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MS-630: Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler Digital Collection, 1961-1996.
Series B: Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, 1962-1996.

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Hellman, Yehuda, 1986-1994.

For more information on this collection, please see the finding aid on the
American Jewish Archives website.

November 21, 1994
18 Kislev 5755

Lester Pollack, Chairman
Presidents' Conference
110 East 59th Street
New York, NY 10022

Dear Les:

Much to my dismay I am unable to attend the Hellman Memorial Lecture on December 6 as I will be in Florida for meetings arranged some time ago in conjunction with the Union's Board of Trustees' meeting in Tampa.

I will explain my absence to Aviva but ask that you please convey my regrets to Dr. Kissinger. I am truly sorry to have to miss hearing him and trust his lecture will be available in print after the gathering.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Bruce Corry Heller

Aviva Hellman

June 9, 1987

Dear Morris,

My last letter to you did not require an answer, since all I was trying to do was go on record, again, that I will not be held responsible for Yehuda's memorial service, held at the Riverside Chapel. You, however, being a gentleman, answered, something to the effect that you always answer my letters. Good manners, and could have made sense, if you had taken my message seriously. I know you didn't, since you referred my attorney to your executive director at the Conference, who was told ⁱⁿ no uncertain terms that I am being charged for that service.

I hired Mr. Greenbaum to handle all my daily affairs and I had hoped that he could somehow resolve my unpleasantness with the Conference, and that I would not have to write you again. He told me of your conversation with him and he gathered that you really don't feel that you have very much to do with any of this, since all of it happened before your tenure as Chairman of the Conference. At which point you suggested he talk to Yehuda's successor. A strange suggestion, since the resolution to pay Yehuda compensation for his years of service, certainly happened before HIS time.

What's interesting about your attitude is, that I understand that you were the one who nixed Rabbi Schindler's and Howard Squadron's suggestion as to how to resolve this matter with grace. I believe your statement was that their idea was a "non-starter." Which means nothing, unless you had a better "starter," other than going to people outside the Conference, to plead for money for Yehuda Hellman's widow, which is proving to be a "non-ender."

Time, Morris, is not on the side of the Conference. It certainly is not on mine. In spite of the fine show of people at the memorial service held at the Regency, Yehuda is gone and except for my children and myself and a few close friends, his memory is fading. It is over a year since he died and I suspect that it is only when I write these awful letters that any thought is given to the obligation the Conference undertook to compensate him.

So, I am writing this letter to inform you that just as the Conference went outside the membership of the conference, I shall now do the same, and look for help from people who knew Yehuda and who care and are involved in the Jewish community. Believe me, just as you are bored with getting these letters, I am bored with writing them. I will tell you this, the few people I have discussed this situation with, are quite appalled and feel as I do, that in the final analysis, most of you have behaved in a very, very shoddy manner.

Sincerely

cc: Rabbi Miller
✓ Rabbi Schindler
Howard Squadron

Aviva Hellman

Aviva Hellman

May 22, 1987
21 Iyar 5747

My Dear Mr. Begin:

Your prompt and beautiful response for a message to be read at the First Annual Yehuda Hellman Memorial was much appreciated. Your words touched the hearts of us all, most especially Aviva and the children. I am truly grateful for your thoughtfulness.

The Memorial was dignified and a meaningful tribute to the memory of one we all respected and loved. It was truly good to have Dr. Henry Kissinger as our guest and he spoke of Yehuda and his efforts in behalf of Israel and the Jewish people with warmth and appreciation. He was excellent.

I hope you are feeling well. Rhea and I are off to the U.S.S.R. on Sunday as I have been invited to address a major conference there. I'll return to New York in two weeks and following meetings of the UAHC national staff and our Board of Trustees, I will be leaving for Israel and the meetings of The Jewish Agency. Rhea and I always look forward to being in Jerusalem.

With repeated thanks and warmest regards, in which Rhea joins, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

The Honorable Menachem Begin
1 Shlomo Zemach
Jerusalem, ISRAEL

MENACHEM BEGIN

Jerusalem

May 10, 1987.

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
NEW YORK NY 10021
U S A

*File and
discard
2/87*

My dear Friend,

Your request to pay tribute to the memory of Yehuda Hellman is an honor to me.

Yehuda was a devoted servant of the Jewish People. As the Executive Director of the Presidents' Conference he worked under many rotating Chairmen, and won the confidence and respect of each one of them. The reason for that phenomenon is simple: Yehuda Hellman was completely loyal to his duties, and therefore could have become the man of confidence of everyone on whose shoulders the mantle of leadership fell.

Yehuda worked untiringly for keeping and guarding the rights of Jewish communities everywhere and for the just cause of the State of Israel. He indeed rendered great services, during the long years of his directorship, to what is dear to all of us as men and Jews.

We shall all remember Yehuda Hellman with love, and his devoted work with gratitude.


Yours wholeheartedly,

M. Begin
M. Begin

*att.
Re 5/11/87*



CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS
OF MAJOR AMERICAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS



Morris B. Abram
Chairman

Malcolm I. Hoenlein
Executive Director

May 22, 1987

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
UAHC
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10021

Dear Alex,

I just wanted to thank you again for all your help on the Yehuda Hellman Memorial. Clearly, everyone felt it was a most worthwhile event. Kissinger was better than we could have expected and the reactions were unanimously favorable.

Best regards.

Sincerely,



Malcolm Hoenlein
Executive Director



515 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022 • (212) 752-1616 • CABLE: COJOGRA

American Israel Public Affairs
Committee
American Gathering/Federation Jewish
Holocaust Survivors
American Jewish Congress
American ORT Federation
American Zionist Federation
American Zionist Youth Foundation
AMIT Women

Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith
Association of Reform Zionists of
America
B'nai B'rith
B'nai B'rith Women
B'nai Zion
Central Conference of American Rabbis
Emanah Women of America
Federation of Reconstructionist
Congregations

Hadassah
Herut Zionists of America
Jewish Institute for National Security
Affairs
Jewish Labor Committee
Jewish National Fund
Jewish War Veterans of USA
JWB
Labor Zionist Alliance

Na'amat USA
National Conference on Soviet Jewry
National Committee for Labor Israel
National Council of Jewish Women
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Sisterhoods
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Congregations
Union of Councils for Soviet Jews
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United Synagogue of America

Women's American ORT
Women's League for Conservative
Judaism
Women's League for Israel
Workmen's Circle
World Zionist Organization/American
Section
Zionist Organization of America

March 10, 1987
9 Adar 5747

Rabbi Ezra Spicehandler
HUC-JIR
3101 Clifton Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45220

Dear Ezra:

This letter is being directed to you in your role as chair of the Labor Zionist Organization of America. You undoubtedly have learned from the New York director of LZOA that a request was made for a gift of \$500. to the special Yehuda Hellman Memorial Fund created by the Presidents Conference to aid his widow. I believe you are well aware of the history of the situation which makes this fund so necessary.

When a gift was requested, we were told this would have to come before the leadership for approval. It is my fond hope that this information was shared and discussed by your leaders. I am writing to determine just what the situation is at the present time. If a gift was approved all of us would be deeply grateful if the funds might be forwarded without further delay. I look forward to hearing from you in this regard.

With warmest regards from house to house, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc: Morris B. Abram, Esq.

March 11, 1987
10 Adar 5747

Morris B. Abram, Esq.
1285 Avenue of the Americas
27th Floor
New York, New York 10019

Dear Morris:

As you know, I received your list of organizations which I was to contact and from whom there was no response. You listed two gifts, not confirmed or received, \$500. from LZOA and \$1,000. from ARZA. When I submitted my original report, I told you that ARZA, at that time, was in no position to give the full \$1,000. but would pledge \$500. - I then turned - if you promise not to tell it in Geth and the streets of Ashkelon - to the CCAR and requested a \$1,000. gift from them rather than the \$500. which you suggested I seek from them. A check for 1,000. was sent to the Fund by the CCAR and the ARZA office indicates they sent a check for \$500. in February.

Please double check the records because there seems to be a mix-up or perhaps your memo was based on an out-dated listing. As you know I have contacted the LZOA and will report when I hear from them. My contacts to individuals brought some fine gifts for the Fund, should be in the neighborhood of \$12/15,000 from organizations and selected individuals.

By the way, I do hope a letter of thanks was sent to Max Fisher for his gracious gift.

With warm regards and all good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

MEMORANDUM

To
From Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
To Rabbi Eric H. Yoffie
Copies Morris B. Abram, Esq.
Subject PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE SPECIAL FUND

Date March 10, 1987

You will recall that the Conference has started a special fund in Memory of Yehuda Hellman. I had discussed the possibility of a contribution from ARZA and it was felt \$1,000. could be given.

Most of the organizations have responded and sent in their gifts but to date the Conference has not received anything from ARZA. I do hope this gift can be made at this time. Please let me know the situation.

With thanks and warm regards.

Alex -

After conferring with Chuck Kroloff and my officers, I ultimately decided on a contribution of \$500.00 for the Hellman fund. We requested the check in September, and received it in February -- thus explaining the late payment. I am sorry for the delay, but by now the Conference should have the money.

All my best.

Eric



Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

March 10, 1987

Rabbi Eric H. Yoffie

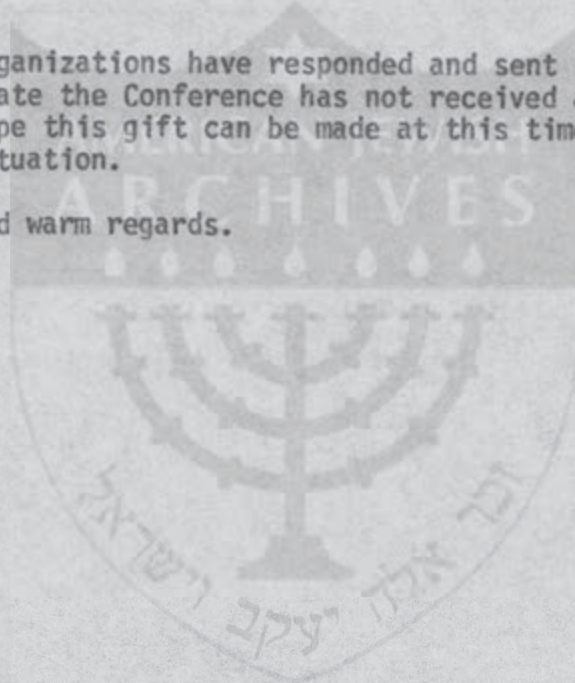
Morris B. Abram, Esq.

PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE SPECIAL FUND

You will recall that the Conference has started a special fund in Memory of Yehuda Hellman. I had discussed the possibility of a contribution from ARZA and it was felt \$1,000. could be given.

Most of the organizations have responded and sent in their gifts but to date the Conference has not received anything from ARZA. I do hope this gift can be made at this time. Please let me know the situation.

With thanks and warm regards.



Conference of Presidents Of Major American Jewish Organizations

March 4, 1987

(212) 752-1616 • 515 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10022 • Cable Address: COJOGRA

TO: PAST CHAIRMEN
FROM: MORRIS B. ABRAM

Organizations Not Responding to Date for YH Widow's Fund

Israel Miller	AZF	\$ 500
	JWB	1,000
	AZYF	500
	Union of Councils Soviet Jews	500
	WZO	500
Ted Mann	NY Board of Rabbi	500
	Jewish Labor Committee	500
	NJCRAC	1,000
Kenneth Bialkin	Herut	500
	JDC	2,000
	UIA	2,000
	UJA/Federation	2,000
	APPME	500
Alex Schindler	WJC	1,000
	ARZA	1,000
	LZA	500
Howard Squadron	National Council Jewish Women	1,500
	HIAS	500
	Agudath Israel of America	500
	Canadian Jewish Congress	500
	Women's American ORT	1,500
Morris Abram	ZOA	1,000
	National Conf. Soviet Jewry	500
	American Jewish Committee	2,000
	JCRC	500
	JNF	2,000
	National Council Young Israel	1,500
Total		\$26,500
Total collected as of 3/4/87		\$30,150

ask HBA to send money if they can (memo cc HBA)

Whose is direction to LZA I want to call him - see me

\$Pice handles

May 21, 1987

22 Iyar 5747

Ms. Christy Neuman
c/o Dr. Henry Kissinger
1800 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Christy:

You have been absolutely wonderful these past few days and I want to thank you for your understanding and your help. It was a difficult situation and thanks to you we were able to avoid a real problem.

Dr. Kissinger was excellent, his comments were just right for the occasion. Mrs. Hellman was very pleased, as were her children. They and her grandchildren, who were present as well, will remember the tribute with pride.

With warm good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

P.S. Edie Miller asked to note her appreciation, too. She feels it's a pleasure to do business with you.

May 21, 1987
22 Iyar 5747

Dr. Henry Kissinger
1800 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Dr. Kissinger:

My thanks once again for your beautiful presentation at the Yehuda Hellman Memorial. It was very special to have you in our midst and I know that your presence and your words meant much to Aviva Hellman and her family.

You hit exactly the right note and could not have been better. It was really a perfect tribute and much warmer than a formal lecture could have been. Please accept my personal thanks, as well as the gratitude of our Conference.

With every good wish and warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc: Morris B. Abram, Esq.
Malcolm Hoenlein

January 7, 1986
6 Tevet 5747

Dr. Henry Kissinger
1800 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Dr. Kissinger:

Malcolm Hoenlein has told me that he saw you in Washington and you advised that you have a problem if we change the Hellman Memorial to late afternoon May 11 but that you would be available at 4:00 p.m. on May 18 or May 19. I am grateful to have this advance notice and write to advise that we have rescheduled the program.

We will hold the Memorial on Monday, May 18, 1987 at 4:00 p.m. at the Lotos Club, 5 East 66th Street, New York City. We will finalize details as the date draws closer but I am pleased that we were able to make a program change without causing you any problems.

With warm good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

bcc: Morris B. Abram
Richard Cohen
Malcolm Hoenlein

December 23, 1986
21 Kislev 5747

Dr. Henry Kissinger
1800 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Dr. Kissinger:

When we finalized our arrangements for a tribute to the late Yehuda Hellman, I asked you to hold the luncheon hour for May 11, 1987, the date which you were good enough to hold for us.

Some of our leaders - with some justice I think - now feel that a luncheon would not be the most suitable time for such a memorial tribute and we would like to have it some hours later around 4:00 p.m. I do hope that there is no problem for you with this delay. It is our expectation to hold this memorial at the Lotos Club.

The Committee is still working on program details but I assure you it will be an elegant and meaningful gathering. We are looking forward to having you in our midst and to hearing from you.

With warm good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



GRAPHNET
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/ SGA5162 BIU971 JTA1027 1016148
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ETAT
CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS
515 PARK AVE
NEW YORK NY 10022

THE ANNUAL YEHUDA HELLMAN MEMORIAL LECTURE OFFERS AN EXCELLENT
OPPORTUNITY TO PAY TRIBUTE AGAIN TO A MAN OF VISION. ENERGY AND
DEVOTION TO THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY, TO AM YISRAEL AND
ERETZ ISRAEL. HE POURED HIS ENTHUSIASM INTO THE CONFERENCE OF
PRESIDENTS WHICH HE DIRECTED FOR MANY YEARS AND IS HIS LIVING
MEMORIAL
YITZHAK SHAMIR

COL 515 10022

NNNN

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MENACHEM BEGIN
Jerusalem

May 10, 1987.

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
NEW YORK NY 10021
U S A

My dear Friend,

Your request to pay tribute to the memory of Yehuda Hellman is an honor to me.

Yehuda was a devoted servant of the Jewish People. As the Executive Director of the Presidents' Conference he worked under many rotating Chairmen, and won the confidence and respect of each one of them. The reason for that phenomenon is simple: Yehuda Hellman was completely loyal to his duties, and therefore could have become the man of confidence of everyone on whose shoulders the mantle of leadership fell.

Yehuda worked untiringly for keeping and guarding the rights of Jewish communities everywhere and for the just cause of the State of Israel. He indeed rendered great services, during the long years of his directorship, to what is dear to all of us as men and Jews.

We shall all remember Yehuda Hellman with love, and his devoted work with gratitude.

Yours wholeheartedly,

M. Begin
M. Begin

att. 5/11/87
Re



איחוד
ליהדות
מתקדמת
באמריקה

Memo

FROM _____

Re. *Letter*

Hellman Memorial

O.C.

5/20

5 PM.

Regency

OK

Kissinger

OK



איחוד
ליהדות
מתקדמת
באמריקה

Memo

FROM _____

Cristy

NY office

Kressenger
not planning
on Secretaries
10/15 men about

Hellman



Griffin

So. M
Apr 8
MA

K. "Kegnote"
Malenac or yft.
350. PR. Case

Lisa. Belyberg

Hanken

Prob. 2000
very well.

10/15

Hellman

KCP
Debbie
Brown
Suz

Mabira
Walsh
9 Vesey St.

CRISTY CALLED FROM KISSINGER'S OFFICE ____ GREAT DISTRESS ON PART
OF MORRIS ABRAM _ EXPECTED A MAJOR ADDRESS ON GLOSNOT...ARMS....
ETC. NOT HAPPY _ WANTED TO TAPE _ QUESTIONS ETC ETC.
CRISTY IN DR.K'S OFFICE TRYING TO CALM DOWN MORRIS A and MAY HAVE TO
TELL DR. K. WHAT'S STILL GOING ON..... HE HASN'T GIVEN GO AHEAD FOR
A TRANSCRIPTION AND TAPING...
HE SEES IT AS ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEMORIAL TO BE ON AN ANNUAL BASIS...HE
PLANS TO TALK ABOUT Y.H. _ ABRAM UPSET "WASN'T INVITED TO DO A EULOGY"

-----CRISTY turns to you...





RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
PRESIDENT 838 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100

Telex VIA Jerusalem
UAHC Youth Office

May 4, 1987
5 Iyar 5747

Mr. Yehiel Kadishai
Prime Minister's Office
Knesset
Jerusalem, ISRAEL

Dear Yehiel:

On May 20th. we, that is to say the Presidents' Conference, will have a "hazkarah" for Yehuda Hellman. Kissinger will be the speaker and I will say a few words of tribute in memory. I thought it might be nice if we could have a brief message from Prime Minister Begin. Please get his authority to do so. Yehuda, as you know, was very devoted to him and served his administration well. You can address the message to me at 838 Fifth Avenue and either I or the chairman (probably Iz Miller) will read it. This will mean much to Aviva who is still not completely over her mourning. Be well and all my love -- from Rhea too, of course.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

P S. Incidentally, my uncle, in whose behalf I wrote you some weeks ago, did pass away. He had enough strength left to return to Israel and was buried there. Your kindness to him helped to bolster his spirit during his last few weeks on earth, and I am grateful. It was a true "gemilut chassadim shel emet." Be well. All the best.

cc: Kadishai
16 Ben Zion Street
Tel Aviv, Israel

Sent Thru 5/4/87
bcc: Rabbi Israel Miller
Richard Cohen

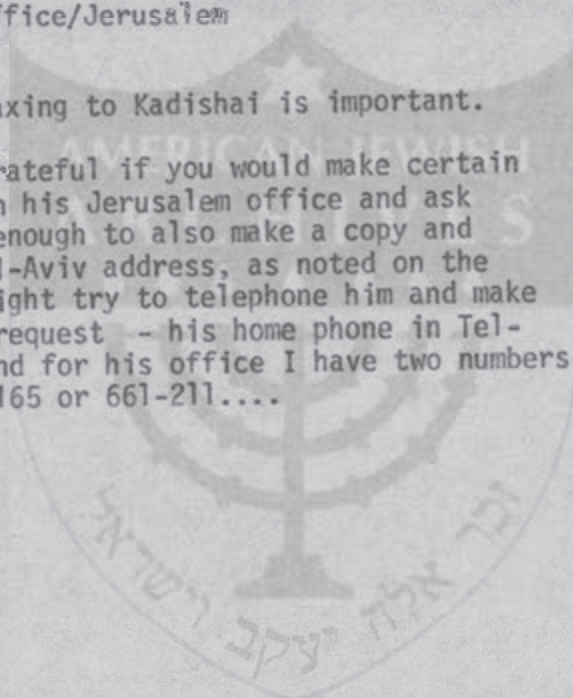
May 4, 1987

TO: UAHC Youth Office/Jerusalem

The letter I am faxing to Kadishai is important.

I would be most grateful if you would make certain he gets the fax in his Jerusalem office and ask that you be kind enough to also make a copy and send it to his Tel-Aviv address, as noted on the fax.or you might try to telephone him and make sure he gets the request - his home phone in Tel-Aviv is 234-908 and for his office I have two numbers in Jerusalem 528-165 or 661-211....

Many thanks.



Telex VIA Jerusalem
UAHC Youth Office

May 4, 1987
5 Iyar 5747

*Send cc to Israel Miller
+ RCH*

Mr. Yehiel Kadishai
Prime Minister's Office
Knesset
Jerusalem, ISRAEL

Dear Yehiel:

On May 20th. we, that is to say the Presidents' Conference, will have a "hazkarah" for Yehuda Hellman. Kissinger will be the speaker and I will say a few words of tribute in memory. I thought it might be nice if we could have a brief message from Prime Minister Begin. Please get his authority to do so. Yehuda, as you know, was very devoted to him and served his administration well. You can address the message to me at 838 Fifth Avenue and either I or the chairman (probably Iz Miller) will read it. This will mean much to Aviva who is still not completely over her mourning. Be well and all my love -- from Rhea too, of course.

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cc:to: Kadishai
16 Ben Zion Street
Tel Aviv, Israel

March 26, 1987

Shore w/ Dick
Personal
Confidential
3/31/87

Dear Morris,

This is exactly the type of letter that should be written but not sent. But the fact is that you are reading it, meaning, I did send it.

Unlike my polite and apologetic letter to you, shortly after Yehuda's death, when I relieved you from responsibility where obligations to Yehuda were concerned, I now write to you as the Chairman of the Presidents Conference, who must bear full responsibility for the behavior of that organization.

The fact is that even the most insignificant organization in the Jewish community feel some responsibility toward a person who worked for and with them, for 27 years and died while in office. Granted, there were no provisions, or as the illustrious former chairman, Ken Bialkin said, there were 'no precedents' in the charter of the Conference for what course is to be taken when their executive director dies. So, instead of making a decent precedent, you and your colleagues have chosen to ignore Yehuda's years of service, and that he left a family to survive without him. I am surviving, but certainly not because of anything the Conference did. His paltry salary, I believe, had reached the sum of \$80,000 a year when he died. Everyone agrees it was hardly a salary commensurate with his efforts or abilities. Everyone knew it, but Yehuda felt that the money he collected to make this mythical organization exist, could not afford to raise his salary. His constant efforts to get money for the Conference are, in fact, legendary, by now. The salary of one year, as compensation, to show appreciation for his efforts, seemed little enough to expect, all things being considered. For you gentlemen to have turned his memory into a shoddy charity fund raising project, going outside the membership, to people like Max Fisher, is shameful. Yes, I have spoken to Max this morning and he admitted that he was approached and had given his share, but he assured me, that he had not done it for the Presidents Conference, but in memory of someone he considered a dedicated and decent friend. How humiliating. And not to me, but to you and the organization you now head. While Yehuda was alive, he struggled to make the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations a representative body of American Jewery, giving it a sense of moral dignity. Too quickly that aura seems to have faded.

Obviously, at this writing, I don't really care what you and your colleagues think. I do insist that you owe a debt of honor to Yehuda and I demand that you meet that obligation.

I am leaving for Israel on Saturday, March 28th and will be back on April 10th. I sincerely hope that by the time I return the balance of what is owed, will have been sent to me. I shall not hide behind that age old cliché that it is the principle and not the money. By now, it is both.

Sincerely yours,

Aviva Hellman

cc: Julius Berman,

Ted Man

Israel Miller,

Alexander Schindler ✓

Jack Stein

Howard Squadron

March 2, 1987
1 Adar 5747

Mr. Max M. Fisher
Fisher Building
Twenty-Seventh Floor
Detroit, MI 48202

Dear Max:

Had I known while we were in Israel that you had sent me a most generous contribution to the Yehuda Hellman Memorial Fund I would have ~~express~~ expressed my appreciation personally and face-to-face. However, it was but today on my return that I was advised that your gift had been received and already forwarded to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations for this special fund.

So, from afar I write to express heartfelt gratitude for your kindness. Many thanks for your gracious response to my appeal.

Thank you, too, for your help during the meetings in Israel. I am pleased with the final outcome of our deliberations, it's a great start!

With fondest regards and every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

letter from me

February 24, 1987
25 Shevat 5747

Ms. Susan Goldberg
Presidents' Conference
515 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Dear Susan:

As you know, Rabbi Schindler contacted Max Fisher for a gift for the Yehuda Hellman Memorial Fund. I am pleased to enclose here-with Mr. Fisher's check for \$5,000., payable to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations for the Memorial Fund.

Acknowledgement of this gift from the Conference should be sent to:

Mr. Max M. Fisher
Fisher Building
Twenty Seventh Floor
Detroit, MI 48202

Warm regards.

Sincerely,

Edith J. Miller
Assistant to the President

Encl. Check #25303
\$5,000.

cc: Morris B. Abram, Esq.
Jacob Stein

February 24, 1987
25 Shevat 5747

Kathryn McIntosh
Financial Administrator
Twenty-Seventh Floor
Fisher Building
Detroit, MI 48202

Dear Ms. McIntosh

As Rabbi Schindler is currently attending meetings of The Jewish Agency in Israel, I write to express appreciation to you for forwarding Mr. Fisher's gracious gift to the Yehuda Hellman Memorial Fund. I am certain that Rabbi Schindler will convey his thanks to Mr. Fisher when he learns of this generous response to his request in behalf of the Presidents' Conference.

With kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Edith J. Miller
Assistant to the President

MAX M. FISHER
FISHER BUILDING
TWENTY SEVENTH FLOOR
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48202

February 17, 1987

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10021

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

Enclosed is Mr. Fisher's contribution to the Yehuda Hellman Memorial Fund. As requested, the check is payable to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Yours very truly,



Kathryn McIntosh
Financial Administrator

KM/jr

Enclosure:

Check No. 25303
\$5,000.00

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

January 28, 1987
27 Tevet 5747

Mr. Max M. Fisher
27th Floor
Fisher Building
Detroit, MI 48202

Dear Max:

You may recall that on several past occasion I talked to you about a donation to the Presidents' Conference in memory of Yehuda Hellman. You declared your readiness to do something, requesting only that I provide you with a list of others - individuals and organizations who have contributed to this Fund. I enclose herewith the list as of this date.

It was our hope to be able to give Aviva Hellman a full year's salary. As you can see, the sums raised so far are not sufficient to allow the Presidents' Conference to do so and therefore I appeal to you for special help. You can send you check to me, although it is to be made payable to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, marked for the Yehuda Hellman Memorial Fund. Obviously, this gift is tax deductible. I thank you in advance for your generosity.

With warm regards and every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Encl.

January 29, 1987

YH WIDOW FUND CONTRIBUTION

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Donation</u>
---------------------	-----------------

RCA	\$ 50
Federation of Reconstructionist Cong.	100
B'nai B'rith Women	250
CCAR	500
Rabbinical Assembly	500
Women's League for Israel	500
American ORT	500
Fed. of Temple Sisterhoods	1,000
American Jewish Congress	1,000
UAHC	2,000
Anti-Defamation League	2,000
United Synagogue of America	2,000
Israel Bonds	2,000
	<u>\$12,400</u>

<u>Individuals</u>	<u>Donation</u>
--------------------	-----------------

Howard Squadron	\$5,000
Jack Stein	2,000
Morris Abram	1,000
Jack Schleifer	<u>1,000</u>
	<u>\$ 9,000</u>

Total amount received as of 1/29/87 \$21,400

Pledged - Rabbinical Council of America

AMIT

Emunah

UOJCA

AIPAC

ARZA



JACOB STEIN

20 JERUSALEM AVENUE • HICKSVILLE, L. I., NEW YORK 11801

TELEPHONE: (516) 938-6012

January 27, 1987

*B.K. for
Regency d/o*

*Hoer
for my
d/o*

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10021

Dear Alex:

Good to hear from you. Hope you are well and I am looking forward to seeing soon. All the best to Rea.

Despite our best efforts, I think there will be deficiencies in securing the desired funds to meet the goal we set for The Hellman Fund. At the next meeting of past chairmen I think we have the following options:

- (a) Ask the Chairman to include it in the next Chairman's Conference budget,
- (b) Negotiate a loan to meet the goal deficit (I don't think this will be approved by the body),
- (c) Admit that we failed to get the goal, and what we have, we have.

All the best!

Cordially,

Jack

JACOB STEIN

JS/bf

January 29, 1987

YH WIDOW FUND CONTRIBUTION

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Donation</u>
RCA	\$ 50
Federation of Reconstructionist Cong.	100
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Jack Stein	2,000
Morris Abram	1,000
Jack Schleifer	<u>1,000</u>
	\$ 9,000

Total amount received as of 1/29/87 \$21,400

Pledged - Rabbinical Council of America

AMIT

Emunah

UOJCA

AIPAC

ARZA

JACOB STEIN
20 JERUSALEM AVENUE
HICKSVILLE, NEW YORK 11801

February 5, 1987

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

Dear Alex:

I thank you very much for your personal
contribution to the President's Fund.

I am forwarding it today to 515 Park
Avenue, and I am hopeful that we can
wind this matter up quickly.

Looking forward to seeing you at the
Tuesday meeting.

Cordially,


JACK

JS/lw

February 5, 1987
5 Shevat 5747

Mr. Jacob Stein
20 Jerusalem Avenue
Hicksville, NY 11801

Dear Jack:

Just a note to advise that I have reached Jack Weiler
and he will be sending a check for \$1000. for the Hellman Fund.
I will keep you posted on results of my other contacts to indi-
viduals.

All the best.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc: Morris B. Abram, Esq.
Malcolm Hoenlein

February 5, 1987
6 Shevat 5747

Mr. Jack D. Weiler
1114 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036

Dear Jack:

It was grand chatting with you. Your most generous response to my request for a gift to the Special Yehuda Hellman Memorial Fund of the Presidents' Conference is deeply appreciated. Many thanks for your understanding and your graciousness.

With fond regards and every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



איחוד
ליהדות
מתקדמות
באמריקה

Memo

FROM _____

~~Photos NOT Available~~
~~Regency Ball Room~~
~~4pm 5/18/87~~



February 3, 1987
4 Shevat 5747

Mr. Jacob Stein
20 Jerusalem Avenue
Hicksville, NY 11801

Dear Jack:

Enclosed herewith is my personal contribution to the special President's Fund.

Please know that I have called all of the organizations on my list and reported their responses. I am still in the process of contacting certain individuals and I will let you know how I fare.

With appreciation for your efforts and fond regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Encl.

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

January 26, 1987

Fred Cohen

Please let me have a check for \$250. from my Discretionary Fund made payable to The President's Fund of the Presidents' Conference. Let me have this special contribution for transmittal.

Thank you.



±

January 26, 1987
25 Tevet 5747

Mr. Jacob Stein
20 Jerusalem Avenue
Hicksville, N.Y. 11801

Dear Jack:

Your letter of January 13 awaited my return from the West Coast. I will send you a check for \$250. for the special President's Fund. It will take a few weeks to get but it will be forthcoming.

As ~~go~~ my list of organizations, I called all of those assigned to me and reported on their responses.

With fond good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



JACOB STEIN

20 JERUSALEM AVENUE • HICKSVILLE, L. I., NEW YORK 11801

TELEPHONE: (516) 938-6012

January 13, 1987

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10021

Dear Alex:

I urge you to join me in making a personal contribution to The President's Fund.

The resolution of the problems relating to our commitment to the Hellman Fund is an urgent matter and should be resolved at the earliest. As you are aware, our efforts to secure organizational support have met with an extremely limited positive response.

We have each enjoyed a positive, personal relationship with Yehuda and we should, each of us, participate personally in recognizing this relationship.

In addition to your personal commitment, I urge you to call the list of organizations which were previously sent to you and persuasively urge their participation. *all OK*

Lets finish this matter.

Cordially,

ack
JACOB STEIN

JS/bf

9/25/2002
Qld Fd.

RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
PRESIDENT 838 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249 0100

Any response?
no

for

December 10, 1986
8 Kislev 5747

Morris B. Abram, Esq.
1285 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10019

Dear Morris:

By the time you receive this letter I will be in London, en route to Israel. I want to raise a matter with you which I hope we can discuss on my return later this month.

I am distressed, as you are I am sure, by the inability of the Conference of Presidents to fulfill the obligation it assumed to Aviva Hellman in recognition of Yehuda's long and devoted service to the Conference.

I know it has been difficult to raise the money from our constituents. One of the suggestions that has been made to help us resolve this problem is for the Presidents' Conference to take out a loan in the amount still due Aviva. This will give us more time to raise the funds we need for this purpose. In the meantime, Aviva will receive what is due her and we won't have the experience of coming up short every month since the payments to Aviva depend on the monies received from our constituents for this purpose.

Perhaps we can discuss this at an upcoming meeting of former chairmen, such as we have been holding.

With warm regards and best wishes, I am

Cordially,

Alexander M. Schindler

bcc: Richard Cohen

Conference of Presidents
Of Major American Jewish Organizations

(212) 752-1616 • 515 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10022 • Cable Address: COJOGRA

October 29, 1986

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
6 River Lane
Westport, CT 06880

Dear Rabbi ^{Alex}Schindler,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous response to the special benefit fund for Yehuda Hellman's widow.

Your thoughtfulness and concern are deeply appreciated.

Most sincerely,

Morris Abram

Morris B. Abram
Chairman, Conference of Presidents

*Help for
next Sunday's
mtg.*

October 20, 1986

Mr. Morris Abram
Paul Weiss, Rifkin, Wharton & Garrison
1285 Avenue of the Americas
New York, N.Y. 10019

*Heckman
Men 9:30
11/3
9:00
515 Bank*

Dear Morris,

I avoided involving you in my financial affairs, since you had not worked with Yehuda and should not be troubled with these problems. But unfortunately since there has been an unbelievable lack of sensitivity to his death, beyond platform speeches made at his memorial service plus one meeting with Ken Bialkin, who seemed pained by Yehuda's passing and has since adopted an attitude that Yehuda's death is no more than an unfortunate event in the life of the Presidents Conference, I must now turn to you, the acting chairman of this organization. Enclosed is another bill from the St. John's Mercy Medical Center, where Yehuda was pronounced dead. It is one of many which I have received and which I have sent to the office of the Conference. Obviously they are being ignored. Yehuda died while working for the Presidents Conference. He was, as everyone knows, on a platform, in front of a Jewish audience in the capacity of Executive Vice Chairman of a conference he had struggled to build for 27 years. It seems little enough to expect the participants of this illustrious body to take care of the expenses involved in his death. Even the expenses for his Memorial Service have been referred to me.

On Friday, October 17th, exactly five months to his death, I received a call from a Mr. Jerry Ellis. He is the director of the Riverside Memorial Chapel. He informed me that that bill has also not been paid. In fact, he told me that after numerous attempts to reach Mr. Bialkin, the latter's secretary finally called to inform Mr. Ellis that Mr. Bialkin has no intention of paying for the service. (In a peculiar way it

almost sounds as though Ken personally is being asked to pay this bill.) She also informed him that Mrs. Hellman was receiving compensation for Mr. Hellman's years of service and that therefore I should attend to it. I am quoting Mr. Ellis and I find the whole conversation appalling. It does not bother me that Mr. Ellis is privy to my financial arrangements with the Conference. I do believe, it is a poor reflection on the Conference to refuse to pay for Yehuda's funeral expenses. I know that Mr. Bialkin is struggling with the lack of precedents involved in this unfortunate affair. The fact is that Yehuda did succeed in setting precedents for many of the Presidents Conference affairs. How to behave in the event of his death, must have escaped his attention, or else he assumed that in the event of his death, Mr. Bialkin could figure out how to behave without having it spelled out for him. Forgive the sarcasm, but having to write this letter is really too embarrassing and humiliating. How I wish I had not been put in this position.

I shall send copies of this letter to the some of chairmen who had worked closely with Yehuda and hopefully the whole matter can be put to rest.

Again, my apologies for burdening you with all of this.

Sincerely,

Aviva Hellman

cc: Israel Miller
Alexander Schindler ✓
Jack Stein
Ted Mann
Howard Squadron

ONE CITICORP CENTER
153 EAST 53RD STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

*File
on this
subject*

October 30, 1986

Morris B. Abram, Esq.
Paul Weiss Rifkind
Wharton & Garrison
345 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10154

Dear Morris:

Thanks for sending me Aviva's letter. I am sending you a copy of my response, and I look forward to discussing this with you and our colleagues in the hopes of bringing it to some resolution.

Sincerely,


Kenneth J. Bialkin

KJB:ker
Enc.
cc:

Rabbi Israel Miller
Rabbi Alexander Schindler
Mr. Jack Stein
Mr. Theodore Mann
Mr. Howard Squadron
(with enclosures)

ONE CITICORP CENTER
153 EAST 53RD STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

October 30, 1986

Dear Aviva:

Morris shared with me your letter of October 20th. I am sorry you are so upset and I do understand it, so let me explain some of the situation.

I have always felt that the President's Conference should pay some portion of Yehuda's funeral expenses, but not all. Thus, I believe, I discussed with Dick Cohen my belief that the Conference should pay for the funeral services, as well as the transportation of the body to Israel for the memorial service in Israel. This is something to be worked out with the family and not the funeral home since the family, in my view, should pay for other aspects.

In discussions among the former chairmen, it was decided to try to fund a special benefit for you of \$75,000, to be paid on a monthly basis through September, and thereafter the balance of \$50,000 as soon as possible as the money could be collected from the member organizations. It was expected that the \$75,000 payments to you would be inclusive of the funeral expenses, so that you could decide whether the Conference should pay the funeral expenses or deduct them from amounts going to you, or whether it should pay the full amount and then let you arrange the payment to the funeral home, as you saw fit. Perhaps these intentions have not been adequately communicated to you, which I deeply regret. But if so, it came not from design or lack of caring, but probably from the fact that there were so many people involved and one could not be sure who was communicating what to whom. I do want to point out, also, that at the time of the funeral your son and the funeral director asked me whether the President's Conference was paying for the funeral and I expressly advised them at that time that this was a matter that would have to be taken up in the future and that for the moment we were not in a position to assume the full responsibility.

Mrs. Aviva Hellman
October 30, 1986
Page Two

The former chairmen of the Conference have agreed to undertake to raise the funds through the membership. Each of us has accepted responsibility for communication with particular members, so far without extraordinary success. Some organizations have paid their share willingly, others have flatly refused. The former chairmen, including myself, are continuing to press for this purpose and we are as disappointed as you in the failure so far to achieve the response that we believe Yehuda deserved. It pains me that you should feel that our performance so far reflects a lack of feeling for Yehuda or for yourself or a failure of appreciation for his importance to the Jewish world. Nothing could be further from the truth. Yehuda meant a great deal to me and to all of us; I will always miss him and in a sense I will always believe that he is still with me and that I have his friendship. I wish the resources and financial responsibilities of our Jewish community could match our feelings and desires in this matter, and we will continue to pursue our objectives because we think they are right.

I understand your strong feelings, but I ask you to understand some of the reasons for the confusion and delay.

Sincerely,



Kenneth J. Bialkin

KJB:ker

cc: Morris B. Abram, Esq.
Rabbi Israel Miller
Rabbi Alexander Schindler
Mr. Jack Stein
Mr. Theodore Mann
Mr. Howard Squadron

September 19, 1986
15 Elul 5746

Mr. Morris B. Abram, Chairman
Conference of Presidents of Major
American Jewish Organizations
515 Park Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022

Dear Morris:

It pleases me to enclose herewith the Union's check for \$2,000. for the special fund being created for Aviva Hellman by the Conference.

As I noted in my recent letter to you, I will stay in touch with the two organizations I contacted which have not fully responded to my appeal. Hopefully, I will be able to report some additional funds from them.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Encl.

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

September 16, 1986

Fred Cohen

Please let me have a check for \$2000. payable to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. This is for a special fund being created for Aviva Hellman, widow of Yehuda. I would appreciate your prompt attention to this request.



September 16, 1986
12 Elul 5746

Morris B. Abram, Esq.
Presidents' Conference
515 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Dear Morris:

I've had relatively good success with the assignment I was given to elicit additional contributions for the special Fund for Aviva Hellman. Note the following please:

ARZA has pledged an additional \$500.

CCAR has pledged an additional \$1,000.

NFTS has notified you of the additional \$1,000. they pledged

The UAHC will also pledge \$2,000.

In speaking with the Labor Zionists, I asked for \$500. but their executive director did not want to assume the responsibility for making any commitment but he did express his intention to bring the matter up at a board meeting within the next ten days. I'll keep on top of this.

Also, I finally made contact with Leibling of the Reconstructionists and, unfortunately, had no luck. I asked for \$500. but he advises me they are really strapped and in a difficult position and the best he can do is to send \$100.

I assume that your office will send letters of thanks to the organizations which have made additional pledges to the Presidents' Conference Special Fund.

Warm regards.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc: Mr. Malcolm Honlein

MEMORANDUM

From Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

Date October 9, 1986
6 Tishrei 5747

To Rabbi Daniel B. Syme

Copies

Subject

While I was in the hospital the Presidents' Conference established a small Committee led by Israel Miller to try to plan a suitable memorial for Yehuda Hellman. One aspect of that memorial will be a luncheon, prompted by the fact that we were going to have a luncheon in his honor last year. As a member of the Committee, and because I know Henry Kissinger, I was asked to contact him and I prevailed on him to speak to us. It's on May 11th during the month which represents the yahrzeit, although not on the day itself. From there on it is really in the Presidents' Conference's hands. An appropriate Committee should be established which will make certain that enough people will be there. With Kissinger's presence that should be assured, although pushing will be required. I told Malcolm Stern *Heller* that the ball is in his court now, hotel accommodations have to be reserved and I am assuming that he is acting on it although I have not yet heard from him.

I will be attending a meeting of the "Kitchen Cabinet" which Morris has established and on which I serve. We will get together for breakfast at 8:00 a.m. next Tuesday morning. I will raise this particular question then, and obviously if there is any way in which you can be of help I will see to it that Malcolm calls on you.

*Alex -
I'm
not anxious to
get involved at all.
Aniva called me and
told me that she got
the impression that
I was to act
"in loco pater"
I'll speak to her
and clear that
up. Thanks,
oe*



Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

October 9, 1986
6 Tishrei 5747

Rabbi Daniel B. Syme

While I was in the hospital the Presidents' Conference established a small Committee led by Israel Miller to try to plan a suitable memorial for Yehuda Hellman. One aspect of that memorial will be a luncheon, prompted by the fact that we were going to have a luncheon in his honor last year. As a member of the Committee, and because I know Henry Kissinger, I was asked to contact him and I prevailed on him to speak to us. It's on May 11th during the month which represents the yahr zeit, although not on the day itself. From there on it is really in the Presidents' Conference's hands. An appropriate Committee should be established which will make certain that enough people will be there. With Kissinger's presence that should be assured, although pushing will be required. I told Malcolm Stern that the ball is in his court now, hotel accommodations have to be reserved and I am assuming that he is acting on it although I have not yet heard from him.

I will be attending a meeting of the "Kitchen Cabinet" which Morris has established and on which I serve. We will get together for breakfast at 8:00 a.m. next Tuesday morning. I will raise this particular question then, and obviously if there is any way in which you can be of help I will see to it that Malcolm calls on you.

BS

Rabbi Daniel B. Syme

Alex-

Aviva Hellmer
Called to ask for
my help on the
burial in memory
of Yehuda. Could
you give me a
little background.
I'm happy to help,
but don't know
anything about it
in terms of details. D.

MEMORANDUM

From Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
To Malcolm Hoenlein
Copies Morris Abram, Esq.; Richard Cohen
Subject YEHUDA HELLMAN MEMORIAL

Date October 1, 1986

As you know, Dr. Henry Kissinger has agreed to speak at a special luncheon on Monday, May 11, 1987 honoring the memory of Yehuda Hellman.

I assume that your office will make all the arrangements -- hotel, invitations, etc. -- which will assure the success of the function.

For what it's worth, we were planning to have the original luncheon in the oval room of the Pierre.



Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100

Christy Newman of Dr. K's office...they
are looking at schedule now and wanted to
know if plans called for lunch, dinner,
p.m. etc.

I indicated his calendar would be guide---
lunch or afternoon or a dinner...open to
his availability -- she asked if it would
be a service -- told her no, the announcement
of the annual memorial being created... ✓

present hopes are
for lunch -
but leave it
to him
not afternoon

October 1, 1986
27 Elul 5746

Dr. Henry Kissinger
1800 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Dr. Kissinger:

It is gratifying to have your affirmative response to my letter of September 10. Your presence and presentation at the luncheon which will announce an Annual Memorial bearing the name of the late Yehuda Hellman will add a very special luster and meaning to the event. I write to express my personal thanks as well as the appreciation of the Hellman family and the member-organizations of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

The luncheon will take place in New York City on Monday, May 11, 1987. Just as soon as a location for the luncheon has been reserved we will share the details with you.

Again, my appreciation and my warm personal regards.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

*Copy to
Moss A*

RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
PRESIDENT 838 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100

September 10, 1986
6 Elul 5746

Dr. Henry Kissinger
1800 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Dr. Kissinger:

Our last correspondence dealt with plans to honor the late Yehuda Hellman for his years of extraordinary service as executive director of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. His untimely death while addressing the Board of Trustees of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations last May was a tragic loss for our community.

Once again I write to you in regard to a tribute for Yehuda. Alas, this time in the form of a Memorial on the first anniversary of his death. All of us of the Presidents' Conference and, of course, Mrs. Hellman would be honored if you would agree to speak at this very special event. We are open as to date but would very much like to schedule the Memorial during the month of May, 1987, with the exception of May 4.

If you are able to select a date in May we would notify the community to reserve the time and then move forward with our plans for a Memorial gathering. We look forward to your affirmative response and to honoring the memory of one of your most fervant admirers and most devoted communal leaders.

With warm good wishes, I am

Sincerely,


Alexander M. Schindler

cc: 350 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10022

DRAFT/ HENRY KISSINGER

Dear Dr. Kissinger:

Our last correspondence dealt with plans to honor the late Yehuda Hellman for his years of extraordinary service as executive director of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. His untimely death while addressing the Board of Trustees of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations ^{Just May} was a tragic loss for our community.

Once again I write to you in regard to a tribute for Yehuda. Alas, this time in the form of a Memorial on the first anniversary of his death. All of us of the Presidents' Conference and, of course, Mrs. Hellman would be honored if you would agree to speak at this very special event. We are open as to date but would very much like to schedule the Memorial during the month of May, 1987, ~~With the exception of May 4 when a major Ben Gurion Centennial celebration has been planned for Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel Independence Day, at the Kennedy Center in Washington. There are no ^{other} holidays on the Jewish calendar for May and only Memorial Day on the secular calendar. Thus, there is a goodly amount of time from which you might select a mid-week date for a luncheon in New York.~~

If you are able to select a date we would notify the community to reserve the time and ^{then} move forward with ~~our~~ plans for a Memorial gathering. We look forward to your affirmative response and to honoring the memory of one ~~of~~ your most devoted communal leaders, ~~in a manner befitting the~~

Most fervent admirer + a
1

WW 9W

memorandum

august 11, 1986

file

to: rabbi israel miller

from: aviva hellman

After we met earlier this month I spoke with Dan Patir and Dick Cohen to flesh out some of the ideas we discussed about a memorial for Yehuda. It was their feeling, and mine -- and I know your ideas are along this line as well -- to propose a Yehuda Hellman Memorial Chair, probably in the department of political science, at Tel Aviv University. The chair would of course be under the control of Tel Aviv University, but the Conference of Presidents would have a significant advisory role in it.

The focus of this Chair would be the relationship among Israel, the American Jewish community and the U.S. Government. These were Yehuda's concerns, as they are the continuing areas of Presidents Conference responsibility, and I believe it would be most appropriate to memorialize Yehuda by studying and examining this important subject.

A major activity of the Chair would be an annual Yehuda Hellman Memorial Lecture, to be given alternately in Israel and the United States, on a subject dealing with U.S.-Israel or Israel-Diaspora relations. In helping to select the lecturer, the Presidents Conference would play a major role. I can see such distinguished personalities as Henry Kissinger, Cyrus Vance, David Sidorsky (among Americans) and Yitzhak Rabin, Nathan Rotenstreich, Ephraim Urbach, Moshe Arens and others (among Israelis) as persons who might be invited to deliver the annual lecture, which would be published and distributed to organizations associated in the Conference of Presidents as well as to members of Congress and the Knesset, Administration leaders in both the U.S. and Israel and the makers of public opinion (news executives, columnists, etc. etc.) in both countries.

The Chair need not immediately be filled, but I would strongly urge that efforts be made to initiate the Memorial Lecture next year, on or about the anniversary of Yehuda's passing.

We also discussed a suggestion to publish the history of the Presidents Conference, which Yehuda had been working on with Moshe Fox, a member of the Israel Foreign Ministry,

whose doctoral dissertation is a history of the Conference. This work is almost completed and efforts should be made -- Dan, Dick and I believe -- to have it published in the U.S. on Yehuda's yahrzeit.

I believe there are many people of means in the Jewish community who knew and loved Yehuda and who would contribute generously to a Chair in his name, and to its activities. It would be a fitting way to remember him, to keep not only his memory alive but also the issues and relationships with which the Presidents Conference continues to deal.

I would very much appreciate your calling a meeting of our full committee in the next 10 days to discuss these suggestions. I am sending a copy of this memorandum to each of the members of the committee.

cc: Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
Mrs. Bernice Tannenbaum
Mr. Kenneth J. Bialkin
Mr. Dan Patir
Mr. Richard Cohen

