

Daniel Jeremy Silver Collection Digitization Project

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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

490-228)

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

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, 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 Boundation offices (Suite 1512). We do hope you will join us.

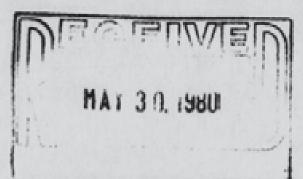
On this occasion we will be presenting harry with a symbol of cur appreciation for his long and productive services. For those board members who wish to join in the purchase of an appropriate gift, I suggest a contribution of perhaps \$25 for this purpose. Please send such checks to Abraham Atik at the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

I look forward to seeing all of you in June.

Cordially,

anua

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.

Tank 10

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

DIS:

Encl.

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NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

122 EAST 42ND STREET NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017 490-22#0

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 optimion?

HIB:bg encls.

Harry I. Barron Executive Director

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 civulge 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 June 10, 1980 -2-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 490-2280 122 EAST 42ND STREET NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017 10 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 HIB:bg encl. Executive Director



HEBREW UNION COLLEGE—JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION

Cincinnati . New York . Los Angeles . Jerusalem

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES
Office of the Dean

9101 CLIFTON AVENUE • CINCINNATI, OHIO 45220-(513) 221-1875-

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 honomary 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)

I am going to be speaking at a Bmai 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

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

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

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 seetling over the recent Neusner affair.

All the best.

Sincerely yours,

Herbert H. Paper

HHP:rmn

cc: Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

Tuccum	1979 Experience (Audit)	1980 Approved Budget	1980 JanJuly Actual	1980 AugDec. 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	15,00W
Sub-Total	\$227,483	\$289,500	\$148,888	\$ 97,775	\$246,663	\$270,000
Other Income						
JCA Administrative Reimbursement		\$ 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	
EXPENDITURES Total	\$299,878	\$361,000	\$205,129	\$119,275	\$324,404	\$329,500
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Salaries, Benefits, Taxes		\$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	725	1,000
Doctoral Grants		59,000	29,513	22,933	52,446	60,000
Publication Grants		20,000	10,000	5,000	15,000	€,000
Newman Grants		26,500	14,150		14,150	26,000
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 LAST 42ND STREET . NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

MEMORANDUM

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 CATEGORIES

For the purposes of better definition and control it would 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 Bervices 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 Jevish 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.



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 Assuming this division of program categories is useful MECHANISMS 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.

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 Commitee, 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

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:

- The program categories of the Foundation be described as relating to academic affairs, arts services, and interorganizational planning and coordination, with community service being a major component in each of these.
- The staff structure should reflect program thrusts, with the professional staff assigned clear responsibility in each of the major program areas.
- 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

-90-2280

MEMORANDUM

13

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:

- 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

EULTURE PILE

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 Can:

400 PM

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.

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.

Cordinally,

Abraham Atik

Executive Director

aa/dbs:

1 STILL NOON REVIEW

Mr. Abraham Atik National Foundateon 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

IZZ EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10168

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,

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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.





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.

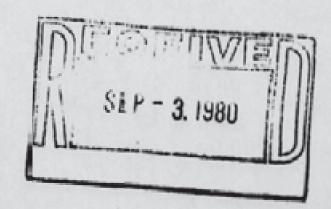
In a quiet way, without publicity or fanfare and with limited funds, the Foundation has compiled an impressive record of accomplishments which have enriched the cultural life of the American Jewish community. At the same time, our limited funds have prevented us from responding in many cultural areas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

AC/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 disbursal 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:mo

November 19, 1980

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

Dear Harry,

I was scrry 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 Mational 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

DIS

HARRY I. BARRON

Bello

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 comeraderic and good fellowship under the sponsorship of the Foundation...

Abe-Abex

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-Thanlsgiving 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. Heep well. Miriam joins me in sending the best to you and Adele.

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 see 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 Assocation 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 'unds 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 clienteles?

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'c 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 (212) 490-2280 122 EAST 42ND STREET NEW YORK, N.T. 10168 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. Singerely, braham Atik AA:1rc 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 Jereny Silver DJS:mp Encl.

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 reed 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

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

212 RIVERSIDE 9-8000

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.

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. Felowships may be renewable by reapplication.

FIELDS OF STUDY

Ancient Judaism Bible Education History Jewish Literature Philosophy Rabbinics

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

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



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-Agos, 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

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10168

MINUTES

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Present: Gerrard Berman; Amos Comay; Joseph D. Hurwitz,
ATTENDANCE

Present: Gerrard Berman; Amos Comay; Joseph D. Hurwitz,
Kelman; Daniel J. Silver; A. Walter Socolow; Mrs. Judah
Stone: Judah Stone (guest): Abraham Atik (staff): Carl

Stone; Judah Stone (guest); Abraham Atik (staff); Carl Rheins (staff)

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Joseph Hurwitz,
INTRODUCTION Chairman Pro Tem, in room 503 of Hebrew Union College-Jewish
Institue 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 exisitng 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.

Rabbi Daniel J. Silver, Chairman of the Foundation's Academic Advisory Council, reported that the Foundation GRADUATE had received more than 150 inquiries from students seeking EDUCATION 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.

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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.

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.

TO LEARNED SOCIETIES AND PROFESSIONAL SCHOLARLY ORGANIZATIONS

The chair noted that the Foundation had played an DIRECT ASSISTANCE 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 Commmittee on Academic Affairs recommends that the Academic Advisory Council, headed by Rabbi Daniel J. Silver, review the 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 absense 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

1000 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 unantmous 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

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE 121 EAST 42ND STREET (212) 490-2280 MEW YORK, N.Y. 10168 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, Executive Director aa/dbs enc

CJUNe 17, 1981)

Letterhead of NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

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 concerm in the academic community that a "crisis in finance threatened. . . the (future) viability of scholarly publishing," 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." 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."

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. 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:

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- 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 present, 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 receives 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 apparatments. 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.



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 commerical 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 lesk."

And as John D. Moore, Director of the Columbia University

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

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, photgraphs) which cannot now be financed." 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.

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.

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:

- 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]

MOTES

- 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.
- Letter. Bernard Goldman, Director, Wayne State University Press, to Dr. Carl J. Rheins, June 3, 1981, p. 2.
- 10. Ibid., p. 1.
- Letter. John D. Moore, Director, Columbia University Fress to Dr. Carl J. Rheins, June 5, 1981, p. 1.
- Letter. Goldman to Rheins, pp. 1-2.
- 13. <u>Ibid.</u>, 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 unkown, 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

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 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 neet with Moshe Davis since I was in Israel for only seventy-two hours -I was called back for a funeral.

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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 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 Jemmy Silver

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE 122 EAST 42ND STREET (212) 490-2230 NEW YORK, N.Y. 10168 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 aa/dbs enc

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

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July 17, 1981

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver The Temple University Circle at Silver Park Clevelani, 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.

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:

- Continue as an Associate of the Foundation, which involves an annual contribution of \$100.
- If possible, make (or secure from others) an additional contribution toward the work of the Foundation.
- 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,

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Amos Comay, President

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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. Singerely. Carl J. Rheins, Ph.D. Director of Academic Affairs cjr/ss Mr. Amos Comay Mr. Alfred Eisenpreis Mr Joseph Hurwitz Ms. Doris Sattenstein Mr. Richard Siegel Dr. Daniel Silver

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

Dear Carl:

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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:mp