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

Series G: Speaking Engagements. 1975-1992

Box 108, Folder 36, Council of Churches [Atlanta, Ga.]. February 1981.





The Christian Council
of Metropolitan Atlanta

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Vol. 81, No. 2

February, 1981

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Saturday, March 7, Peachtree Plaza Hotel

How To Get Your Tickets: Send an \$8.00 check to the Christian Council of Metro Atlanta, 848 Peachtree St., N.E., Atlanta, Ga. 30084, before Feb. 27.

Speakers in Dialogue



Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum
director of Interreligious Affairs,
American Jewish Committee



Rev. Andrew J. Young

What Rabbi Tanenbaum has done:

- one of 10 religious spokesmen at the Camp David summit meetings in July 1979
- consultant to NBC-TV's dramatization of THE HOLOCAUST and its JESUS OF NAZARETH
- member of the President's Commission on the Holocaust
- founder of Joint Vatican International Jewish Consultative Committee and a similar body with the World Council of Churches

(continued on page 2)

Rev. Andrew Young, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, former Congressman from the 5th District, former trusted associate of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and throughout, a minister of the Gospel, needs no introduction to Atlantans.

However, it is pertinent to explain why our Community Breakfast Committee was eager to have Mr. Young in dialogue with Rabbi Tannenbaum at this 11th Annual Community Breakfast.

(continued on page 2)

OVERWHELMING RESPONSE TO PLEAS FOR EMERGENCY AID DURING CHRISTMAS 1980

New Spirit of Concern In Atlanta,
Says Amey

This past Christmas, double the number of congregations, individuals and businesses contributed to the poor through the council's Emergency Help Center.

During 1978, 140 families were "adopted" and the estimated value of their aid was \$28,361. During 1980, 240 families were adopted and an estimated value of the gifts they received is \$55,200. Perhaps more important is the opening up of a relationship between adoptors and adoptees.

The Christmas Day fund in 1979 carried \$520. for emergency help that day. In 1980, the fund held \$6,892.

In addition, our Continuous Christmas fund—for emergency aid through the year—received \$8,625.

Rev. John T. Amey, who chairs the Christian Emergency Help Program, remarks on the wonderful outpouring of concern from so many people. "This shows in concrete ways that in Atlanta people DO care about the poor and the hungry and it gives hope to all of us. Perhaps this new spirit is being generated because of the tragedies, but the fact is, the spirit is there," said Amey, "and we can trust it all through the year to continue."

Once again, to those of you who so generously gave, a hearty THANK YOU!!!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We are created in order to know the majesty of our Creator.

We work in the Christian Council with the understanding and in the hope that religious bodies and individual congregations are teaching their members what they need to know about God.

We expect the members of these religious bodies to know that God is the source of the beginning of all things; that His power created such a great universe and now sustains it; His wisdom composed and rules in this great world.

We firmly believe that the leaders of these religious bodies will help their people understand that the goodness of God is the reason in itself why all these things we enjoy were created. It is surely made clear that out of this goodness proceeds justice, which manifests itself in a marvelous protection of good people and in the retribution of the bad, and that His mercy, which endures our iniquities with such loving kindness, is in order to call us to repentance and reconciliation.

Because of this faith we feel compelled to make justice and loving kindness concrete and practical in Atlanta. We work together through the year listing human needs, setting priorities to meet them, making and carrying out our attempts to do so. But at least one time each year, we must make a financial commitment to our unity and faith to do so.

This is that time of year. We are asking each individual, congregation, and religious body to make its support for our work concrete by determining what they will contribute to it.

Dr. Lawrence Bottoms



John Cox

Tanenbaum (continued)

- the only rabbi at Vatican Council II during the deliberations that led to the Vatican Declaration on Non-Christian Relations, which repudiated anti-Semitism and called for fraternal dialogue
- lecturer at leading universities and author of many articles
- organizer of academic institutes with every branch of Christendom
- member of various national and world commissions on children, aging, race, refugee, food and population problems.

"the Jewish community's foremost apostle to the Gentiles" . . .

NEWSWEEK

"one of the ten most respected and influential religious leaders in America"

... CHRISTIAN CENTURY

MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT CAMPAIGN

Finance Committee co-chairpersons JOHN COX and JERRY LICARI have set March 7 as kick-off date for the annual MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT CAMPAIGN. During a six week period Christian Council financial leaders will be soliciting businesses, individuals, foundations, and churches to ask for donations and pledges in support of the Christian Council's 1981 budget in excess of \$150,000.

"This year our greatest emphasis is going towards gaining church support", reports JERRY LICARI. "Our goal is to receive pledges from judicatory and local church level totaling \$95,000. This will be the largest amount ever pledged from churches in the metropolitan area." Licari said judicatory commitments that already were received before the January 1 budget went into effect encouraged Council leaders to seek similar support from all denominations at every level. He announced a pledge from the Atlanta Presbytery of \$25,000 (in addition to donations from local churches) and said that several other denominational leaders are studying their base support level.

Young (continued)

Each year the committee chooses a theme around which it hopes to promote a greater degree of unity in our city. This year's theme is "Reconciliation" and specifically, reconciliation regarding the Jewish and Black communities. The choice was made due to a rising concern here and throughout the nation about outbreaks of violence against both Jews and Blacks.

It is likely that nothing was so notorious about Ambassador Young's tenure at the United Nations as the way he left office. In he, and Rabbi Tannenbaum, we have two points of view in a dispute which may now be giving way to reconciliation. That is the hope of the committee and the opportunity presented at this Community Breakfast.



Jerry Licari

Co-chairperson JOHN COX said, "We want to tell the churches what the Council is doing and what it means to the religious community. Every member must accept the responsibility of personal solicitation during this period of emphasis." Cox is urging churches to call the Christian Council office to schedule a program about the Council.

TOGETHER is published monthly except July and August by the Christian Council of Metropolitan Atlanta, Inc., 848 Peachtree Street, N.E., Atlanta, Ga. 30308. Phone: 881-9890. Copy deadline second Wednesday of each month.

Dr. Lawrence Bottoms President
Mr. Frank Broniec President Elect
Mr. Donald O. Newby Executive Director
Margaret G. Koehler Associate
Dorothy Lara-Braud Editor
Dr. Harmon Moore Executive Director Emeritus

FRANCES PAULEY is the recipient of the Mrs. Fred W. Patterson Award for EXCEPTIONAL PERSONAL MINISTRY. Mrs. Pauley, now 75, organized the Georgia Poverty Rights Organization instead of retiring, because she saw so much injustice "I decided to keep on working."

Mrs. Pauley's work on behalf of the poor spans a lifetime. An active member in the League of Women Voters — and president from 1951 to 1954 — she worked hard to defeat the County Unit System.

As a worker in south Georgia with the Civil Rights Office of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, she devoted much effort to the issue of school desegregation. As director of the Georgia Council on Human Relations during the 1960's, the perception of Mrs. Pauley as "a lover and respecter of people, not causes" enabled her to achieve reconciliation where many others found only confrontation.

Mrs. Pauley is an Agnes Scott College alumna and worships with the congregation at Emmaus House.



Frances Pauley

ALICE BROWNER, this year's recipient of the Charles M. Watt, Jr. Award for EXCEPTIONAL PERSONAL MINISTRY, is an expert on housing. Working with Economic Opportunity Atlanta, Mrs. Browner organized an Emergency Housing Shelter two years ago at 830 Boulevard. Called Help House, it can accommodate nine families a night — "and usually does," she reports.

From Help House, Mrs. Browner handles an average of fifty housing emergencies each week. She sits on the Atlanta Regional Commission's Housing Task Force, the Education Committee of the Georgia Housing Council and the National Federation of Housing Councils.

She also founded the Metro Housing Commission and is vice-chairwoman of the Urban Life Center at Georgia State University.

Other groups which benefit from her knowledge and skill are the Metropolitan and Southeast YMCAs, Interfaith (a church-sponsored housing group), the Decatur Community Credit Union and the Mead Road Community Center.



Alice Browner

BILL BOLLING receives an award for EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY. To counter skyrocketing food costs for Atlanta's poor people, he organized the Community Food Bank. Through his efforts, restaurants, groceries and other food handlers donate usable left-overs and out-of-date canned goods for distribution through seventy on-site feeding institutions and thirty local churches which prepare food boxes. This program dispenses 50,000 pounds of food each month.

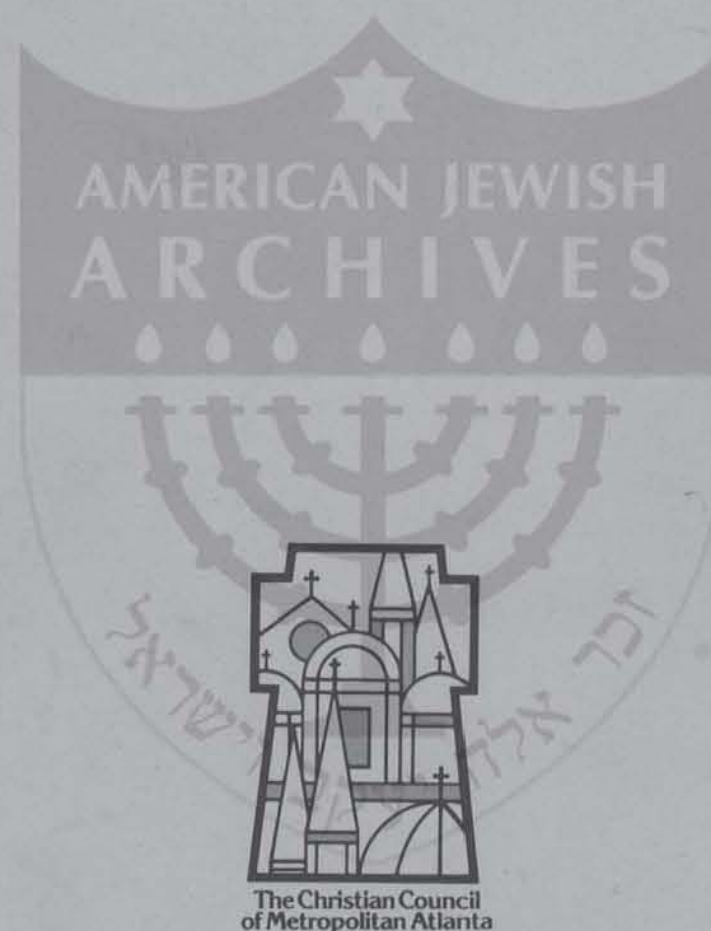
As Director of Street Ministries at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Mr. Bolling also coordinates the free Soup Kitchen, where volunteers feed hundreds of people daily, and personally counsels recipients regarding work, housing and other problems.

Mr. Bolling's genius as an organizer has stimulated inquiries from groups in six other southern states seeking advice regarding Street Ministries programs.

An alumnus of Appalachian State University, Boone, N.C., and West Georgia College, Carrollton (MA in psychology), Mr. Bolling is an Air Force veteran with two years' service in Vietnam.



Bill Bolling



848 Peachtree Street, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30308
404-881-9890

ELEVENTH ANNUAL COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 1981
8:30 A.M.

PEACHTREE PLAZA HOTEL



Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum

RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM, National Inter-religious Affairs Director of the American Jewish Committee, has been in the forefront of most of the national interreligious movements for justice and service over the past several decades. He has also been one of the best loved, most closely heard, and most effective spokesman of the Jewish community's ongoing dialogue with all branches of Christendom on the issue of anti-Semitism.

Rabbi Tanenbaum directed the religious research studies examining content in Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish teaching material in the U.S., Europe and Latin America, resulting in the revision of virtually all negative stereotypes published since the 1970's.

He has frequently represented the Jewish community in hearings before Congress. He has lectured at major universities, seminaries and religious conferences in the U.S., Europe and Israel.

He was an advisor to NBC during the filming of THE HOLOCAUST and JESUS OF NAZARETH; an advisor to the German Parliament on the abolition of the statute of limitations on Nazi war criminals, and is a member of the President's Commission on the Holocaust.

Throughout all this advocacy regarding the elimination of anti-Semitism, he has been as strong a force for other suffering peoples, working as diligently on emergency relief for refugees of conflicts in Africa, the Middle East, Ireland and Bangladesh.

He is co-chairman of the Interreligious Coalition on World Hunger, national co-chairman of the Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry, and was founder and chairman of the National Conference on Religion and Race in the early 1960's, a turning point for the Civil Rights Movement.

AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG has been involved in public service for more than twenty years as a clergyman, civil rights leader, Congressman, United States Representative to the United Nations, and private citizen.

In the 1960's, Mr. Young was an associate of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., organizing programs of voter registration, community development, the rights of working people and world peace.

Mr. Young has also been a pastor, an official of the National Council of Churches, an executive of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and Chairman of the Atlanta Community Relations Commission.

Ambassador Andrew Young



In 1972 he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from the Fifth District becoming the first black Congressman from Georgia in 101 years. He was reelected in 1974 and 1976.

Mr. Young served as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations from January 30, 1977, until September 23, 1979. He was also a member of the Cabinet and the National Security Council, represented the United States in extensive travels throughout the world.

Now a private citizen, Ambassador Young is President of Young Ideas, Inc., a nonprofit organization which addresses public policy questions and assists individuals and groups involved in a wide range of domestic and foreign policy matters.

He is a graduate of Howard University and the Hartford Theological Seminary, and is ordained in the United Church of Christ.

PROGRAM

Presiding	Dr. Lawrence W. Bottoms, President <i>Christian Council of Metropolitan Atlanta</i>
Invocation	The Reverend Jeremiah Monios, Chancellor <i>Greek Orthodox Archdiocese</i>
Welcome	The Reverend Jim Bevis, Pastor <i>Brookvalley Church of Christ</i>
Musical feature	Choir, Cathedral of St. Philip Mr. Robert L. Simpson, <i>Organist-Choir Master</i> Mr. David C. Stills, <i>Assistant Organist-Choir Master</i>
Introduction	Dr. Bottoms
Comments	Dr. Donald O. Newby, Executive Director <i>Christian Council of Metropolitan Atlanta</i>
Challenge	Mr. D. W. Brooks, Chairman <i>Annual Support Campaign</i>
Presentation of Awards	Mr. Willis Johnson, Jr., Chairman <i>Awards Committee</i>
Hymn (standing)	Battle Hymn of The Republic
Prayer	Rev. Joseph E. Lowery, President <i>Southern Christian Leadership Conference</i>
Scripture reading <i>Isaiah 58</i>	Mrs. Maria Ladd, <i>Vice President for Programs</i>
<i>Ephesians 2</i>	Dr. Evelyn Green, President <i>Church Women United in Atlanta</i>
Introduction of speakers	The Reverend Joseph C. Coles, Jr., <i>Presiding Bishop, Sixth Episcopal District C.M.E. Church</i>
Dialogue	"Grounds for Reconciliation in a Fractured World"
	Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, Director <i>National Interreligious Affairs of the American Jewish Committee</i>
	The Reverend Andrew J. Young, <i>Former United States Ambassador to the United Nations</i>
Benediction	The Reverend Joel D. McDavid, Bishop <i>United Methodist Church, Atlanta Area</i>

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST LEADERSHIP

The Reverend Jim Bevis, *Co-chairperson*
Bishop Joseph C. Coles, Jr., *Co-chairperson*
Mr. Jack Worrill, *Printing Chairperson*
The Right Reverend C. Judson Child, *Program Chairperson*
Mr. David Wall, *Arrangements Chairperson*
Ms. Eleanor Brown, *Publicity Chairperson*
Mr. Willis Johnson, Jr., *Awards Chairperson*

BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC

*Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword;
His truth is marching on.*

*He is coming like the glory of the morning on the wave;
He is wisdom to the mighty, he is honor to the brave;
So the world shall be his foot-stool, and the soul of wrong his slave.
Our God is marching on.*

*Glory! glory, hallelujah! Glory! glory, hallelujah! Glory!
glory, hallelujah! Our God is marching on.*

A GRANT TO THE
CHRISTIAN COUNCIL OF METROPOLITAN ATLANTA
FROM THE
DAY COMPANIES FOUNDATION
IN HONOR OF
HARMON D. MOORE
provided subsidy for the
Eleventh Annual Community Breakfast

Feldman,
vs Atlanta Mfg

March 18, 1981

Rabbi Emanuel Feldman
Congregation Beth Jacob
1855 LaVista Rd., N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30329

Dear Emanuel,,

I regret very much that my heavy schedule in Atlanta did not make it possible for me to telephone you during my recent visit in your city.

I simply wanted to report to you that some of the fears that I had about our friend Andy's message were realized with regard to embracing terrorists. It gave me an opportunity to deal with the issue in a way that I believe won the audience over to our point of view.

In general, the sense that I tried to communicate to you in my letter about the importance of reaching that audience of 1,400 people helped me feel relieved in my conscience that I made the right decision.

I would be grateful if you had any reactions in the Jewish community which I ought to pay attention to.

I want to tell you once again how deeply grateful I am to you for your extraordinarily intelligent and courageous leadership in keeping this situation from becoming an unhappy one, and quite possibly worse, for the Jewish community in its relations with major civic and Christian as well as black leadership in Atlanta. I came away from that experience persuaded that it was in fact a *mitzvah g'dolah*.

With warmest appreciation, I am,

Cordially, as ever,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Director
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:RPR

cc: Bill Gralnick

Enclosures

bc: Elaine Alexander
Ted Fisher

**billie
cheney
speed**



*applebaum, Tanenbaum
file
Inter-religious*
**Reconciliation
Is Theme Of
Faith Breakfast
at Constitution 2/21/81**

The annual community breakfast sponsored by the Christian Council of Metropolitan Atlanta for the past 10 years is considered one of the largest and most representative religious community gatherings.

Jim Bevis, one of the co-chairmen of this year's affair, calls it "a nice occasion for fellowship."

Yet this year's event is clouded by the murders and disappearances of 20 black Atlanta children, and what Bevis calls a highly charged and potentially explosive climate.

"We will try to address what we see as the most central issue in Atlanta, the need for true reconciliation, which involves more than a coming-together," he said. "We must walk together, work together and seek solutions together."

As many as 1,400 people from all denominations and races are expected at this year's affair, which will be held at 8:30 a.m. March 7 at the Peachtree Plaza Hotel.

Two nationally known speakers — Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum of New York, director of Interreligious Affairs for the American Jewish Committee, and Andrew Young, former ambassador to the United Nations — are scheduled to talk on the theme "Reconciliation."

Tanenbaum has been instrumental in bringing Jews into conversation with different branches of Christendom. He's represented the Jewish community in numerous government, television and academic matters, and is largely responsible for setting up interreligious research groups which have revised negative stereotypes about Jews in textbooks produced since 1970.

Young, who began his ministry as a pastor of the Congregational Church in Thomasville, served on the staff of the National Council of Churches before returning to Georgia to join the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in his civil rights activities.

"The two men are expected to speak of the foundations and commonality on which we can come together as a community of faith and be in a better position to address some of the other issues facing our city and the world," said Bevis. During the breakfast, the Christian Council will pay tribute to three outstanding Atlantans: Mrs. Frances Pauley, one of Atlanta's best-known advocates on behalf of poor people and a lobbyist for the Georgia Poverty Rights Organization; William Bolling, director of the Street Ministry Program at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, who organizes and directs the Atlanta Community Food Bank; and Mrs. Alice Browner, who handles the Housing Hotline for Economic Opportunity Atlanta.

The other co-chairman of the community breakfast committee is Bishop Joseph C. Coles Jr. of the African Methodist Episcopal Church's Sixth District.

Tickets for the breakfast can be obtained by sending a check for \$8 to the Christian Council of Metro Atlanta, 848 Peachtree St. N.E., Atlanta 30308, before Feb. 27.

...
A World Council of Churches commission in Geneva, Switzerland, has adopted a plan aimed at achieving a universal council of Christians and a new statement of common faith.

The WCC faith and order department is consolidating existing agreements by dialogue groups on various doctrinal matters, hoping this will encourage churches eventually to meet together in an inclusive ecumenical council.

This would be the only body with authority to formulate a common confession of the apostolic faith, and may "take us to the end of the century," says the Rev. William Lazareth, director of the faith and order department.

"But once the agreements on baptism, eucharist and ministry are accepted by all the churches, we will have taken a step which is unprecedented in modern ecumenical history."

...SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 1981 The Atlanta Journal AND CONSTITUTION

Rabbi says Klan, Nazis feeding on unrest

By BILLIE CHENEY SPEED
Journal Religion Editor

An Atlanta rabbi has warned that the Ku Klux Klan and the American Nazis are feeding on the economic unrest and anxiety that exist in this country.

"We are going through a time of reaching the crossroads of this nation," said Marc Tanenbaum, national inter-religious affairs director for the American Jewish Committee. "And the time is ripe for scapegoating."

He told the more than 1,200 people attending the community breakfast of the Christian Council of Metro Atlanta Saturday that the classic scapegoats of society are the black and the Jew.

"There is a lot of talk about anti-Semitism and Jewish racism," he said. "But if we allow blacks and Jews to become alienated from one

another, we will be playing the game of the Klan and the Nazis."

Tanenbaum said the real enemies in this society are "poverty, unemployment, diseases, malnutrition, the disparity between incredible wealth and incredible poverty and the madness of a society in a world which finds it possible to spend \$500 billion on building ICBMs, nukes and tridents and cannot find dollars to feed hungry children in Atlanta."

"We need to join hands together as never before," he said, "so that the divine presence will be seen in the way you live and not what you speak."

Former U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young, also a keynote speaker, reminded the audience that in "our Judeo-Christian heritage is the notion that we are all children of the living God. Much of the difficulty we face

comes from the fact that that phenomenon is very hard for us to attest to ... and at times of tension in a fractured world we begin to think that those with whom we disagree are not God's children."

"But it is in our oneness as God's children that we find the ground for reconciliation in a fractured world," Young said. "There will always be differences and tensions, but we never know in our disunity and in our division how God can and will use us. But it is being sensitive to the spirit of God in our midst that gives us a possibility of triumphing in the midst of tragedy."

Mayor Maynard Jackson also spoke, discussing the tragedy of Atlanta's murdered and missing children. He said "the city's faith has been tested as it never has before."





The American Jewish Committee

Institute of Human Relations • 165 East 56 Street, New York, N.Y. 10022 • 212/751-4000 • Cable Wishcom, N.Y.

Iakovos

to Mrs. Ford

February 27, 1981

His Eminence
Archbishop Iakovos
Primate, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese
of North and South America
10 East 79th Street
New York, New York 10021

My dear Archbishop Iakovos,

In behalf of the American Jewish Committee and for myself, I wish to express our deep sense of grief over the tragic loss of lives of your fellow co-religionists in Athens resulting from the horrible earthquake.

With all the tragedies that are around us, we could have been spared another cause of anguish such as this. But the mystery remains -- man proposes, God disposes. We join you in prayers that the souls of the stricken will be assured eternal rest and peace before the Throne of Glory.

May I add my sense of relief to hear that you are making substantial recovery from your own indisposition. We need you in our midst more now than ever, so please continue to take care of yourself.

As I indicated during our telephone conversation, the American Jewish Committee wishes to bestow on you our National Interreligious Affairs Award for decades of outstanding service to promoting reconciliation and mutual respect between members of all religions, races, and ethnic groups, especially between members of the Greek Orthodox and Jewish communities.

We are holding a major meeting of our National Interreligious Affairs Commission in Atlanta on Monday, March 9th, and would wish to present this award to you at our banquet at the Hyatt Regency Hotel that evening.

MAYNARD I. WISNER, President ■
HOWARD I. FRIEDMAN, Chairman, Board of Governors ■ THEODORE ELLENOFF, Chairman, National Executive Council ■ GERARD WEINSTOCK, Chairman, Board of Trustees ■
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HARRIS L. KEMPNER, JR., Galveston; HAMILTON M. LOEB, JR., Chicago; JOHN H. STEINHART, San Francisco; EMILY W. SUNSTEIN, Philadelphia; GEORGE M. SZABAD, Westchester;
ELISE D. WATERMAN, New York ■

His Eminence
Archbishop Iakovos

Page Two

In light of your present indisposition and the need for you to husband your strength, I fully appreciate that it would not be possible for you to accept our Award in person. I wonder therefore if you could designate Bishop John or some appropriate official from your offices to receive it in your behalf.

When you are feeling much improved, I will propose that we make a special occasion in New York to reenact the presentation here in the midst of large numbers of people from both our communities.

If you could let me know who might be your representative in Atlanta, I will be glad to inform our community leaders there. We are eager to make this demonstration of respect and love for you now in Atlanta not only because there are major Greek and Jewish communities there, but also because that anguished city is in desperate need of symbols of healing. Our other Award is being given to the Rev. Martin Luther King, Sr.

With warmest personal good wishes, and my earnest prayers for God's blessed care over you, I am,

Cordially,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Director
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:RPR

bc: IAD Staff
Selma Hirsh
Bert Gold
Bob Jacobs
Bill Gralnick
Mort Yarmon



The American Jewish Committee

Institute of Human Relations • 165 East 56 Street, New York, N.Y. 10022 • 212/751-4000 • Cable Wishcom, N.Y.

February 6, 1981

Dear Friend:

On behalf of the National Interreligious Affairs Commission of AJC, it is my privilege to invite you to attend a special meeting of the Commission to be held in Atlanta on Monday, March 9th, at the Hyatt Regency, Peachtree Center. The meeting will begin with lunch at noon and will follow with an afternoon and evening session. People coming in from out of town will be able to fly in on Monday morning and leave Atlanta on Tuesday morning, March 10th.

In addition to the exciting plans for the luncheon and afternoon sessions, there will be a gala dinner celebrated in honor of AJC's 75th Anniversary. Members of the Atlanta Chapter will join us for this festive occasion.

At the luncheon we will hear an address by a major black Christian leader and express our concern for the terrible tragedy involving the disappearance and murder of fifteen black children in the Atlanta area during the past year.

The afternoon session will begin with a panel on "The Moral Majority: Challenge or Threat?" This question will be addressed by prominent Protestant and Catholic leaders as well as our own Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum. We will also hear reports from IAC members about the impact the religious and political right is having in their various communities. There will be ample time for a group discussion about how we should address this vital issue.

The dinner meeting will focus on Jewish-Christian relations in the Southeast and will also outline the major highlights we see for future interreligious programming. In addition, we will be honoring the growing and important Greek Orthodox community in Atlanta with a special presentation in honor of His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos and the new Greek Orthodox spiritual leader of Atlanta, Bishop John.

MAYNARD I. WISNER, President ■
HOWARD I. FRIEDMAN, Chairman, Board of Governors ■ THEODORE ELLENOFF, Chairman, National Executive Council ■ GERARD WEINSTOCK, Chairman, Board of Trustees ■
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PHILIP E. HOFFMAN, RICHARD MAASS, ELMER L. WINTER ■ Honorary Vice-Presidents: NATHAN APPLEMAN, RUTH R. GODDARD, ANDREW GOODMAN, JAMES MARSHALL, WILLIAM ROSENWALD
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HARRIS L. KEMPNER, JR., Galveston; HAMILTON M. LOEB, JR., Chicago; JOHN H. STEINHART, San Francisco; EMILY W. SUNSTEIN, Philadelphia; GEORGE M. SZABAD, Westchester;
ELISE D. WATERMAN, New York ■

Our meeting in Atlanta on March 9th will be the third time our national commission has met in a city outside of New York. If you wish to stay overnight at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta on March 9th, we have selected a block of rooms but we need your reservations as soon as possible. Please let us know immediately, on the enclosed sheet, what your plans are and whether you wish our staff to reserve a hotel room for you.

I look forward to seeing you in Atlanta on March 9th.

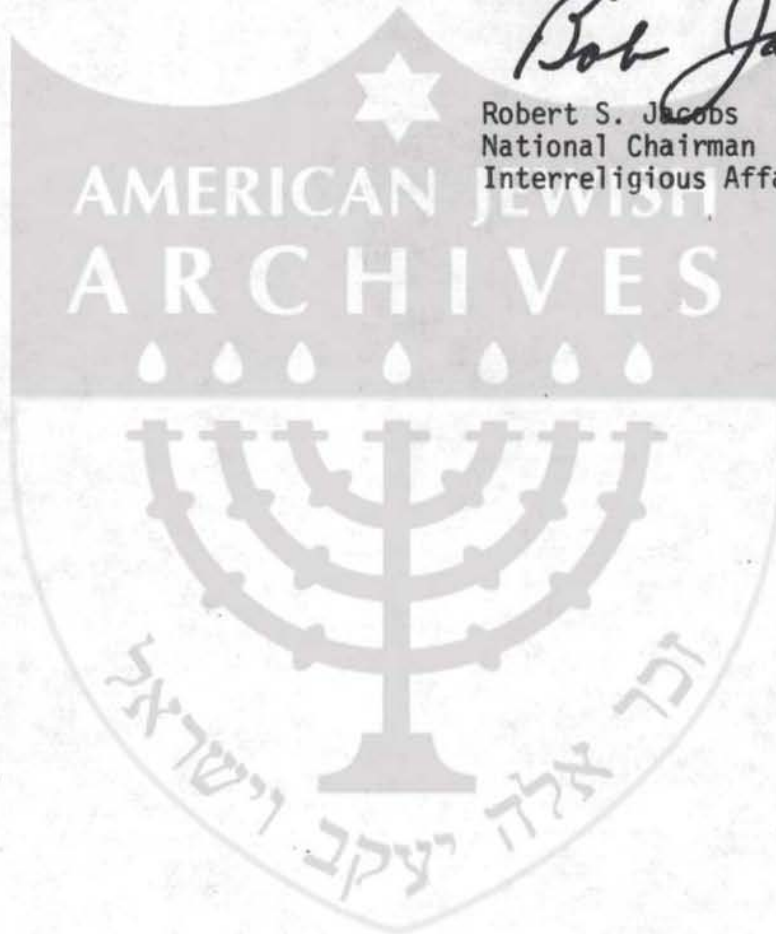
Cordially,



Robert S. Jacobs
National Chairman
Interreligious Affairs Commission

RSJ/es

Enclosures



THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE
INTERRELIGIOUS AFFAIRS COMMISSION
March 9, 1981 - Atlanta Meeting

Please return this form no later than February 17, 1981

to
Interreligious Affairs Department
The American Jewish Committee
165 East 56 Street
New York, New York 10022

- ☐ I will be attending the March 9th meeting of the IAC at
the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Peachtree
Center, Atlanta.

- ☐ I will not be attending

Please reserve a place for me at:

- ☐ Luncheon
☐ Afternoon Session
☐ Dinner

Please reserve a room for Monday night, March 9th:

- ☐ Single (\$64)*
☐ Double (\$74)*

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE Bus.: _____ Home: _____

* + 7% tax

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE
INTERRELIGIOUS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

December 15, 1980

Chairperson: Robert S. Jacobs

ATTENDANCE

Mimi Alperin
Emily Alschuler
Mrs. Merwin Bayer
Ed Cutler
Rabbi Joseph Ehrenkranz
Martha Gordon
Kurt Kelman
Eleanor Lazarus
Irving Levine
Norma Levitt
Edna Nass
Seymour Piwoz
Dr. Sheldon Sax
Elise Waterman
Estelle Zimet

STAFF

Judith Banki
Inge Lederer Gibel
Haskell Lazere
Rita Reznik
Rabbi A. James Rudin
Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
William Trosten

GUESTS

Rita Kaunitz

Chairman Robert Jacobs welcomed Commission members and guests, and then introduced the first item on the agenda, the Presidential election and the impact of the New Right. He suggested that the major impact, from the perspective of inter-religious programming, is the apparent success of the Evangelical Right, including the "electronic church" and other right wing Christian organizations, in defeating liberal candidates and helping conservatives to win in a variety of political contests, especially on the local state levels. Mr. Jacobs suggested that our main job continue to be working for a pluralistic America, safe for Jews and all other people.

His report was followed by two regional presentations by Eleanor Lazarus of Cincinnati and Irving Levine of Boston. Mrs. Lazarus' report dealt mainly with the success -- and lack of it -- of right wing groups in defeating liberal candidates in Ohio. Mr. Levine discussed the background of the forces involved in forcing Congressman Drinan to withdraw from politics, and the coalition of conservative Catholic and Protestant forces that almost defeated Drinan's successor.

A discussion followed in which IAC members agreed that we must continue our work with many diverse segments of the religious community, including the building of understanding with the Evangelical leaders who are critical of the extreme Fundamentalist stances. It was also agreed that we should continue our work and

cooperation with the NCC, on shared mutual domestic concerns, while at the same time working to improve their stance on Israel. Nor should we ignore ongoing relationships with Catholic leaders.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EVANGELICALS AND JEWS

Rabbi Tanenbaum reported on the very successful conference held December 9-11 at Trinity Evangelical College in Deerfield, Illinois, and paid tribute to Rabbi Rudin for his fine work in coordinating this significant meeting. The level of national Evangelical leadership and scholarship was even higher at this conference, according to Rabbi Tanenbaum, than the first conference held five years ago.

Rabbi Ehrenkranz also spoke with great enthusiasm about the great impact his participation at Trinity had on him as an Orthodox Jew and his feeling that the Evangelical and Jewish communities could forge a significant new relationship in future years based on the work we are doing in this area. It was agreed, in the discussion which followed, that IAD should continue to plan regional conferences with Evangelical leaders in different areas of the country.

WOMEN OF FAITH IN THE 80s CONFERENCE

Mrs. Levitt, a participant in the Women of Faith Conference, reported that over ninety women leaders from the Roman Catholic, Jewish, liberal Protestant, Evangelical and Muslim communities participated in a two-day meeting at the Stony Point Center in Stony Point, New York, November 9th and 10th. She voiced her conviction that this was the beginning of an exciting programmatic activity in which we would be involved. Ms. Gibel added that a permanent steering committee, recommended by the participants at the conference, would be established and serve to plan future conferences in other parts of the country. The steering committee will also reflect the growing importance of women leaders in Christian institutions, particularly among liberal Protestants. Referring to the earlier discussion about the importance of IAD's work, Mrs. Alperin added that she could not imagine a better way to forge alliances with other religious communities than through the Women of Faith, since in her experience women seem to be able to break through psychological and religious barriers faster than men. Ms. Gibel announced that the conference had been filmed by CBS-TV and that a program based on it would be shown on January 18, 1981. The New York Times published a feature story on the Women of Faith Conference on November 11th.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES MIDDLE EAST POLICY STATEMENT

Events leading up to the issuing of this statement, which was approved by the Board of Governors of the NCC on November 6, and our official reaction to it was reported on by Mrs. Banki. She described the enormous amount of IAD staff time spent in the past six months on this area, of our consultation with NCC leaders on previous drafts of the document, of meetings where we were represented by Rabbi Rudin, and at times other members of the staff, and of the arrangements made by Ms. Gibel, working with our Jerusalem office and the Israeli Government, to assure that the NCC Middle East Panel's visit to the Arab countries and Israel was as well balanced and educational as possible. Nevertheless, Mrs. Banki said, our official

response to the statement had to deplore what we -- as the rest of the Jewish community -- perceived as unfairly evenhanded on the question of mutual readiness to directly negotiate between Israel and the PLO. Mrs. Banki, Rabbi Tanenbaum and Rabbi Rudin all expressed concern that we could not, even for the sake of good relationship on domestic programming, allow the NCC to legitimize a view suggesting that Israel should be asked to negotiate with an organization publicly dedicated to its destruction without first calling on the PLO to begin the process of recognizing Israel and ending terrorism with more than words. At the same time, we have every intention of continuing to dialogue with the NCC in a variety of forums and with many of its member institutions; staff and lay members agreed.

MADRID MEETING ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Rabbi Rudin reported on the recent (November 22-30) Interreligious Mission to the Madrid Conference on European Security & Cooperation and to the Vatican. Along with Sister Ann Gillen, the Executive Director of the National Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry, he led a seven-person delegation to Madrid and Rome to press for human rights and religious liberty for Soviet Jews and Christians. In Madrid the Task Force presented a six-point position paper to the heads of all 35 national delegations attending the Conference. The paper emphasized the right to leave the USSR, an end to the official anti-Semitic campaign presently being conducted by the Soviet Union, the right of Soviet Jews and Christians to peacefully meet with their co-religionists, the right to work, the right to worship. All these rights are guaranteed by the Helsinki Final Act and other international agreements the USSR has signed.

The Task Force delegation included men and women, blacks and whites, clergy and lay, and Roman Catholics, Protestants, Evangelicals and Jews. Rabbi Rudin reported that the group made a strong impact in their meetings with officials in Madrid as well as with Vatican authorities. The Task Force which works closely with IAD is a unique instrumentality in the struggle to achieve human rights within the Soviet Union. Rabbi Tanenbaum paid tribute to the Martin S. Tanenbaum Foundation whose consistent and generous support has made possible this unique and effective program.

Chairman Jacobs closed the meeting at 9:15 p.m., reminding us that our next session would be an all-day meeting in Atlanta on March 9, 1981.

Reported by Inge Lederer Gibel

December 23, 1980

Leaders of Jews and Evangelical Christians Work for Better Relations Between Faiths

By KENNETH A. BRIGGS

Special to The New York Times

DEERFIELD, Ill., Dec. 13 — Alarmed by growing religious tensions resulting from the activities of the Moral Majority and other conservative Christian political groups, many Jewish and evangelical Protestant leaders are joining in efforts to improve the relationship between their two faiths.

Among their goals is to reaffirm the concept of religious tolerance and to denounce anti-Semitism. In the process, they are touching on several points of unanimity, including strong support for Israel, and moving delicately toward examining their religious differences.

On one level, these efforts focus on legal issues such as religious freedom. In the recent election campaign, the Christian political movements often called for a return to a "Christian" America, which raised fears among Jews and others that the principle of religious pluralism could be endangered.

For example, the Rev. Jerry Falwell, head of the Moral Majority, pressed for a "Christian Bill of Rights." Though Mr. Falwell has rejected his earlier plea for a "Christian republic," the use of the slogan continues to stir Jewish anxieties.

Historic Theological Problems

Beyond the Constitutional issues lie historic, theological problems. For many Jews, the erosion of legal safeguards is linked to the darkest memories of forced conversion and hideous forms of anti-Semitism that arose from certain interpretations of the Bible and theology.

Compounding the difficulties is the fact that Jews and evangelical Christians have had relatively little contact with each other. Although evangelical Christians measured by a strict definition total at least 30 million and represent the most evangelistic religious movement in the nation, they have been concentrated in parts of the Middle West, South and Southwest where there are few Jews.

Though bonds are developing between the two groups, leaders of both faiths are discovering how easily the ties can be shattered. An uproar was set off among both Jews and Christians because of a recent comment by the Rev. Bailey Smith, head of the 13 million-member Southern Baptist Convention, that "God Almighty does not hear the prayer of a Jew."

Further controversy flared when Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, suggested that Mr. Falwell's activities helped foster a climate in which religious intolerance could flourish. Mr. Falwell flatly denied the suggestion.

45 Religious Leaders Meet

As the debate sharpened, a group of 45 Jewish and evangelical leaders met here at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School to sort out the issues and strive for accommodation.

The group met formally under the sponsorship of the American Jewish Committee and "Christianity Today," a

major evangelical periodical, and discussed a variety of topics including the meaning of the Hebrew scriptures, known to many Christians as the Old Testament, and the causes of anti-Semitism.

While the evangelical participants generally concurred with the theology of the Christian political activists, many made it clear that they disagreed with some of the political positions of the Moral Majority.

Dr. Marvin R. Wilson, a professor of biblical studies at Gordon College in Wenham, Mass., said, "Gradually, Jews are coming to discover that not all Evangelicals think alike when it comes to politics."

Jewish Community 'Perplexed'

"In the face of this rapid rise of the new right, which involves various conservative Christian lobbyist groups," Dr. Wilson said, "the current Jewish community has become perplexed and uneasy."

Dr. Arnold T. Olson, the retired president of the Evangelical Free Church of America, said the influence of the Moral Majority, especially its image of Christian exclusivity, had begun to undo some of the good will that has been growing between Jews and evangelical Christians. "We have some bridges to repair," Dr. Olson said.

The conference spent much time discussing problems caused by the place that evangelical Christians give to the history and role of the Jewish people and the Hebrew scriptures.

The standard evangelical belief is that God prepared the way for Jesus through the experiences and prophecies of the Jews as his "chosen people." Jesus was the final, culminating revelation, the messiah in whom everyone must believe to receive salvation.

Role of the New Testament

Thus, in an evangelical understanding, the New Testament completes the promises made in the Hebrew scriptures. Jews who have not accepted Christ are generally regarded as subjects for evangelism.

Jews contend that Judaism remains a valid, living religion right and that Jews are spiritually complete without accepting Jesus as Messiah. Many Jews appeal to Christians to stop trying to convert Jews because of a long history of anti-Semitism grounded in Christian theology and out of respect for the horrors of the Holocaust.

Beneath much Jewish anxiety is the thought that militant attempts at converting Jews could be strengthened, and, as a result, the denigration of Jews as "Christ killers" would be encouraged.

Among the chief aims of the evangelical Christians at the Trinity conference was to pledge a new attack on sources of anti-Semitism in evangelical theology, biblical interpretation and practice. Many also wanted to reassure Jews of their solidarity on the question of maintaining religious pluralism. At the same time, the evangelical Christians maintained that noncoercive, nondeceptive means of evangelism were not neces-

sarily anti-Semitic and they vowed to continue the efforts as a mandate of their faith.

Dr. Vernon Grounds, past president of Denver Conservative Baptist Seminary, said the question was "as undeserving recipients of redemptive love, how can we lovingly share the gospel with Jewish non-Christians?" The requirements are met, he said, "if we share it prayerfully, graciously, tactfully, honestly, sensitively and non-coercively."

Confessing Past Anti-Semitism

Dr. Kenneth Kantzer, editor of Christianity Today, said that the first duty of evangelicals was "to confess their past anti-Semitism and to acknowledge their deep repentance of it as a sin."

"If evangelicals are unwilling to set the record straight," he said, "any mouthing of repentance would come rightly under suspicion."

Dr. Kantzer said evangelical leaders must also avoid any support of or ties with anti-Semitic movements or causes. "I believe contemporary Evangelicals have passed this test fairly well," he said.

Several Jews said that continuing conversion attempts showed disrespect for Judaism and reduce Jews to objects in a missionary numbers game.

'A World Free of Jews?'

Blu Greenberg, of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, said the Holocaust offered "an opportunity for reality testing" for those Christians who say they care about Jews and asked, "Would those who preach conversion want a world free of Jews?"

"The idea that only through faith in Christ will Jews be saved is out of order and obscene," she said.

Inge Gibel of the American Jewish Committee also attacked proselytizing. "If you are talking about winning away our children," she said, "you're talking about cultural genocide."

Both Jews and evangelicals Christians said the conference was an important start of discussions that had helped to clarify their joint support for human rights and underscore their common interest in the Bible and many social issues. "Our culture must learn that to attack the Jews is to attack evangelicals," Dr. Kantzer said.

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee said, "In the 80's we're going to need each other as never before." Reminding the conference that both Jews and evangelical Christians have been guilty of negative stereotypes of each other in the past, Rabbi Tanenbaum said they must work together to avoid "the temptation toward scapegoating" in the years ahead.

over....

Evangelicals denounce anti-Semites as enemies at inter-faith session

By ANDY EDELSTEIN

DEERFIELD, Ill. — An attack on a Jew should be regarded as an attack on an Evangelical Christian as well, an Evangelical leader told a conference here last weekend at which 45 members of both faiths sought to clarify issues of mutual concern.

Dr. Kenneth Kantzer, editor of *Christianity Today*, a leading Evangelical periodical, also urged Evangelicals to share with Jews the ongoing battle against anti-Semitism. While admitting that some Evangelicals may have been anti-Semitic at one time, Kantzer urged them to repent for these actions.

Kantzer also urged Evangelical leaders to avoid direct or indirect support of any anti-Semitic causes. He noted that while the views of some Evangelicals may be unpopular with Jews, they concern social or political, not theological issues. He stressed that some of the most politically conservative Evangelicals also held the most pro-Israel and pro-Zionist convictions.

"Kantzer's speech was a powerful, moving statement of loyalty to Jews, Judaism, and Israel. It was like a Vatican council declaration without the ambivalence," Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, national director of religious affairs for the American Jewish Committee told *The Jewish Week*. Tanenbaum and Kantzer were co-chairman of the conference, which was sponsored by the Committee and *Christianity Today*, and held at the Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.

Background controversy

The conference—the second since 1975—was held against a backdrop of controversial statements made by spokesmen for both faiths. These included the assertion by Rev. Bailey Smith, president of the Southern Baptist Convention that "God does not hear the prayer of a Jew" as well as the comment by Union of American Hebrew Congregations President Rabbi Alexander Schindler indicating that the increased visibility of fundamentalist political groups such as the Moral Majority had fostered a climate conducive to anti-Sem-

itism.

Such statements had created misunderstanding and suspicion in the two camps and had strained the delicate rapprochement that was begun at the first conference five years ago. But Rabbi Tanenbaum suggested that last week's conference had helped re-cement those ties and had laid the groundwork for increased accommodation between the groups.

Theological issues, the cause of anti-Semitism and the role of such groups as the Moral Majority, were among the topics discussed at the conference.

Rabbi Tanenbaum pointed out that those at the conference were mainstream Evangelicals, representing about 40 million people.

"They form the backbone of the Evangelical movement and are deeply troubled by the narrow exclusivist ideological stances of some of those in the so-called electronic church," Rabbi Tanenbaum said.

Rabbi Tanenbaum urged Jews not to indiscriminately lump all Evangelicals together which he said was equivalent to some Christian assertions that "all Jews are the same."

Evangelicals are a diverse, pluralistic movement who almost "completely share our displeasure" at some of the excesses of right-wing fundamentalist movements such as calling for the establishment of a Christian republic, Rabbi Tanenbaum said.

"We've been guilty of negative stereotyping of each other in the past," Rabbi Tanenbaum said, "We must now work together to avoid the temptation toward scapegoating in the years ahead."

Future efforts between the faiths will include additional regional meetings as well as publication, probably by an Evangelical publishing house, of a second volume of position papers by Evangelicals and Jews.

Last weekend's conference was made possible through a grant from the Nathan Appleman Institute for Jewish-Christian relations.

over.....

*Strauss -
→ mtg fldr*

February 27, 1981

Mr. R. Peter Strauss
Chairman
WMCA
888 Seventh Avenue
New York, New York 10019

Dear Mr. Strauss,

Our mutual friend, Haskell Lazere has just informed me of your interest in wanting to make some meaningful constructive gesture to the families of the 20 black children in Atlanta who have either disappeared or cruelly murdered.

Our AJC Interreligious Affairs Commission has planned a major event in Atlanta to try to do just that on Monday, March 9th.

The enclosed press release provides the details.

If you are free to join us, we'd love to have you as our guest.

Should you wish any additional information, by all means feel free to call me.

With every good wish, I am,

Cordially,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Director
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:RPR P/R At, DN & PI

Enclosures

bc: Haskell Lazere

FEBRUARY 11, 1981

TELEGRAM

NIGHT LETTER - HAND DELIVERED

THE REVEREND MARTIN LUTHER KING, SR.
EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH
413 AUBURN AVENUE, N.E.
ATLANTA, GA 30312

IN APPRECIATION OF YOUR MANY YEARS OF RECONCILING MINISTRY, AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE WISHES TO HONOR YOU WITH OUR NATIONAL INTERRELIGIOUS AWARD AT A LUNCHEON OF OUR NATIONAL COMMISSION IN ATLANTA ON MONDAY, MARCH 9TH. WE SINCERELY TRUST THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO JOIN US, ESPECIALLY AT THIS TIME WHEN WE SHARE YOUR ANGUISH OVER TRAGIC LOSS OF LIVES OF SO MANY BLACK CHILDREN. OUR AREA DIRECTOR, WILLIAM GRALNICK, WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU TO CONFIRM. WITH WARMEST BEST WISHES,

RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM
NATIONAL INTERRELIGIOUS AFFAIRS DIRECTOR
AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

THE REVEREND JOSEPH ROBERTS
EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH
413 AUBURN AVENUE, N.E.
ATLANTA, GA 30312

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE WOULD BE HONORED TO HAVE YOU ADDRESS OUR NATIONAL INTERRELIGIOUS AFFAIRS COMMISSION LUNCHEON IN ATLANTA ON MONDAY, MARCH 9th, DURING WHICH WE PLAN TO PRESENT THE REVEREND MARTIN LUTHER KING, SR. WITH OUR NATIONAL INTERRELIGIOUS AWARD. WE SINCERELY TRUST THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO JOIN US, ESPECIALLY AT THIS TIME WHEN WE SHARE YOUR ANGUISH OVER TRAGIC LOSS OF LIVES OF SO MANY BLACK CHILDREN. OUR AREA DIRECTOR, WILLIAM GRALNICK, WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU TO CONFIRM. WITH WARMEST BEST WISHES,

RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM
NATIONAL INTERRELIGIOUS AFFAIRS DIRECTOR
AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 6, 1981

TELEGRAM

NIGHT LETTER

TO: Mrs. Coretta Scott King, President
The Martin Luther King, Jr.
Center for Social Change
503 Auburn Avenue, NE.
Atlanta, GA 30312

AM PLEASED TO EXTEND INVITATION TO ADDRESS MAJOR LUNCHEON AJC NATIONAL
INTERRELIGIOUS AFFAIRS COMMISSION IN ATLANTA, MONDAY, MARCH 9TH. WE
ARE ESPECIALLY GRIEVED ABOUT TRAGIC DEATHS AND DISAPPEARANCES OF BLACK
CHILDREN AND OTHER ISSUES OF MUTUAL CONCERN. MY COLLEAGUE, WILLIAM
GRALNICK, WILL CONTACT YOU WITH FURTHER DETAILS. LOOKING FORWARD WITH
ANTICIPATION TO SEEING YOU MARCH 9TH. WITH BEST PERSONAL REGARDS.

RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM

cc: William Gralnick

MHT:es

FEBRUARY 6, 1981

TELEGRAM

NIGHT LETTER

AM PLEASED TO EXTEND WARM INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN PANEL ON MORAL
MAJORITY: CHALLENGE OR THREAT; ATLANTA, MONDAY, MARCH 9TH. MY COLLEAGUE,
BILL GRALNICK, WILL CONTACT YOU WITH FURTHER DETAILS. LOOKING FORWARD
TO SEEING YOU MARCH 9TH. BEST PERSONAL REGARDS.

RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM

cc: William Gralnick

SENT TO: Dr. William Self
Wieuca Road Baptist Church
3626 Peachtree Road, NE
Atlanta, GA 30326

The Most Rev. Thomas A. Donnellan
Archbishop of Atlanta
Catholic Center
680 West Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, GA 30308

Rev. George B. Telford
4525 Jettridge Drive, NW
Atlanta, GA 30327

MHT:ES

J → King, C

FEBRUARY 6, 1981

TELEGRAM

NIGHT LETTER

TO: Mrs. Coretta Scott King, President
The Martin Luther King, Jr.
Center for Social Change
503 Auburn Avenue, NE.
Atlanta, GA 30312

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ANTICIPATION TO SEEING YOU MARCH 9TH. WITH BEST PERSONAL REGARDS.

RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM

cc: William Gralnick

MHT:es



The American Jewish Committee

Institute of Human Relations - 165 East 56 Street, New York, N.Y. 10022 - 212/751-4000 - Cable Wishcom, N.Y.

February 27, 1981

His Eminence
Archbishop Iakovos
Primate, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese
of North and South America
10 East 79th Street
New York, New York 10021

My dear Archbishop Iakovos,

In behalf of the American Jewish Committee and for myself, I wish to express our deep sense of grief over the tragic loss of lives of your fellow co-religionists in Athens resulting from the horrible earthquake.

With all the tragedies that are around us, we could have been spared another cause of anguish such as this. But the mystery remains -- man proposes, God disposes. We join you in prayers that the souls of the stricken will be assured eternal rest and peace before the Throne of Glory.

May I add my sense of relief to hear that you are making substantial recovery from your own indisposition. We need you in our midst more now than ever, so please continue to take care of yourself.

As I indicated during our telephone conversation, the American Jewish Committee wishes to bestow on you our National Interreligious Affairs Award for decades of outstanding service to promoting reconciliation and mutual respect between members of all religions, races, and ethnic groups, especially between members of the Greek Orthodox and Jewish communities.

We are holding a major meeting of our National Interreligious Affairs Commission in Atlanta on Monday, March 9th, and would wish to present this award to you at our banquet at the Hyatt Regency Hotel that evening.

MAYNARD I. WISHNER, President ■
HOWARD I. FRIEDMAN, Chairman, Board of Governors ■ THEODORE ELLENOFF, Chairman, National Executive Council ■ GERARD WEINSTOCK, Chairman, Board of Trustees ■
ROBERT L. PELZ, Treasurer ■ MERVIN H. RISEMAN, Secretary ■ ELAINE PETSCHKE, Associate Treasurer ■ Honorary Presidents: MORRIS B. ABRAM, ARTHUR J. GLOBBERG,
PHILIP E. HOFFMAN, RICHARD MAASS, ELMER L. WINTER ■ Honorary Vice-Presidents: NATHAN APPLEMAN, RUTH R. GODDARD, ANDREW GOODMAN, JAMES MARSHALL, WILLIAM ROSENWALD
■ MAX M. FISHER, Honorary Chairman, National Executive Council ■ MAURICE GLINERT, Honorary Treasurer ■ JOHN SLAWSON, Executive Vice-President Emeritus ■
Vice-Presidents: STANFORD M. ADELSTEIN, Rapid City, S.D.; MORTON K. BLAUSTEIN, Baltimore; ROBERT D. GRIES, Cleveland; DAVID HIRSCHHORN, Baltimore; MILES JAFFE, Detroit;
HARRIS L. KEMPNER, JR., Galveston; HAMILTON M. LOEB, JR., Chicago; JOHN W. STEINHART, San Francisco; EMILY W. SUNSTEIN, Philadelphia; GEORGE M. SZABAD, Westchester;
ELISE D. WATERMAN, New York ■

His Eminence
Archbishop Iakovos

Page Two

In light of your present indisposition and the need for you to husband your strength, I fully appreciate that it would not be possible for you to accept our Award in person. I wonder therefore if you could designate Bishop John or some appropriate official from your offices to receive it in your behalf.

When you are feeling much improved, I will propose that we make a special occasion in New York to reenact the presentation here in the midst of large numbers of people from both our communities.

If you could let me know who might be your representative in Atlanta, I will be glad to inform our community leaders there. We are eager to make this demonstration of respect and love for you now in Atlanta not only because there are major Greek and Jewish communities there, but also because that anguished city is in desperate need of symbols of healing. Our other Award is being given to the Rev. Martin Luther King, Sr.

With warmest personal good wishes, and my earnest prayers for God's blessed care over you, I am,

Cordially,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Director
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:RPR

The American



Jewish Committee

Institute of Human Relations • 165 East 56 Street, New York, N.Y. 10022 • 212/751-4000 • Cable Wishcom, N.Y.

January 6, 1981

Dr. Donald O. Newby, Executive Director
Christian Council of Metropolitan Atlanta, Inc.
848 Peachtree Street, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Dear Dr. Newby,

Thanks very much for your warm and thoughtful invitation to speak before the annual Community Breakfast of the Christian Council of Metropolitan Atlanta on March 7th.

I am honored by your invitation and I shall be delighted to address your important group at that time. Would you please let me know what hour of the day you would want me to speak?

Also, it would be helpful if you give me some kind of idea of the kind of issues and concerns that you think I might profitably focus my remarks on.

The honorarium is fine. Since the AJC is covering my travel to Atlanta there is no reason to consider travel expenses.

I look forward with much pleasure to spending time with you and your colleagues. Give my best wishes to Dr. Lawrence Bottoms whom I had the privilege to work with on civil rights problems in the 1960s.

With warmest personal good wishes for a healthy, and above all, a peaceful New Year,

Cordially yours,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Director
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:RPR

cc: Bill Gralnick
Jim Bevis
bc: Ed Abrams

DN Kym

MAYNARD I. WISNER, President ■ HOWARD I. FRIEDMAN, Chairman, Board of Governors ■ THEODORE ELLENOFF, Chairman, National Executive Council ■ GERARD WEINSTOCK, Chairman, Board of Trustees ■ ROBERT L. PELZ, Treasurer ■ MERVIN H. RISEMAN, Secretary ■ ELAINE PETSCHKE, Associate Treasurer ■ Honorary Presidents: MORRIS B. ABRAM, ARTHUR J. GOLDBERG, PHILIP E. HOFFMAN, RICHARD MAASS, ELMER L. WINTER ■ Honorary Vice-Presidents: NATHAN APPLEMAN, RUTH R. GODDARD, ANDREW GOODMAN, JAMES MARSHALL, WILLIAM ROSENWALD ■ MAX M. FISHER, Honorary Chairman, National Executive Council ■ MAURICE GLINERT, Honorary Treasurer ■ JOHN SLAWSON, Executive Vice-President Emeritus ■ Vice-Presidents: STANFORD M. ADELSTEIN, Rapid City, S.D.; MORTON K. BLAUSTEIN, Baltimore; ROBERT D. GRIES, Cleveland; DAVID HIRSCHHORN, Baltimore; MILES JAFFE, Detroit; HARRIS L. KEMPNER, JR., Galveston; HAMILTON M. LOEB, JR., Chicago; JOHN H. STEINHART, San Francisco; EMILY W. SUNSTEIN, Philadelphia; GEORGE M. SZABAD, Westchester; ELISE D. WATERMAN, New York ■



on face

Christian Council of Metropolitan Atlanta, Inc.

848 PEACHTREE STREET. N.E. / ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30308 / TELEPHONE 404-881-9890

December 16, 1980

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum
165 East 56th Street
New York, New York 10022

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum,

We are delighted that you can accept our invitation to speak to the annual Community Breakfast sponsored by the Christian Council of Metropolitan Atlanta on March 7, 1981.

Bishop Coles and the Reverend Bevis will communicate further with you on details as we approach March 7. We shall also continue to stay in close touch with Bill Gralnick.

The Community Breakfast Committee has provided for a \$500 honorarium and travel expenses where necessary. Since you are coming to Atlanta for other events, perhaps the travel expense item can be shared in an appropriate way..

We look forward to your presence with us, and we thank you for the special effort to revise your plans in order to be here on that date.

Most sincerely,

Don Newby
Donald O. Newby

bw

cc Bill Gralnick
Jim Bevis
Joseph Coles

→ *My friend
Asa Atlanta*

January 6, 1981

William A. Gralnick

Marc H. Tanenbaum

Atlanta

Dear Bill,

Following your recommendations, I have agreed to accept the invitation from the Council of Churches as well as from the Central Presbyterian Church. Enclosed please find copies of my acceptance letters.

Also, enclosed is a copy of my letter to Ed Abrams accepting his invitation to dinner.

Any thoughts you might have about themes or issues that I should highlight in my several presentations would be greatly appreciated. You are my "gray eminence" in Atlanta and the Southeast and I will take any suggestion you make with utmost seriousness.

With best wishes for a healthy, happy, and above all a peaceful New Year to you, Ronnie, and your lovely children.

Cordially, as ever,

MHT:RPR

Enclosures

(letters, heavy, Almon, Simon)

on file

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE
THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

FO-SE
SUITE 109
1649 TULLIE CIRCLE, N.E.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30329
PHONE: (404) 633-6351

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 12/18/80

✓
TO: Marc Tanenbaum
FROM: William A. Gralnick
SUBJECT: re: Atlanta

You will shortly receive an invitation to preach at Central Presbyterian Church, Sunday March 8. I urge you to accept. Central, across from the State Capitol, is the PCUS Church with the most clout in Atlanta. It is Randy Taylor's old pulpit. You will have a large, receptive audience.

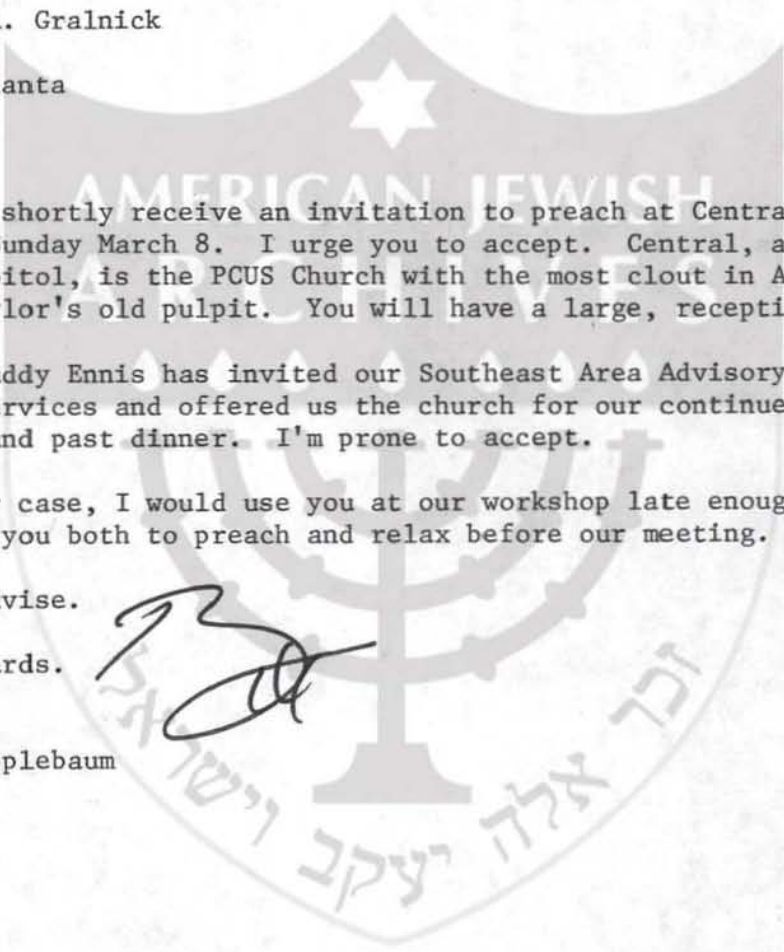
Pastor Buddy Ennis has invited our Southeast Area Advisory Council to attend services and offered us the church for our continued meeting through and past dinner. I'm prone to accept.

In either case, I would use you at our workshop late enough, say 3 P.M. to allow you both to preach and relax before our meeting.

Please advise.

Best regards.

cc: H. Applebaum



SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE
THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

FO-SE
SUITE 109
1649 TULLIE CIRCLE, N.E.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30329
PHONE: (404) 633-6351

DATE: 12/18/80

cc: Shula Bahat

✓
TO: Marc Tanenbaum

FROM: William A. Gralnick

SUBJECT: re: Atlanta/3/8,9

I welcome your change of plans for the Christian Council.

That means we can confirm your participation in Sunday's Area Advisory Council meeting, re: Evangelical/Jewish Relations in The South.

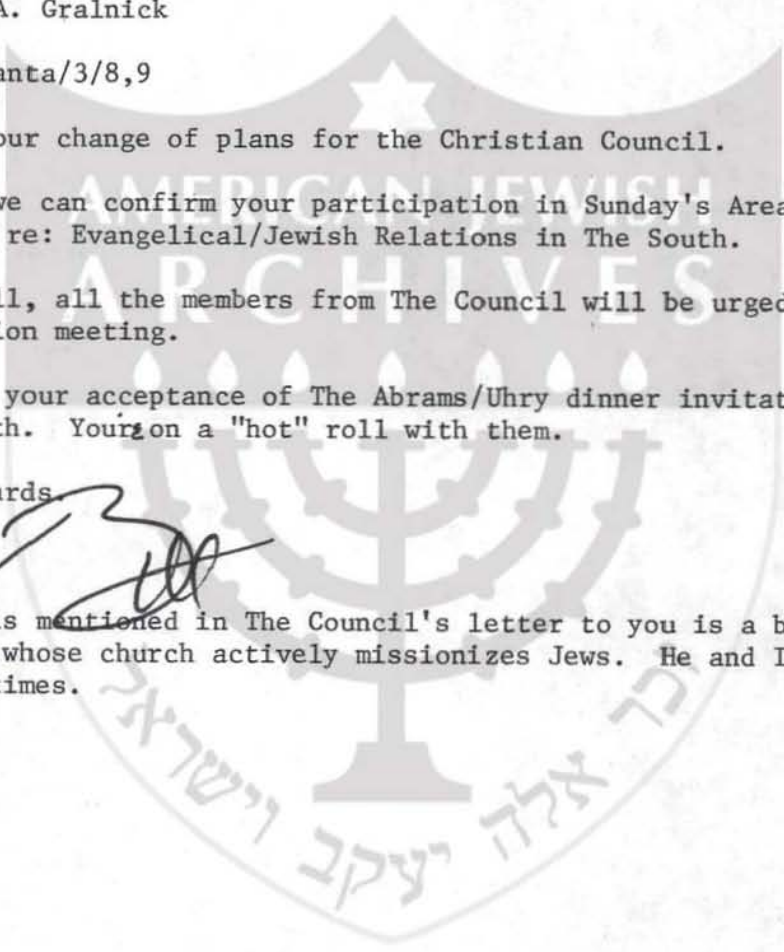
As you recall, all the members from The Council will be urged to attend Monday's commission meeting.

Let me urge your acceptance of The Abrams/Uhry dinner invitation, the evening of the 7th. You're on a "hot" roll with them.

Warmest regards,



P.S. Rev. Jim Bevis mentioned in The Council's letter to you is a bed-rock Presbyterian whose church actively missionizes Jews. He and I have locked horns a few times.



The American



Jewish Committee

Institute of Human Relations • 165 East 56 Street, New York, N.Y. 10022 • 212/751-4000 • Cable Wishcom, N.Y.

F ^{AJC} Atlanta 3/6/81
Enniss

January 6, 1981

Rev. P.C. Enniss, Jr.
Central Presbyterian Church
201 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

My dear Dr. Enniss,

Thank you very much for your recent warm and thoughtful letter in which you invite me to preach at the worship service at Central Presbyterian Church on Sunday, March 8th.

I am both moved and honored by your thoughtful invitation and shall be delighted to accept your gracious invitation.

I would be happy to have any suggestions that you might propose for themes that might be appropriate for my sermon on that Sunday. I assume that you would want me to preach somewhere between 20 or 30 minutes.

Don and Peggy Shriver are dear friends and I see them rather regularly at various ecumenical and interreligious meetings. Randy Taylor and Will Kennedy are also known to me.

If there is any additional information that you think I need to have to help me sharpen my insight about the Atlanta situation, by all means please share them with me.

With warmest good wishes for a healthy, and above all, a peaceful New Year,

Cordially,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Director
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:RPR

cc: William Gralnick

Enclosures

DM-Ryan
Red, Photo, NYT-JW CV-J Comp

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Central Presbyterian Church

MINISTERS
P.C. Enniss, Jr.
Joanna Adams

on file

December 23, 1980

Dr. Marc H. Tanenbaum
American Jewish Committee
165 E. 56th Street
New York, New York 10022

Dear Dr. Tanenbaum:

I understand from Don Newby of the Atlanta Christian Council that you have been invited to speak at the Annual Breakfast in Atlanta on March 7th. I trust you will be able to accept that invitation, for the folk of Atlanta would surely benefit, I am certain, from your remarks. Likewise, I have spoken with Bill Gralnick who tells me that you will be here on Sunday for a meeting with regional members of the American Jewish Committee. My letter, therefore, is to invite you to preach at the 11:00 worship service at Central Presbyterian Church on that same Sunday, March 8th.

Central Presbyterian Church is a very old and historic congregation located directly across the street from both the State Capitol and the City Hall. It is a church that is known for its social concerns and interfaith commitments. The church has enjoyed a close relationship with the American Jewish Committee for years. I feel sure you may know my predecessor, Dr. J. Randolph Taylor, as well as Don and Peggy Shriver and Will and Frances Kennedy who are now associated with Union Theological Seminary, but were affiliated with this congregation when they lived in Atlanta.

I have appreciated your prophetic voice as I have known you through your publications and am persuaded that this congregation as well as the larger Christian community in Atlanta would profit by your remarks. I hope you are able to accept our invitation. If you are, it will be our privilege to offer an honorarium of \$150.00.

Sincerely yours,

P.C. Enniss, Jr.
P. C. Enniss, Jr.

PCEjr:daw



3/7/81

Christian Council of Metropolitan Atlanta, Inc.

848 PEACHTREE STREET, N.E. / ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30308 / TELEPHONE 404-881-9890

November 20, 1980

Rabbi Marc H. Tannenbaum
National Director of Interreligious Affairs
165 East 56 Street
New York, New York 10022

Dear Rabbi Tannenbaum:

The Christian Council of Metropolitan Atlanta sponsors each year what is known as a Community Breakfast. The purpose for such an occasion is to bring together the various racial and denominational groups of the metropolitan area for fellowship and enlightenment as we seek to develop a city of justice and harmonious relationships stemming therefrom. This year our emphasis will be on the theme of reconciliation.

We take this opportunity to invite you to serve as a participant in a dialogue with Benjamin Hooks, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, as the main feature of the Community Breakfast, to take place Saturday, March 7, 1981 at 8:30 a.m. The event will take place in Atlanta's Peachtree Plaza Hotel. If Mr. Hooks is unavailable for such a dialogue, it is our hope that you can serve our cause by giving the principal address for this occasion. Your ministry to us at this time would serve as a sign of goodwill and hope in these days of increasing inter-group tensions.

We seek an early reply to this invitation. Will you please call collect to one of us at the numbers listed below?

With our prayers and best wishes for your labors for justice and peace, we remain

Cordially yours,

Bishop Joseph C. Coles, Jr.
Joseph C. Coles, Jr. Co-chairperson
Bishop, Sixth Episcopal District, C.M.E. Church
Telephone 404-752-7800, 404-799-0096

Jim Bevis
Jim Bevis, Co-chairperson
Pastor, Brookvalley Church of Christ

gac

cc: Dr. Donald Newby
Mr. William Gralnick

*Vol 3791 W 1000
Bishop Charles J. Coles*

*Kochler
404-881-9891*



The American Jewish Committee

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Wilson, Rabbi Marc

Atlanta, Jan mtg

February 24, 1981

Rabbi Marc H. Wilson
Congregation Shearith Israel
1180 University Drive, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30306

Dear Rabbi Wilson,

This will acknowledge receipt of your intemperate letter of February 3.

As a former student of Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary and a graduate of Yeshiva University who was raised in an Orthodox Jewish home, I understand your anger at the "appearance" of my violating Shabbat by accepting to address the Atlanta Council of Churches.

While "maaris ayon" is an important category of sensibility, Jewish wisdom is capable of making a distinction between appearances and realities affecting Jewish life under special circumstances. I have tried to set forth those circumstances in the enclosed copy of my letter to Rabbi Emanuel Feldman, who was a colleague of mine at the Yeshivas Chofetz Chaim in Baltimore (now the Talmudical Academy.)

As I indicate to Emanuel, I have struggled with this decision and will continue to do so for a long time to come until I stand before Hakodesh Boruch Hu who, in ultimate terms, is my only true Judge.

At the same time, I think your conscience ought to struggle with the lessons of the Gemorrah in Yoma 9b which teaches us that the Second Bais Hamikdosh was destroyed because of "sinas chinam" which the Chazal considered to be morally worse than "murder, idolatry, and immorality."

You will also recall that Sanhedrin 101B teaches us that "Jerobeam ben Nivat was punished (with no Olam Habah) because he reprovved King Solomon publicly." And Baba Metzia 59a goes even further when it

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quotes King David as saying, "He is executed by strangulation (an adulterer), yet he has a portion in the World to Come. But he who publicly puts a neighbor to shame has no portion in the World to Come."

There is fundamental moral difference between mussar and hostility. I will accept your mussar; I reject your sinas chinam.

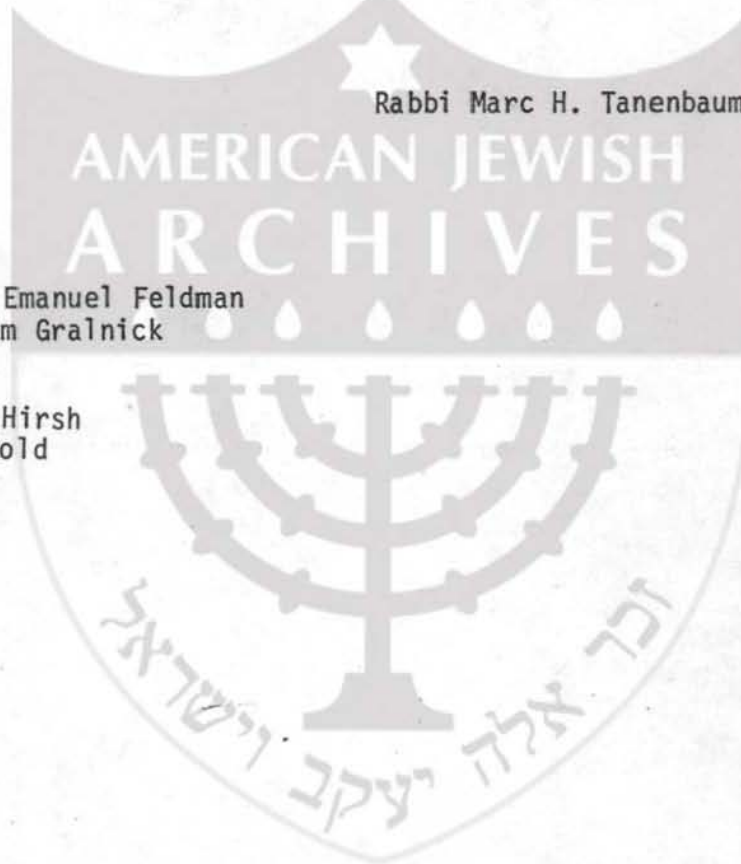
Sincerely,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum

MHT:RPR

CC: Rabbi Emanuel Feldman
William Gralnick

bc: Selma Hirsh
Bert Gold





The American Jewish Committee

Institute of Human Relations • 165 East 56 Street, New York, N.Y. 10022 • 212/751-4000 • Cable Wishcom, N.Y.

Feldman, Rabbi E

Atlanta News Staff

February 24, 1981

Rabbi Emanuel Feldman
Congregation Beth Jacob
1855 LaVista Rd., N. E
Atlanta, Georgia 30329

My dear Emanuel,

I appreciate very much your serious and civil letter regarding my participation in the breakfast meeting of the Atlanta Council of Churches.

As a deeply respected colleague and Baltimore lantsman, I want you to know that I did not make this decision lightly nor frivolously, for all the cogent reasons that you clearly set forth. In fact, I wrestled with my conscience long and hard before I finally decided to say yes.

In the first instance, when I was called by the Council people, I told them that I do not take part in such meetings on Shabbat, unless there is some overwhelming moral reason that would in effect be "dochek." Under no circumstances would I violate the Shabbat, and in this instance, I will be staying in the same hotel where the meeting will be held (in fact, I will be arriving on Erev Shabbat at that hotel.)

In my first conversation with them, I asked them if the date could be changed as a matter of derech eretz for the Jewish community. In what I took to be genuine sincerity, they said that it was now impossible since their invitations had gone out and they expect about 1,000 Christian leaders.

They pleaded with me to find a way to come that would not violate my religious principles, since they felt that the problems of black-Jewish relations and the anguished atmosphere in Atlanta over the murder of the 18 black children required a message of healing which they felt I could bring.

Not incidentally, at no time did anyone tell me that Andrew Young would share the platform with me. I read about it for the first time when I received their printed notice.

Let me tell you, Emanuel, why I finally decided to do it, knowing full well that I risked being misunderstood - and even pilloried - by some in the Jewish community, and perhaps even in the Christian community.

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ELISE D. WATERMAN, New York ■

Our researchers document that the PLO is in the midst of launching a major propaganda campaign in the Christian churches, and especially among black Christian leaders, to undermine the Reagan administration's economic and military aid to Israel. The recent letter of 400 Christian leaders, among them, a good number of mainline Protestant and Catholic bishops who have never signed such anti-Israel documents before, is the first stage of the PLO's efforts to penetrate as never before the consciences of the Christian leaders. More and worse is yet to come.

Our in-house Yankelovich polls document that the highest levels of anti-Semitism and anti-Israel attitudes exist today among the young educated blacks, whose spokesman has become Jesse Jackson.

After weighing all the alternatives, I determined in my own conscience that if I could contribute even modestly to halting the erosion of support for Israel and stem some of the growing anti-Semitism, and perhaps even help build some strong sympathies for Jews, then that would in fact constitute a "mitzvah gedolah" from which I could not turn away.

Now that Andy Young is on the program that urgency for setting the record straight for Jews is all the more compelling.

With all that, I have to confess that I still do not have an easy conscience about my decision. But would I have been wiser and "frumer" to stay away and allow this quite possibly to have become a pro-Third World and "liberation theology" session whose poisonous seeds would have sunk in deep in some 1,000 Christian leaders' minds?

My minor rationalization, less persuasive but a contributing element nonetheless, was that I have taken part in a number of similar sessions as the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds Assemblies under the rubric of an "Oneg Shabbat." In what wise, I finally asked myself, did my participation in this speaking forum differ from that of the CJFWF or the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council sessions also held on the Shabbat? In reality, I felt that I was more useful to Jews and Israel at the Atlanta Council of Churches than at such Jewish assemblies where dozens of other Jewish speakers could be as effective, if not more, than I would be.

I share with you that it was my plan all along, before your thoughtful and compassionate letter, to explain to this Christian group the moral and spiritual reasons why I, as a Sabbath-respecting Jew, have made an exception in this instance. The murder of 18 black children is not an ordinary circumstance and Jews who consider themselves "Rachmana b'nei Rachmana" are "dochek Shabbat" (which I do not believe this does halachically) for "pikuach nefesh." If I can be effective in communicating that understanding of the spiritual majesty of Judaism to the Christian world, I will rest easier in my conscience about this decision.

Please feel free to share this personal letter to you with anyone who feel as troubled as you, and I, about this difficult decision.

With warmest regards and much appreciation, I am,

Cordially, as ever,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Director
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:RPR

CC: Rabbi Marc Wilson
William Gralnick

bc: Selma Hirsh
Bert Gold





Central Presbyterian Church

MINISTERS
P.C. Enniss, Jr.
Joanna Adams

February 17, 1981

Dr. Marc H. Tanenbaum
The American Jewish Committee
165 East 56th Street
New York, New York 10022

Dear Dr. Tanenbaum:

How very pleased I am that you will be able to preach the sermon at the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service at Central Presbyterian Church on Sunday, March 8th. We are honored by your acceptance and will look forward to hearing you and to our time together. I will work with Bill Gralnick on the arrangements for getting you to Central, and related matters.

I do not have a specific topic to suggest; however, I believe it would be helpful to our folk to hear you comment on the apparent move of American religion to the "right". You may prefer to speak on "the ecumenical movement from the Jewish perspective" which would be equally appropriate. In short, I hope you will feel free to choose your own subject.

Again, please know of our delight in your acceptance. If you have questions, let me know. In the meantime, with every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,

P.C. Enniss, Jr.
P. C. Enniss, Jr.

PCEjr:daw

→ Jackson, Maynard
MT Atlanta 2/21

March 17, 1981

The Honorable Maynard Jackson
Mayor of Atlanta
67 Mitchell SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mayor Jackson,

It was both a privilege and a pleasure to share a platform with you again.

I cannot find words adequate to express my sense of appreciation for the extraordinary moral leadership that you have given to all the citizens of Atlanta, and indeed to the nation, at this difficult time.

I join with you and your fellow Atlantans in the fervent hope that these mad killings of innocent black children will come to an end and some sense of security will be restored to the black families who have been so evilly savaged by this madness.

I thought you might be interested in seeing the enclosed radio script that I delivered over WINS-Westinghouse Broadcasting System as well as the Religious News Service report on our meeting in Atlanta.

If there is any way in which I can be helpful to you either professionally or personally I hope you will feel free to call on me.

With warmest personal good wishes and my prayers for God's richest blessings over you and your people, I am,

Cordially, as ever,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Director
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:RPR

Enclosures RNS, WINS

bc: Bill Gralnick

Young, Andrew
→ MHT Atlanta JH

March 18, 1981

Rev. Andrew Young
1088 Veltre Circle SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30311

30311

Dear Andy,

It was very good being with you during my recent visit to Atlanta.

I wanted very much to get together but I regret that my schedule became so hectic that I did not even have the time to telephone you.

Perhaps we can arrange to get together at an early date. It would be very good to have an opportunity to chat about many things.

With warmest good wishes, I am,

Cordially yours,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Director
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:RPR

Enclosures