



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

Preserving American Jewish History

MS-603: Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum Collection, 1945-1992.

Series G: Speaking Engagements. 1975-1992

Box 106, Folder 35, Forum for Corporate Responsibility - Board of Directors [New York] 7 October 1976.

Rabbi Tannenbaum at 1st Friday Club

Rabbi Marc Tannenbaum, national interreligious affairs director of the American Jewish Committee, New York City, will give First Friday Club members an "Update on Jewish-Catholic Relations." The group meets in the Sheraton-Cleveland at noon.



Rabbi
Tannenbaum

Rabbi Tannenbaum has been a pioneer leader in interreligious relations and social justice movements for the past 25 years. Commentary Magazine characterized him as "the leading figure among Jewish humanists," and Newsweek Magazine has described him as "the American Jewish community's foremost apostle to the gentiles."

Rabbi Tannenbaum, a feature writer for National Catholic News Service, was the only rabbi at deliberations of Vatican II, 1962-65. For ticket reservations, call 631-4784.

CLEVELAND, OHIO

Russell L. Faist

A rabbi looks at the Church

Standing ovations are not uncommon at the First Friday Club which, over the years, has brought to Cleveland some of the most outstanding speakers in the U.S. and the world, for that matter.

But I thought there was something especially genuine about the ovation given last Thursday to Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, national interreligious affairs director of the American Jewish Committee.

The listeners didn't leap to their feet on cue or instantaneously as if their chair bottoms had been suddenly electrified. Instead, the listeners rose, first in one part of the dining hall, then in the other. It was as though each listener had been caught short at the end of the talk and was thinking about the content. Finally, everyone was up and they stayed standing, applauding loudly.

They liked this man and his message; they recognized the deep scholarship and preparation of the talk. They appreciated the delivery — informational, dramatic, even prayerful.

As I often do, I met the speaker afterward on the dais. I asked if he had a text. The rabbi smiled. "No," he said, "just a few notes." I've heard Rabbi Tanenbaum before, probably five times in the last eight years and I wasn't surprised. He seldom has a text — but he always has a message.

The rabbi's message was that the presidential campaign has done something to distort things and make life in America uncomfortable for Jews and Catholics and Protestants alike.



"The Catholic community," he said, "has been reduced to a caricature, to the issue of abortion, and is being played back and forth like a Ping Pong ball."

Forgotten, he said, was the Catholic community's great interest in fighting racism, discrimination, nuclear proliferation, and supporting the rights of man for food and education and social welfare reforms. When the media concentrates on one issue, like abortion, it is a parody, he said.

The media has done it to the Jews, too, with the issue of Israel. Israel is the ultimate issue for Jews, he said, but it is not the only issue. Jews, he said, are just as concerned as other Americans about the recent recession, unemployment, the millions living beneath the poverty line, the decline of morality, and the need to re-establish some institution with credibility.

Yet, on a recent TV broadcast featuring the four candidates for a New York senatorial nomination, the only question interviewers brought up was Israel. Obviously there are many Jewish voters in and around New York City, but Rabbi Tanenbaum said, to give them a one-issue debate was to "treat us as idiots."

Rabbi Tanenbaum said that hundreds of thousands of people in the hungry areas of the world are alive today because of the combined efforts of Catholic, Jewish and Protestant leaders.

Last year, he said, the House Agriculture Committee was unwilling to approve legislation calling for the delivery of some 4 1/2 tons of food to starving people all over the world. The only representatives who testified for the bill were those from Catholic, Jewish and Protestant groups. No one from unions, or industry, or universities, or any other organized group, the rabbi said, appeared to testify.

House leaders said there wasn't a chance for the bill because the religious groups had "no constituency."

The religious leaders got together and pushed for a constituency. In a few months, the rabbi said, they had generated so much letter and telegram support that when the issue of the 4 1/2 million tons of food came up before the Senate, it passed there. The House reconsidered and passed it, too, and hundreds of lives were saved.

But how much attention does the media give that kind of effort? In the pressure of a presidential campaign everything is reduced to one issue. The rabbi praised the full-issue comparison presented by the Universe Bulletin two weeks ago.

The response of the Catholic Church, Rabbi Tanenbaum said, has been to the whole person, not just to the unborn.

"One can only hope and pray," he said, "that Nov. 2 will come speedily and then we can sort ourselves out and get back to reality."

Rabbi Tanenbaum had one warning that he drew from the changing South, the bastion of Evangelical religion. He said that an "evangelical underworld, the right wing elements" feel this is the year of the evangelical.

Already, the rabbi said, there are drives in 30 congressional districts to elect an evangelical. He said "yellow pages" of evangelical businessmen have been prepared and distributed to push the effort.

Such an effort, he said, poses a serious threat to the American genius of plurality because when any one group begins to think only its members are right, all outsiders become second-class citizens.

Reading this over, I find I have only touched the best of Rabbi Tanenbaum's talk. Fortunately everyone with an AM radio can hear it on station WELW, 1330 on the dial, from 2 to 3 p.m. Tuesday. If you can tune in, do so.



*mtg folder
Sept Fu*

June 25, 1976

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Dr. Rolland F. Smith, President
The First Friday Club of Cleveland, Inc.
P. O. BOX 6302
Cleveland, Ohio 33101

Dear Dr. Smith,

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum is currently on a study-writing Sab-
batical and has asked me to advise you of his acceptance
of your invitation to speak to the First Friday Club on
September 30, 1976.

I am enclosing a bio and glossy photo for any publicity
need you may have.

Please forward any materials you have regarding the meeting
as they become available. Should you have any questions,
please do not hesitate to call this office.

I am sure Rabbi Tanenbaum will be in touch with you upon
his return in early September.

Sincerely,

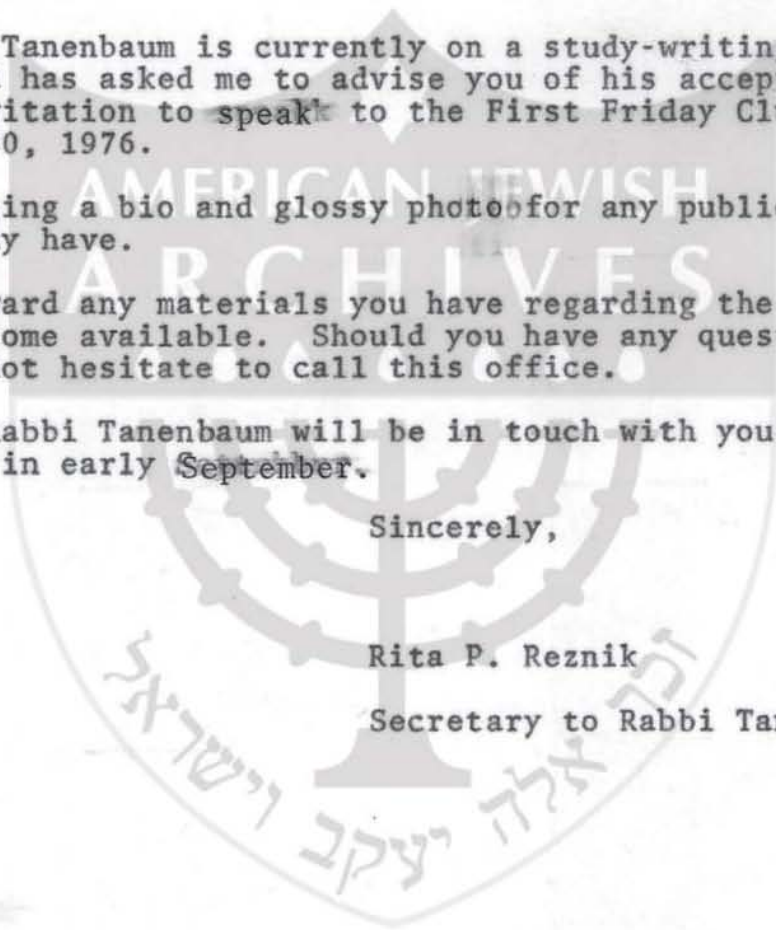
Rita P. Reznik

Secretary to Rabbi Tanenbaum

RPR

Enclosure

NYBR,





Established with Episcopal Approval July 3, 1958

The FIRST FRIDAY CLUB of CLEVELAND, Inc.

Rev. Nelson Callahan, Spiritual Director

Mailing Address:

P. O. Box 6302, Cleveland, 44101

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June 24, 1976

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Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum
American Jewish Committee
165 East 56 Street
New York, New York 10022

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum:

Thank you very much for accepting our invitation to speak to the First Friday Club of Cleveland on Thursday, September 30, 1976.

By August 5, we would like some biographical information concerning yourself, a glossy photograph and the specific title of your talk in order that we may distribute our publicity brochure at our September 2 luncheon.

I will contact you several days prior to your coming to Cleveland to discuss your travel plans.

I look forward to seeing you on September 30.

Sincerely,

Rolland F. Smith
President

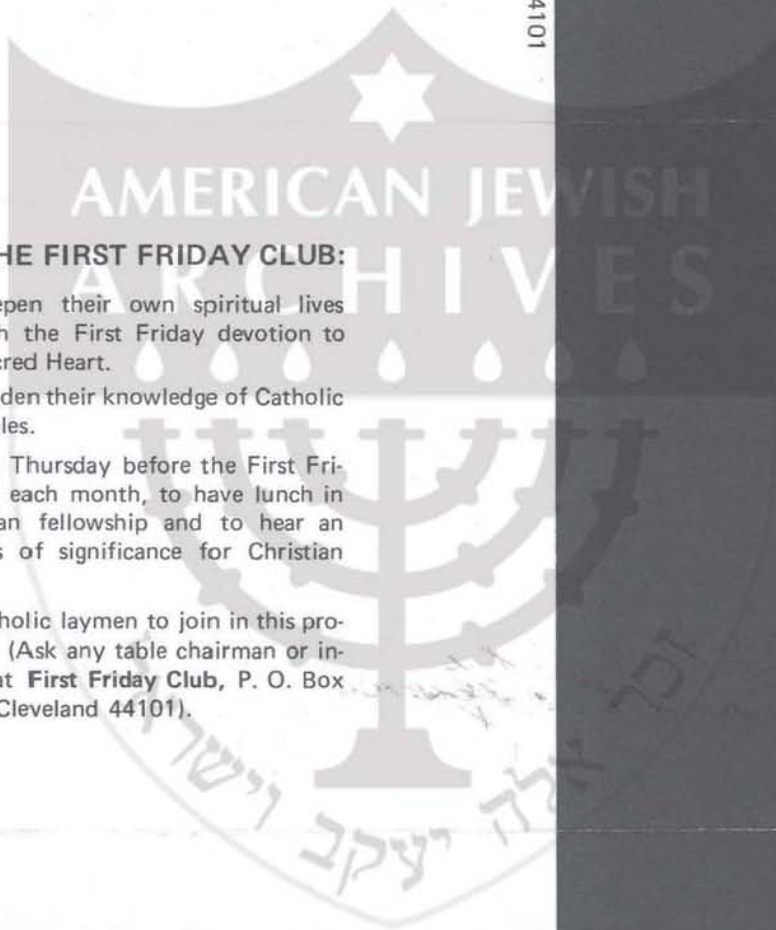
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cc: Rev. Nelson Callahan
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MEMBERS OF THE FIRST FRIDAY CLUB:

- SEEK . . .** to deepen their own spiritual lives through the First Friday devotion to the Sacred Heart.
. . . to broaden their knowledge of Catholic principles.
- MEET . . .** on the Thursday before the First Friday of each month, to have lunch in Christian fellowship and to hear an address of significance for Christian living.
- INVITE . . .** all Catholic laymen to join in this program. (Ask any table chairman or inquire at **First Friday Club**, P. O. Box 6302, Cleveland 44101).

OUR
NEXT
SPEAKER



RABBI TANENBAUM TO SPEAK SEPT. 30th



RABBI MARK H. TANENBAUM

Rabbi Tanenbaum has directed the landmark religious research studies examining intergroup content in Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish teaching materials in the United States, Italy, Spain, French-speaking countries, Germany and Latin America.

He was also a founder and program chairman of the historic National Conference on Religion and Race. He has served on various Presidential, White House, and United Nations commissions on children and youth, aging, race relations, and population problems.

He is married to the former Helga Weiss, a psychologist, and has three children, Adena (17), Michael (14), and Susan (10).

Rabbi Tanenbaum will speak on "Current Developments in Jewish and Catholic Affairs."

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum is the national interreligious affairs director of the American Jewish Committee.

Rabbi Tanenbaum has been a pioneering leader and thinker in interreligious relations and social justice movements during the past 25 years. A modern historian writing recently in *Commentary* magazine, characterized Rabbi Tanenbaum as "the leading figure among Jewish ecumenists" in the fields of interreligious relations and social justice. *Newsweek* magazine devoted its Religion section (Nov. 9, 1970) to an interview with Rabbi Tanenbaum describing him as "the American Jewish Community's foremost apostle to the gentiles . . . who has been able to solicit support from all factions of the Jewish community."

He was the only rabbi present during the deliberations of Vatican Council II from 1962-65, where he was frequently consulted by Catholic authorities and Protestant observers about the substance of the historic Vatican Declaration on Non-Christian Religions which condemned anti-Semitism and called for "Fraternal dialogue" and "mutual respect" between Catholics and Jews.

Under his direction, the American Jewish Committee has involved major Jewish scholars and religious leaders in national academic institutes and seminars with every major branch of Christendom — Roman Catholic, mainline Protestant, Evangelicals, Greek Orthodox, and Black Churches, with similar programs in every major city in the United States.

One of America's most effective and popular lecturers, orators, and noted authors, Tanenbaum has lectured at major universities, seminaries, religious and educational bodies in the United States, Europe, and Israel and at numerous national and international conferences.

He is a prize-winning weekly radio commentator over WINS-Westinghouse and has appeared numerous times on the NBC-Today Show and other major network programs. Rabbi Tanenbaum is also the Jewish feature writer for the National Catholic News Service of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Those who wish to attend the Sept. 30th luncheon should get in touch with their table chairman or reserve a ticket by calling Mrs. Denihan at 631-4784. Tickets are \$4.75 for members and \$6.00 for non-members.

WHY NOT BRING
A FRIEND TO LUNCH?

First Friday Club of Cleveland

Noon Thursday, Sept. 30, 1976

Sheraton-Cleveland Hotel