Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the

AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

Kevin Proffitt

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to recommend Merle Ann Brenner. I have known Merle since 2003 when she attended an archival training course at the American Jewish Archives. Since then I have worked with Merle on a project to preserve the papers of a prominent mid-western rabbi and have visited the synagogue archives at North Shore Congregation Israel in Glencoe, Illinois, which she oversees.

Merle is incredibly conscientious and dedicated to the work of being an archivist. Merle has undertaken a great deal of self-study in archival literature and has pursued many opportunities to increase her knowledge of documentary preservation and archival techniques.

The archive at NSCI is a testament to Merle's hard work. During my visit there I saw first-hand all of the work Merle has done – from arranging and labeling files, to appraisal and selection of documents, to implementing proper storage and preservation methods, to converting paper files to digital formats and creating electronic finding aids and registers. In a short period of time Merle dug in and quickly preserved, gained intellectual control, and provided access to the congregation's historic records that had for years been neglected and ignored.

Merle also brings a number of related skills to her work as an archivist, including photography and knowledge of electronic information technology – skills which are crucial to information professionals in this day and age.

Merle is considerate, kind, and pleasant. No one will work harder than Merle. I recommend her with enthusiasm. She would be an asset to any archival program or repository.

If I can provide any additional information about Merle or her experience, please do not hesitate to let me know.

With kind regards.

Sincerely yours,

Kevin Proffitt

3101 Clifton Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45220-2488 • Telephone 513-221-1875

Fax 513-221-7812