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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

490-2280

## M E M O R A N D U M

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            There are a number of issues that need to be addressed  
OF THE JCA                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 these 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.



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TABLE 6

DISCIPLINES AND FIELDS OF CONCENTRATION OF NFJC 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

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- 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. <sup>Citizenship</sup>
- 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 Hyman, 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 Lodovico, 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 Defense Encyclopaedia.

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

DOMESTIC RELATIONS subject on which Asher lectures at the Tel Aviv University School. When students why he'd been picked Minister Dr. Yosef B.



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

## M E M O R A N D U M

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]

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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-renowned 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:np



1 1  
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

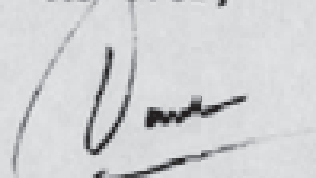
Dear Dan,

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 words of truth  
were 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*  
*11. 8. 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, A.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 CCAR 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, 1982

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*  
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.

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.



- 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

EXPENSES

	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
	<u>142,000</u>

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

	1982 <u>Actual</u>	1983 <u>Authorized Budget</u>	1983 <u>Estimated Experience</u>	1984 <u>Budget</u>
<b>INCOME:</b>				
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
<b>EXPENSES:</b>				
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

### OFFICERS

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

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joan Arnow - New York - 2 years	Earl Morse - New York - Life Member
Madlyn Barnett - Fort Worth - 3 years	Minnie Nathanson - New York - 3 years
Gerrard Berman - New Jersey - 2 years	Peter Newman - Berkeley - 1 year
Dr. Marver Bernstein - Washington, D.C. - 2 years	Dr. Martin Peretz - Cambridge - 1 year
Philip Bernstein - New York - 2 years	Dr. David Sidorsky - New York - 1 year
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

125 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10068

(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:up

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

121 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]

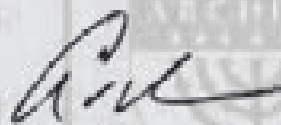
Page 2

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, 1981

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 ~~expected~~ 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, seminars, 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.

[Sept 2, 1983]

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

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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
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#### 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
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#### 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



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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

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

DANIEL J. SILVER - Chairman

Re Council Report

At the last meeting 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.

The difficulties facing the post-doctoral student are well known. Good positions are hard to come by and even harder to keep. Publication is pre-requisite 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. ~~It is 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 ~~that may~~ of significance are not available to the ~~wide~~ audience they ~~deserve~~.

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 \$10,000 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:

1. Program can be ~~used~~. The ~~applicant~~ has been ~~accepted~~, 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.

2. 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.

Some form of publication

support, without having to

yet ~~award~~ on ~~specific~~ ~~form~~

Pen years & delays  
no award at the time

LOF Academy

AT PROTON

First  
major  
work

which is needed

has been on

note and has not the  
in the publication field  
all of which involved

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 strong argument can be made with a reasonable basis*

~~That the Foundation subsidy be limited to a certain proportion (1/4 to 1/3?) of total publication costs.~~ *It is suggested that a maximum grant (\$500 & 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?~~ *Established* *not 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 - no financing*

~~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.~~ *Consensus plan*

*That is*  
*For our next meeting.*

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