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Series A: Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 1961-1996.

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New York Board of Rabbis, 1961-1978.

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The New York Board of Rabbis, Inc.

Orthodox — Conservative — Reform

10 East 73rd STREET NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 Telephone TRafalgar 9-8415



Founded 1881

14 August 1978
11 Av 5738

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y. 10021

Dear Alex:

Thank you for your note of August 7th relative to Jacob Goldstein's letter in which he details the denial of his rights and the disinterest of any Jewish organization in his religious needs. Goldstein has written to just about every major Jewish organization in the New York area. The first to bring his letter to my attention was Malcolm Hoenlein of the Jewish Community Relations Council. I am enclosing my reply to him so that you can be brought up to date on the situation.

I appreciate your forwarding the letter to me and expressing your concern. Please feel at liberty to be in touch with me regarding matters in which we can be of help.

With best wishes and warm personal regards, I am

Cordially,

Paul
Rabbi Paul L. Hait
Executive Director

PLH:ml

78

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Rabbi Judah Cahn, 1976-77

*Deceased

8 August 1978
5 Av 5738

Mr. Malcolm Houlein
Jewish Community Relations Council
Suite 2600
111 West 40th St.
New York, New York 10018

Dear Malcolm:

Thanks for your communique re: MCC. After checking, I was informed of the following by Rabbi Potasnik. Inmates on various floors may not be brought together in one place for a service. Each floor conducts a service by itself. Unfortunately, no one floor numbers enough men for a Minion (perhaps fortunately). Catholic and Protestant inmates, too, are permitted to gather for services only on their respective floors. Kosher food is provided for inmates; however, there is no guarantee that it will not be touched by non-Jews. As you well know, for these prisoners to render food touched by a non-Jew as trefa is a fixation or some kind of phobia. There is no basis for it in Halacha. The arrangements for kosher food was guided by Jacob Hoenig who is a full-time Jewish Chaplain with the federal system.

With regard to personal problems and Goldstein's wife who is in Israel, he will continue to complain until such time when the Jewish community transports his wife and child to the United States. There is a strong possibility that they prefer living in Israel.

I assure you that everything is done within the realm of possibility for inmates at MCC. They have a kosher microwave oven, special utensils, and other kosher accommodations. While I am still unhappy about their inability to serve the 32 Jewish inmates kosher T.V. dinners, I am trying to get the federal government to supply such. The warden at MCC has been quite flexible in working with Rabbi Potasnik and Rabbi Hoenig.

Thanks for bringing this to my attention. If there are other matters pertaining to chaplaincy that you wish to call to my attention, please do not hesitate to do so.

Cordially,

Rabbi Paul L. Hait
Executive Director

August 7, 1978

Rabbi Paul L. Halt, Exec. Dir.
New York Board of Rabbis
10 East 73rd Street
New York, N.Y. 10021

Dear Paul:

The enclosed letter is self-explanatory and it is my fond hope that you and the New York Board of Rabbis will look into this plaint.

The Presidents' Conference has no jurisdiction in such matters and the man deserves a hearing and assistance if his plea is indeed a valid one.

With every good wish and kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Encl.

cc: Rabbi Stuart A. Gertman

Metropolitan Correctional Cntr.
Unit 7N 150 Park Row
New York City N.Y. 10007

TO: Conf. of Pres. Maj. Jewish Orgz.
FROM: Jacob R. Goldstein.....
SUBJECT: Special Information..

Rabbi Alex Schindler

Dear Rabbi:

I am taking this time to write to you, to let you know a few things, and as a Jew, I feel that it should be brought to your attention, and I think that as a Rabbi and a Jew, and since you are the head of a Jewish Organization, you will understand what I am about to tell you.

I am in here due to some problems, I have gotten into with the U.S. Government, but as to the problems of my case, I will not go into details with you, for it will not be of any interest at this time, but I will say this much, the U.S. Government is Violating most of my CIVIL, HUMAN, RELIGIOUS, PERSONAL, and MEDICAL RIGHTS etc. the main thing I am writing to you about is my rights that they are Violating, which are the RELIGIOUS and PERSONAL items, I will detail them for you:

- 1) Jews in here are not permitted to hold Jewish Services, if we wish to attend any services, it must be on Sunday, with the Christian Minister, The Rabbi attached to this place, comes in to see us only once per Week, and even in this he is helpless to do anything.
- 2) The Kosher food problem, is very bad, we do not get enough to eat as it is, and when we do get our Kosher food, it comes up with the regular food cart, and it is touched by Non-Jews.
- 3) When a Jew here has a personal problem (When he does get a chance to see the Rabbi) the Rabbi never does anything about it, my wife and child are in a very dangerous area of Israel, and I worry about them, I have tried to speak to the Rabbi about this, but he doesn't care to hear about it.

Can you sir send someone to see me here, about this whole problem, it would be good if a Rabbi, can come to see me, please let me know (Fast) as soon as you get this letter, it would be a good "MITZVAH" if someone can come. Thankyou for all your kindness in the above matter, (it is Urgent please)

Jacob R Goldstein

UNIT 7N MCC #09057

*Answer -
N.Y. Board of Rabbis for
29-7-78 immediate
action.
Also Str. G.*

Jacob R Goldstein

November 9, 1977

Rabbi Paul L. Hait, Executive Director
The New York Board of Rabbis, Inc.
10 East 73rd Street
New York, New York 10021

Dear Paul:

Thank you for your gracious invitation to discuss the Middle East situation with my colleagues of the New York Board of Rabbis. I sincerely regret that it is not possible for me to accept for I have an engagement out-of-the-city on November 30 and simply cannot be with you.

With thanks and warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

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26 Heshvan 5738

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Rabbi Eugene J. Cohen
Coordinator, Brith Milah Board
Chaplain, International Synagogue

Rabbi Alexander A. Schindler

Executive Director

Union of American Hebrew Congregations

838 Fifth Avenue

New York, N. Y. 10021

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

The events of the past several months involving Israel and the United States have been a source of great frustration and anxiety to the American Jewish community, especially to our colleagues in the rabbinate. A briefing on this situation from a rabbi to fellow rabbis would be most heartily and eagerly welcomed. Might it be possible, then, for you to address our plenary meeting on November 30, 1977, 12:00 noon, at the NYBR? To have you share with us your perspectives, insights and concerns would be deeply appreciated and would guide us in our understanding of and response to the Israeli situation.

I realize that your schedule is very crowded and that your time is at a premium. But if you could accommodate us, it would be extremely appreciated. I look forward to your acceptance.

Cordially,

Paul L. Hait
Rabbi Paul L. Hait
Executive Director

PLH:ml

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Rabbi Sol Roth, 1974-75

April 20, 1977

Rabbi Harold H. Gordon
The New York Board of Rabbis
10 East 73rd Street
New York, N.Y. 10021

Dear Harold:

In response to your letter of April 14, I hasten to advise that the UAHC passed a Resolution against gambling in the synagogue at our 1959 General Assembly in Miami Beach. A copy of the Resolution is enclosed herewith.

I must be frank, however, in noting that we have not been successful in attaining total cooperation from our member-congregations. They are all autonomous and the ultimate decision on program and policy lies with the leadership of the individual congregations. We cannot enforce policy, we merely advise and counsel. In these difficult economic times, it has become increasingly difficult to get our congregations to cease and desist from allowing gambling in the synagogue. And I assure you, Harold, we do continue to try.

Our congregations are most cooperative in regard to allowing community and special interest groups of worth to utilize temple premises. Many of them have groups such as Weight Watchers, Overeater's Anonymous, Parents Without Partners and the like meeting in the synagogue building. A Jewish Alcoholics Anonymous chapter is now meeting in Central Synagogue of New York City. I am confident our temples will be just as hospitable to Gambler's Anonymous and by means of our regional offices I will alert the congregations to the need. The New York City area may need this kind of program more than other areas of the country so we will place special emphasis on this need in contacting our local congregations.

With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc: Mr. Theodore K. Broido
Rabbi Stuart A. Gertman

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1976 • 95th ANNIVERSARY • 5736

The New York Board of Rabbis, Inc.

Orthodox — Conservative — Reform

10 East 73rd STREET NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 Telephone TRafalgar 9-8415

14 April 1977
26 Nisan 5737



Founded 1881

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Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
President
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y. 10021

Dear Alex:

There are thousands of people in New York City who are afflicted with a self-destructive compulsion--uncontrollable gambling! It is a social disease and a tragic habit. The public is not aware of the horrendous dimensions of this problem, because unlike the inebriate or drug addict, who can be immediately identified, the inveterate gambler shows no outward peculiarities to identify him as such. Yet, it has brought misfortune to individuals and misery to families. For these reasons, programs to combat this illness are all the more urgent.

The New York Board of Rabbis therefore respectfully suggests that, as President of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, you ask your constituent members to:

- (1) prohibit Las Vegas Nites on Synagogue/Temple premises and to desist from sponsoring them anywhere as fund-raising devices and
- (2) make Synagogue/Temple premises available for Gambler's Anonymous groups where compulsive gamblers may meet to "kick the habit".

Appreciating your cooperation and action in this important matter, I am

Cordially yours,

Rabbi Harold H. Gordon

HHG:ml

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Rabbi Sol Roth, 1974-75

ing family of congregations---grown from 300 at the end of World War II to nearly twice that number at the present time---the Union and the College-Institute shall break down under the cumulative weight of their tasks and responsibilities.

At the same time, we are deeply mindful that the Development fund will--- for a time---be conducted concurrently with the regular Combined Campaign for American Reform Judaism, which is the Reform Jewish Community's traditional vehicle for assuring the annual budgetary requirements of the UAHC and the HUC-JIR. Nothing must take place that will diminish or endanger either of these efforts.

Therefore be it resolved, that we pledge our fullest support to the Development Fund and call upon all in the Reform Movement to contribute to it in sacrificial degree. We accept the proposition, moreover, that a gift to the Development Fund shall not be deductible in any part for crediting to the Combined Campaign, and that a gift to the Combined Campaign may not be fragmented in any part for assignment to the Development Fund.

Be it further resolved, that our heartfelt gratitude be extended to the consecrated men and women who have accepted responsibility for guiding the Development Fund to success. We note especially, and greet, the action of the Honorable Herbert H. Lehman in accepting the Development Fund's Honorary Chairmanship; and we extend our most sincere wishes to Max L. Koepfel, a member of the Board of Trustees of the UAHC and Chairman of the Union's Building Committee, in his towering responsibility as the Development Fund's Chairman.

8. GAMBLING IN THE SYNAGOGUE

Be it resolved by this 45th General Assembly of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations that the use of gambling as a means of raising funds for the Synagogue and the practice of gambling on synagogue premises is not compatible with proper Synagogue standards.

9. HIGH SCHOOL

Whereas the senior high school years afford the religious school a unique opportunity to convey to rapidly maturing minds the depth and scope of Jewish belief and practice, and

Whereas the principle of a continuing, life-long practice of the practice of the study of Torah is one of the major objectives of our religious education program and is a basic commitment of the believing Jew,

Be it therefore resolved that the Union of American Hebrew Congregations calls upon our rabbis and congregations to establish and implement a fully integrated program of Jewish religious education for its high school youth, incorporating both a complete high school department and an active youth group.

10. HOUSING DISCRIMINATION

Because of our profound commitment to the equality of all men under God, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations has consistently opposed every form of discrimination.

Out of this conviction, we have supported the decision of the U. S. Supreme Court in the school segregation cases and have pledged to do all within

April 2, 1976

Dear Harold:

I deeply rue my inability to join with your many friends, colleagues and admirers in the richly-merited tribute to you on April 8th. Know I shall be present in heart and thought and spirit.

You have given of yourself, your talents and capabilities selflessly and the fabric of Jewish life has been enriched and enhanced by your devotion. Yours is a labor of love and your service has been more than commitment to the Jewish community of New York, it has reached out to the general community and to Klal Yisroel. With every aspect of your being and your doing you have given precious and unique devotion to the great ideals of our faith.

The dinner in your honor will be an outpouring of love and appreciation for all that you are and all that you do. It will be an indication of the esteem and affection and high regard in which you are held by men and women the world over. From afar, I join in expressing a very warm and hearty mazal tov and all good wishes.

I pray you will be granted continued good health and creative endeavor for many years to come. And may the years ahead be blessed with much fulfillment and happiness as you continue to serve our sacred cause.

Rhea joins me in extending our fondest regards.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Rabbi Harold H. Gordon
Executive Vice President
The New York Board of Rabbis
10 East 73rd Street
New York, N.Y. 10021



FOUNDED 1881

Page 104

The New York Board of Rabbis

cordially invites you to attend

A Reception and Dinner

In Honor of our Distinguished Executive Vice-President

Rabbi Harold H. Gordon

marking the thirtieth year of his

dedicated and outstanding service with our organization

on behalf of Judaism and World Jewry

8 Nisan 5736

Thursday evening, April 8, 1976

at 6:00 o'clock

New York Hilton Hotel

Avenue of the Americas and 53rd Street

New York City

Couvert: Fifty Dollars

*R.S.V.P.
Dress Optional*

"Whoever finds favor in the eyes of man meets with the approval of the Almighty."

Our Guest of Honor

In honoring Rabbi Harold H. Gordon, the New York Rabbinate and the lay-leaders of the community will express their appreciation for a tireless, courageous and brilliant public servant.

A scholar with a background of extensive and intensive training in the religious and secular fields, he is at the same time a man of action. He is a rare combination of dreamer and doer whose actions are predicated on his deep faith and profound idealism.

He distinguished himself in the service of his country and his people not only in peace, but also in war. During World War II, he became known as the Flying Chaplain, journeying over 250,000 miles in ministering to the needs of soldiers in isolated areas of the world. He was discharged with the rank of Major.

In 1946, he became affiliated with the New York Board of Rabbis. What was then merely the shell of a dream of a united Rabbinate for greater New York, became under his inspired leadership in the past thirty years, a magnificent reality of over 1000 Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Rabbis united together as a potent force for civic betterment.

Rabbi Gordon has traveled extensively throughout the world in order to study the needs of far-flung Jewish communities. Everywhere he brought hope and a sense of religious fellowship to otherwise isolated Jewish settlements.

Today, Rabbi Gordon is a symbol of the unity of the religious Jewish community of the greater New York area. He is a vigorous and courageous champion of democracy and equality of opportunity for all citizens regardless of race, creed or color. Under his guidance the New Board of Rabbis has time and again advanced the just causes of the New York Jewish community and has brought to bear the eternal verities of the ethical and spiritual concepts of the Jewish faith upon public issues.

A grateful community joins in prayer that our Heavenly Father may bestow upon him of the abundance of His blessings and that He may grant him health and strength so that he may continue to bless and enrich our community with his exceptional gifts of heart and spirit for many years to come.

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Mitchell Salem Fisher, Counsel

The New York Board of Rabbis, Inc.

Orthodox — Conservative — Reform

10 East 73rd STREET NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 Telephone TRafalgar 9-8415 Founded 1881



March 13, 1975
1 Nisan 5735

Rabbi Harold H. Gordon
Executive Vice-President &
Director of Chaplaincy Services

Rabbi Paul L. Hait
Rabbi Herbert H. Rose
Associate Directors

cc To 3/17/75
Selly P.

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y. 10021

Dear Alex:

Your letter of March 12 arrived today and I hasten to answer. Apparently, incorrect information has reached you with regard to Rabbi Priesand's application in the NYBR. It was discussed at our March 12 officers' meeting and will be presented in routine fashion with other membership applications.

Upon request of an application from Rabbi Priesand, I replied to her, as I do to every other applicant, as the enclosed copy will indicate. Her check has not been cashed, since it is regular procedure for us not to cash a check attached to a membership application, until that application has been acted upon and accepted.

With warm good wishes for a joyous Passover,

Cordially,

Harold
Rabbi Harold H. Gordon

HHG:to
enc.

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January 27, 1975
15 Shevat 5735

Rabbi Sally Priesand
Stephen Wise Free Synagogue
30 West 68th Street
New York, N. Y. 10023

Dear Rabbi Priesand:

In response to your recent request, I am pleased to
enclose an application for membership in the New York Board
of Rabbis.

Sincerely yours,

HHG:to

Rabbi Harold H. Gordon

enc.

March 12, 1975

Rabbi Harold Gordon
New York Board of Rabbis
10 East 73rd Street
New York, New York 10021

Dear Harold:

I chanced to be the guest preacher at the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue last Friday night and learned from my colleague, Rabbi Sally Priesand, that the New York Board of Rabbis has neither cashed her check, submitted with her membership application, nor indicated that her application has been accepted or rejected.

I am eager to learn of the status of Rabbi Priesand's application, especially so since I have just heard that it was not included in the discussion of your Executive Committee, which met today. Rabbi Priesand is a respected colleague, a member of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, and her ordination by the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion was confirmed by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. We assume that her application to the New York Board of Rabbis will be treated with the same respect and consideration as the application of any other member of the Reform rabbinate.

I look forward to hearing from you as to what your own views and also your institutional expectations are in this matter.

With warm good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc: Rabbi Sally J. Priesand

bcc: Rabbi Alfred Gottschalk
Rabbi Joseph B. Glaser
Matthew H. Ross

NY Bd of Rabbis

February 2, 1971

Mr. Kalman Siegel
Editor
Letters to the Editor
New York Times
229 West 43rd Street
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Siegel:

We were astonished to read the prominently displayed report on the front page of THE NEW YORK TIMES of Thursday, January 28, that the New York Board of Rabbis has gone on record in support of government aid to parochial schools. We the undersigned are members of the New York Board of Rabbis, two of us past presidents, and are fully cognizant of the procedures of the Board in arriving at decisions on public policy. The fact is that the question of government aid to parochial schools was not even considered by the membership, or its duly constituted administrative bodies. The only action taken, on which the report was apparently based, was an address by the president. But in a democratic body, which the New York Board of Rabbis is, the president's views do not create policy.

There are undoubtedly some members of the Board of Rabbis who would favor government aid to parochial schools, while many others would surely oppose it. Only after formal consideration of the question and a vote, will it be possible to ascertain the official view of the Board.

In the interests of truth and fairness toward both sides on a highly controversial issue, you owe the readers a correction of a misleading report.

Rabbi Ben Zion Bokser
Rabbi Arthur A. Chiel
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KINGSTON AVENUE AND PARK PLACE

BROOKLYN 13, NEW YORK

OFFICE OF

RABBI MAX SCHENK, B.A., M.H.L., D.D.



STUDY: { SL 6-6465
HY 3-6411

HOME: SCHUYLER 4-2868

February 5th, 1964

Rabbi Jay Kaufman
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
New York 21, New York

Dear Jay,

Thank you a thousand times for your
very warm letter of congratulations, confidence
in me and good wishes in my new post.

With cordial greetings, I remain,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Max".

Rabbi Max Schenk

MS:JC.

October 24, 1961

Mr. Wilfred E. Diamond
Congregation Beth Israel
701 Farmington Avenue
West Hartford 7, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Diamond:

Rabbi Eisendrath shared with me your letter to him making inquiry concerning the International Synagogue Committee which solicited a gift from you.

The New York Board of Rabbis undertook a project which has some divergence of opinion in the Jewish community. There were those who felt that a synagogue was not required for the New York International Airport and if one were erected it would always be empty.

While there are great numbers of Catholic employees at the airport, daily Mass being a requirement for them, their church is essential. The Protestant church does not serve quite the same purpose and there are questions as to whether it will be filled or used adequately. However, the great number of Protestants at the airport does make the construction of their church meaningful. It is true that employees of the airports are at work early in the morning and frequently on Sundays and so a purpose could be served by these two Christian institutions.

Few of these reasons apply to a synagogue. However, it has been stated that the synagogue would serve many splendid ceremonial and official purposes. In addition, it was thought to be the height of impropriety to have a Catholic and Protestant sanctuary and no Jewish synagogue. We Jews have been accorded equal status and the absence of a synagogue when the three faiths should be represented, would be a shabby piece of community relations. Occasionally, a Jew will be enroute and wish to say kaddish or use the synagogue for some other purpose and so it will not be erected in vain.

Mr. Wilfred E. Diamond
West Hartford 7, Connecticut

- 2 - October 24, 1961

I have listed to you the arguments that have gone forth on both sides of this particular issue. The New York Board of Rabbis felt that the positive arguments outweighed the negative ones and therefore are earnestly involved in a fund-raising campaign. With these facts, perhaps you will now be able to make a considered judgment.

With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

JK:LG

cc: Rabbi Abraham J. Feldman

Rabbi Jay Kaufman



The Congregation Beth Israel

701 Farmington Avenue
West Hartford 7, Connecticut

October 4, 1961

JBR.
Kaufman

Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath
President, UAHC
838 Fifth Avenue
New York 21, N.Y.

Dear Rabbi Eisendrath:

Recently a request from the International Synagogue Committee, care of New York Board of Rabbis, Inc. asked for contributions in behalf of The International Synagogue at New York International Airport.

My Board of Trustees have asked me to write to you concerning this request in the hope that you might be able to furnish me with some information about this proposed Synagogue before they make any contribution. I would be deeply grateful for any assistance you might be able to give me.

Cordial best wishes. I am

Sincerely,

W. E. Diamond
Wilfred E. Diamond
Executive Secretary

WED:es