human being as such, both claims being rooted in a faith in a Divine ground for or "behind" the text. Since the psychological tradition, though without a "Divine ground," also claims to describe "authentic human being," i.e., what people are really like, and it too presumes a normative stance, though usually unarticulated or unthematized, the two traditions of scriptural exegesis and psychological interpretation of scripture have this common ground for conversation or dialogue, in addition to that of the shared desire to understand what the text might mean. Thus, one main concern of this dissertation is a hermeneutical and exegetical one, namely, how psychological ideas can help us see what a biblical text means. This concern will be approached as a methodological issue.

In terms of content, this dissertation will argue that the story of the Garden of Eden, as understood and interpreted within the Jewish tradition of biblical exegesis—that is, the Garden Story of the Jewish Bible as distinguished from the Fall Story of the Christian Bible—contains within it a psychological line of meaning that can be focused fruitfully by means of modern psychological ideas of development and psychodynamics. Specifically, the Garden Story can be understood as one about the emergence of the adult human individual from childhood and adolescence, in which the young person (the reader as well as ADAM) is brought to terms with the normal and normative realities of adult life in the world outside the home. This process of human maturation has a psychological depth dimension which resonates in the depth of the text of the Garden Story, and although this dimension is implied and understood by the Rabbinic tradition as well as by modern Jewish academic exegetes, it can be focused more sharply by means of psychological ideas. This approach assumes that the text itself exists as a kind of "psyche" or "mind" with a psychological depth dimension of its own, in addition to its depths of lexical meaning. It also assumes, in line with both psychological and scriptural traditions, that the human being of biblical times and that of modern times is the same species of being, in whom the same human processes operate. Within this developmental framework, furthermore, psychological meaning can be added discretely to the elements of the text, understood as symbols related to the depth dimension of the text, and thus the meaning of the story in its particulars can be enriched. The highlighting of such a psychological dimension

of the text or story does not of course claim to be exhaustive or exclusive or even primary. It simply hopes to be an offering, a contribution to a common interest in understanding the meaning of the Hebrew text.

Although this dissertation will not attempt to interpret the ancient Near Eastern literary parallels of the Garden Story, some attempt will be made to show that within the ancient Near Eastern cultural context, the illumination of a psychological dimension of a text can be generalized to imply that this dimension is culturally plausible. Finally, although this dissertation will not attempt to interpret the Christian version of this story, i.e., the Fall, there will necessarily be a certain dialogue with the Christian story. This is necessary for two reasons. First of all, as we would show, much of the psychological tradition in fact interprets the Fall Story, either not distinguishing it from the Jewish Garden Story or not realizing the need for such a distinction, and secondly, if indeed this argument about the meaning of the Garden Story is correct, namely, that psychological exegesis implies that its real import concerns development, emergence, and maturation, that is, a change of status, and not so much a "fall," i.e., a change of nature, this idea could be of some significance to Christian interpretation and use of the story.

The formal shape of the dissertation will consist roughly of three parts. First, it will present a history of the Jewish interpretation of and commentary on the story in rabbinic, medieval, and modern exegesis, in an attempt to clarify the major lines of interpretation within that tradition, to make clear the shape of the Jewish story. Secondly, it will undertake a critical review of modern psychological interpretations of the text, beginning with Freud, Rank, and Reik, and covering all major branches of psychological thinking. This section will argue that these interpretations do not for the most part do justice to the integrity of the text as Scripture, and as such do not represent exegesis. The developmental approach outlined above will be presented as an alternative psychological understanding, one that attempts to empathize with the text in order to understand its meaning as a Jewish biblical text, rather than to appropriate it in order to further psychological theory. This alternative approach will be defined methodologically as psychological exegesis. And finally, a third section will deal with the results of this latter encounter of psychological ideas with the biblical text as interpreted within the Jewish tradition, in a discussion of methodological and hermeneutical issues and the implications of psychological exegesis for further research.

-- Jeff Gresser
November, 1982

November 15, 1982

Ms. Shirley L. Schwartz
Program Associate
National Foundation For Jewish Culture
122 East 42nd St.
New York, N.Y. 10168

Dear Ms. Schwartz:

In re the Jeff Gresser proposal, I would need to know more about the man's background. Where is he at school? What program is he in? What are his career goals? My immediate stand is to say the proposal is not applicable.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10168

(212) 490-2280

January 13, 1984

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Directors
From: George M. Zeltzer
Subject: Report on Marking the 25th Anniversary

The National Foundation for Jewish Culture initiated its activities in January, 1960. In marking the 25th year of our organizational life we are presented with an opportunity not only to review our achievements and to define the challenges we have not yet met, but also to present our concerns and vision to a wider Jewish public, and rekindle the enthusiasm that marked the occasion of our birth. The intent of any program we suggest should be to determine directions and priorities for the strengthening of Jewish cultural life in America, to develop a wider supporting constituency and leadership for Jewish culture, to strengthen relationships between the Foundation and the community federations, and to mobilize the resources of the American Jewish community behind an intensive program for advancing the Jewish cultural enterprise.

As a result of a meeting of a committee established to review what the Foundation ought to be doing in celebration of the 25th anniversary, and of a number of informal discussions and conversations, I am suggesting the following program for review by the Board. This program divides itself into two components, issues-oriented activities and commemorative activities.

I. Issues-Oriented Activities

Programs in this area are intended to assist the National Foundation for Jewish Culture determine its agenda for the years immediately ahead, and to define the cultural context in which the Foundation's activities take place.

A. A Symposium on Jewish Culture in America

A number of prominent intellectuals and cultural figures will be asked to write papers regarding Jewish cultural life in the United States. Two different, but not necessarily contradictory, approaches might be taken in regard to the symposium.

[Jan 13, 1984]

2.

1. Individuals who have played a creative role in American cultural life and for whom their Jewishness is important might be asked to write about "the uniqueness of Jewish culture in America". They would be approached to write about the relationship of their Jewishness to their creative work, and the issues and implications as they see it. The results we might expect would be autobiographical and impressionistic, but not necessarily invalid and certainly of great interest.
2. Prominent intellectuals, scholars and cultural figures who are observers of the Jewish cultural enterprise in the United States would be asked to write on their perceptions regarding the development of a viable Jewish culture in America. Although the specific questions would not be spelled out, we would indicate our own concerns, including such matters as the possibility of developing a Jewish culture without a Jewish language, the sources of Jewish creativity in a society devoted to mass culture, and whether a cultural work has to be dedicated to a moral and Jewish purpose in order for it to be defined as Jewish culture.

Whether we choose one of these approaches, or a combination of the two, we would expect that the results would be issued in book form. In addition, we would explore with an institution such as the 92nd Street Y, as well as in communities other than New York, the possibilities of a series of public discussions on the issues that have been raised.

The major task involved in the anniversary should be toward setting the Foundation's priorities. One approach is to convene small advisory groups in specialized areas, such as scholarship, publications, preservation, museums, and a number of the various arts disciplines. These committees would consider how needs in their areas might be addressed by the Foundation, either through a funding process or through a program-planning and administration process, and they would also recommend priorities. The results of these deliberations will be compiled in a report which would be presented at a General Assembly and will be used as a general document to outline the Foundation's objectives.

B. NFJC - CJF Liason Committee

In order to maintain and strengthen the relationship of the NFJC to the communities, it is advisable that our program of celebrating the 25th anniversary have the participation of representatives of the CJF, and perhaps other organizations having a major interest in this field as well. To this end we should establish a liason committee which will meet several times prior to the 1985 General Assembly -- primarily at quarterlies and at the 1984 Assembly -- to be kept informed of the work of the advisory committees and of the symposium,

[Jan 13, 1984]

3.

and to serve as a liason to the communities at a later stage when the report is submitted. In addition, this committee will consider the community aspects of the celebration. The final report, which will be submitted at the General Assembly, will be a report in which the liason committee will have participated, but which will be entirely under the auspices of the Foundation.

II. Commemorative Activities

To commemorate the anniversary we will conduct a number of public programs aimed at raising the Foundation's visibility, helping to create a constituency and identifying new leadership and support.

A. Commissioning of a Graphic Work

The Arts Committee, in reviewing a number of programs in the arts that would be useful in marking the anniversary, placed the preparation of a graphic as a matter of high priority. The work itself might be offered as a premium for major contributors to cultural life in the United States and/or to the Foundation, as well as other public figures. There are a number of questions that would need to be dealt with, including: what the terms of the commission ought to be; whether it should be tied into a poster for a general distribution; and whether the Foundation's name or other promotional activities should be incorporated in the work. The Arts Committee is prepared to pursue these efforts.

B. A Gala In Celebration of Jewish Culture In America

In addition, the Arts Committee considered that a gala event should be a major component of the commemoration. It should have a high visability and would give a sense of the dimensions which are envisioned for the Foundation. What is being proposed is that we sponsor a concert, in an important hall in New York, preferably in the spring of 1985, and incorporate in that evening a series of cultural recognition awards.

C. General Assembly, 1985

In informal conversations between the Foundation and CJF staffs, it was agreed that the CJF will study closely and with a positive interest the developing of a major program on culture and the Foundation at the General Assembly in 1985. The precise nature remains to be worked out, but it would be useful to have both a plenary session and a cultural event. Performances of a suitable nature that could take place at the General Assembly location itself might well be a feature of that event. In addition, awards other than those presented earlier in New York might also be granted, particularly in recognition of service to communities.

[Jan 13, 1984]

4.

D. Publications

We are presently considering the preparation of three publications to mark the anniversary:

1. "The Foundation at 25", a detailed twenty-five year report on the National Foundation for Jewish Culture. This can be done primarily in-house with the engagement of a part-time freelance editor.
2. "The State of Jewish Culture", a compilation of the papers that will have been prepared for the symposium as described above.
3. "The Inventory of Jewish Cultural Resources", an update and expansion of our 1979 resource guide covering national cultural services and resources available to the Jewish community.

E. Community Programs

Community involvement in the celebration is an important factor in marking the occasion. In addition to selecting a number of communities with which we might work to establish a visible presence through such programs as conferences or institutes, a variety of other options are possible.

1. We have been working toward the initiation of a national Jewish cultural news service. As part of this effort we could seek to have the Jewish press devote one issue of their periodical to contemporary American Jewish culture.
2. We hope to establish a cultural consultancy service, and we might use the consultants to assist community programs marking the 25th anniversary.
3. We might also intensify our work with traveling exhibits and, if resources permit, develop an exhibit program which will illuminate some of our concerns.

III. Timetable

Assuming approval of the program described above and clarification of budgetary requirements, the following timetable is suggested.

January - June 1984

- A. Completion of the planning process for all commemorative aspects of our program, including commissioning in graphics and planning for a gala evening. The latter might include establishing a procedure for any awards process we would wish to institute.

[Jan 13, 1984]
5.

- B. Selecting the names of prominent cultural figures whose views on the condition of cultural life in America we would wish to solicit, formulating the questions we would like these individuals to answer and completion of all plans so that they could begin their work during the summer of 1984.
- C. Selection of expert advisory committees in the various areas of the Foundation's concerns and preparing their agenda. It would be useful if a first planning meeting for each of the committees would take place prior to the summer of 1984.
- D. Working with the Council of Jewish Federations to establish a liason committee. The first meeting of this committee or of a steering group should take place at the spring Quarterly of the Council of Jewish Federations.

July - December 1984

- A. Implementation work on all commemorative aspects shall have begun. Work on whatever commissioned activity agreed upon should be underway by the appropriate artists, and invitations and public relations materials for the gala or award event should be completed by the end of the year.
- B. Papers by selected individuals should be completed.
- C. Sufficient meetings by each of the advisory committees shall have taken place so that preliminary findings can be discussed at the November General Assembly.
- D. The NFJC-CJF Committee shall meet to review preliminary findings at the General Assembly in November.

January - June 1985

- A. Commemorative works to be made public, with gala and awards program to be held in the spring of 1985.
- B. Findings of the group asked to provide general papers to be made public, with perhaps a symposium or series of lectures on these issues.
- C. Draft of findings and recommendations to be prepared for review by the NFJC-CJF Committee at the spring Quarterly 1985.
- D. Implementation of community programs.
- E. Draft of "The Foundation at 25" prepared.
- F. "The Inventory of Jewish Cultural Resources" to be prepared.

[Jan 13, 1986]

July-December 1985

- A. All ongoing commemorative activities continue.
- B. The papers of the selected scholars and cultural figures group distributed.
- C. Draft of recommendations for future activity reviewed by the liason committee and the Board of the Foundation prior to or at the September Quarterly.
- D. Submission of report on new mandate for the Foundation to be submitted at a major plenary at the November General Assembly.

IV. Budget

Below is a rough budget for the program described in the above pages. Although we did not cost it out in detail, the expense items appear from the staff point of view to be fairly sound. They are perhaps overestimated so as to be conservative. Our estimates for income are somewhat more questionable, although I think not far off the mark.

BUDGET

<u>EXPENSES</u>	Consultants & Personnel	Commissions	Printing	Public Programs	Meetings
I. Symposium	2,000	10,000	6,000		
II. Symposium Series				3,000	
III. Advisory Committees	4,000				3,000
IV. Report on Future	4,000				
V. Graphic		5,000			
VI. New York Gala				25,000	
VII. G.A. Program				3,000	
VIII. Inventory	3,000		3,000		
IX. Press Service		2,000			
X. Cultural Consulting	12,000				
XI. Traveling Exhibits				15,000	
XII. Additional Staff Needs					
A. Clerical	30,000				
B. Consultants	12,000				
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Totals	67,000	17,000	9,000	46,000	3,000
Grand Total	142,000				

INCOME

Federation Endowments	\$30,000
Foundations	25,000
Personal Contributions	20,000
Gala Income	20,000
Other Income	5,000
Newman	35,000
Basic Budget	7,000

	142,000

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE
1982-84 STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES
(Dollars in Thousands)

	<u>1982 Actual</u>	<u>1983 Authorized Budget</u>	<u>1983 Estimated Experience</u>	<u>1984 Budget</u>
INCOME:				
Contributions				
Welfare Funds	\$232.2	\$240.0	\$235.3	\$250.0
Contributions	31.0	48.5	37.8	50.0
Associates	2.4		4.1	
JCA Reimbursement	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0
Newman	21.0	45.0	31.8	45.0
Interest	<u>13.4</u>	<u>7.0</u>	<u>10.0</u>	<u>10.0</u>
TOTAL:	\$335.0	\$375.5	\$354.0	\$390.0
EXPENSES:				
Personnel Expenditures				
Salaries	\$131.1	\$160.0	\$155.9	\$180.0
Benefits	20.8	20.0	20.8	25.0
Consultants	<u>19.2</u>	<u>20.0</u>	<u>13.5</u>	<u>14.0</u>
SUB-TOTAL:	\$171.1	\$200.0	\$190.2	\$219.0
Direct Program Expenses				
Grants	\$ 76.2	\$ 80.0	\$ 71.0	\$ 73.5
Interpretation	5.2	6.0	5.7	7.0
Travel & Meetings	<u>14.9</u>	<u>23.0</u>	<u>12.9</u>	<u>13.5</u>
SUB-TOTAL:	\$ 96.3	\$109.0	\$ 89.6	\$ 94.0
Office Expenses				
Audit	\$ 4.0	\$ 4.0	\$ 4.5	\$ 5.0
Rent & Maintenance	31.5	28.0	33.4	35.5
Postage	5.0	5.5	5.8	6.0
Stationery & Supplies	2.9	4.0	4.6	5.0
Telephone	7.2	8.5	9.0	9.5
Printing	7.6	6.0	5.7	7.0
Insurance	1.7	2.0	2.0	2.0
Office Equipment	3.7	6.0	6.8	4.0
Books, dues	1.0	1.0	2.0	2.0
Miscellaneous	<u>1.6</u>	<u>1.5</u>	<u>0.4</u>	<u>1.0</u>
SUB-TOTAL:	\$ 66.2	\$ 66.5	\$ 74.2	77.0
GRAND TOTAL:	\$333.6	\$375.5	\$354.0	\$390.0
	+1.4			
Special Projects				
Income	\$ 84.0		\$ 20.9	\$ 60.0
Expenses	86.8		20.2	\$ 60.0

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10168

(212) 490-2280

PROPOSED BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 1984

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Vice Presidents	Joan Arnow, Janet Lowenstein, A. Walter Socolow, Saul Viener George Zeltzer
Treasurer	Alfred Eisenpreis
Secretary	Abraham Atik

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Alan Bloch - Los Angeles - 1 year	Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver - Cleveland - Life Member
Amos Comay - Pittsburgh - Life Member	A. Walter Socolow - New York - 2 years
Zelda Dick - Washington, D.C. - 3 years	Sanford Solender - New York - 3 years
Alfred Eisenpreis - New York - 2 years	Carol Stone - Boston - 3 years
Henry Everett - New York - 3 years	Saul Viener - Richmond - 2 years
Ruth Fein - Boston - 2 years	Paul Vishny - Chicago - 1 year
Tom Freudenheim - Worcester - 3 years	Harris Weston - Cincinnati - 2 years
Joseph Hurwitz - Hartford - 1 year	Sandra Wiener - Houston - 3 years
Jeremiah Kaplan - New York - 1 year	Edwin Wolf II - Philadelphia - Life Member
Janet Lowenstein - New Jersey - 1 year	George Zeltzer - West Bloomfield - 2 years
Rabbi Haskel Lookstein - New York - 3 years	Louis Zorensky - St. Louis - 3 years
Dr. Emanuel Lubin - Tulsa - 2 years	

F M I

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10168

(212) 490-2280

THIS LETTER WAS SENT TO THE FOLLOWING: Dr. Milton Arfa, Dr. Robert Chazan, Dr. Joshua Fishman, Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, Dr. Arthur Hyman, Dr. Eric Rosenthal

January 21, 1983

Dear

Dr. Daniel Jeremy Silver, Chairman of the Academic Advisory Council, has asked me to inform you that this year's meeting of the Council has been scheduled for April 11, 1983 at 10:00 a.m. at the office of the National Foundation for Jewish Culture. You will recall that this is the meeting at which recommendations regarding doctoral dissertation grants are made. We hope that you will be able to attend this meeting and request that you mark this date of your calendar.

We are currently processing the fellowship applications for the 1983-1984 academic year and will be mailing you the application materials for your review shortly.

We would appreciate your completing the enclosed reply card and returning it to our office as soon as possible. If our office can be of any assistance to you, please let us know.

I look forward to seeing you again at this upcoming meeting.

Sincerely,

Abraham Atik
Executive Director

AA/ss

January 27, 1983

Mr. Abraham Atik
National Foundation For Jewish Culture
122 East 42nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10168

Dear Abe,

Shouldn't we build up the Advisory Council?
From the form letter we seen to be down to six.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

March 28, 1983

Mr. Abraham Atik
National Foundation for Jewish Culture
122 E. 42nd St.
New York, N.Y. 10168

Dear Abe,

In re the three doctoral grants, Brodie J.R., B;
Goldstein B.K., A; Kliger H, A.

In regard to renewals, please make sure that there
is a full copy of each renewal report at each place.
I have serious doubts about a number of them, but
there is no way to act on Karlbach E. because there
is no progress report there whatsoever.

It was good seeing you. Have a happy Pesach.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

April 14, 1983

Mr. Abraham Atik
National Foundation For Jewish Culture
122 East 42nd St.
New York, N.Y. 10168

Dear Abe:

I, too, thought it was a good meeting and I thought the idea of one or two sabbatical grants was one that we ought to explore. The matter of choice would not be an easy one but it will keep us in touch with the best in the field.

My expenses to New York in connection with your meeting were \$175.00.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10168

(212) 490-2280

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FROM: ABRAHAM ATIK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DATE: JUNE 20, 1983
SUBJECT: ANNUAL MEETING

Dr. Marver Bernstein, President of the Foundation, has asked me to inform you that the Annual Meeting of our organization will take place on Sunday, September 11, 1983, at 2:30 p.m. in the Waldorf Astoria, New York. The Council of Jewish Federations will be conducting its quarterly meeting at that time and location.

In addition to the normal business that must be conducted - such as the election of the officers and the Board, - there are a number of other matters that will be discussed that I think you will find of interest. The Foundation began its organizational life in 1960, and is soon to mark its 25th anniversary. The Executive Committee has designated the period between November 1984 [the time of the CJF General Assembly which in 1959 called for the creation of the Foundation] and November, 1985 as the period in which to commemorate this event. A number of programs are being planned, and we will be discussing these at our Annual Meeting.

In addition, we will be asking several individuals who are actively involved in Jewish cultural life to participate with us in a discussion on the state of Jewish culture and the direction it ought to be taking.

Additional information will be sent to you in the next several weeks. Please mark the date on your calendar and plan to attend.

June 27, 1983

Mr. Abraham Atik
National Foundation for Jewish Culture
122 East 42nd St.
New York, N.Y. 10168

Dear Abe:

For someone like me, you couldn't have picked a worse time for the Annual Meeting, not only the week between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur but the opening week of our Religious School. I don't know whether I'll be able to make it.

In any case, I haven't heard from either you or Marver as to projects and prospects for the academic side of the Foundation. I'd like to have some idea of where we are heading and some input - horrible word - into that process.

With all good wishes I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10168

(212) 490-2280

July 7, 1983

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver
The Temple
University Circle at Silver Park
Cleveland, OH 44106

Dear Dan:

Your letter to me, although of course welcome, was also troubling. When Marver and I were discussing the best time for the meeting, a number of conditions came into play which, in a sense, mandated choosing the date we did. We did want to have the meeting in September, and in conjunction with the quarterly of the CJF.

I know that it is preferable that we have our own meeting independent of the Council, but there are a number of board members who are loyal to the Foundation, but will more likely be coming to the quarterly meeting than an independent meeting of our organization. They really can't afford to come to New York twice within the same month, and at this point in our development, this is still our best choice.

Sunday was chosen because Marver wanted to have the meeting deal with rather substantial content to which we might invite a large audience, and Sunday afternoon is the best time in terms of the CJF program. We will be listed in the program, and inasmuch as I've already invited Gerson Cohen and Arthur Cohen to speak about Jewish culture I do think we will be able to attract greater participation.

In regard to the academic side of the Foundation, I have been searching for ways in which we might get more involvement but I have not really been terribly successful. At the last meeting of the Academic Advisory Council there was the suggestion for us to initiate a post-doctoral program to help in a substantive way those who have not yet received tenure - to either do their research or prepare a publication which would assist them both in a scholarly way and in terms of advancing their careers and field. We are drawing up guidelines for that which, after your review, should be presented to the board on September 11th. In regard to the grant for the Association for Jewish Studies, at the Executive Committee meeting the basic decision was for you and one or two others to conduct a review with the AJS regarding the directions of the AJS Review and what our relationship to it ought to be. It was decided that while these negotiations and review are going on, we continue to provide a \$6,000 grant for the year 1984 so that they are not left hanging at this time. I will call you soon to see how we can proceed with this project.

[July 7, 1983]

Page 2

We are also looking to replace a good number of our board members and to add those who can help us in a substantive way. Mike Zeltzer is serving as chairman of the nominating committee, and if there are names of board people either in Cleveland, like Mrs. Ratner, or anywhere else who you think would play an important role and can contribute to the work of the Foundation, I would be very pleased to receive these suggestions from you. Inasmuch as finances are an important part of our activity, the ability to raise funds - either by individual contributions or through access to those who might contribute - would be one important element in selecting board members, although I think we also need those whose names are recognizable and who have a deep interest in culture.

In general, I am rather optimistic about the future of the Foundation, an assessment that was questionable in my mind in the last months. I think we are working toward a breakthrough, and of course your role in this will be important.

As soon as I can, I will write you a more general letter about the directions I think we will be taking and will be soliciting your suggestions. I hope you have a pleasant summer.

Cordially,



Abraham Atik
Executive Director

AA:ss

July 12, 1983

Mr. Abraham Atik
National Foundation For Jewish Culture
122 East 42nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10168

Dear Abe:

I am in receipt of your letter of July 7. What I was trying to say in my letter to you, besides my disappointment about the date, was that I ~~was~~ expected that there would have been by now a chance for a few of us to sit down and talk about the academic responsibilities of the Foundation.

I am always ready and eager to be of service, but I don't like feeling that I am operating outside the Foundation's normal channels. Your letter is the first indication I have received that there is or will be a paper dealing with a Foundation-funded post-doctoral program or a committee to discuss our financial relations with AJS. I am interested in both issues, but I don't like to be apprised of them after the fact.

I am delighted that you feel that the Foundation is surging ahead. With all good wishes I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE
122 EAST 42ND STREET • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10168 • (212) 490-2280

September 2, 1983

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FROM: ABRAHAM ATIK 
SUBJ: MATERIALS FOR SEPTEMBER 11 BOARD MEETING

Attached you will find a description of ideas prepared by staff for commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Foundation. It is intended to suggest possible formats to mark this important event and to give a rough idea of scope and budget. We are looking for Board direction in planning and proceeding with this effort, and this will be a major focus of discussion at our September meeting. Please note that the location of the Board meeting has been changed and will now take place in the Conrad Hilton Suite at the Waldorf Astoria at 2:30 pm.

I am also enclosing a number of press releases we are distributing regarding important Foundation projects. We hope to report to you on these in fuller detail but the press releases will give you an idea of some of our concerns and interests.

Best wishes for a happy, health and fulfilling New Year.

AA/er

Encs:

[September 2, 1983]

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY

The National Foundation for Jewish Culture initiated its organizational life in January 1960, and was incorporated several months later. Thus, in 1985 the Foundation will have completed twenty-five years of activity, an occasion which traditionally is commemorated by a review of the progress achieved, a definition of the emerging agenda, and a re-commitment to those efforts required to meet the organization's objectives. In addition, events and activities of a special nature intended to mark this occasion in an appropriate manner are planned.

For the National Foundation for Jewish Culture, the necessity of undertaking such a process goes beyond the demands of tradition. The cultural condition of the American Jewish community has changed dramatically in the years since the Foundation was established, and the next twenty-five years will pose new challenges of a critical nature. In perhaps no other period has the American Jewish community been presented with such an opportunity to shape its character, nor has the outcome of such an effort been so much in doubt. The cultural enterprise and the work of the Foundation will play a vital role in the community's response to the demands it will face, and it is to making this role effective that we must dedicate our energies.

Before undertaking the process of review and of defining an agenda for future activity, several of the assumptions underlying our work must be made more explicit than is presently the case.

1. Although culture can encompass almost all human conduct, the realm of culture with which we are concerned is that which reflects the effort to achieve a more profound understanding and appreciation of the texture and meaning of the Jewish experience.
2. The primary areas of our concern are Jewish learning and artistic expression, not as ends in themselves, but as indispensable to achieving that profounder understanding essential to the continuing strength of Jewish identity and commitment.
3. The process of culture is manifest in the acts of creating, understanding and appreciating, rather than merely in the accumulation of objects and projects.
4. The cultural process cannot be forced, molded or designed, but the creativity of individuals and groups in scholarship and the arts, the organization of resources indispensable to supporting and presenting creative work, and the interchange between communities and the creative work can be identified and strengthened, and this is the function of the National Foundation for Jewish Culture.

In our commemoration, which will mark the end of one era of our organizational life and the beginning of another, our focus will not be on the celebratory aspects of this occasion but on what we need to do to further the work of those engaged in the cultural process, whether as creators, organizers of resources, or community, with the objective of strengthening an authentic American Jewish

[Sept 2, 1983]

identity. The following suggestions will concentrate on the assessment of current status and planning of future directions, as well as upon those events and activities which will appropriately mark the importance of the occasion.

I. NATIONAL SURVEYS

A series of studies should be undertaken to determine the condition of Jewish culture in America today and to identify needs, opportunities and priorities. An appropriate body should plan the scope and methodology of these studies. In both Jewish scholarship and in the arts, the following questions might be among those to be addressed.

The Creative Individual

How has the situation of those in the forefront of creative effort changed in the past twenty-five years? How is this cadre different, in quality and quantity, from what existed? Can we determine what the needs are for developing a nucleus of creative individuals in the various scholarly and artistic fields, and if we can, are these needs being met? What are the constraints on the ability of these individuals to make their maximum contribution? How do these individuals relate to cultural organizations and to the community? In which ways are the community and its institutions providing for the development and support of the creative individual? Can we establish an order of priority in meeting our continuing and future needs, and what should that order be?

Cultural Organizations and Institutions

Among the institutions which provide the resources necessary for the cultural enterprise - universities, research institutions, seminaries, Hebrew colleges, libraries, archives, museums, theatres, orchestras, and publishing houses - how has the situation changed in the past twenty-five years? In terms of support of Jewish culture, can and should we differentiate between the Jewish and non-Jewish organizations in terms of the Jewish community's responsibility? What are the constraints - professional, financial and structural - that limit the contribution these organizations can make? Have the needs for the services these organizations provide changed, and if so, how? Are there needs for services that are not being met which may call for the establishment of new or reorganized institutions? What is the order of priority among these needs? What is the extent of communal responsibility for these organizations? In terms of communal support, can we develop a form of cost-benefit analysis?

Communities

Have the needs or condition of local cultural services changed over the last twenty-five years? Can we assess what current community needs are and how these are being met by both local and national resources? Can we determine the difference between the community's perceived and real need, and how this can be bridged? How shall programs and services be designed to meet the needs of communities which vary in size, location, and history? Can we establish an order of priority for community cultural programming?

[Sept 2, 1983]

3.

Additional Concern

In discussing each of these areas, a major consideration that needs to be taken into account is the cultural relationship between America and Israel. We need to assess the current environment for cultural interchange between these two Jewish communities and to determine how this relationship should be strengthened or changed in the coming years.

It is obvious that these studies by themselves will not be sufficient to provide a direction for future activity. The findings of these studies will need to be integrated and then discussed in a variety of settings, so that a community consensus might be evolved. Among the mechanisms for accomplishing this are the holding of a National Conference on the Condition of Jewish Culture, and of utilizing the Council of Jewish Federations' General Assembly and other community forums to solicit views and to establish direction.

PROJECTS

A number of projects are suitable in commemorating the organization's anniversary. On a national level, these include

- The commissioning of one or more performance works.
- The preparation of a graphic work, which can be distributed, either as a print or poster, or both.
- Initiation of an awards program for outstanding contributions to Jewish learning and art.
- Preparation of an exhibit, film, radio series, or live production (filmed and televised) on Jewish culture.

These activities would be in addition to the convening of a National Conference on Jewish Culture. We would expect that this conference would involve the participation of other national Jewish organizations, and we should consider planning joint activities with these organizations during the commemoration period.

It is important to involve local communities in helping mark the occasion, as they are an integral part of the cultural process. A variety of projects would meet this objective, including

- The preparation by the Foundation of program packages, such as Jewish film festivals (or arts, heritage, dance, or choral festivals) and scholarly symposia for local implementation in selected communities.
- The preparation of materials in cooperation with local editors so that an issue of the local newspaper would be devoted to Jewish culture.
- The establishment of scholar-in-residence programs, with NFJC and local participation.

Any of these activities would be in addition to a nationally-planned locally-implemented survey of community cultural resources, services, needs, and expectations. The data from this study would play an important part in the national studies. Implementation of this effort calls for a considerable degree of cooperation by the community, as local committees would need to be created, with a concomitant commitment of staff and resources.

TIMETABLE

In order to carry out a meaningful program of commemoration which would include a number of the suggestions listed above, it is necessary to allow sufficient time for effective planning and to build an adequate funding base and structure. It is therefore suggested that the period between September 1983 and June 1984 be set aside for these purposes. The studies and the larger projects should begin no later than September, 1984. The findings and recommendations would be announced no earlier than November, 1985 at the General Assembly, while individual projects would continue until 1986. This schedule would be in keeping with the concept of commemorating the end of one era - the first twenty-five years - in 1985, and the beginning of a new era in 1986.

BUDGET

Until the direction, scope and magnitude of the commemoration is decided, it is difficult to project accurate budget figures, but offered below are estimates based on the assumption that the Board will wish to undertake a fairly comprehensive program, including both surveys and other projects, although not all that had been described. The figures provided below are all for a two-year period.

Commission

A commission of prominent individuals should be appointed to provide direction for the study aspects of the commemoration (and perhaps for the entire effort) and to place the prestige of a select body behind the recommendations that will be made. We expect that this Commission will be composed of approximately twenty persons and will meet three times a year. The figures given are expenditures for travel and hotel for those who require such subsidy and for production of necessary materials.

Commission Operations \$ 25,000

Surveys

Even if we assume that the issues described earlier are those which we ultimately decide to assess, the scope and methodology can vary, and this would have budgetary implications. One logical format would be to conduct two studies - one related to scholarship and the other the arts, in which the major components of cultural work, the creative individuals and groups, the institutions, and the communities, will be examined. A Study Director would

[Sept 2, 1983]

5.

be appointed whose function it would be to coordinate and integrate the approaches in each area studied and to prepare the reports, findings and recommendations for publication. In addition, in this format we would probably need to engage three additional consultants, one in scholarship, another in the arts, and a third to study community resources and needs.

Study Director	\$ 20,000
Consultants (3 at \$6,000 each)	18,000
Administrative Services	20,000
Meetings & Travel	5,000
Publication Expenses	4,000
	<hr/>
	\$ 67,000

Conference

We have projected the need for a National Conference to provide impetus, involvement in and exposure to the work of the Commission and of the cultural enterprise. Initial findings and recommendations will be reviewed, and additional views solicited. Costs of the Conference would include travel and other arrangements for the invited speakers and for the preparation of materials.

Conference	\$ 15,000
------------	-----------

Projects

A number of projects were described above which could be implemented on a national level as well as by local communities. It is obvious we will not be able to do all that is listed, but we certainly should contemplate the preparation of at least one project to be conducted on a national scale and another by and for the communities.

Projects	\$ 30,000
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Administration and Other Contingencies

Undoubtedly, the commemoration will impose additional administrative duties on the staff and there will need to be some supplementation of our resources. In addition, there will be expenses that have not been foreseen.

Administration	\$ 13,000
----------------	-----------

Income

We would hope to be able to support an effort of the nature described from a variety of sources. Some of the monies would obviously have to come from the Foundation's own resources and reserves (including the Newman Fund) and we will certainly need to enlist the organized communities' support through their endowment funds. We believe that it is reasonable to expect some support from

(Sept 2, 1983)

governmental sources such as the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts, and private foundations and individual donors will be solicited to assist in this effort.

Obviously, after more planning, we will be able to project a more exact budget for both expenditures and income, but at this stage the following budget can provide an indication of both the scale of the operation and how it might be supported.

Commemoration

Total Budget

(Two Years)

Expenses

Commission	\$ 25,000
Studies	67,000
Conference	15,000
Special Projects	30,000
Administration & Other Expenses	13,000
	<hr/>
	\$ 150,000

Income

NFJC	\$ 40,000
Community Endowments	60,000
Governmental Grants	25,000
Foundations & Other Contributions	25,000
	<hr/>
	\$ 150,000

From the desk of—

RABBI DANIEL JEREMY SILVER

December 8, 1983

Dear Abe,

I reviewed your memo. This is what I would like to go out. It simplifies your piece without essentially changing any major part of it except the level of proposed funding program which I believe to be unwarrantedly low. Call me if you have any problems.

DJS

[Dec 8, 1983]

MEMORANDUM

To: Academic Advisory Council
From: Daniel J. Silver, Chairman
Subject: Post-doctoral Grants Program

At the last several meetings of the Academic Advisory Council it was noted that the number of outstanding applicants has declined markedly. Only six grants were awarded in 1983, with two renewals, for a total of eight. The Council felt that outstanding individuals should continue to be assisted, but that other areas of academic support for young scholars required attention.

The difficulties facing the post-doctoral student are well known. Good positions are hard to come by and even harder to keep. Publication is a pre-requisite for tenure, and young scholars face many obstacles in publishing their first major work. It was noted that not only are careers adversely affected when the younger scholar cannot do what is necessary to secure an established place in academe, but the scholarly and general community are the losers in that scholarly works of significance are not available to the audience they should command.

A variety of suggestions were discussed, all of which involved some form of publication support. Without having as yet agreed on a specific plan, we propose to ask the Foundation to set aside a maximum of \$20,000 in 1984 to assist in this project. A number of conditions would obviously need to be agreed on before grants program can be announced.

The following requirements have been suggested: that the work is first-rate; that its publication can reasonably be expected to play a role in improving the scholar's prospects; and that it pass a critical review by seasoned scholars in that particular field. It is further suggested that a maximum grant of \$5,000 be established.

Assuming that the Academic Advisory Council wishes to endorse this program, a number of practical considerations must be decided: Shall we experiment with less expensive types of publishing such as the Scholars' Press or ISHI have developed? How should the review process be organized? Should we establish a series under the National Foundation For Jewish Culture's auspices? Shall we work on a cooperative basis with existing university presses?

I welcome your reactions to this memorandum. I will, upon receiving your comments, try to produce a detailed consensus plan for our next meeting.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10168

(212) 490-2280

November 29, 1983

MEMORANDUM

For years a dollar
round attention

To: Academic Advisory Council
From: ~~Abraham Atik, Executive Director~~
Subject: Post-doctoral Grants Program

DANIEL J. SILVER - Chairman

No Council felt

At the last meetings of the Academic Advisory Council in the spring of this year it was generally noted that although the grants awarded by the Foundation were certainly significant, the overall number of outstanding applicants has declined markedly. ~~Indeed~~ Only six new grants were awarded in 1983, with two renewals for a total of eight. It is generally conceded that the outstanding individual should continue to be assisted and that is the course the Foundation should continue to follow, but that there were other areas requiring support with which the Foundation should be concerned.

LOF Academic

The difficulties facing the post-doctoral student are well known. Good positions are hard to come by and even harder to keep. Publication is prerequisite for tenure, and the younger scholar (which the post-doctoral student generally is) finds many obstacles to publishing his or her efforts and does not achieve the security necessary to a sound academic career. This has serious ramifications for the entire academic process. We noted that not only are careers adversely affected when the younger scholar cannot do what is necessary to secure an established place in academe, but the scholarly and general community are often the losers, in that scholarly works of significance are not available to the wider audience they merit.

First
major
work.

A variety of suggestions were discussed for Foundation involvement. Although there were differences, each demanded assistance with the process that leads to publication. We, therefore, suggest for your review a program which would directly influence possibilities for publication. We propose to ask the Foundation to set aside a minimum of \$10,000 and a maximum of \$100,000 in 1984 to assist in the publication that is often required in publishing scholarly works. A number of conditions would obviously need to be met before these grants could be met. Among these might be:



- Program can be carried out. The Allen's have been suggested, that the scholar is not yet established and that the quality of the work that can reasonably be expected will play a role in improving the candidate's prospects.

That the house is first note and has not the critical review of scholars in the publication field all of which involved

Some form of publication support, without having as

yet regard on specific form

~~That the scholar being considered (and the scholarly work) has the potential of making a significant contribution to Jewish studies.~~

~~That the manuscript has already been accepted for publication -- that indeed all other available resources for funds have been approached and that a need does in reality exist for a Foundation subsidy.~~ *A scholar's manuscript can be neglected with a reasonable loss*

~~That the Foundation subsidy be limited to a certain proportion (1/4 to 1/3?) of total publication costs.~~ *It is assumed that a maximum grant (3000 & 5000?)*

~~Assuming that this is the program the Academic Advisory Council wishes to endorse, there are a number of additional considerations for review. Shall we insist on a less expensive type of publishing, such as through the Scholars' Press or through ISHI? or shall we provide grants for suitable publication by any instrumentality, such as university presses or such operations as Brill?~~ *not to be decided*

~~What should the review process be? Shall we read every manuscript submitted, or can we establish a screening process, which might include a preliminary evaluation by an expert in the field regarding its potential significance prior to a more detailed review by the Academic Advisory Council?~~

~~Can and should we establish a series under the National Foundation for Jewish Culture's auspices or shall our involvement be of a lesser nature?~~

~~Direct subsidy for publication is only one approach to a very serious problem. Other ideas were discussed, particularly that of providing the young scholar with the time or the possibility of travel that will enable completion of a manuscript in a suitable form, with or without the assurance of publication. Although there are many attractions to this plan it does suffer from deficiencies as well. The amounts required per grantee might well be substantially greater than is required as a subsidy for publication. In addition, it is extremely difficult to set up a process that would be manageable and equitable.~~ *NO START-UP EXPENSES*

~~I welcome your reactions to this memorandum and will upon receiving your comments work toward the production of a more detailed description of the program that the Foundation should consider.~~

*THAT IS
FOR OUR NEXT MEETING.*

CONSENSUS PLAN

Shall we work on a cooperative basis with existing university presses?